

The annual concert, under the supervision of the Debating Society, which was to be held in St. Patrick's Hall on February 28th, has been postponed until Easter week.

The French Debating Society can point with pride to this season's work. The members are filled with enthusiasm, so that the results are truly remarkable. The executive, encouraged by the universal desire of the members to co-operate with and help amateurs, has prepared an unusually interesting programme. During the month four debates has been disposed of, while an evening was devoted to stump speeches, in which Messrs. A. St. Jacques, E. Courtois, E. Desjardins and C. Coupal were conspicuous. The first regular debate between M. Lachaine and T. Coté, a real literary treat, was decided in favor of Mr. Lachaine. The question: "Was Riel guilty?" was argued with much warmth between Messrs. Gouvreau and O. Julien, affirmative, and E. Desjardins and S. Coupal, negative. The judges awarded the palm to the negative. The next debate was of more practical character: "Resolved, that it is preferable to urge our people towards agriculture than towards industry." The affirmative was successfully sustained by Messrs. R. Guindon and J. Labelle; though Messrs. O. Sauve and Belisle, delivered able speeches. Though not so exciting, the last debate was, perhaps, more interesting than the previous efforts, the oratory reaching, at times, a high grade, as was expected of Messrs. N. Theriault and A. Couillard. The question at issue was: "Has the Confederation been a benefit to the Province of Quebec?"

The Very Rev. N. Dozois, O.M.I., recently appointed Provincial of the Canadian Oblates, honored this séance with his presence. Evidently a born orator himself, his appreciation of our humble efforts was particularly gratifying. After congratulating those who were most prominent in the evening's proceedings, he went to show the importance of being trained to speak in public; while doing so he showed, in his own person, what a public speaker should be. He remarked that most people, and boys in particular, lacked confidence, that confidence in himself was three-fourths of the man. We hardly realize how much Father Dozois managed to say in a few words. He promised to visit us again. Mr. Courtois, the chairman, on behalf of the Debating Society, expressed sentiments of welcome to the distinguished visitor, and of thanks for his kind advice.