

Report of Dean Laird on the National Conference
of Music Supervisors in the United States at
Cleveland, Ohio., April 3rd to 9th inclusive.

Cleveland is the sixth city in the United States and has a population of one million and a quarter. The public auditorium and exhibition hall in which this exhibition was held cost \$10,000,000. The main part was completed in 1922, north and south wings were added in 1928, and now 14 events can be held simultaneously at that auditorium. The main auditorium seats 13, 156, the music hall 3,000 (these may be combined to seat 16,000), the ballroom 1,500, the north exhibition hall 1,500, the little theatre 700. Several additional halls seat from 60 to 500. There is an excellent pipe organ in the auditorium. There was thus excellent space for the Convention and its demonstrations.

The Board of Education building covers a city block. It was erected in 1931 at a cost of \$1,700,000. Although it is larger and more imposing than the Montreal High School it is really only the home of the administrative offices of the school board.

I mention these facts about the public auditorium and the Board of Education building to show the extraordinary outlay that Cleveland made in providing public buildings of that type.

While at the Convention, I took the opportunity of having interviews with Dr. R. G. Jones, Superintendent of Schools, and Mr. Connor who is in charge of public education. I was able to get information regarding their school system and their schools.

The programme of the Convention can only be described as amazing. An extraordinary amount of money and time, and an astonishingly well equipped staff of specialists in Music are the two features of Music work in the United States - apparently in every state. This was evidenced by the large number of children who play instruments in an orchestra or a band. The fact that they pay extra tuition fees and provide themselves with uniforms and travel long distances to attend these conventions and summer camps shows that the children themselves and their parents on the one hand and their school boards on the other are willing to spare no expense in providing themselves with excellent facilities in Music.

The amazing results of this training can be seen in the demonstrations at the Convention.

The delicacy and precision of the singing and the playing were outstanding. The pieces on the programmes were difficult and of a very high character. The various bands, orchestras, and choruses were conducted by outstanding musicians, such as, Mr. Harding