



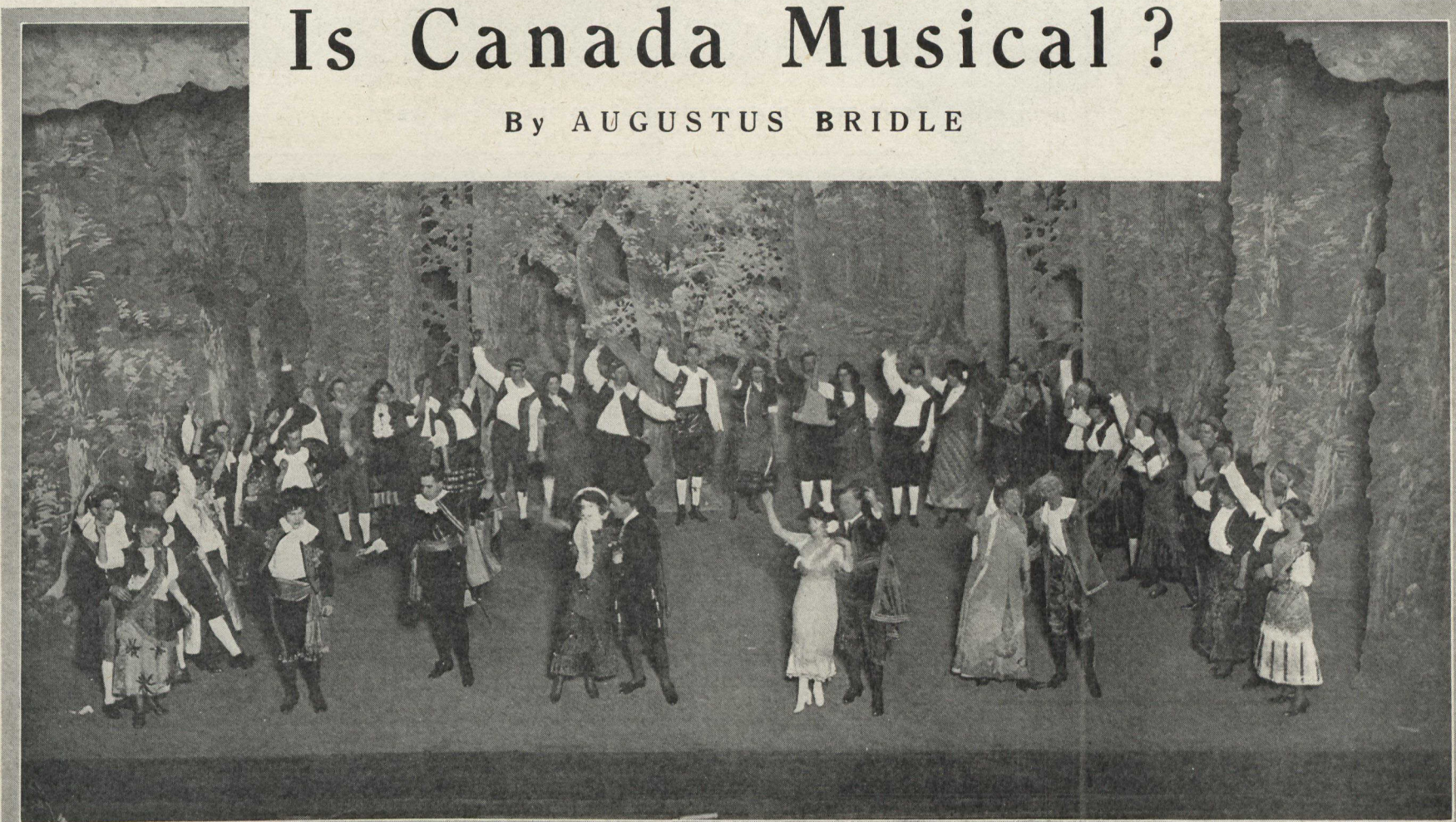
Vol. XIV.

October 25, 1913

No. 21

Is Canada Musical?

By AUGUSTUS BRIDLE



ONE OF THE NUMEROUS LIGHT OPERA LEVITIES IN MUSICAL WINNIPEG.

Dr. Ralph Horner's Opera Company Photographed in the Finale to Act I. of "The Belles of Barcelona." Winnipeg Has Almost a Premier Place in Canada for Light Opera.

THERE are about as many ways of tackling the question "Is Canada Musical?" as there are ways of playing a symphony. A few of them succinctly stated are:

Number of musicians in the country—impossible to determine. But don't leave the census to other musicians.

Amount of money spent on music in a year. This involves considering: Cost of musical tuition running to millions of dollars annually; amount spent on concerts and operas; on musical instruments; on musical literature; on musical buildings.

Number of choral societies. There are probably a hundred at least averaging from fifty up to three hundred voices each.

Church choirs. These are legion. Canada has more reputable church choirs than the United States, with one-tenth of the population.

Number of pianos sold in a year. This runs into many thousands. Canada turns out more pianos than any other country of its population in the world. Toronto alone produces more pianos than New York, Chicago or Philadelphia. Most of them are good pianos—not to mention names. Every little while a new make is put on the market. Just the other day I saw the artist's sketch for the nameplate on a piano that has never yet been sold in Canada.

Pipe-organs made and sold in the country. Here, again, we score heavily. We have one of the best pipe-organ concerns in the world; and several smaller ones. The cost of pipe-organs in Montreal and Toronto would run into not less than \$1,500,000. One almost ready to install in St. Paul's Church, Toronto, will cost \$30,000. Another opened this



HALIFAX DID LIGHT OPERA WHEN WINNIPEG WAS A FUR-POST.

This is a Picture of the Principals, Chorus and Stage Setting to the "Yeomen of the Guard," Done in the Gilbert and Sullivan Revival Last Year by the Halifax Amateurs.