

# United in Song

By MARY DALE STOTT

HAPPILY united in song are the eighty-odd members of Church choirs of various denominations and interests from in and around Toronto, pictured here. Under the baton of David Ouchterlony, choir-master of Timothy Eaton Memorial United Church and Supervisor of Branches for the Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto, they provided music for the pageant presented at the Triennial Conference of the Associated Country Women of the World in Maple Leaf Gardens on Canada Day, August 21st, and again on August 22nd. Delegates from twenty-five countries heard them as they sang Bizet's *Agnus Dei*, *The United Nations* by Shostakovich, A. P. Herbert's *Song of Liberty* to the music by Edward Elgar, *The Mounties* to *Rose Marie* music, *The Lord's Prayer* to music by Malotte, and parts of Verdi's *La Traviata*. It was an international offering in music to an international gathering.

Although only the delegates, numbering about one thousand, attended the actual sessions of the Conference at the Royal York Hotel, on Canada Day, several thou-



Eighty-voice choir from churches in the Toronto area

sands were present in the Maple Leaf Gardens, most of whom were rural women from all parts of Canada and the United States.

It is interesting to note that the first Women's Institute was formed at Stoney Creek in Ontario, in 1897, because a little boy had died through drinking impure milk. Through the efforts of the late Mrs. Alfred Watt, of Canada, the first institute in Great Britain was founded in Wales

in 1915. In 1923 first steps were taken towards the forming of an international organization, but it was not until 1927, with the help of the Countess of Aberdeen, that the seed took root. Twenty-three countries were represented at this international Conference of Rural Women's Organizations which met in London, England (with the Countess of Aberdeen in the chair), at the invitation of the International Council of Women. At Stockholm, in 1933, the Associated Country Women of the World finally came into being.

At the Conference in Toronto delegates from Australia, British West Indies, Canada, United States, Ceylon, Denmark, Eire, England and Wales, Finland, France, Germany, India, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Norway, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland, parts of Africa, Japan and Jamaica, met to discuss common problems.

It is not too much to say that the eighty-voice choir that gave its time to train for this event was expressive of the great song of jubilation in all Canadian women's hearts that one of them was instrumental in bringing into existence the Associated Country Women of the World, today numbering between five and six million country women in twenty-four countries—a tremendous force for greater understanding, health and peace among the peoples of the world.



Singers from different denominations planning for the concert in Maple Leaf Gardens