

ris, Ald. H. Piper and A. Nordheimer, James McGee is the Hon. Treasurer, and H. C. Bourlier, Hon. Secretary.

ROYAL CANADIAN SOCIETY OF MUSICIANS.

INTERVIEWING THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

THE following gentlemen—Dr. C. A. Sippi, London; D. J. O'Brien, Hamilton; W. Philp, Guelph; A. M. Read, St. Catharines; Edward Fisher, J. D. Kerrison, S. H. Preston, V. P. Hunt, and H. G. Collins, Toronto, waited on the Hon. G. W. Ross, Minister of Education, at the Parliament buildings, Toronto, with reference to the resolution of the society with regard to "Musical instruction in public schools," and also praying the government to make the society a grant of five hundred dollars. The resolution about musical instruction was presented as follows:

"Whereas it is desirable that music should be one of the regular studies in all our public schools, as reports from various parts of the Province show that much diversity and want of system exists where music is already taught, it is the opinion of the Society of Musicians represented by this deputation that immediate steps should be taken to secure a uniform method of teaching music in keeping with the acknowledged excellence of Ontario's school system. We have, therefore, to submit for your consideration the following recommendations:

I. (Resolution moved by Mr. St. John Hyttenrauch, seconded by Mrs. F. J. Moore). "Whereas the use of various different music text-books and systems in the schools of Ontario is undesirable, resolved:— "That a uniform system of instruction in vocal music be used in all the schools of the Province, and that the system at present in use in the Toronto Normal School, be adopted in all the public, High, Model and Normal schools of the Province of Ontario, and that this be a recommendation to the Minister of Education.

II. That music be made a compulsory subject in all County Model schools.

III. That music be made a compulsory subject in all High schools and Collegiate Institutes.

IV. That a summer school for teachers be held under the auspices of the Education Department, and that the services of Mr. H. E. Holt be secured as director, if possible.

V. That local music classes for teachers be encouraged on the same basis as classes in drawing.

VI. That arrangements be made to have an address given at each County convention of teachers, on the benefits to be derived from the study of music in the schools.

These steps to be taken as preliminary to the introduction of music into all our Public schools.

The Hon. Mr. Ross in reply, said he sympathized very much with the efforts of the society in regard to musical instruction in the schools. Some months ago, he sent out a circular to inspectors, asking for

information and calling attention to the importance of pressing this matter upon the teachers of the Province. He was disappointed on looking over the statistics compiled in his department to find that only 165,000 out of the half-million school children were studying music. He hoped to be able to remedy that to some extent. He hoped also to be able to make music compulsory at the opening of the Model schools in September next. It was a more difficult matter to do so in the High Schools and Collegiate Institutes because there were so many Boards to be dealt with which were not so much under the control of the Government as the Model schools. However, he would not lose sight of the matter, and in conclusion asked the members of the deputation to influence public opinion as much as possible in order to assist the department.

GOVERNMENT GRANT TO THE SOCIETY.

Dr. Sippi, on behalf of the deputation, spoke to the Minister about the desire of the society to be placed on the same footing as the Ontario Society of Artists, in receiving a grant from the Government of five hundred dollars (\$500).

Reasons given the Minister in favor of a grant: That the society has for its objects:—

I. The encouragement and fostering of musical art in all its forms in the Dominion. (a) By prizes offered for Canadian compositions. (b) By the establishment of a standard musical library, (c) By holding an annual convention, at which essays on various musical subjects would be delivered by the best men attainable, and at which music by the best artists would be rendered. (d) By publishing one thousand copies, verbatim, of the essays delivered, the subsequent discussions, and all acts of the society, said reports to be circulated as widely as possible. (e) By the establishment of periodical examinations of various grades, and the granting graded certificates to successful applicants, thus by inciting emulation to raise the mental knowledge and standard of the profession in the province. (f) By occasionally treating subjects of importance on which the majority of the musical profession are agreed, such, for instance, as "Music in the Public schools," either in pamphlet form or in newspaper notices, with the object of awakening and guiding public sentiment.

II. The promotion of the higher interests and advancement of the musical profession.

III. The cultivation of kind and fraternal feelings amongst its members.

IV. On account of the legitimate expenses including those incidental to holding examinations, especially as it is proposed to employ well-known English musicians to prepare the question papers. The proposed library will also be a costly undertaking, and the prizes offered for Canadian compositions should be an object to composers. The printing is also an expensive item.

At present the members of the Executive Committee, who reside in all parts of the province, have to pay all their own expenses, when attending quarterly