



The Choral Association of the Church of St. Louis de France.

The Earl Grey Trophy Competition

By MRS. ROBERT JENKINS

THE annual dramatic and musical competitions were opened at His Majesty's Theatre in Montreal on Monday of last week. A great stimulus has been given to music and the drama in Canada by Earl Grey's trophies. His Excellency's idea is to encourage a wider interest in music and to raise the standard of theatrical representations.

The dramatic trophy was first won by the Winnipeg Dramatic Club, two years ago. Last year it was carried off by the Thespian Club of Ottawa. The music trophy was first captured by the Quebec Orchestral Society, but at last year's competition it passed to the Orchestra of the Canadian Conservatory of Music of Ottawa. Further, Miss Margaret Anglin offers a gold bracelet yearly for the best lady actress. Mrs. Edgar of Ottawa won the bracelet last year.

Hitherto the contests have been in Ottawa. This year they are in Montreal. There is to be observed in Canada's commercial metropolis an ever increasing interest in music. Professor Goulet has been organising symphonies; the First Baptist Church possesses a band of talented musicians, and the splendid choral association of St. Louis de France now numbers two hundred and sixty. In Montreal, however, a serious lack is a really good music hall. It is hoped that the competition incited will bring about the construction of a suitable building. In the drama, the French-speaking population have shown themselves leaders. Their histrionic powers are of a high order. The Club of St. Henri, formed in 1878, has a membership of about three hundred.

The Conservatoire La Salle is a school of dramatic art to educate young people for the stage.

Throughout the week, a series of exceedingly interesting entertainments have been provided by the contestants for the trophy. On Monday evening, a high standard was set for those who were to follow. The Choral Association of St. Louis de France acquitted themselves with infinite credit. Their powers were tested by Dubois' "Last Seven Words of Christ," Gounod's "Noel" and Kremer's "In Winter." In response to an encore for the last number, the association rendered most effectively "Pilgrim's Chorus," from Tannhauser. And at the special request of the Governor-General, they gave the French-Canadian national anthem, "O, Canada, Mon Pays, Mes Amours." Following this, the Montreal Dramatic Club presented "The Bells," in the difficult leading role of which Sir Henry Irving won fame. Interest in the play centres around Mathias, the rich burgomaster. Mr. Robert McGlaughlin, who played this important role, gave an excellent interpretation of Mathias. Mr. McGlaughlin lives his character.

On Tuesday evening the Ottawa musicians and the St. Henri Club of Montreal were the entertainers. The Canadian Conservatoire gave a splendid performance, in which the musicians displayed technical knowledge and a fine appreciation of the spirit of music. The drama of the evening was "La Princesse de Bagdad," by Dumas Fils.

The following evening was given up to Dickens' Fellowship Company of Players, of Toronto, in "Little Nell," and to the First Baptist Choral Society

of Montreal. In "Little Nell," Miss Walter displayed much ability in acting the Marchioness, and received rounds of applause. Mr. T. G. Watson made a capital Dick Swiveller. The First Baptist Choral Society was particularly good in "My Love dwelt in a Northern Land."

Thursday evening the plays were of the lighter kind, yet allowed ample scope for clever acting. In the University Club's piece, "A Russian Honeymoon," the principal parts were taken by well-known Montreal people. Mrs. Huntley Drummond and Mrs. S. B. Leacock played their parts to perfection; while Mr. Joliffe Walker, Mr. A. T. Shaughnessy and others showed in their acting both insight and ability. The pieces by the Walters Company that evening gave evidence of decided talent.

There was on the boards for Friday evening no less ambitious a play than Moliere's "Les Precieuses Ridicules." Misses A. Laurendeau and Paule De Lill were especially skillful in their roles of the two precieuses.

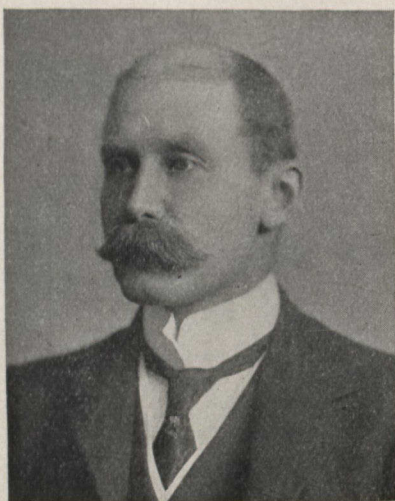
A very large audience was present on the closing evening of the competition. Performances were given by the Amateur Players and the Garrison Dramatic Club, both companies of Toronto. The play "Candida" occupied the first half of the evening. Miss Elsie U. McLean in the character of the clergyman's wife was most pleasing and natural; and Miss Christobel Robinson as Miss Prosperine Garnett was excellent. The Judge afterwards awarded them the dramatic trophy. The characters in "Caste" given later in the evening were well sustained. Mr. Walker as Samuel Gerridge, the gas man, was amusing throughout. Polly Eccles, with whom Samuel is in love, was represented by Miss Caroline Crerar, who rendered the part very successfully. At the end of the play it was announced that the Ottawa Conservatory is this year again the winner of the trophy offered in music.



Mr. Allan Mackenzie



Mr. Thomas Cote



Sir Montagu Allen



Mr. F. E. Skinner



Mr. Fred. Shaughnessy

FIVE MONTREAL GENTLEMEN WHO HAVE BEEN PROMINENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE EARL GREY COMPETITION