

THE DAKOTA ADVOCATE.

THE DAKOTA ADVOCATE,

Published Weekly

AT THE

DAKOTA SCHOOL FOR DEAF-MUTES,

By the Pupils.

School Term

Fifty cents

Entered as second-class matter at
Sioux Falls, South Dak.

The long summer is now a thing of the dim past, as school has re-opened once more. Our little folks have come back to settle down to school work. They are all happy that they have at last returned here, fully aware of the fact they didn't have half the enjoyments in life at home that they do here. The reason is apparent. They did not get one for company that knows how to talk like their brethren here, or if they had any one, who could talk *some*, the keen edge of pleasure would only be half enjoyed. Thus, lonesomeness began to reign supreme, and the young folks could not but turn their longing eyes for a sight of the old school. Now they have got back. With a zest for study, did you say? O no, not much of that at first, for after twelve weeks of sunshine and green fields, of games and rambles, and fun in swimming and wading in the streams, they are not willing to sit quietly down at the old desk and resume the old tasks. They persist in running in and out at sweet will, but, however, they will soon know that the privilege can be had only at the proper time. When the weeks have passed, interest in school work will revive, and the young students, before they know it, are deeply absorbed in their books once more.

Every pupil except one left promptly at the close of school, and the query now arises why they can't be at school as promptly on Sept. 9th.

The Sign, published in the Far West, at Salem, Oregon, was the first exchange to greet us, but the school does not re-open till Sept. 23rd. The Weekly News came next.

Information reaches us that work has not begun upon the new building for the deaf-mute school at Devils Lake, N. D., nor is there a likelihood of commencing it till spring. It is all because the site has not yet been decided upon. Two sites have been selected, but the board of trustees are divided as to which should be chosen.

The managers of the state fair have been making a very commendable effort to bring the fair before the state as well as the world in good shape and they ought to succeed. We all will find abundant examples for study and opportunities for instructions in the agricultural department which will be filled with all varieties of every field and garden.

There has been one change made in the corps of instructors; Miss Emma Von Behren, who, for the past two years, has been engaged as matron, but resigned on the 1st of August last, has been appointed to fill the place vacated by Prof. Frank R. Wright. This young gentleman has filled his position with great satisfaction for two years, and we regret this loss.

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PERSONAL and other items are respectfully solicited.

SATURDAY, SEPTMBKR 19, 1891.

Ho! State Fair next week.

It has been windy nearly all week.

Every thing is activity around the buildings.

On the first school day only seventeen scholars answered the roll call.

Mr. Frank R. Wright was a pleasant visitor at this school last Sunday.

We print a newsy communciation from the "extreme north" which can be seen elsewhere in this issue.

Dolly Wells, a new pupil, hailing from Parker, appeared here the first of the week that our school opened.

Mrs. J. T. Gilbert has been making us an occasional visit with a dandy little "democrat" since July 30th.

We are all back in our old places but look much more hale and hearty than when we started for home last June.

Mrs. E. W. Barr started Wednesday evening for her home at Corning, Iowa, after a month's visit with relatives here.

Howard and Grant Simpson started to go to school the first of the week and will probably continue through the term.

A new side-walk has been built on the eighth street from the Great Northern railroad to within a short distance of the school.

Supt. James Simpson took in the races at Independence, Iowa, enroute home from Michigan where he visited a few weeks with relatives.

The state fair buildings, eight in number, are all up and completed, so with the new kite shaped track. They are very plainly seen from here—half a mile right south.

Miss Theresia Kapaun kindly notified us beforehand of her inability to get away from home to come back to school promptly, assisting her mother with housework. She is expected soon, however.

Mr. Phil L. Axling who took charge of Mrs. M. L. Simpson's class during the latter's absence, and also in the meantime, enjoyed a sort of keen interest in the work on the ADVOCATE, has arrived at Devils Lake, North Dakota, where he is engaged to teach at the new deaf mute school for the ensuing year. This young gentleman is a very earnest and active worker, and will prove a great help to the school.

During the summer nothing has been done in the way of improvements, for the simple reason that there was nothing to do. But the lawns have been kept trimmed and every thing has been kept in first class order.

The buildings have been entirely renovated and are different from what they looked at the close of school. They will be connected with the city by a water-pipe, by which a sufficient water supply will be kept on hand all the year round for all purposes, and practically protect them in case of fire.

Mrs. Mary B. Swan, grandmother of Miss M. Frances Walker, who was for years matron at the Iowa school for the Deaf, visited with us for nearly two weeks till yesterday morning. She started for a visit to her sister at Worthington, Minnesota. Miss Walker accompanied her there, and returned home in the evening.

Miss M. Frances Walker is our newly appointed matron. She was one of our first teachers, but she resigned her place to take care of her grandmother. Everything has since been so fixed that the latter will be able to take care of herself and we were lucky enough to secure her services again though she assumes a different position.

After Supt. Simpson and the rest of the officers went away, there were but six persons staying at the school, and shortly after the number was reduced to only five. Some may imagine that this was a lonely summer for those who stayed, but they do not think so. Lively times were had now and then, so it was not so dull after all.

Recently the Superintendent was fortunate enough to secure from Washington, D. C., a census report containing the names and addresses of the deaf residing in this state, and blank applications have been sent to them. As a result quite a number of them have been filled out and, besides, several new pupils have been admitted. They are coming in pretty fast as we have five of them already. The older pupils had better hurry up, or they will be in a pickle by being shut out for want of room.

This year our garden is the best we have had for many years. There are over a thousand head of cabbages, all fat and fine looking, and about half that number of tomato plants, every one of which bears heavily, though slightly damaged by frost. The beets, turnips, beans, peas, and other small vegetables, are proportionately good, while the potatoes and carrots exceed our most sanguine expectations. Corn also has been doing well, which can be said with equal truthfulness of the oats and millet. All things considered, this has been an exceedingly good crop year all around.

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NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL.

(By Our Special Correspondent.)

The North Dakota School for the Deaf began its second year of usefulness on Wednesday, September 9th, 1891, with an attendance of eighteen pupils—an attendance at the start which exceeds in numbers the calculations of the head of the school. It is true that there are a good many more children at home, who are expected in the school a short time, but to start in with such a number as eighteen was a surprise to many. For the term of 1891-92, no less than thirty pupils will be enrolled—in fact, before the year of 1891 is out. Taking into consideration the fact that this school opened its doors to the deaf-mute youth of the state only one year ago, it will be seen that it has made more rapid progress than few, if any other schools can boast of. And remembering that at the second session of the state legislature an appropriation of \$16,500 for maintenance was made, and of \$10,000 for a new building, no one can dispute the fact that we are progressing.

This school has two teachers this term, and if the number of pupils continues to increase in the future as it has done in the past, additional help will be necessary very soon. Miss Clara Halverson was teaching here for a few months near the close of last term, and was re-appointed for this term. The additional teacher employed this term is Mr. Philip L. Axling, well known to the *ADVOCATE* readers as a graduate of the South Dakota School.

In the matter of accommodations for all the pupils who are coming the school is able to receive the number expected, but next year the present quarters will be inadequate. However, the money is ready, and plans have been accepted for the new building upon which work will be begun in time to have it ready for occupancy when the needs of the school

demand it. The present quarters consist of a large double building given up to the school for use, by the city of Devils Lake. According to the plans and specifications, which were drawn by Olof Hanson, the deaf-mute architect of Minneapolis, the new building, consisting of brick, will be one of the finest of the kind in the great northwest. When completed, it only needs to be seen to be appreciated. So far as we can learn the site as decided upon will be a piece of some forty acres of land lying to the northwest of the city, and overlooking both the city and the beautiful bay on the right. This bay is an arm of the lake lying on the south of the city, almost out of view by reason of the woods and low hills.

School-room work was commenced last week in the direction of separating and arranging into classes the pupils who were already present. The absence of some pupils is a deplorable thing, in that it interferes with the proper and correct classification, but we suppose that the North Dakota School is not alone in this respect.

North Dakota has a compulsory educational law, which applies to the education of the deaf also, but so far it has not been called into use in any case, and probably will not for a while yet. It is not desirable that a larger attendance be compelled than can be comfortably accommodated.

The pupils got their first outing Sunday. They took a walk to a nice grove about a mile south of the school, and as the weather was delightful they felt wonderfully invigorated.

The Board of Trustees of this school held their regular meeting the day of opening the school, and each member had had a chance to make the acquaintance of the children.

Quite a number of the new pupils will be admitted this term. There are

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already six here and as many more coming.

Prof. Spear, the Superintendent, was in Grand Forks the early part of the week after the pupils living in the eastern part of the state.

There are in attendance here at present six pupils who were at the South Dakota school, and a few more still at home.

LORRY MONBARS.

DEVILS LAKE, Sept. 15, '91.

WHERE THEY SPENT VACATION.

With the opening of school we find all our officers and teachers at their respective posts. During the summer vacation they were nearly all away rusticiating and gathering strength for the work this term.

Supt. Simpson this year had his first long vacation since the school was established. He with his family left for Iowa shortly after school closed, and in the early part of August went to Michigan to visit relatives. Mrs. Simpson and the boys, except Grant, who stayed with his papa at Corning in the meantime, were at Burlington during the month of July. They accompanied Supt. Simpson to Michigan, coming home a week after the Superintendent himself came.

Miss Emma Von Behren who has been our matron for two years, stayed at her post until the first of August, the time her resignation took effect, after which she was at home in Burlington, and visited friends and relatives elsewhere. She returned to enter upon her new work as a teacher at our school.

Mrs. M. L. Simpson, who went to Michigan in March, stayed there all summer, and entertained Supt. Simpson's family when they came, accompanying them back to Sioux Falls.

Mr. F. R. Wright tried his hand at the grocery business during the absence of his uncle, Mr. Gilbert, from the close of school until the first of July, but says the

business is as hard as farming or teaching. After leaving the store he went to his father's farm, where he turned carpenter and built some substantial farm buildings.

Mr. H. McP. Hofsteater attended the re-union at Council Bluffs, as did also Supt. Simpson and family, and after that he worked like a true son of the soil on his father's farm for a time.

Mr. Philip L. Axling, who took Mrs. M. L. Simpson's class upon her departure in March, staid and looked after the affairs of the school during the absence of the Superintendent. He left for North Dakota, his new field of labor, the latter part of August.

Mr. C. R. Hemstreet, the Boys' Supervisor, attended the re-union and spent a week in June visiting his old home.

Mr. A. T. Richardson, night watchman, staid at his home all summer, his services being dispensed with for the time school was closed.

TERMS OF ADMISSION OF THE

DAKOTA SCHOOL FOR DEAF-MUTES.

I.

The Dakota School for Deaf-Mutes is intended for children who are either entirely or partially mute in consequence of congenital or adventitious deafness and cannot be educated in common schools.

II.

Candidates for admission must be between the age of six and twenty-one, of ordinary intelligence and constitutional vigor, and free from contagious diseases.

III.

The school term begins the second Wednesday in September, (at which time all the pupils are expected to be on hand promptly,) and closes the second Wednesday in June.

IV.

All inquiries and applications for the admission of pupils must be made to the SUPERINTENDENT,

JAMES SIMPSON.