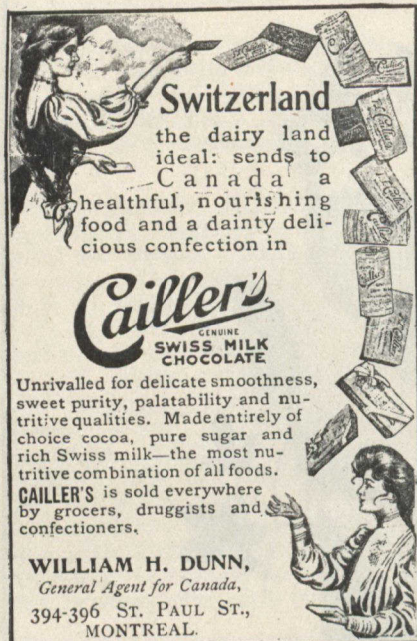


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## MUSIC & THE DRAMA

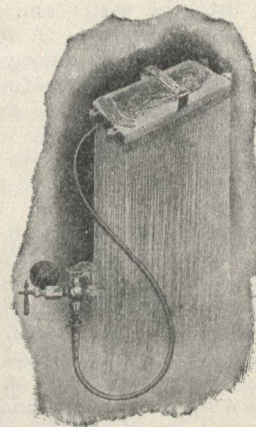
THE newspapers of Toronto have republished most of the New York press comment and criticism regarding the Mendelssohn Choir and its conductor and the collected paragraphs make an impressive array of columns of favourable reading. To have won not only recognition but praise from such critics as Mr. W. J. Henderson and the great Russian conductor, Safanoff, is to have achieved a triumph which is the best that this continent can afford. The banquet given to Mr. A. S. Vogt this week in Toronto is a civic tribute to his ability and artistic work which shows that Toronto financiers are not deaf to finer harmonies than those of steel and copper.

The Boston "Journal" has an editorial with the heading "Boston Needs Him," which pays respect to Canada's champion conductor in this fashion:

"From Toronto there descended upon New York last week an organisation known as the Mendelssohn Choir, which has been famous across the border for several years, but which was a revelation to lovers of music who inhabit the metropolis. Nothing like it had been heard there. The leader led and was followed. The singers used their voices, not only with skill, but with enthusiasm, and the result was a triumph which is rarely duplicated."

The editor concludes: "Boston ought to have an opportunity to hear Dr. Vogt's Mendelssohn Choir. Boston, it might be added, ought to have another organiser and conductor like Dr. Vogt, who can impress his own energy and enthusiasm upon his singers and arouse the hardened, care-worn critics of great cities to genuine applause and commendation."

Last Monday night the immense crowd that attended the fifth and final concert given by the Mendelssohn Choir in Massey Hall during the past month, was the best proof of the fresh public interest in the work of this organisation. The unaccompanied numbers by the choir were of their choicest, the opening number, "La Chant National" making an inspiring introduction with its emotional yet finely restrained fervour. The most artistic choral number was Lotti's "Crucifixus," whose "still small voice" reveals itself as the expression of tenderest devotion. Gounod's "By Babylon's Wave" made the most brilliant popular impression and as one listened to the magnificent closing malediction, it was matter for regret that the conductor has announced the "retirement" of this Psalm. Mr. A. S. Vogt's setting of "An Indian Lullaby" in four parts for women's voices is a peculiarly interesting composition which was exquisitely rendered. Dr. Davies' setting of Mr. Kipling's "Hymn Before Action" was given by the male voices with fine appreciation of the dramatic suggestiveness of the work. It was heard to better advantage than on the former occasion when it followed "La Chant National." The lightsome grace of Macfarren's "You Stole My Love" again proved a delight and the brave old



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Items	1905	1906	Gains over 1905
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Income - -	1,956,518	2,072,423	115,905
Surplus* - -	952,001	1,203,378	249,377
Insurance in Force† -	44,197,954	46,912,407	2,712,453
Expense ratio to Income	17.8%	16.34%	1.46%

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