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EYE SERVICE**Diseased Eyes**

The optometrist being a skilled man of the optic, is able to detect any condition of the eyes that requires treatment instead of glasses, and is simply performing his duty, when he, on discovering that your eyes are diseased, tells you frankly that it is not glasses that you require, but medical treatment, and refers you to a physician.

The optometrists' specialty is deciding definitely whether or not you need glasses.

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The Company is extending its organization, and is prepared to offer advantageous terms to competent producers.

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Music in the Prairie Schools

Continued from Page 43

have in each village, hamlet church and school a centre of musical activity. Most of the young immigrants who come from European countries have a fair working knowledge of vocal and instrumental music. When a group of students of this kind foregather the first thing they do is to form themselves into a musical club where they can sing the folk songs of their native land.

Songs of the Prairies

Folk songs and the ability to produce and appreciate good music are characteristic of all great nations. Many folk songs have a history and a story connected with them. The battle of Flodden was responsible for the birth of the famous Scotch song "The Flowers of the Forest are a' Wee Away." After the battle, which was the most calamitous in the annals of Scotland, the whole nation was plunged into mourning but the iron hand of the invader was upon the people and they did not dare openly to express their anguish and despair. To ease their aching hearts, however, the mothers crooned this song of floral imagery to their children—the men they had lost being represented by the flowers of the forest—the young women and the men that were left sang it with suppressed fervour amongst themselves until its power was felt throughout the whole country. Thus the power of the folk song lies in the way it can touch the imagination and vibrate through the heart-strings of the people.

The next 25 years will see a great change in this country. Those of us who may then be here will see the awakening of a national ideal; the welding together of many races into one composite whole, and music and song will not be the least of the factors in bringing about this desired condition. Patriotic and folk songs of the prairies are being and will be written, composed, and sung by Canadians; by the boys and girls who are now at school and who will be the men and women of that day. Such songs will find their writers, composers, and their singers. How is this to be brought about? Can the church or the individual music teacher or the home provide the necessary training of the rising generation? For the hope of the prairie is in her children. We answer No! none of these alone. Each can do its share certainly but none can completely cover the ground. The church and choir are valuable institutions of their kind but musically their scope is limited. One enthusiastic lover of music in a community will by example precept, leaven and transform a whole district.

If every home provided musical opportunities we, perhaps, should not worry so much over the situation but as this is not the case and many homes cannot give the children this advantage, we must look elsewhere for the means of supplying the deficiency. Even were the homes centres of musical thought and practice the problem would not be solved for the study of the elements of music can be better and more effectively taught in class than in private tuition. Solitary training in these fundamentals with the exception of a few isolated cases is an enormous waste of time and energy both for teacher and pupil.

The Work of School Teachers

One solution of the problem do we see: one class of men and women who can undertake the task and to that class belong the teachers in the schools. The future of the musical life of Western Canada lies to a very great extent in the hands of the teachers in the public schools; upon their enthusiasm, devotion and skill will depend the progress of song in all the provinces. For "where there is no vision the people perish" and song is the expression of one form of vision.

If the children of the prairies do not sing songs at school and if they reach maturity without exercising that form of expression they must ever remain "dumb songsters." Should the auditory senses be neglected when most receptive the child can never be perfectly trained or developed for the convention between the voice and the ear becomes atrophied through non-use.

(To be continued)

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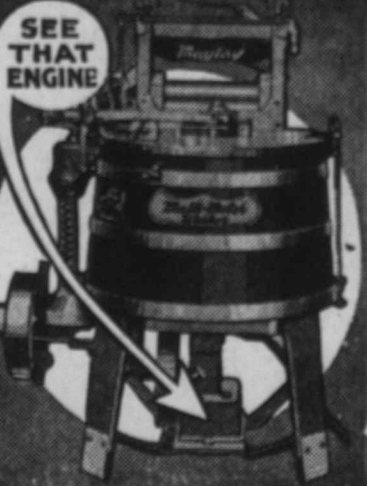
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