

The orchestra which Mr. Clarke to conduct for the Canadian Pacific broadcasts was founded in Montreal last autumn under the name of the Montreal Concert Symphony Orchestra and gave its first performance at the Orpheum Theatre on Sunday, October 12. It was founded with the object of meeting present conditions among practicing musicians and is financially assisted by the Montreal Orchestra Association, a body of music lovers in this city, which was founded shortly after the orchestra itself. The voluntary contributions and membership fees of the Association go towards the upkeep of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra.

GUEST CONDUCTOR.

At its first performance, the Montreal Symphony Orchestra invited Mr. Douglas Clarke to act as guest conductor and after this performance he was asked to accept the position of honorary conductor. He has conducted the orchestra since then every Sunday afternoon, first at the Orpheum Theatre, and since Sunday, January 25, at His Majesty's Theatre.

Since its inception the orchestra has played many full symphonic works and acquired an admirable degree of technical perfection. It has also won its spurs in the difficult task of accompanying soloists, and some of those who have appeared at the Sunday afternoon concerts this winter have been Paul de Marky, pianist, Joan Elwes, soprano, and Cedia Brault, soprano.

The programmes which have been projected for the broadcast performance are not dissimilar in structure to those of the Sunday afternoon concerts, with this difference, that only single movements out of symphonies will be played instead of complete works, owing to the time limit imposed on broadcasts. In some instances two consecutive movements will be rendered out of one symphony, especially out of the shorter symphonies of Mozart and Haydn. This method will give the orchestra an opportunity to play some of the brilliant and breathless finales of the 18th century symphonies, which would lose much of their effectiveness were they not preceded by the minuettos and trios.

It is Mr. Clarke's intention to have a definite chronological order in each of his programmes. Generally speaking, each programme will open with a work or part of a work by a 17th or 18th century composer, such as Bach, Handel, Haydn or Mozart, continue with Beethoven or Brahms, then on to the later composers of the 19th century, and conclude with the work of modern composers.

It is evident from the programmes that Mr. Clarke intends to give mod-

ern English music its full share in these concerts.

Such names as Holst, Grainger and Elgar appear on the projected programme and it is also understood that a composition of Mr. Clarke himself will be performed during one of the broadcast concerts. There will also be some example of early English composers and the general impression received from perusing the programmes for the first ten concerts is that the orchestra is not only able to render works of the highest order, but also that it has achieved a remarkable range of subject considering the comparatively short period it has been in existence.