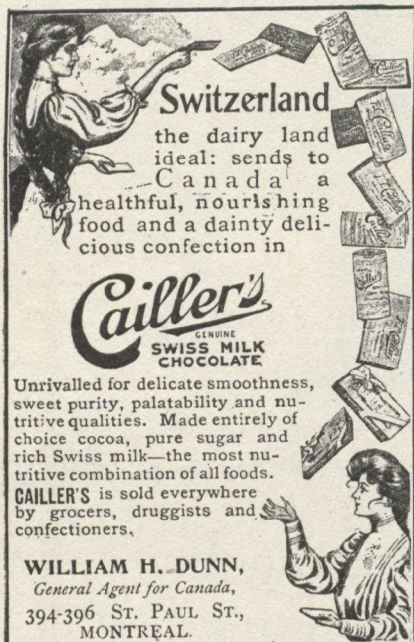


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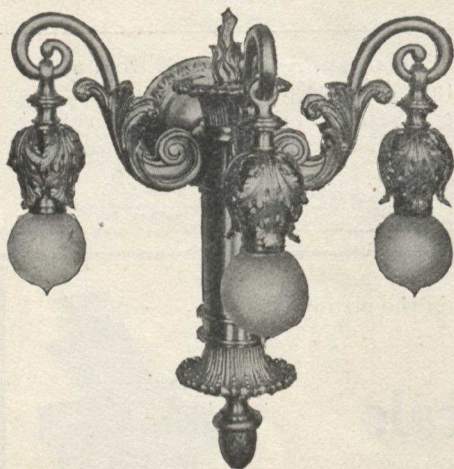


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MUSIC & THE DRAMA

MORE than once during last
week the statement was made
that Mr. Forbes Robertson has
not played "Hamlet" in Toronto. This
is entirely incorrect. Mr. Robertson
was seen in the role at the Princess
Theatre, Toronto, in the winter of 1904
and in the same performance Miss
Gertrude Elliott played "Ophelia."
Mr. Robertson's acting of the part of
the "sweet prince" is so noble a piece
of histrionic art that it has the vivid
quality of a picture as well as the pli-
ancy of dramatic presentation. A
modern essayist, in writing of the ev-
anescent of the actor's achievements,
spoke of his fame as "a statue of
snow." The work of the playwright
may live, the hour of the actor is but
an hour. Yet with such art as Mr.
Robertson attains in his "Hamlet"
one feels that the impression created,
though it become a tradition, has
gone into the aggregate of artistic ef-
fect that no "hungry generations"
can "tread down."

Miss Elliott, although not a fair, is
a gentle and lovable "Ophelia." In
fact, many of her admirers prefer her
in that role to any other. When she
first played the part in Toronto, it
was suggested that she would make
a charming "Juliet."

The ending of the drama, as adopt-
ed by many who have played "Ham-
let" comes with the speech of
Horatio, beginning: "Now cracks a
noble heart." Mr. Robertson, how-
ever, includes in the last scene the
entrance of Fortinbras. The closing
spectacle, as the dead prince is borne
from the scene is gloomily pictu-
resque. The only false note in the
presentation was the appearance of
the "late deceased" before the cur-
tain. Mr. Robertson's bow of ac-
knowledgment almost spoiled his
"Hamlet."

Next week, Mr. Robertson and Miss
Elliott will appear in two perform-
ances of "Hamlet" at the Princess
Theatre, Toronto. They will also
present Madeleine Ryley's "Mice and
Men," a romantic drama of the
Eighteenth Century.

* *

Mr. Arthur Stringer is known as a
writer of poems, short stories and
novels. He is more proud, it is said,
of his prize peaches and pears, raised
on his fruit farm in Ontario, than of
his literary achievements. Like many
other Canadians, he resides in New
York except during the summer
months. Mr. Stringer's novel, "The
Silver Poppy," is probably his best
known work. His most recent novel,
"The Wire Tappers" is a rather sor-
did record of several varieties of
crime. It has been dramatised by
Mr. Owen Davis and will be produced
at the Lincoln Square Theatre, New
York, on the eighteenth of this
month. Mr. James Durkin, a well-
known leading man in stock, will
have the principal role in the play.

* *

The plans of the Mendelssohn Choir
for next year are not yet announced,
as both Conductor and Committee no

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for 1906 shows substantial increases
over the previous year, as may be seen
from the following figures:

Items	1905	1906	Gains over 1905
Assets - -	\$ 9,296,092	\$10,385,539	\$ 1,089,447
Income - -	1,956,518	2,072,423	115,905
Surplus* -	952,001	1,208,878	249,877
Insurance in Force † -	44,197,954	46,912,407	2,712,453
Expense ra- tio to Income	17.8%	16.34%	1.46%

*Company's Standard.

† All Canadian Business.



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ALFRED WRIGHT, MANAGER