



THE Canadian Courier THE NATIONAL WEEKLY



VOL. 5

Toronto, March 27th, 1909

No. 17

IN THE DAY'S WORK

Chief of the Rough Riders

ALMOST the last thing that might be thought natural to happen to Lieut.-Colonel Steele is a Presidency. This famous soldier of the plains has been elected President of the Canadian South African Veterans' Association, which has an affiliation of eleven associations extending over the most of Canada. The Colonel is at present living in Winnipeg. Neither is he retired, but very much alive and active. He has memories of a career that might easily keep him busy thinking the thing over for the rest of his natural life. But he prefers the plains and the saddle. He is a rough rider if ever there was one. Whatever doubts there may be as to Roosevelt's claim to that eminence, none ever could exist as to the rough-ridership of Steele, who is now in command of District No. 10, comprising the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and the districts of Thunder Bay, Keewatin and Rainy River. This is a large contract in geography; but that is nothing new to Colonel Steele, who spent the best part of his life on the plains as a member of the mounted police. He was in the force almost as soon as there was any force; in fact, just a year or so after its organisation he made the famous over-land trek to the Rockies. He saw service in almost every part of the West. He was one of the leading forces in putting down the Riel Rebellion of 1885. It was his scouts and cavalry under General Strange that captured Big Bear, the destroyer of Fort Pitt, and the author of the ten-weeks captivity. Two years later Colonel Steele conducted an expeditionary force into the Kootenay when the Indians there became unruly. He restored order, remained in the Kootenay for a year, trailed his company "D" out through the Crow's Nest land to Fort Macleod—having received the thanks of the British Columbia Government. But the fighting trail-bound Colonel never needed votes of thanks. He always preferred the open trail. The lone land soon became rather a quiet place for him. A few years of keeping order and he went up into the Yukon when the police got their first real footing in that country. In 1900 he went to South Africa with the Strathcona Horse. There after the war he remained in charge of the mounted constabulary, until a year or two ago, when he returned to Canada and to that part of it that had seen the best of his rough rider days. He has been the hero of a good many stories in magazines. He was as much of a big figure in the West on horseback as the late John Murray was on detective trails all over Canada and America. He divided honours with the great and good Pere Lacombe. And he and the good Pere are still in the harness; veterans of the trail; one at Pincher Creek, the other in Winnipeg—the soldier and the priest, waymakers in a great land that will soon have got beyond the waymaker's epoch, but never can forget the soldier of the plains, the greatest rough rider of them all.

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President of the Canadian Press Association

MR. David Williams, who presides over the meetings of the Canadian Press Association, is editor of the *Collingwood Bulletin*, which his father made successful. The younger man has never allowed any moss to grow on that bit of success. It is not a daily paper, but it is more than a "country weekly." Further, Mr. Williams is a man who takes fairly broad views of a journalist's sphere of action. As a worker in the



Lt.-Col. S. B. Steele, C.B., M.V.O.

historical field he is well known; as first president of the Canadian Club of Collingwood and as a member of the library board he has had opportunities of rendering valuable public service. The presidency of the C. P. A. came to him after several years of office on the Executive and is an honour fairly earned.

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An Opera House as a Gift

PUBLIC libraries are sometimes used as gifts to municipalities, but an opera-house is a more unusual present. Yet Mr. M. J. O'Brien has presented an opera-house to the town of Renfrew, and it was opened with due éclat on St. Patrick's night, last week. It seats about 900, and cost in the neighbourhood of \$40,000. Mr. O'Brien is a native of Antigonish County, and began life on the Intercolonial Railway as an ordinary worker. Foreman, sub-contractor, contractor on the North Shore portion of the C. P. R., builder of the Kingston and Pembroke, Baie des Chaleurs and other railways, and now a busy worker in connection with the National Transcontinental—this is his career. His romance is the owning of mines, none great until the O'Brien Mine in Cobalt added a million or so to his wealth. To Renfrew he has been a consistent friend. He always took a keen interest in its development and when he had any spare money, it went into Renfrew in some form or other. Renfrew is lucky to have secured from Nova Scotia such a leading citizen.

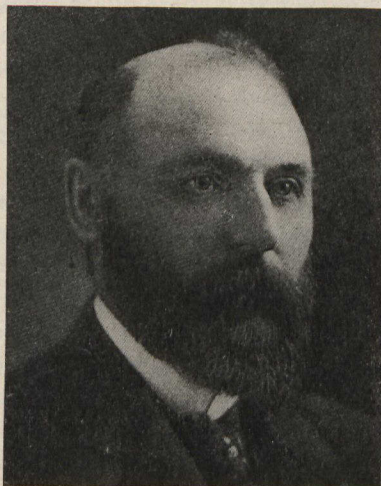
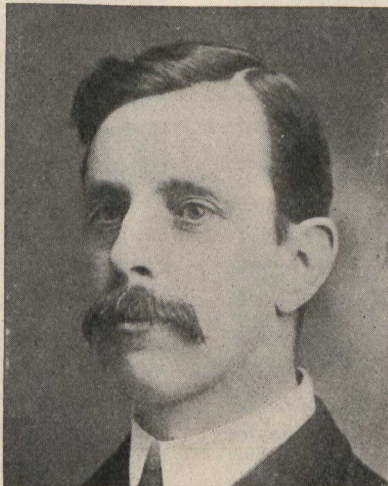
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A Constructive Musician

PERHAPS the best-known choral conductor in Ontario—outside of Dr. Vogt of the Mendelssohn Choir—is Mr. Bruce Anderson Carey, conductor of the Elgar Choir and director of the Hamilton Conservatory of Music. Mr. Carey set himself a few years ago to some serious constructive work along choral lines. The Elgar Choir is the result. But long before he dreamed of establishing this choir, he had been engaged in choral work in Hamilton where he has spent most of his life. He has been choirmaster in four or five of the leading churches in Hamilton. The Elgar Choir has a distinctive place in Canadian choral work. In quality of tone and in dramatic expression it is surpassed by but one other choral body in Canada. It is comparatively a small organisation—but it does big work. Mr. Carey has a high degree of enthusiasm and temperament. At the same time he has studied hard. His early tuition was got in Hamilton under some of the excellent teachers who made Hamilton once rather famous as a centre of composition—at least in church work. He took voice culture under Elliott Haslam, who in his Toronto days was the most eminent exponent of that branch of the art in Canada, and is now one of the leading teachers in Paris. Nine years ago Mr. Carey studied abroad—voice production and song interpretation under Alberto Visetti, Premier Professor of Voice at the Royal College of Music in London. In London also he studied orchestration and the art of conducting under Dr. Cummings, Principal of the Guildhall School. So that technically Mr. Carey is well equipped for the work, not only of conducting the Elgar Choir, but also of directing the

Hamilton Conservatory of Music, which is one of the most flourishing institutions of its kind in Canada.

The name chosen for the Choir has met with general approval as it keeps before the Canadian public the genius of one of Great Britain's modern composers, whose works are being carefully studied and interpreted in both European and American musical centres. Mr. Carey's work is meeting with cheering recognition.

Mr. M. J. O'Brien
Contractor and Mine-OwnerMr. David Williams,
President Canadian Press AssociationBruce Anderson Carey,
Conductor of the Elgar Choir, Hamilton.