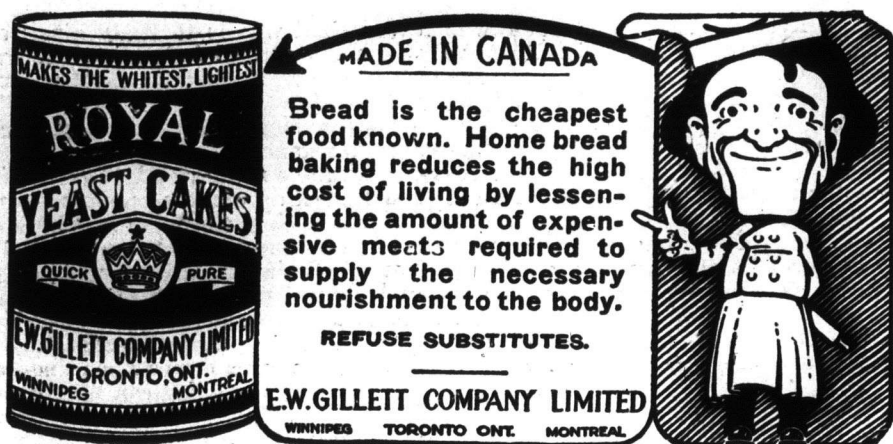




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Being brought at the outset face to face with the keyboard, a something so new and disconnected with everything previously learned accounts very largely for lack of interest in beginners. Trained, however, first in singing, in sense of rhythm, in expression and then learning musical notation, children approach the piano or any instrument without the fear of a something strangely novel and unlike anything before encountered.

National Music

National music has been defined by an eminent critic as that music which, appertaining to a nation or tribe whose individual emotion and passions it expresses, exhibits certain peculiarities more or less characteristic which distinguish it from the music of any other nation or tribe. Taking this definition as a standard or measure of our musical productiveness up to the present time, it can hardly be maintained that we have as yet produced any music which could properly be called distinctively national; and for this reason, perhaps more than any other, we have not as yet produced any music which, with propriety, might be called great. In those countries where music, however simple in form and structure, has been a part of the everyday life of the great majority of the people, an inheritance which has come to them with their national traits and characteristics, where it is a means of expression for a feeling or emotion more strongly marked than ordinary, that have produced the greatest musical minds. In such countries the composer has become, as it were, the mouthpiece of the feelings of his contemporaries, and has voiced the unexpressed emotions and impulses of many generations.

Big Patriotic Sale at Melfort, Sask.

Melfort is the progressive town in the centre of the famous Carrot River Valley, and is considered to be one of the richest mixed farming communities in Western Canada. Since August, 1914, the town has shown in many ways its patriotic enthusiasm. Over two hundred young men have enlisted from the town, and the splendid contributions to the Red Cross and Patriotic funds placed the town high in the published reports.

Recently a number of men were discussing a special effort for patriotic purposes which resulted in the big patriotic sale which took place in the town on Saturday, Jan. 19th. The sale was the result of a suggestion made by Mr. Farrin, who offered to give a horse to start the scheme. Four other men immediately responded to the idea and each contributed a horse. These men became enthusiastic and interviewed some farmers of the district with the result that from a single suggestion evolved the scheme for holding the big patriotic sale.

The executives of the Patriotic and Red Cross societies got behind the scheme and decided to hold daily meetings to hear reports from the canvassers and to direct affairs. The district was divided into half townships and prominent farmers appointed as canvassers. The whole system of canvassing being ably superintended by Messrs. R. Haddon and J. Cameron.

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The day of the sale was an ideal one from every standpoint. It was beautifully mild and large crowds gathered in the town from all parts of the Carrot River Valley District.

Rev. C. Barnes and Mr. O. D. Hill opened the sale with short addresses, the former referring to the splendid manner in which the citizens of the district had come forward with their donations and help; and Mr. Hill, after complimenting workers and donors on the undertaking, informed his hearers not to give credence to street reports of the manner in which the patriotic fund was being handled. If anyone desired full knowledge as to how the fund was being managed, they should come to him and he would be only too pleased to give them the information wanted. Every cent donated went to the fund and distributed among the wives and dependents of soldiers, not even the cost of postage being taken from the fund.

The auctioneers were Mr. H. A. McEwen and Mr. H. Farrin, who were assisted by a competent staff of accountants, clerks and helpers. A splendid system of sale had been arranged by Mr. H. A. McEwen, by which the articles were placed into five divisions.

The articles varied from horses, cattle, hogs, poultry, seed grain and potatoes, power washer, pianola, farm machinery, lumber, household furniture, heaters, ranges, sewing machines, guns, rifles, Ford automobile, McLaughlin automobile, oat sheaves, fur coats, cured meats, patriotic cushions and quilts, and a large number of other articles too numerous to mention.

To add to the patriotic nature of the occasion the soldiers' mothers served lunch in the town hall.

The total proceeds amounted to nearly \$7,500, and are to be divided on a 50-50 basis to the Red Cross and Patriotic funds. Much of the success of the sale was due to Mr. H. A. McEwen (chairman of the sales committee) to Mr. J. T. Beattie, president of the patriotic committee; to Rev. C. Barnes, president of the Red Cross Society; to Mr. Farrin, who started the ball rolling; to Messrs. R. Haddon and J. Cameron, who superintended the canvassing, and to the two executives of the local patriotic societies.

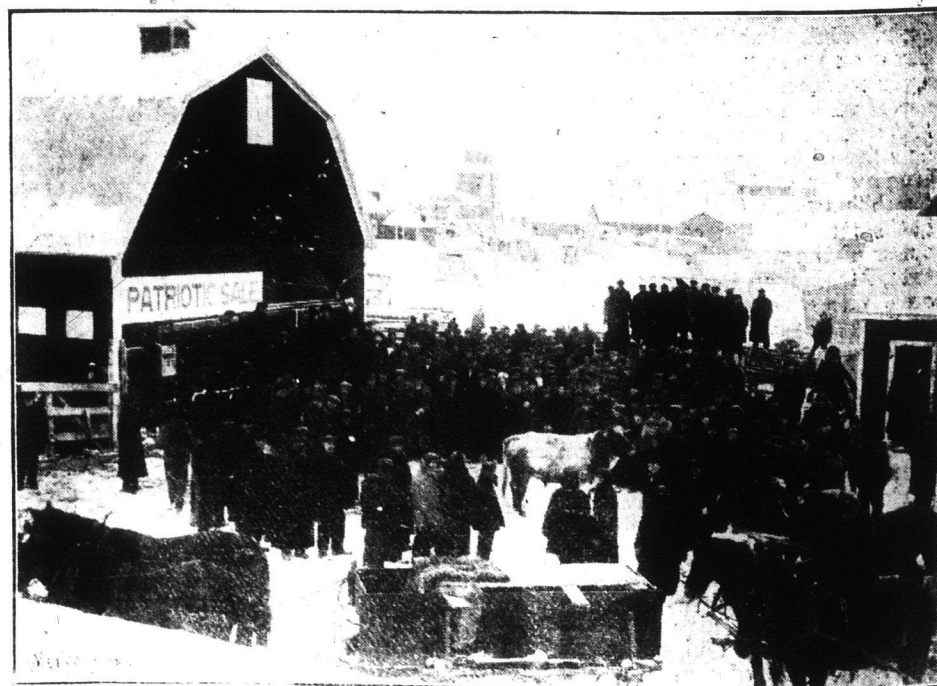
Too Expensive

It is an elementary although a genuine kind of humor that prompts a man to make a ridiculous remark in a serious manner. The fun increases if the remark is taken at its face value. A case in point is that of a gentleman, who, according to a writer in the Twigg County Citizen, was talking to a crowd on the street about shingling a house.

"The old rule," he said, "was to allow six inches of the shingle to show to the weather, but that is too much. You really oughtn't to let more than four inches show."

Some wag asked in a matter-of-fact voice:

"How would it do not to let any show?" "I've seen roofs made that way," replied the other, not thinking, "but it takes a great many shingles."



Patriotic sale in progress at Melfort, Sask. This sale realized the sum of \$7,500