

LIEBLING WRITES OF KELLY

Editor of Musical Courier Praises Work of Omaha Musician.

EARNEST WORK APPRECIATED

Says Kelly is Most Interesting and Widely Gifted Musical Personage He Has Met in All His Wanderings.

Mr. Leonard Liebling, editor of the Musical Courier of New York, the leading publication of its class in America, recently visited Omaha for a day and in last week's issue wrote very extensively of the city and its musicians.

Omaha, populated by 140,000 souls, the nominal capital of the richest agricultural lands of the United States, enjoying close trade advantages with Nebraska, eastern Colorado, western Missouri and western Iowa, northern Kansas and South Dakota, doing an annual manufacturing business of about \$200,000,000, a jobbing business of \$145,000,000, reaching annual bank clearings of \$800,000,000, being the second largest packing center in the United States (6,550,377 head of live stock were handled in Omaha last year), fifth or sixth in the national importance of its grain market, the home of the Union Pacific railroad, the largest creamery, butter producing center of this continent, the site of the world's greatest refinery and smelter for fine ores—Omaha, the city with all the wealth and progressiveness just described, does hardly anything for music and seems content to rest its civic fame purely upon its commercial achievements and to let the highest forms of artistic culture flourish elsewhere.

It that were not so, Omaha would have a symphony orchestra. Omaha would have a representative music school. Omaha would have a worthy studio building in which to house its private teachers of music, and, lastly, but most important of all, Omaha would stand solidly and enthusiastically behind such a man as Thomas J. Kelly, by all odds the most interesting and widely gifted musical personage I have met during my present artistic wanderings. It is less time to tell about the things Thomas J. Kelly does not do than about the things he does do. For one thing, he does not scold Omaha because of its musical indifference and its lack of practical interest in his splendid work. But I did that for him, and we waxed hot in our argument on the subject, I defaming the city, he defending it. However, Mr. Kelly did not succeed in drawing the wool over my eyes. In his heated speech, I noticed the ring of local patriotism, but by a word and a look here and there he betrayed his disappointment at being unable to give more favorable answers to some of my direct questions concerning the general musical achievements of Omaha and the immediate co-operation directed toward his individual efforts.

Primarily Mr. Kelly is a vocal teacher and conductor of the Mendelssohn choir of 25 mixed voices, but also he is a recital singer, lecturer, writer, traveler, historian, musical critic (he served for many years in that capacity on The Omaha Bee), choir director, organist, pianist, keen student of the Bible, of modern and ancient literature, of economics, sociology and art, a wit, raconteur, and prince of a host and all round good fellow.

Endorsed by Great Ones.

For his pedagogical work in vocalism Mr. Kelly has received the strongest sort of endorsement from famous European and American teachers—always outside of Omaha, as you see. Letters which he showed me only after Mrs. Kelly had disclosed their existence contained the praise of those of his colleagues with whom he had exchanged views on the technique and aesthetics of vocal teaching. Mr. Kelly set forth some of his method to me, but I shall not violate his confidence, except to say that I saw at once why his conferees are impressed with his ability. He discussed vocalism from every aspect of tone and text values, and illustrated his remarks with the actual vocal sound of all the singing phases he touched upon. I thought like to make detailed report of our entire conversation, but I believe that those persons who are anxious to benefit from the Kelly knowledge and experience which have helped him to solve the chief problems which beset conscientious vocal instructors ought to pay him for the information. He has put in many years of thought, reading and foreign travel and study in order to perfect his system and bring it successfully from the stage of experiment to the condition of successful application.

Demonstrations that Convince.

Demonstration of the Kelly work was afforded first of all by Mrs. Kelly, who sang to me some Irish folk and old English music with a voice sympathetic and well controlled in every register, and a sense of style and depth of musical feeling which stamp her as a concert artist of quality. Lena Ellsworth Dale, in the "Dich, there Halle" aria, revealed volume, dramatic instinct and tasteful phrasing. Blanche Bolin did some of Liza Lehmann's "Bird Songs." She has a flexible organ of unusual purity and sweetness, and delivers with sure knowledge of text considerations. Laura Goetz, possessor of an unusually effective legato, charm of personality and clarity of phrasing, gave much pleasure with her singing of a Mozart aria. All the Kelly pupils were free from voice mannerisms, produced tone naturally and in volume or moderation as required, and gave striking evidence of the attention which their teacher must have devoted to diction and musicianship. The little recital made me wonder why vocal pupils ever leave Omaha when they have with them an authority like Mr. Kelly, able to guide them from the fundamentals of the singing art to its fullest development.

Mendelssohn Choir Rehearsal.

I attended a rehearsal of the Mendelssohn choir and heard the body do Banfock's "Leprehaun," Lott's "Crucifixus," Mousorgski's "Joshua," H. Balfour Gardiner's "Cargoes," Pitt's "Tonight," Briggs's "The Goslings" and Havernal Brian's "Daybreak." For two and one-half hours I listened to choral singing that was a constant delight and to choral conducting than which I have experienced none more intelligent, searching, temperamental and productive of artistic results. Faultless intonation, instantaneous attack, dynamics and tonal shadings of all degrees were some of the virtues exhibited, but most of all I was struck with the concentration of the conductor and his singers upon beauty of tone quality. That was the keynote of nearly everything he said to his choir that evening, and he impressed the point upon them through exhortation, illustration,

OMAHA MUSICIAN WHO IS WARMLY COMMENDED.



Thomas J. Kelly

quip, anecdote and incessant rehearsal in sections and ensemble. "The members of the Mendelssohn choir are as under a spell when Mr. Kelly wields his baton, and he aways them at will to do his musical bidding," said Mr. Burchmore (president of the association) to me during an intermission. The pianissimo in the Lotti, Pitt and Brian works, the grim humor of the Gardiner "Cargoes," the frolicsomeness of the Bantock and Bridge numbers, and the tremendous dramatic impetus of "Joshua"—amazed me beyond words. This man Kelly, in his work with the Mendelssohn choir, is proving his rank as one of the best choral conductors to be found anywhere, and any big singing societies which are contemplating a change of leaders can afford to make it worth while for Mr. Kelly to give up his Omaha connections should keep in touch with him. In lecture recital work Mr. and Mrs. Kelly have established a reputation for themselves outside of Omaha. Mr. Kelly's talks have been on Wagner's "Ring" cycle, "Folk-songs," "History and Interpretation of Music" (a course of ten lectures) and many other topics covering the history, purport and aesthetics of music. I told Mr. Kelly frankly, and somewhat to his consternation, that he is too big a man for Omaha, and that I would call national attention to his work and do everything in my power to get him away from his city. He begged me not to write anything of the sort in the Musical Courier—but here it is.

Miss O'Reilly to Speak to the Men Here on Suffrage

Men of Omaha will be the special guests of the Equal Franchise society at a meeting Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock at the council chamber of the city hall. Miss Gertrude O'Reilly, recently of Dublin, Ireland, will give an interesting talk on suffrage. Miss O'Reilly has been giving talks on conditions abroad in the larger cities of the states and speaks in a most interesting manner. Unlike the greater number of suffragettes abroad, Miss O'Reilly is opposed to militancy, but is enthusiastic about the suffrage movement both here and in Europe. She has given a number of talks while in Omaha, but this is the first opportunity for the men to hear her on suffrage.

Senator Cannon Will Speak Here Saturday

Frank J. Cannon, United States senator from Utah, will appear at the First Methodist church, Twentieth and Davenport streets, this evening and deliver his famous lecture on "The Modern Mormon Kingdom." Senator Cannon is a foe of polygamy and is an orator of national repute. This will be the second number of the Tri-City Baraca union's entertainment course. Dr. Woods Hutchinson of New York, the noted physician, teacher and writer, will speak for the union January 21.

Ford advertisement with logo and text: 'Going up—the number of Fords in world-wide service. Going down—the cost of motor car transportation. More than three hundred fifty-five thousand Fords now in use are keeping transportation cost at a minimum the world over.'

Nebraska Clothing Co. advertisement for Christmas gifts. Includes list of items like Bath Robes, Neckwear, and various suits. Features the company logo and address: FARNAM AT FIFTEENTH ST.

Colder, With Slight Fall of Snow is on the Way to Omaha. Real Christmas weather—the kind you read about—with little flurries of snow and snappy cold weather is finally promised to Omaha, and it comes just in the nick of time, too, today, according to Colonel Welsh of the local weather bureau, the thermometer will drop perceptibly, and there will be a few flakes of real snow.

Judge Morris Decreases Reduction in Damages. Judge Pace Morris of the United States district court has decreed against sixty-nine stockholders of the Omaha-Decatur Railroad company in amounts from \$90 to \$200. The suit was heard about two months ago and was brought by the road's necessary receiver, Walter H. Rhodes, and was for expenses that he had been to for the incorporation while residing in Illinois.

The CHAMPION Baseball Game advertisement. Includes image of the game box and text: 'Get this \$1.00 Gift for 25c For Your Boy for Christmas. What boy wouldn't prefer a baseball game for Christmas to anything else? It's the one game that appeals to all red-blooded youngsters. All other games are tame in comparison with it.'

BERMUDA advertisement. Text: '48 Hours—Frost to Flowers. With magnificent steamers to carry you there—hotels from the modest to the palatial—any Summer sport your fancy dictates, golf and tennis, boating, bathing and fishing that are unrivaled, with modern dances, parties and picnics—and all in a tropical setting of gorgeous color—here you may rest or play with the comforting thought that at any time home is but 48 hours distant. Sailings Every Week. Tickets Interchangeable. Special rates for January. S. S. Caribbean and Arcadian (Arcadian Beginning Jan. 10, Booking Now.) The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Sanderson & Son, Gen. Agts., 15 So. La Salle St., Chicago. S. S. Bermudian Quebec S. S. Co., Ltd. A. E. Outerbridge & Co., Agts., 27 Broadway, N. Y. For Booklets apply to above S. S. Co's or any Ticket Agent.'

WINTER CRUISES advertisement. Text: 'ITALY & EGYPT THE RIVIERA via Madeira, Gibraltar, Algiers Largest Steamers in the Trade "Adriatic" "Geltie" JANUARY 10 JANUARY 24 FEBRUARY 21 MARCH 7 PANAMA CANAL WEST INDIES SOUTH AMERICA Recent Steamers to the Tropics "Laurentic" "Megantic" JANUARY 31 FEB. 11 MAR. 14 FEBRUARY 21 MARCH 6 APL. 4 WINTER STAR LINE OFFICE: P. C. BROWN, S. E. Cor. Madison and So. La Salle Sts., Chicago, or local agents.'

Two Clean Papers FOR THE HOME advertisement. Text: 'The Youth's Companion AND The Evening Bee INCLUDING SUNDAY Both for 55c a Month Payable Monthly at THE BEE OFFICE'