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CHOIR CONTEST WON BY SINGERS FROM CONNAUGHT

Best From Regina Public Schools Chosen to Represent City at Festival

Before an audience which packed Metropolitan United Church to the roof last night, the public school choruses and soloists were heard in the final competition which was designed to select those who will represent Regina at the musical festival at Saskatoon next week. Connaught school choir was chosen to represent Regina in the special public school choir event. That the interest of the public was aroused to a high degree was demonstrated by the fact that scores of those who sought admittance to the large building were turned away at the doors.

The contest formed a major feature of a concert in which most of the public schools of the city took part. The adjudicators were Cyril Hampshire, director of the Regina College Conservatory of Music, and Prof. J. Henry.

Chief in importance, perhaps, was the final trial of skill to decide which of the special school choirs should go to Saskatoon. Three of these choruses had survived the elimination tests held at the city hall Wednesday morning, from Connaught, Thomson and Wetmore schools. The same test pieces were sung as on the previous occasion, being C. Armstrong Gibbs' "Five Eyes," with words by Walter de la Mare, and "Rest Thee on This Mossy Pillow," by Henry Smart.

The competition was won by Connaught school, with 177 marks, Thomson coming next with 169 marks and Wetmore third with 162 1-2. In addition to the honor of competing at the musical festival, their victory brings Connaught the shield presented by the Rotary Club. Rev. Harry Nobles, as president of the club, made the presentation, amid great enthusiasm.

The leader of the winning chorus is Miss Frankie Briggs; Miss Harrison directed Thomson school choir, and Miss Etta Weaver led the choir from Wetmore.

In the one-room chorus final contest for Grades 1 to 3, Lakeview school beat Connaught, with 163 points to 160; while in the corresponding event for Grades 3 to 6, Lakeview was again victorious, this time scoring 254 points to 233 gained by Benson.

Three classes for soloists were heard next. The first, girls' low voice, was won by Ada Taylor, Victoria school, with 87 points. Her opponent, I. Phillips, Connaught, scored 74.

M. Herbison won more honors for Victoria by carrying off the major points in the girls' high voice competition, with a score of 75. E. Cooper, Albert school, was a bare point and a half behind, her award being 73 1-2.

In the boys' voice contest, Angus Allan gave Victoria yet another triumph, with a total of 90 as against 82 for E. Hamon of Benson.

The winning soloists were presented with medals by Mrs. A. S. Gorrell, on behalf of the Women's Musical Club, who also gave shields to the successful one-room choruses.

One of the most interesting and enjoyable items of the whole evening, and which was thoroughly appreciated by the large audience, was the performance of little Norman Harper, a six-year old kindergarten pupil of Connaught, who sang the test piece which had been chosen for the boys' solo class, Franz Schubert's "Hark, Hark, the Lark."

A xylophone solo by Nelles Glover, Victoria school, was well received and were selections by the public school orchestra under the direction of W. E. McCann, supervisor of music.

Demonstrations of folk dancing were given by the little girls of Grade 1 of Thomson school, directed by their teacher, Miss K. Nickle, and the senior girls from Kitchener, under the supervision of Miss A. Hinson. As popular as anything on the entire program was a demonstration of physical drill given by the pupils of Grade 3, Benson school, under Miss McPherson.

The adjudicators spoke favorably of the general improvement in singing which was so noticeable last night, and specially commended performance of Connaught school choir, drawing attention to the improvement in their rhythm since Wednesday morning.