



When the Duke of Connaught, in Company with the Duchess and Princess Patricia, Presented Diplomas to Successful Music Students at Calgary a Few Weeks Ago, He Probably Remembered that His Father, the Prince Consort, was Well Known as an Amateur Composer and Lover of the Pianoforte.

## A Voice From the Prairies

BY

KATE HAWS MILES



MR. FRANK LAUBACH,  
Choirmaster, Bandmaster  
and Musical Director  
in Regina.



MRS. W. M. MARTIN,  
A Popular Soloist in  
Regina.



MISS LOVEDY BARRETT,  
Supervisor of Music in  
Regina Public Schools.

**T**WELVE years ago a man from the east went to Edmonton to run a church choir. From his vague knowledge of the far west, most of it got from the Klondike rush, he had a notion that most of the music in that country was furnished by tomtoms—with the help of a few fiddles and accordions from the half-breeds and an occasional bagpipe played by a real Scotchman. He found the tomtoms and the fiddles, the bagpipes and the accordions; but he discovered also that the choir of which he was to take charge had in stock no less than two hundred of the best anthems and part songs and glees in the world.

For an Englishman had been busy in that then remote outpost of culture. His choir had given concerts at home and gone on tour of the school-houses on the prairie. Another Englishman was in charge of the Anglican church organ and choir; a pedal reed organ. He also was building up a fine repertoire. His name was Vernon W. Barford, and he is still in Edmonton—one of the many teachers of piano and organ and voice and violin doing their best to keep Edmonton ahead of Calgary in matters of music. For it has a long while been a debatable question whether the once cow town or the once furpost is ahead in that branch of art. The matter is not yet settled. Both cities have a most remarkable musical history. Both are blessed with optimistic and able musicians; and like scores of smaller communities in that country have learned that if they are to make any progress in music they must take hold and help themselves.

The result is that there is more music in any such city as Calgary and Edmonton and Regina to-day than there used to be in some cities quite as large down east many years ago. In some respects, indeed, musical enterprise in the western cities has gone far ahead of towns the same size in the east. Many Britishers have helped, especially in choral and organ work. Many easterners have gone west to make music as well as money. Calgary had a good amateur orchestra five years ago and one of the finest organists in Canada. She now has a most excellent military band, the Calgary Light Horse, which has gone on one musical trip to England.

In a large fraternal way the scheme of Provincial Festivals has helped to push things along in the new provinces as well as in Manitoba. The result is that choral music as well as instrumental solo work is being

developed there with amazing rapidity.

Eight years ago there came to Regina from England a certain Frank Laubach. Mr. Laubach is an artist in the truest sense of the word, and his influence on Regina has been very great. With a thorough knowledge of music and painting he opened a studio and proceeded to work up a Choral Society from perfectly raw material. Consider the result. The oratorio "Creation" was produced and well rendered. Other oratorios were given and any lack of success was at least not owing to the art character of the programme. Mr. Laubach found that oratorio did not pay. So he put on "The Country Girl" and "The Toreador" so successfully as to warrant five productions of each.

In 1908 Mr. Laubach started the well-known Saskatchewan Provincial Musical Association. The Festival of 1912 was held in Moose Jaw, and St. Paul's Choir, of Regina—of which Mr. Laubach is choirmaster—won the provincial shield. Next year the festival will be held in Regina. Under Mr. Laubach's direction this choir of St. Paul's Anglican Church will be heard during the coming visit of the Royal party, and at the laying of the corner-stone of the new Anglican Cathedral during the same visit.

Two enterprising moves on the part of Mr. Laubach have been the formation of an Orchestral Society and a Society of Arts, Literature and Science, for the musical section, of which lectures have been arranged for the coming winter.

Another man of musical note in Regina is Mr. A. D. Sturrock. At different times in his career he has been soloist in St. James Cathedral, Toronto; New St. Andrew's Church, Toronto; choirmaster Erskine Presbyterian Church, Toronto; soloist Church of Mary the Virgin, New York City; soloist New York Symphony Orchestra, and with Sousa's Band. In Regina he is choirmaster in one of the churches and conductor of the Clef Club, a mixed chorus of fifty or more voices in which are to be found many vocalists of professional ability.

A Women's Musical Club has been in existence in Regina for six years. Now it has a membership of one hundred. Its president, Mrs. Francis Reed, is a graduate of Toronto Conservatory, as are several of its members. One of these, Mrs. W. M. Martin, is a pleasing soloist.

Music is given proper attention in the schools and colleges. For the last three years Miss Lovedy A. Barrett has been supervisor of music in the public schools and has done much to instill the love of music in the young. Regina College is fortunate in possessing on its musical faculty J. E. Hodgson, F. R. C. O., Mus. Doc., who, it will be remembered, was the organist who accompanied the Sheffield Choir on its western tour.

Good music teachers are to be found in Regina, too. Perhaps the most noteworthy of these is Miss Eva Clare, who has received two years' training in Germany and is at the present time returning after a post-graduate course in that country. Miss Kerr, another teacher, is the musical correspondent for Regina for the *Boston Courier*. Miss Bessie Munis, of Toronto, is a teacher of the Fletcher method.

### An October Music Festival

**A**S this music number goes to press the biggest festival of music ever held in Canada begins at Toronto. Expectations are that by Oct. 12 more than fifty thousand people will have assembled in the Arena to hear a galaxy of opera and concert artists in song, violin, piano and popular comedy, and the Nahan Franko Orchestra of 60 players from New York. The singing talent ranges from Galski to Marie Dressler. This aggregation of music performances is intended merely as the inaugural of an amphitheatre and arena, whose chief occupation will be hockey, skating, carnivals, horse-shows, motor-shows and huge conventions, whether political, temperance, or religious.

**O**WING to the large number of photographs and the comparative lack of space in this enlarged issue of *The Canadian Courier*, it has been found necessary to defer publication of many pictures—particularly singers and choral societies—until other issues in the near future. These pictures are not merely crowded out. They are held for more adequate treatment when space is less congested.

THE MUSIC EDITOR.

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