

Music and the Drama

THE Executive Committee in charge of His Excellency's Musical and Theatrical Trophy Competition to take place at Ottawa in the week commencing January 28th, 1907, seems to have satisfied most critics with the conditions set forth. Each competing company must be prepared to meet its own expenses, as it is understood that the various competing companies are representing their respective cities. The General Committee at Ottawa has assumed all the expenses in connection with the theatre for the week and all other incidental expenses. The last week of January promises to be an exacting period for those concerned with judging and management.

The fact that more than two thousand people assembled to hear Moriz Rosenthal, the Roumanian pianist, shows that we are not altogether benighted in the matter of musical judgment. So pronounced was the popular approval of Rosenthal's performance, especially of the Schumann "Carnival" music, that an early return of the distinguished musician is promised. One might have wished for a different Beethoven number, as "Sonata, Op. 109" is hardly characteristic of the "infinite composer." But the Chopin group left nothing to be desired, the "Berceuse," the "Scherzo in C minor" and the transcription of the "Valse in D flat" affording ravishing melody. The last was a technical achievement that was bewildering in gymnastic perfection. In spite of Rosenthal's amazing technique and dynamic force, there was throughout his performance, an interpretative restraint as delightful as his colour and vivacity.

Mr. Willard's visits to Canada are a perennial pleasure, of which the English actor seems to be in no haste to deprive us. He fits so naturally into the parts of "Tom Pinch," "Professor Goodwillie," and "Colonel Newcome" that he is as welcome and wholesome as the Christmas number of the London "Graphic." But the best piece of acting he has done in his later work is the part of "Austin Limmason," in "The Man Who Was." The poor demented lieutenant will be remembered when "The Professor's Love Story" and "David Garrick" are but dimly recalled. The members of Mr. Willard's company are not equal to the demands of the plays in which he appears and Miss Alice Lonnon is a decided weariness to the public in her unvarying ingenuousness.

The most notable event in theatrical circles was the appearance of Mr. Robert Loraine as "John Tanner" in Mr. George Bernard Shaw's "Man and Superman." The sophisticated epigrams of the play were keenly enjoyed, even though the drama displayed constructive deficiency. Mr. Shaw's "philosophy" is never serious and is frequently absurd, but it is invariably clever, or rather "smart," as the modern world understands the adjective. His real sphere is vaudeville and he would write delightful humoresques and morbid monologues. Mr. Loraine's acting was charming in

humorous suggestion and it is to be hoped that he will soon visit Canada again in more dignified drama.

The Last of the Indian Treaties.

MR. Duncan Campbell Scott has written for "Scribner's Magazine" an article dealing picturesquely with the subject of the recent negotiations with the Indians of Albany River. As the writer points out, the Indian policy of the Canadian Government was inherited from the British procedure in the American colonies.

The treaty policy was well established at the time of Confederation, and "nearly all civilised Canada is covered with these Indian treaties and surrenders. * * * Until lately, however, the map would have shown a large portion of the province of Ontario uncovered by the treaty blanket. Extending north of the watershed that divides the streams flowing into Lakes Huron and Superior from those flowing into Hudson's Bay, it reached James Bay on the north and the long curled ribbon of the Albany River, and comprised an area of 90,000 square miles, nearly twice as large as the State of New York. * * * Through the map of this unregarded region, Sir Wilfred Laurier had drawn a long line, sweeping up from Quebec and carrying down upon Winnipeg, marking the course of the eastern section of the new Transcontinental Railway. The aboriginal owners of this vast tract * * * asked the Dominion Government to treat for their ancient domain, and the plans for the new railway made a cession of the territory imperative."

In June, 1905, three commissioners, among whom was Mr. Scott, were appointed to visit the Indian tribes and negotiate a treaty. Setting out from Dinorwic, a small station on the Canadian Pacific Railway two hundred miles east of Winnipeg, their route reached the Lac Seul water system, crossed the height of land and extended to Lake St. Joseph, the first great reservoir of the Albany River. The party included Messrs. S. Stewart, D. G. MacMartin and D. C. Scott, Commissioners; A. G. Meindl, M. D.; T. C. Rae, Chief Trader, Hudson's Bay Company; and two constables of the Dominion police force, Parkinson and Vanasse. "The flotilla consisted of three canoes, two large Peterboroughs and one birch-bark thirty-two feet long which could easily hold eleven or twelve men and 2,500 pounds of baggage and supplies, as well as the treasure-chest, which was heavy with thirty thousand dollars in small notes." A crew of half-breeds and Indians accompanied the Government party.

In return for their lands the Government would give: "Eight dollars to be paid at once to every man, woman and child; and forever afterward, each year, so long as the grass grows and the water runs, four dollars each; and reserves of one square mile to every family of five or in like proportion; and schools for their children; and a flag for the chief * * * They were assured that they were not expected to give up their hunting-grounds, that they might hunt and fish throughout all the country, just as they had done in the past."

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Trains run between Deseronto and Napanee as follows:—

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Leave Napanee at 2.20 a.m., 3.30 a.m., 6.30 a.m., 6.35 p.m., 7.55 a.m., 10.30 a.m., 12.05 p.m., 1.20 p.m., 11.00 a.m., 4.30 p.m., 6.50 p.m., 8.15 p.m.

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