

Herbert Sanders,
Mus. Doc., McGill, F.R.C.O.

L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M.

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THERE are few national institutions of more value and interest to the country than the Royal Military College of Canada. Notwithstanding this, its object and the work it is accomplishing are not sufficiently understood by the general public.

The College is a Government institution, designed primarily for the purpose of giving instruction in all branches of military science to cadets and officers of the Canadian Militia. In fact, it corresponds to Woolwich and Sandhurst.

The Commandant and military instructors are all officers on the active list of the Imperial army, lent for the purpose, and there is in addition a complete staff of professors for the civil subjects which form such an important part of the College course. Medical attendance is also provided.

Whilst the College is organized on a strictly military basis the cadets receive a practical and scientific training in subjects essential to a sound modern education.

The course includes a thorough grounding in Mathematics, Civil Engineering, Surveying, Physics, Chemistry, French and English.

The strict discipline maintained at the College is one of the most valuable features of the course, and, in addition, the constant practice of gymnastics, drills and outdoor exercises of all kinds, ensures health and excellent physical condition.

Commissions in all branches of the Imperial service and Canadian Permanent Force are offered annually.

The diploma of graduation, is considered by the authorities conducting the examination for Dominion Land Surveyor to be equivalent to a university degree, and by the Regulations of the Law Society of Ontario, it obtains the same exemptions as a B.A. degree.

The length of the course is three years, in three terms of 9½ months each.

The total cost of the course, including board, uniform, instructional material, and all extras, is about \$800.

The annual competitive examination for admission to the College, takes place in May of each year, at the headquarters of the several military districts.

For full particulars regarding this examination and for any other information, application should be made to the Secretary of the Militia Council, Ottawa, Ont.; or to the Commandant, Royal Military College, Kingston, Ont.

H.Q. 94-5. 9-09.

Making Canadian Pianos

(Concluded from page 21.)

grow the quality of wool necessary to make the felt used in piano hammers, nor if we could would our climate and water allow of the proper manufacture of that felt, nor of the felt for the soft pedal. The leather that enters into the action must be imported. The wire for the strings must come from abroad. The ivory for the keys must first pass through Antwerp, though we do sometimes use celluloid on the cheaper makes. Our natural woods are excellent bases for the cases, but the veneers of mahogany, rosewood, walnut, etc., do not grow on our trees.

So you begin to see where some of the cost on a piano comes in. Labor alone takes a big slice. Raw material is increasing in values. Import duty has to be paid on many items. Machinery has to be thrown on the scrap heap to make room for newer inventions. Long time has to be given to the dealers, who in turn give it to you, and the manufacturer is fortunate if he can pay a dividend of five per cent. on his investment.

There are some four hundred piano dealers in the Dominion who make an exclusive business of handling pianos and organs. The majority of these are by no means large dealers. Many of the manufacturers have branch houses all over the country, each branch being constituted a dealer. Some of these branch houses are in co-partnership with the manufacturers. Toronto has some very fine piano warehouses, as has also Montreal, and many of the smaller cities have creditable music houses. In many cases the building they occupy has accommodation for teachers of voice, piano and violin, making the house the musical rendezvous of the community.

Now as to player-pianos. You remember the musical dinner-waggon you had to wheel to the piano and carefully adjust with set screw and silent cursors. Then when you were ready you perched yourself on the piano seat and pumped like mad to keep up the wind pressure in the fortissimo passages and prevent the roll "jamming" with too much wind in the pianissimo. When you pedalled slowly to get a diminuendo effect the "wind" would give out with a wheeze. Note the distinction between piano-player and player-piano. The piano-player was the wheeled box you hitched on to any or sundry piano. The player-piano is a piano in which is incorporated the pneumatic mechanism suitable for that particular piano. To-day nearly twenty per cent. of all pianos made in Canada are player-pianos.

A growing industry is the manufacturing of player-music. The first mechanical playing device was made to operate fifty-eight notes; then sixty-five; but, now the modern manufacturer makes nothing but the eighty-eight note player-piano which takes in the whole keyboard. Of course we imported the player rolls, until the demand made it profitable to manufacture here. There is one English company and one Canadian firm making player rolls in Toronto, while a United States house has a distributing depot in the same city.

Band Instruments

WITH the ever increasing tide of immigration from all parts of the world the small goods trade, which includes band instruments, stringed instruments, accordions, etc., etc., has profited to a great extent. The new towns and cities of the West have been filled up with adventurous spirits, Great Britain being the home of many of them. As every village and hamlet of the old land has some musical organization or other the newcomers emulate conditions that they knew at home, immediately start to organize a band, an orchestra, and, of course, a choir, or choirs, which latter often evolve themselves into a choral society.

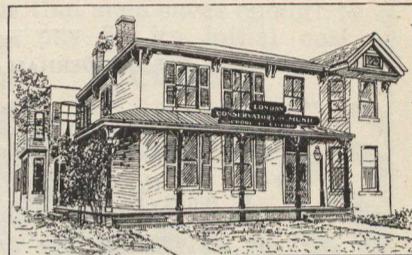
While we import band instruments from England, France, Germany and Austria, very little comes in from the United States. The leading makers are English and French. We manufacture to some extent here in Canada. Stringed instruments for the most part come from Germany, as do most of the smaller instruments. Several Canadian houses make an exclusive business of band and orchestral instruments and music, and the trade is growing rapidly.

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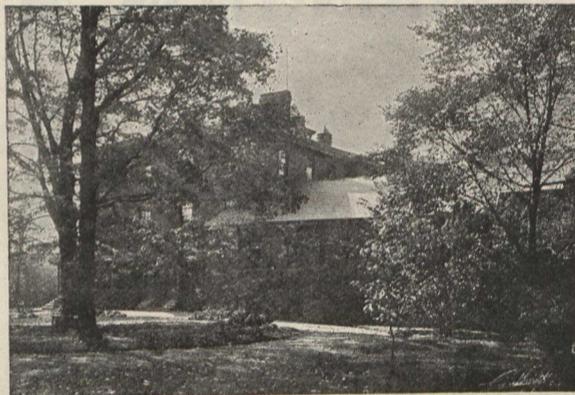
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