

Omaha to Hear Most Famous Stars in Two Immortal Operas

TOMORROW evening at the Municipal Auditorium the first number of the second season of the Associated Retailers' Course will be put on, it being the presentation of Bizet's immortal opera "Carmen." This will formally usher in the musical season in Omaha, and is to be followed on Tuesday evening by "Il Trovatore," the wonderful musical drama on which the fame of Verdi as a composer would rest secure, had he written nothing else.

These two operas are to be presented by special casts, the quality of which can leave little to be desired. The greatest Carmen of her day, Geraldine Farrar, will be heard in a role in which she has no rival. For Don Jose, Lucien Muratore, tenor of the rarest ability, is scheduled, and Clarence Whitehill, whose big voice is already familiar to Omaha, is to be heard in the booming music of the Toreador. Helen Stanley will sing the splendid part of Micaela, and Rita Fornia, Alma Peterson, Octave Dua and Constantin Nicolay are to have the other principal roles.

For "Il Trovatore" a similarly opulent arrangement is offered. Marie Rappold, a soprano of established name, is to sing Leonora in lieu of Emmy Destinn, whom a stern government would not allow to leave her native Austria to wander in the wilds of the U. S. A. To Leonora Morgan Kingston will sing the love songs of Manrico, and Louise Homer, also known for her ravishingly beautiful contralto, will give to Azucena's lament for her mountains and wild-wood the tones that make it a song ever to be remembered. Giovanni Polese, lusty and full of vigor, is to be the Conti di Luna, and Leon Rothier, Octave Dua, Desire Deferre and Rocco Franzini will be heard in the lesser roles.

Supporting these casts, whose strength cannot be questioned, a chorus of sixty voices, especially selected because of musical qualifications, will give the ensemble numbers, and the ballet will be supplied by a competent corps of sixteen led by the premiere danseuse, Albertina Rasch of the Royal Opera, Vienna. The orchestra of sixty-five competent musicians completes the roster of the organization.

Cleofonte Campanini, known to fame hereabouts as conductor of the Chicago Opera, and at the Metropolitan in New York, is both musical and dramatic director of the company, as well as conductor, and more could not be said for the care with which the operas have been prepared for presentation.

So much for the prospectus. The company began its season at Toledo on Monday night of last week, and went from there to Milwaukee, and then to St. Paul, where it closed its engagement last night. The Bee has already published special dispatches from Toledo, telling of the reception given the organization there in the operas that are to be sung here. It may not be out of place to insert right here something of what the local papers of those cities had to say regarding the manner in which the great works were presented:

Toledo Blade: "What a treat to have so perfect a rendition of a great operatic work! Toledo evidently appreciates it—witness the vast throng present and the enthusiasm and intelligence of the applause. It would be useless to mention special points in a rendition all so good."

Geraldine Farrar is superb in her histrionic and vocal ability. She gives a consistent and well-rounded picture of Carmen. Her portrayal abounds in deft and telling little touches. Her

voice is beautiful—more beautiful than she lets it appear when she bends it to help out cat-like action or emits it from one corner of a passion-drawn mouth.

"Muratore fascinated with the sincerity and appealing power of his Don Jose, of noble aspect and bearing, a voice of great beauty and power, an artist to his finger tips. Helen Stan-

Morgan Kingston as Manrico in Il Trovatore



Helen Stanley as Micaela in Carmen

ley was not a whit behind in her part of Micaela. Her voice is rarely lovely in its purity and sweetness. She gave a vocal and visual picture of the gentle and timid country girl which was like a violet in its pure fragrance. She left an ineffaceable impression. Clarence Whitehill as Escamillo was picturesque, commanding and vocally effective; his interpretation was worthy to stand with the others. And so were the minor roles—they were all done by artists capable of much bigger things. We note especially Nicolay and Dua in the roles of the smugglers, which they infused with an agreeable air of comedy. Mesdames Petersen and Fornia as the companions of Carmen charmed vocally and were effective as actresses.

The orchestra was large and competent. The conducting of Campanini was flawless. The intermezzi were symphonic gems. The chorus, costumes and stage pictures were of a high order of excellence. The stage

directing was praiseworthy in that it resulted in such smoothness and perfection."

William Jaffe in Milwaukee Free Press: "Last night's performance of Carmen was a revelation. It was so finished in every detail, so gloriously worked out in its climaxes that criticism for once may be silent."

"The orchestra under Campanini's inspiring conducting achieved superb results. Seldom have I heard so large a body of men accompany the singers so discreetly."

"The highest praise bestowed upon an aggregation of artists such as sang last night is that each one was seemingly bent upon making the performance as a whole a perfect one. There was none of that 'getting into the limelight' so often observed. Hence the result, a most wonderful ensemble, which thrilled and completely captivated the audience."

"It gives me particular pleasure to speak in terms of highest praise of the

splendid work done by the chorus. Its tonal quality was fine, rhythm firm and shading astonishingly good.

"To sum up, it was not so much the work of this or that 'star' which made the performance so notable a one—in my judgment the most perfect one ever given here—but the fact that from Mr. Campanini down to the last 'stage hand' every one gave his very best and contributed wholeheartedly toward making the performance what it was."

Helen Stanley as Micaela in "Carmen" and Morgan Kingston as Manrico in "Il Trovatore" are not so well known here as others of the company, but have won golden words of praise in the parts.

Gifted with youth, beauty and a voice of unusual quality, Helen Stanley will be the envy of hundreds of feminine eyes at the Auditorium next Monday night when she sings the part of Micaela in "Carmen." Although a foil to the protagonist of the opera, Geraldine Farrar in the title role, still the part of Micaela is most grateful. The highest ambition of every lyric soprano is to sing Sieglinde in Wagner's "Die Walkure" and Micaela in Bizet's "Carmen."

Micaela is the good influence over the unfortunate Jose (Muratore) as contrasted with the gypsy Carmen. She is the girl from his native village who seeks to win him from his evil companions and take him home. To her is allotted the duo with Jose in the first act and the famous aria in the third, the first words of which are: "Je dis que rien ne m'epouvante."

"The greatest Manrico the world now has," is the estimate Cleofonte Campanini gave to Morgan Kingston, the English tenor, who will sing this sensational role in "Il Trovatore" at the Auditorium next Tuesday night, the second evening of the grand opera engagement.

"Not since the days of Jean de Reske has the story been sung so well," declares Mr. Key, the exacting critic of the New York World. To be

compared to de Reske is an honor, probably the greatest any artist can aspire to. Yet the World's criticism is no exaggeration, for Mr. Kingston is magnetic of figure, with a truly heroic yet colorful tenor which assumes an ineffable tenderness at times. His acting has seldom been equalled on the operatic stage. His voice is of the full, vibrant, powerful tenor, of the purest quality, lacking altogether the baritone color which is found in so many tenor voices of the heroic class.

The grand opera special train will

arrive this morning at 10 o'clock, coming from St. Paul. It will bring 200 people, and carries four extra large baggage cars of scenery and equipment.

On both Monday and Tuesday evenings the doors at the Auditorium will be opened at 7 o'clock. The curtain will rise at 8 o'clock. This does not mean 8:30, either, so patrons are urged to be on hand promptly at the hour, that they may be seated before the performance begins. The Auditorium box office will be open daily from 10 a. m. till 5 p. m.

Serbian Decoration For Mrs. Farnam

Vodena, Greece, Thursday, Oct. 19. (Via London, Oct. 21.)—Crown Prince Alexander of Serbia has decorated personally Mrs. Charles Farnam of New York with the order of St. Sava for her services in Serbian relief work.

Mrs. Farnam was the first woman of any nationality to enter reconquered Serbian territory. She accompanied the crown prince when the Serbians crossed the Cerna river above Bobrovci and stormed the Bulgarian stronghold of Brod.

Japanese of California Members of Labor Unions

San Francisco, Cal., Oct. 21.—First steps in an attempt to solve the Japanese labor problem on the Pacific coast were taken here today with announcement that nine Japanese labor unions, to affiliate into a separate Japanese labor council, have been formed and that the movement would be extended throughout California, Oregon and Washington. The action follows suggestions made recently by Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, in a letter to San Francisco labor leaders.

B. Suzuki, president of the Laborers' Friendly Society of Japan, that

fathered organization of the Japanese, said he would have 30,000 Japanese workmen in California members of such unions within a year.

By 'Phone Edison Gets His Degree

Albany, N. Y., Oct. 21.—A degree of doctor of laws was conferred upon Thomas E. Edison, the inventor, over the telephone last night by Dr. John H. Finley, president of the University of the State of New York, at the closing session of the institution's fifty-second convocation.

Mr. Edison was in his laboratory at Orange, N. J., while Dr. Finley was in the auditorium of the New York Education building here. The large room had been fitted with 800 telephones and that many persons listened as Dr. Finley conferred the degree and Mr. Edison accepted. It was the first time a degree had ever been conferred over the telephone.

Commerce Commission Abandons Investigation

Washington, Oct. 21.—Western railroads having abandoned proposed changes in regulations and practices governing grain shipments in transit, the Interstate Commerce commission today has abandoned its proposed investigation.

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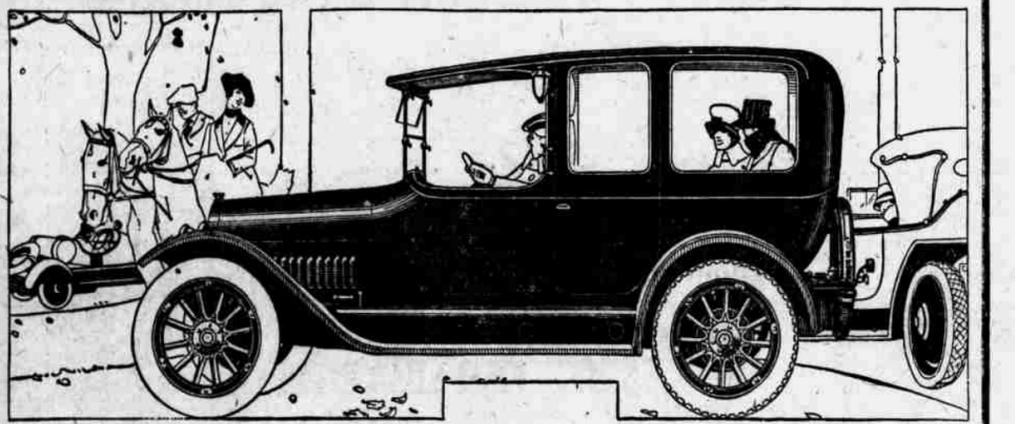
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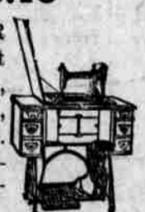
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