

**Personal and General**

The Church of England in Canada has reason to be proud of her justly famous musician, Dr. Albert Ham; in the splendid programmes to be presented by the National Chorus, next week in conjunction with the New York Symphony Orchestra, the citizens of Toronto are sure of a rare musical treat. Dr. Albert Ham, F.R.C.O., the far-famed director of St. James' Cathedral Choir, Toronto, whose work in bringing the National Chorus to its present high pitch of excellence has won the unqualified approval of all true lovers of music. The peculiarly refined tone and excellent phrasing of his singers has always received the warmest commendation of the critics, and is recognized to be due in a large measure to the fact that a considerable proportion of the chorus had previously received much individual instruction from Dr. Ham. Dr. Albert Ham received his early training from distinguished musicians in London, Oxford, Paris and Frankfurt. He was solo boy at 9 years of age, sub-organist at St. John's Church, Bath, at 15, and at 19



**DR. ALBERT HAM, F.R.C.O.,**  
St. James' Cathedral, Toronto, Conductor, The National Chorus.

was conducting a small orchestra and chorus. He subsequently held more important organist appointments in Bath and Taunton, and during this time took the licentiate of Trinity College, London, the F. R. C. O. diploma, and the degrees of Mus. Bac. and Mus. Doc. For some years he has examined candidates for degrees in music at Toronto and Trinity universities, and the degree of Doctor of Music, honoris causa, was conferred on him by the former. He has been organist and choir-master at St. James' Cathedral for over sixteen years, has gathered around him a splendid choir of over sixty voices, men and boys, and has raised the character of the service to what is now acknowledged to be one of the most dignified in the Anglican communion. He has also gained much distinction as a composer, his anthems and part songs being sung all over the world. His military band marches are being performed with great success by the Guards Bands in England. Dr. Ham is also president of the Canadian Guild of Organists, a vigorous institution that bids fair to become a great factor in the building up of Canadian church music.

The Christian Chinamen of Toronto have decided to build a Y.M.C.A. building.

Lord Strathcona forwarded a cheque for \$25,000 to the Strathcona Hospital Edmonton, last week.

The Premier of Canada and Mrs. Borden have returned to Ottawa from Virginia and Atlantic City.

New York reports an annual fire loss of \$4,000,000, not to speak of the terrible toll of human life from the same cause.

The suggested increased residence limit from six to twelve months at "Reno" for the securing of divorces is a step in the right direction.

Invitations are issued for the usual afternoon skating and tobogganning parties at Government House, Ottawa, for Saturdays in January and February.

Lord Gladstone has commissioned General Botha to re-form his Cabinet. This is a very desirable climax to the troubles in the South African Parliament.

Miss Violet Asquith, daughter of the Prime Minister of Great Britain, and Lady Aberdeen are guests of the British Ambassador and Mrs. Bryce at Washington, D.C.

The trustees of the Toronto General Hospital have received a subscription to their New Building Fund of \$25,000 from Mr. Geo. H. Gooderham, M.P.P., and Mrs. Gooderham.

Rev. W. G. G. Dreyer has returned from his work in Saskatchewan where he accomplished a task unheard of heretofore, of calling personally on every Church of England family in the whole diocese, it took over two years.

The Rev. C. J. O. Bethune, D.D., who was for a number of years Head Master of Trinity College School, Port Hope, and who now resides at Guelph, has been elected President of the Entomological Society of America.

We hope the prohibition of the five-cent dance hall in Toronto will be dealt with so decidedly that no syndicate, American or Canadian, will every try to obtain a foothold in Canada. We have no room for anything of the kind.

The Chicago theatre horror was remembered on December 30th. Memorial services were held at the Iroquois Memorial Emergency Hospital for the 652 victims of the Iroquois Theatre fire, which occurred on that date, 1903.

The Emperor of Japan intends after his coronation next November to make a trip to Europe on board a Japanese warship, according to the "Jiji Shimpo." His Majesty has for many years cherished the desire to undertake such a voyage.

The engagement is announced in Ottawa of Miss Pelly, lady-in-waiting to Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Connaught, to Capt. Bulkeley, Comptroller of the Household to His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, Governor-General of Canada.

Rev. Harold Cruse, the Anglican minister at Monteith, who will be remembered as having conducted the services at the English Church in Cochrane during the early summer, was married at Monteith on Thursday to Miss Cooper, of New York. The Bishop of the diocese, Right Rev. Dr. Anderson, officiated.

At the time of going to press we have received the good news of the continued success of local option. Owen Sound remains firm, and twenty-four municipalities are added to the "Dry" column. Only one repeal of the by-law, namely, Acton, succeeded. We stand firmly for every movement to do away with the curse of intemperance.

In connection with the annual campaign of the Laymen's Missionary Movement in the Church of England in Toronto a devotional meeting in All Saints' Church will be held Monday, 13th January, at 8.30 p.m. In view of the fundamental importance of prayer in all our work it is hoped that large numbers of men from every parish in Toronto will be present at this service.

The British cruiser "Natal" arrived last week at New York with the body of the last United States

Ambassador, Whitelaw Reid, escorted by six United States warships as a guard of honour. The "Natal" passed into the harbour and up the Hudson to 96th Street from whence the body was removed to the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. The bells of Trinity Church tolled as the warship passed the lower end of the city.

It was the polite Frenchman's first visit to a party in England, and he was very anxious to do the right thing, so when the hostess advanced to welcome him he gallantly saluted the astonished lady with a hearty kiss. Unfortunately, her husband had been a witness of the occurrence. "How dare you, sir, take the liberty of kissing my wife, and before me, too?" was his indignant exclamation. "One thousand pardons!" exclaimed the polite foreigner. "I do not know your English customs. Next time I keep you first."

Recognizing it as the supreme need of the times, the City Executive Committee of the Laymen's Missionary Movement at its last meeting arranged a service for prayer to be held each Thursday noon in their office, Room 428, Confederation Life Building, from 12.25 to 12.55, beginning January 2nd, and continuing each Thursday through Lent at least. It is not desired to make these meetings conspicuous in any way, and there is no thought of advertising them generally except as men find them profitable and can come, and urge others to attend.

Rev. John McNeill, the new pastor of Cooke's Presbyterian Church, has arrived. Addresses of welcome

were made by Rev. T. B. Hyde, Rev. T. T. Shields, Rev. W. L. Armstrong, Rev. Canon Plumtre, St. James' Cathedral, and representatives of the Sunday School, Brotherhood, Ladies' Auxiliary and Chinese Class. Rev. A. B. Winchester presided. During the course of his remarks Rev. Canon Plumtre announced that the three big downtown churches, the Metropolitan, Cooke's and St. James' Cathedral, had arranged to proceed "heart in heart and hand in hand" to meet the downtown problem.

An excellent story is told of the late Bishop of Ripon, who, when addressing an open-air meeting on one occasion, was interrupted by an Atheist, who asked him if he believed that Jonah was swallowed by a whale. "When I go to heaven," said the Bishop, "I'll ask Jonah." "But supposing," the other persisted, "that he is not there." "Then you will have to ask him," was the retort, and the crowd laughed uproariously, while the Atheist slunk away abashed.

**British and Foreign**

A Valuable Cup.—The church at Tong, Wolverhampton has in its possession a silver and gilt cup which was presented to the church by Lady Eleanor Harries about 1625. Some people believe the cup to be a Sacramental ciborium of the time of Henry VIII., but others consider it is a unique German drink-

**The National Chorus of Toronto**

Dr. ALBERT HAM, F.R.C.O., Conductor

ANNOUNCES ITS

**TENTH ANNUAL CHORAL FESTIVAL**

in MASSEY HALL on

**TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY**

January 14th January 15th

ASSISTED BY THE

**NEW YORK SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

Mr. WALTER DAMROSCH, Conductor

Seats at Massey Hall Saturday.