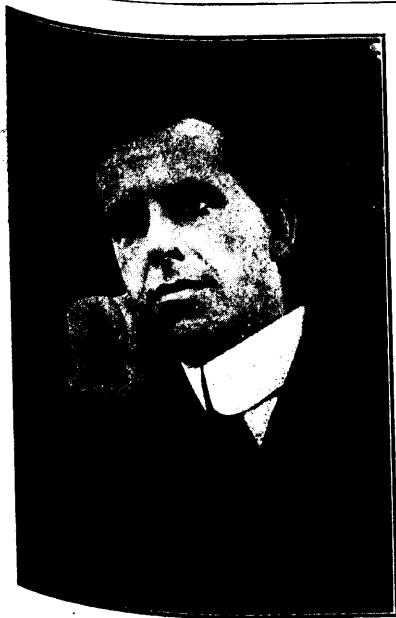




Mr. A. Earle Wagborne

that they might the more attract those into whose hands they fell.

The next step was to secure the names of all church choirs and choral societies in the territory we wished to cover, which we did through the authorities of the several churches and a directory of B. C., sending to each by mail. In this way we distributed over 300 copies of the above documents. Others were applied for by mail through the extensive advertising we placed. Entries were supposed to close four weeks previous to the date of festival, but this being the first year, and as we were not over-burdened with entries at that date, we decided to accept same right up to time of printing programs, which was about one week before the festival. By that time we had over 30 entries spread over seven classes. During this time of waiting there was an enormous amount of work to do. I had to secure the services of a fully qualified adjudicator—finally deciding upon E. E. Harper, Mus. Doc. of Trinity Coll., Dublin, residing in Vancouver. I had also to rehearse the competing choirs in the pieces chosen for the massed choirs at the evening concert, while the secretary had to see to getting a false sloping platform made for the stage, and to arrange refreshments for the crowd of visitors expected—there being no restaurants in the Valley. Other work mutually undertaken included answering hosts of letters, attending to printing and advertising, visiting various persons whose interest affected the success of the festival, to say nothing of the more arduous task of finding means whereby we might raise sufficient funds to guarantee carrying the whole thing through to a successful issue. We had become personally responsible for any shortage in funds. In fact, the whole developed into a far more prodigious

ceeded as follows:—First, I consulted a man whom I considered suitable in every way for secretary, explaining my ideas fully and asking his opinion. He was delighted and thought it not only feasible but advised going right ahead. Then I told him I wanted him to be secretary. After some hesitation, arising from modesty and the hugeness of the scheme, he consented, and between us we chose an assistant secretary and two extra men to form a committee. I attribute the enormous success ultimately attained largely to the fact that we had so small a committee, we two resolving mutually that we would hold ourselves personally responsible for all the work in connection with the scheme. I immediately drew up a syllabus, rules, entry form and a letter to accompany same, submitting all to a meeting of the committee, making what alterations were deemed necessary and then had the whole printed in a tasteful manner