

No Oil, No Symphony Orchestra

Music Romps Ahead in the West, But in Calgary it Depends Somewhat on the Oil Wells

By THE MUSIC EDITOR



Mr. Rhys Thomas, Festival Adjudicator from Winnipeg.

MUSIC in the West, which comes to a climax considerably later in the season than it does in the professionalized, unenthusiastic East, has recently recovered from the two big provincial festivals in Alberta and Saskatchewan. But though the shields and medals and silver-mounted batons and cups are all awarded for this year clean from the borders of Manitoba to the edge of the Rockies, considerable of the musical fate of a large part of the West remains in a state of uncertainty. Most of the uncertainty is in Calgary, which as usual had much less to do with the Alberta festival than had Edmonton, where this music-fest is regularly held. For some time past these two cities have been working out musical problems along different individual lines. With considerable choral enterprise in common, with good church choirs and ambitious soloists in each centre, and with a very good-natured species of rivalry, Edmonton has been more absorbed in choruses, while Calgary has taken hard

conductor and organist of the All Saints' Choir for thirteen years, which in the West is a very long while. When he first took the choir there was but one other choir within two hundred miles of any consequence; for in those days Edmonton musical talent traveled as far as Calgary giving concerts. For several years there have been a large number of English, Scotch and Welsh singers in and around both Edmonton and Calgary; and these have contributed a great deal to making the excellent choirs which have made the Alberta Festival so conspicuous for its choral work. Edmonton is easily the first choral city in the two provinces, with Saskatoon a close second. What Edmonton is now and what she began to be several years ago, is due in a high degree to the fine art work done by Mr. Barford, who is himself an Englishman, a clever organist and teacher of piano, besides being the recognized chorus-master of Edmonton and the surrounding country.



Mr. Vernon W. Barford, choral conductor in Edmonton.

Another pathmaker of more recent date

in Edmonton is Mr. Howard Stutchbury, formerly of Toronto, who, though not wholly engaged in music, has donated annually a Stutchbury Cup to the winner among former gold medallists. The winner of the Stutchbury Cup this year was Mr. P. K. Macgregor, with 87 points, the highest in the festival.

Lieutenant-Governors in the West take a much greater interest in music than they do in the East. In Alberta, Governor Bulyea donates a cup. In Saskatchewan, Governor Brown takes as much interest in music festivals as he does in the Legislature. He believes in a traveling festival and is dead against centralizing interests of any kind in one city or town. In this respect Saskatchewan differs musically from Alberta. Now, if Governor Bulyea would come to the relief of the Calgary orchestra situation, and decide that whether Calgary gets a real revival from oil or not, there will be a symphony orchestra in the foot-hills next year anyhow—the millennium might begin

to dawn. When a little town like Weyburn can do so well winning trophies at a festival of 1,500 entries as to consider having the next festival at Weyburn—there is a great work going on in western provincial music.



Conductor Max Weil, of Calgary, who is hoping for oil.

tors all from Saskatoon. The other thirty-one awards were given to the following cities and towns:

Regina—Church Choir, First Baptist; Male Quartette and Mixed Quartette, Metropolitan Church; Orchestra, Whewell's Orchestra; Contralto, Class A, Mrs. J. A. Wright.

Prince Albert—Vocal Solo, B. W. Wallace; Church Choir, Class B, St. Alban's Choir; Urban School Chorus, Central School; Violin, Class D, Miss Emery Valade.

Moose Jaw—Children's Choir, Urban School Chorus, Class B; Soprano, Class A, Miss Violet Johnston; Class B, Miss L. Taylor; Mezzo, Miss Stansfield; Piano, Class C, Miss C. Eyreman; Violoncello, Miss C. Palmer; Tenor, Class B, Howard Large; Bass, Class B, W. T. Parker.

Humboldt, Condie, Weyburn and Yorkton also got awards, Weyburn with a children's choir.

ALBERTA'S festival was very largely an Edmonton affair—as usual. The most successful of all the contestants here was Mr. Vernon W. Barford, who, with his All Saints' Choir, again took the Lieutenant-Governor's Cup, which his choir won last year. Mr. Barford has been

When the Circus Comes

A Demi-Semi-Historic-Humoresque

By DAN DALY

WILL the higher critics ever destroy the faith of mankind in the circus? If they do let them be anathema! But the dear old circus is surely having a hard time. Between the people who want to modernize the circus and those who don't want us to believe in it anyway, it looks as if the day may come when there will be no more circus. It takes a lot of illusion nowadays to carry a boy's fancy roaming over the world of the unknown. And it's because the circus is the oldest illusion in the world that it has been the intermittent joy of humanity as far back as we can remember and others before us.

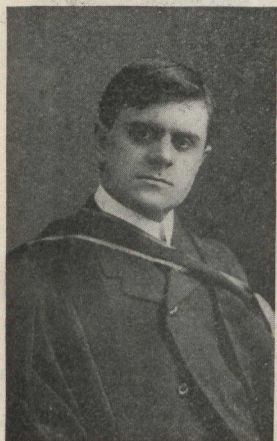
The first circus in the world was not started by P. T. Barnum; neither by Forepaugh or Ringling Bros. or Teddie Roosevelt. Where did the circus people get their spectacles from; the tented city, the gilded and carved juggernauts of four and six-horse procession, the hippodrome and the amphitheatre, the kalsomined clown and the flop-eared parade of the shuffling elephants, the long-necked caravans of the camels and the grand turnout of tens of thousands on the sidewalks along the route to listen for the first blare of the startling trumpets in the haze of the oncoming lines of dust? Maybe it was from Rome and the Roman triumph, when the conquerors got back to the sacred city from pushing out the borders of empire in the lands of the nose-ringed people from Ethiop's way. Maybe so. Rome conquered the world and led the world back in procession to the first city in the world; and the citizens, plebs and patricians, turned out to see them come. The circus has ravaged and rummaged a bigger world than Rome ever knew and brings it all, such as it may be and such as it was thousands of years ago, into your town and mine; and we forget that there ever was such a thing as an airship and a wireless

telegraph, as we watch the ages of the world go by in the sun and the heat to the conquering chorle of the steam calliope.

But the circus of to-day and of yesterday is older than Rome. It was as old as the hills when Romulus and Remus were being suckled by the wolf. The story of it is told in a book which is read by more people than any other book in the world; a book which the higher critics have been trying to reduce to history and pure reason—when they might as well give up the job. The story of the first circus in the world's history is told in the Bible, away back in the book of Genesis somewhere. It is a story of what happened to the world when it had become very wicked because there were no circuses to go to. It is the story of a time when all humanity was swept away by a flood except Noah and his family, who took to the Ark.

AND the first circus ever known was managed by Noah himself, when he had all the animals of the world, two by two on board the Ark, and when his three sons, Shem, Ham and Japhet fed the animals. It is not known that there were any rings in this circus, or any trapeze artists, or any amphitheatre and pink lemonade. But the real joy of the circus, which is the menagerie, was there in all its glory in that circus of Noah on board the Ark. And the circus of to-day will cease to be a joy to mankind if it ever outgrows the days of Noah.

They may modernize the circus by bringing in vaudeville, but it doesn't fill the bill. The circus belongs to the centuries. It is the only live institution in the world that sums up past and present; and if they try to improve it by introducing the methods of the modern theatre, it will be no longer a circus.



Mr. W. H. Hewlett, Adjudicator from Hamilton, Ont.



Mr. Francis Stevenson, choral conductor and prize-winner of Saskatoon.

But apart from oil and Calgary, the musical tournaments held recently in the West have once more proved that music is marching ahead just as fast as ever. The price of real estate has nothing to do with the number of choral societies and amateur orchestras and church choirs and bands and soloists that year by year take up the vast chorus of the western hymn of praise at the music-fests. This year two eastern judges, Dr. A. S. Vogt and W. H. Hewlett, from Hamilton, and one western, Mr. Rhys Thomas, were the committee to decide the difficult task of who among these many contestants were entitled to the awards. In Saskatchewan there were fifty awards, nineteen of which went to the city of Saskatoon. The biggest prize of all, the Grand Challenge Shield for choirs and choral societies, went to the Orpheus Club of that city, conducted by Mr. Francis Stevenson, whose choral work was outlined in the "Courier" more than a year ago. Mr. Stevenson also captured the Choral Societies' Shield. Saskatoon also got the shields for first among bands Class A., won by the city band; for ladies' choirs, won by St. Thomas Presbyterian Church; for men's choirs, got by the Saskatoon Male Voice Choir. The other twelve trophies were won by as many sorts of competi-