

It might further be said that the musicians of Ontario, irrespective of creed, nationality or musical connection, have joined in the organization of an association, having for its object the holding of musical examinations in the Province, under University auspices, and which initiative it is anticipated will ultimately result in the formation of a national musical examining body.

The present unpleasantness actually exists between the Associated Board as represented in Canada by its honorary secretary, Mr. Samuel Aitken and the musical profession here, as such.

The difficulty has arisen from a determination on the part of the Associated Board to occupy the field on other than equitable terms with the profession in Canada, withholding from the latter the privileges and advantages of co-partnership, and suggesting instead the distinction of mere agency. Finding Canadian musicians opposed to its one-sided policy, and to certain features of the proposed examinations, the Associated Board, through its honorary secretary, has determined to impose its offices upon the country at all hazards, with the sole object of "reaping where it has not sown," leaving the Canadian teacher of music to bear the burden of the day in the preparation of candidates, the Associated Board with characteristic *sang froid*, proposes to appropriate the proceeds.

Under the Associated Board's regime in Canada, the Canadian musician is clearly outlined and well defined as a musical "Colonist," and as such is expected to humbly submit to the imperious dictate of the Board. In default of such acquiescence, Mr. Aitken has already seen fit to impugn the motives and to apply a variety of offensive epithets against those who, having the courage of their convictions, assert themselves in opposition to his views and his mistaken policy.

A glance at the several letters which have appeared in the daily press, over the signatures of Mr. Aitken and certain of his agents in Canada, will suffice to show the spirit actuating these gentlemen. The following compilation of undignified phraseology, selected from recent letters to the press, over the signature of the honorary secretary of the Associated Board, referring to members of the musical profession and the established musical institutions of the country, is given as an example of what apparently constitutes Mr. Aitken's conception of cultured and dignified expression.

"Trading institutions," "no device too mean," "no untruth too gross," "no statement too spiteful," "a pitiful display of interested prejudice and passion," "coarse personalities," "prejudiced professors," "vulgar abuse," "crass stupidity," "willful wickedness," "limbo of forgotten and dishonored memories," "coarse and unmannerly," "these scribblers," "the pluck to fight," "amiable professors," "venom and poison," "fighting below the belt," "ignorance," "solemn farce," etc., etc.