

OF INTEREST TO WOMEN

Earl Grey Competition

The executive committee of the Earl Grey Musical and Dramatic Trophy competition have selected the test pieces for the musical contest at Montreal in April. The pieces must be selected as follows: One for each chorus. For mixed chorus: "Wings of a Dove" by Howard Brockway; op. 24 (Schirler). 2. Elgar's Challenge of Thor (Neville).

Premier on Suffrage

At a meeting of the Ottawa W.C.T.U. a letter was read from Sir Wilfrid Laurier on the woman's suffrage question, which has been discussed here a good deal lately. Some time ago the premier, along with others, was asked if he would support woman's suffrage. His letter, while not committing him one way or the other, intimates that this question is one for provincial legislatures to deal with before being considered by the Dominion Government.

Don't Want Women Workers

A committee of women of Havana are circulating a petition for presentation to Governor Magoon of Cuba, requesting that he issue a decree forbidding the employment of women in the government offices. The petition declares that such employment is demoralizing to women, and demands that all the places now filled by women be given to men having families dependent upon them.

RECEIVING TO-DAY

Mrs. Alex. Purse and Mrs. F. Otway will receive on Thursday, Dec. 10, from 8 o'clock to 10, at the home of Mrs. Charles E. Brown and Miss Grover, 193 East Gerrard-street.

In Society

The monthly meeting of the Toronto General Hospital Alumnae Association will be held in the lecture-room of the Toronto General Hospital to-day at 3 p.m. A large attendance is expected. Mrs. Nelson will address the members on the tuberculosis conference held in Washington. During the evening meetings of the association will be held on the first Wednesday of every month.

Mrs. Adam Gourlay, Brunswick-avenue, is with Mrs. McDowell, 170 West Bloor-street, for the winter, and will receive on the second Friday of each month.

Jarvis Collegiate ex-pupils purpose holding their annual at home and dance on Friday evening next.

Mrs. Gibson, Government House, will receive on Thursday, Dec. 10, from 4 to 6 o'clock, and not again until Jan. 14.

The Royal Grenadiers' Chapter, I.O. D.E., intend holding a Christmas tree on Dec. 30 in the sergeants' mess-room.

The annual at home of St. Andrew's Lodge, A. F. & A. M., will be held in the Temple building on Jan. 12.

The Toronto Skating Club will hold its first regular meeting this evening at 8 o'clock at the Granite Rink, weather permitting.

FIRST SYMPHONY CONCERT AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS

Large Audience in Massey Hall Delighted With Orchestra and Mme Gadski.

By Dr. J. D. Logan.

Tribute From Mme. Gadski.

"It would be unfair of me to give my opinion of your orchestra when I have heard so little of their work, but after my rehearsal for the Toronto concert I was surprised to hear that this is such a young organization. Everything was played so smoothly that the idea never occurred to me. As the development of music is progressing so rapidly in this country, and as the organization of orchestras is one of the greatest steps toward civilization, I wish you the best of success, and hope that you not only maintain the high standard which in time establish your own opera as the European cities of this size have."

Two stars shone brilliantly last night in the musical firmament in Massey Hall, namely, Frank S. Welsman and Mme. Gadski.

The event marked the first appearance of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra since its organization on an independent basis. It is now supported by public subscriptions, is part of Toronto's permanent musical functions, and in its first concert under the new organization proved itself a band of professional musicians of which any large city might justly be proud.

As for the concert itself, whether we think of the band or of the soloist, Mme. Gadski, it was worthy of the epithets applied discriminately by the large audience present. On all sides were heard such encomiums as "splendid," "beautiful," "a decided success," a credit to our city. Naturally the people went forth to hear the orchestra primarily, although Mme. Gadski was also a big drawing card. The program which the orchestra played was one that taxed all its powers, but the band was splendidly equal to all the exigencies. At any rate the first violin section did not seem to play with fluency. But the wood-wind and horns were excellent, some fault might be found with the

The regular meeting of the Northern W.C.T.U. to be held in Westminster Church parlors to-day at 3 p.m., is to take the form of a reception service to introduce a number of new members.

Mrs. Wedd of Jameson-avenue is spending the winter with her daughter, Mrs. Turpin, of Leithbridge, Alta.

Mrs. F. M. Holland will receive at her new residence, 29 Chelora-avenue, on the second Friday of each month.

Mrs. Arthur Meredith and Miss Meredith will receive for the first time in their new home, 125 Balmoral-avenue, next Friday, and afterwards on the second Friday of each month.

The annual distribution of the Needlework Guild of Canada took place in St. George's Hall. It was well attended by those interested in the good work, including a number of visitors.

There were 185 articles of clothing distributed this year to the following 21 institutions: General, Grace, Isolation and Western hospitals, Children's Aid, Church of England Deaconesses, Girls' Home, Home for Incurable Children, Nursery-at-Home, Mission, St. Andrew's Institute, St. John's Nursery Mission, Frances Willard Home, Infants' Home, Home for Incurables, Redemption Home, Victorian Order, Nurses' Working Boys' Home, Orphan's Home, Seaton Village Mission, Toronto, and Jewish Mission.

Mrs. D. J. Richmond Wilcox and the Misses Wilcox, 218 Quebec-avenue, West Toronto, will receive on Thursday afternoon (Dec. 10) and not again until after the new year.

MONTREAL CIVIC SCANDAL.

Alderman Says Building Was Made to Pay Grant.

MONTREAL, Dec. 8.—Another civic scandal is alleged by Ald. Robinson, who will present documents to the city council to show that a new fire and police station in the east end, specified to cost \$28,800, has been constructed so that one-fifth of the value was an abstract. It is said graft started with the purchase of the land, and was continued in the construction. The building is said to lack the specified width and height, and galvanized iron was used in place of stone.

CHURCH UNION CONFERENCE

Outcome of Four Years' Work Two New Canadian Bodies.

After four years of meetings and adjournments, the church union committee of the several denominations will convene here again to-day to exchange notes. That organic union is immediately probable has been accomplished authority admits. The organs of the churches point out that the future progress of the movement is a matter for earnest prayer.

While organic church union has remained in the air during the five years of its discussion, organic union for specific purposes has been accomplished. This has notably been the case in the formation and work of the Canadian council of the laymen's movement for missions, and the establishment of the Dominion council of moral and social reforms.

Another One. DRAYTON, Dec. 8.—Jos. Cook, hotel-keeper at Glen Allan, will be tried here on Friday for alleged offence of selling liquor without a license. It will be a second offence. The case was set for a fortnight ago, but Cook was absent.



FRANK WELSMAN, Conductor Toronto Symphony

faulstics who do not seem to understand the difference obtained by "breathing" into the flute instead of "blowing" into it.

The orchestra, however, found itself in Schubert's Symphony in B Minor. It is not too much to say that in such general qualities as good tone, attack, nuancing and balance the orchestra attained a high standard in the playing of this composition. The cellos and basses were particularly effective, especially in outlining the themes and in tone color. In the latter quality the band were positively transcending in the way they expressed the poetic beauty of the lovely second movement (Andante) of this symphony. And the only fault the band seemed to exhibit was a lack of unanimity in the few measures after each attack.

The overture to the 3rd act of Kistler's "Kuhnhild" the themes of which are exceedingly melodious, did not tax the powers of the band, but it made plain the fact that the cellos and wood sections of the orchestra are, as they say in athletics, in "the pink of condition"—trained thoroughly. As a composition Saint-Saens' "Danse Macabre" is a disappointing piece of delineative music. The subject is not inviting, and the programmatic schedule is too obvious, having precisely the kind of descriptive value one would expect from a composition of the same kind by Sousa. However, the orchestra brought out all that was in it, musically and pianissimo.

The band closed its part of the program with Berlioz's celebrated "Rakoczy March" from the "Damnation of Faust," and here Mr. Welsman's musicians showed off brilliantly their splendid powers in instrumental coloring.

In the writer's opinion Mr. Welsman is to be congratulated for two excellent qualities his band possesses. They have not got the big tone which one hears from the New York and Chicago orchestras. But the Toronto Symphony Orchestra does have fine general intonation, particularly in attack, so brilliant, balance and nuancing, and also what appears to the writer to be its forte, namely, excellent tone-coloring.

No Steel Plant in England. LONDON, Dec. 8.—The report that the Dominion Iron and Steel Co. of Sydney intended buying up two large steel works in England is contradicted by President Plummer, who declares that they can manufacture steel rails more cheaply in Sydney than could possibly be done in England.

Holiday Sale 1-3 to 1-2 Off Regular Prices of Suits, Coats, and Waists. To the public the desirable feature of this sale is that it means reductions on the best and highest class of ready-to-wear garments that can be bought. And every price-advantage we advertise is absolutely genuine. Our present stock comprises fresh and smart styles that cannot be duplicated in Canada, and all bear the unmistakable stamp of Fairweather individuality.



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GAZE FOR THE RAILWAYS has not yet been announced. The railways are presenting their arguments against the scheme in the hope that Chairman Mabee will finally settle the proceedings without prejudice to their appeal.

Ontario Optical Co. 113 Yonge Street. The FIRM that broke the Price on Glasses. Offer for this week the chance of a lifetime to those who need glasses.

WILL FIGHT THE DUTCH. CARACAS, Venezuela, Dec. 4.—Via Willemstad, Curacao, Dec. 8.—The government has resolved to fire on the first Dutch warship that commits an unfriendly act, and the beginnings of what may develop into a strong movement against President Castro have noticed.

125 MILES IN A ROWBOAT REMARKABLE STORY FROM MISSION CITY. Mr. John R. Wren, late Reeve of Mission City, B.C., is now 66 years of age and tells the following remarkable story: "Some years ago I was given up by the Doctors. I was so weak I could not walk across the floor, and was patiently waiting for death. I had paid as much as \$25 a visit for a specialist who said I could not get relief. In this condition I sent for a sample of PSYCHINE. The first night PSYCHINE gave relief. The bleeding of the lungs ceased and in three weeks I was able to walk three miles and take the oversight of a score of men."

PREVENT TAKING COLD When you come home shivering and cold, wet, a tickle in your throat—take a stiff dose of Nervine in hot water. Rub Nervine over your throat and chest as well. This prevents a chill and checks the cold instantly. Just as safe with the child as with the adult, so keen it handy. For nearly fifty years Nervine has been universally sold in large 25c bottles.

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