

I consider the foregoing first-rate popular program-making on the part of Lient. Mooney. Psychologically viewed, it is sensible; for it opens with light music, fitted to attune a mixed audience to the attitude of sitting back and enjoying themselves. Then the heavier music from "Faust" and from "Poet and Peasant" is introduced into the middle of the program just when the minds of the audience are as yet untired, and the musically uneducated part of it are willing to listen and to try to enjoy so-called "classical" music. The audience, tired now by the strain of attention, are next fittingly treated to light, piquant music, and leave the concert-hall with the sense of having been pleasantly entertained, and of being spiritually refreshed. Musically viewed, the program is thoroughly satisfying. For the Band of the 85th Battalion play it as if fully conscious that concert music is an emotional language, and must appeal, not to the feet, but to the sensibilities, the sentiments or heart, the fancy, the imagination, and the inmost soul of men and women. This, as I heard them, the musicians of the 85th Battalion Band accomplished throughout the program with fine artistry in every technical and expressional quality and nuance required by the various compositions, now stimulating the sensibilities, now making glad the heart, now piquing or "tickling" the fancy, now subduing the spirit, and now transporting the soul to the uplands of ethereal experiences.

In view, then, of my knowledge of other Canadian military and concert bands, and of my careful study of the personnel, musicianship, and route-march, parade, review, and hall programs of the Band of the 85th Overseas Battalion, I have full confidence in my critical judgment and appraisal that it is, taken in all its versatility, the Champion Regimental Band of Canada.

---

I have but two suggestions to make for improvement of the band. The membership should be increased at least to forty musicians and the instrumentation should be augmented by the addition of at least two saxophones, a bass clarinet, a B-flat tuba, and a BB-flat bass for martial music, and by the addition of two oboes, a trumpet, two French horns, two Boehm flutes, C and G kettle-drums and a xylophone for concert music. Were the Band of the 85th Overseas Battalion thus augmented in personnel and instrumentation, it could be brought to an efficiency in first-rate musicianship that, if heard in the United States or in England, would win the admiration and praise of competent critics. Still, as it now stands, the Band is justly the pride of Lt.-Col. Borden, O. C., and the officers and men of the 85th Overseas Battalion, C. E. F., Nova Scotia Highlanders.