

Mme. Schumann-Heink an American Citizen

Noted Singer Renounces Fatherland That Sons May Become Naturalized and Escape Service in German Army.

NEW YORK, March 16.—(Special Correspondence.)—The news flew all over America last week that Mme. Schumann-Heink, the noted singer, has become an American citizen. As is usual in cases of this kind, there was much curiosity and speculation as to why a European artist should desire to become an American in point of the fact that Europe is the hotbed of art, at least for many years it has been regarded as such. Mme. Schumann-Heink, who has a superb home in New Jersey, took out the papers in Newark, and consented to give the writer a full statement of her feelings in this, one of the most important moves of her life.

"Why did I become an American citizen? I will tell you why very gladly. Perhaps you will not understand, if you do not know the laws of Germany, which are very hard on a woman who earns her living. In the first place, you must know I am not a German. My mother was an Italian and my father an Austrian, and I was born in Austria, and I love it heartily. In order to appreciate fully my desire to be one of this glorious country you would also have to know my sufferings and privations and hardships through which I struggled for over 20 years, and which, from year to year, grew heavier and harder to bear, until I stepped my foot on this blessed country, when all troubles seemed to dissipate like clouds, and I breathed God's own free air. Oh, it was beautiful. I feel yet that thrill of landing in a strange country, to America already, before I really knew anything about its laws or its customs, its freedom and the immensity of it."

"When did you begin to think about America?"

"Oh, I began to think about it when first my mother read stories of that wonderful Christopher Columbus, who discovered a new land, and when the story was finished, I hardly waited for the last words to say 'Begin it again.' I made my debut at Kroll's Theater, in Berlin, in 1855. There is no need of repeating the struggles through which I went. I can only assure you that there were times when neither I nor my family had enough to eat. In 1856 I made my first appearance in Bayreuth, and my success was very great, but still nothing could take away the financial difficulties incurred by the expense of my large family and the illness of Paul Schumann, my husband. I had offers to America already from Stanton, but of course that was impossible, because I was under a con-



ERNESTINE SCHUMANN-HEINK.

tract which could not be broken. Then Maurice Grau heard me as Amneris in "Aida," and was determined that I should come to New York, which was made possible after two years, through the death of the manager under whose contract I was. After this I promised to come if they would engage my husband, Mr. Schumann, as stage manager, which they did, and I made my first appearance as Ortrud in Chicago in

1888, just four weeks before my little George Washington was born, and I was so proud to have that child born in America. It seemed to make a stronger bond between me and this country. Three weeks after I made my debut in New York at the Metropolitan in the same role. The warmth of the American public and the sympathy and beauty of spirit shown to me by everyone touched me deeply, and the fact that I was the mother of seven children and of one step-child seemed to open the hearts of all the mothers of this country, who realized that a woman could follow the difficult profession and still be a mother, and a tender mother besides. That which was held against me the most in Germany was the most appreciated by America's beautiful womanhood. It was not long before the public discovered that I was on a very low salary and for a long contract. It was this very public that forced justice and made Mr. Grau feel compelled to treat me with a different financial consideration. Wherever I go I find the same beautiful spirit among the women of this country, and I know them all; those of Texas, of Oregon and of Nebraska as well as if not better than those in New York. I find that they are not only comparable as housewives to the typical "hausfrau" of Germany, but they are housewives to perfection, while mentally and physically they stand shoulder to shoulder with their husbands. Their minds are together and they understand the big things of life just as the men do and without losing that exquisite womanhood which is one of the most beautiful traits of the American woman. They are not afraid of work and women who do work only gain their respect instead of their pity or scorn. They know the wives of millionaires who can go into their own kitchens and superintend everything, do the work with their own hands and knees to clean and dust and straighten and then they can go from the kitchen into their drawing rooms and wear their elegant gowns and diamonds with the grace of a queen. Oh, it is beautiful to know these women, they are an inspiration as much to art as are the picturesque mountains and enormous trees and the beautiful skies of this country from which one can only breathe freedom—freedom and happiness.

"And the devotion of these women to their families! That is something remarkable in America—in the big America that I know outside of New York. Many places the women come to the concerts without gloves, but they bring big hearts and big sympathies along.

"Do you know what makes this country so big?" said Mme. Schumann-Heink, turning questioner. "It is because the people are not ashamed to be learned. They admit frankly, 'We will go to Europe to be taught by the experience and the age of those countries. We will study the galleries; we will hear their music, we will see their architecture.' Indeed, there is nothing anywhere from which they are not willing to learn and their minds always on the alert, always wide open, make of the Nation a perfect storehouse of knowledge. It was to this country that I wished to bring my children upon the death of Mr. Schumann. I knew the characteristics of each one of my family and I knew what fine, broad-minded American citizens they would become and how they would love this country, and it is a fact that even without being able to speak the language, without a companion, there was not one day when they experienced what people call homesickness or longing for the country which they had left. In fact, some of the younger ones have become as thoroughly American as that the German letters which they write to me are disgraceful."

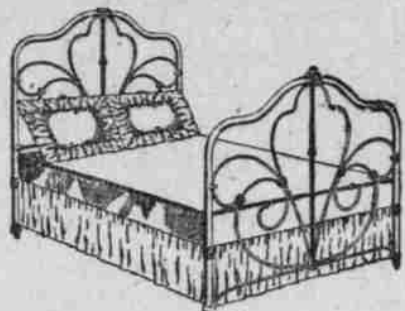
"But professionally you will return to Europe, will you not, Mme. Schumann-Heink?"

"Indeed I will, and with great pleasure, for I love my German public and I love the German people. In fact, I have a larger tour booked in that country for next season than ever before in my life. I appreciate the honor which they have always lavished upon me and I believe they understand my motives, which are entirely without prejudice against that country. I am not the only mother who does not want to give her sons for military duty, nor am I the only one who wants a life of freedom and of opportunities for my family. As for myself, I enjoy passionately my beautiful home in New Jersey and I shall continue as long as the public wants my offerings, and when they tire of me and it is time to die I want to go peacefully and to be cremated, then I want the ashes to be blown into all parts of this country, so that in Oregon, in Texas, in Nebraska, in Florida, in every state in the Union, a little of Schumann-Heink may rest."

CHINESE Revolutionists Arrested.
PEKIN, March 21.—The authorities on March 17 inaugurated a series of wholesale arrests of reformers and suspected revolutionists and up to the present time not less than 100 men have been taken



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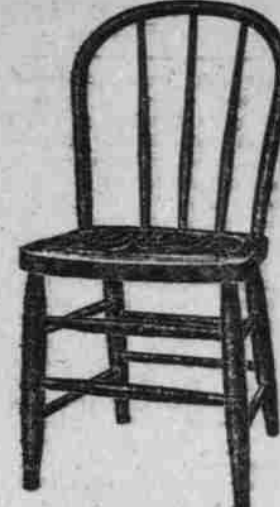


\$7.25

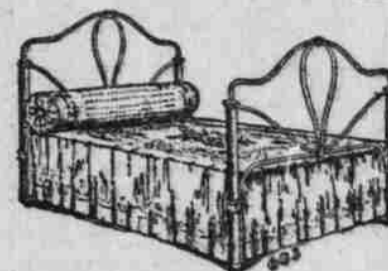
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Talented Players Selected for the New Nortonia Orchestra

FINE music, artistically selected programmes and the interesting personalities of its members are some of the reasons for the sudden popularity of the Nortonia Orchestra, located in the new hotel of that name, Eleventh and Stark streets. It has got to be the correct thing to drop into the Nortonia grillroom after theater, with one's friends, and listen to the orchestral waves recalling the best moments of Schumann, Greig, Mendelssohn, or the merrier music of the present day.

The Nortonia Orchestra has been selected with care and unerring judgment, and the result is that it is one of the very best on the Pacific Coast. Only first-class music is played, just the kind to charm both critic and guest.

Henry L. Bettman, the well-known violinist, is leader, and the other members of the orchestra are Rudolf Kaps, cellist; Manuel B. Palacios, clarinet player, and Mordant A. Goodenough, pianist. Mr. Bettman is a native of this city, and left here in 1882 for Leipzig, where he studied with Petr, and afterward became a pupil of the celebrated Yeany and Hugo Hermann. In 1890, Mr. Bettman returned to this city, where for four years he engaged in professional work, and then left for San Francisco and San Jose, Cal. At the latter city he was for a number of years head of the Violin Department of the University of the Pacific. Now he is back to his native city, and it is interesting to know that Mr. Bettman is the concertmaster of the newly organized Portland Symphony Orchestra. His violin tone and technique are excellent.

Herr Kaps is a pupil of the famous



Henry L. Bettman, Violinist.



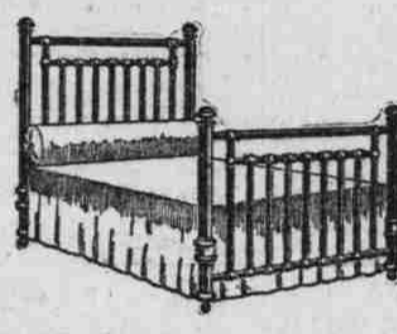
RUDOLF KAPS, Cellist.

Kienzel, of Leipzig, and last year was one of the first cellists of the Philharmonic Orchestra of Berlin, Germany, noted as one of the best musical organizations in Europe. Since the latter engagement, Herr Kaps has been busy with symphony work, and it is with great pleasure that the musical net here has learned of this artist's en-

gagement at the Nortonia. Senior Palacios and Mr. Mordant have won recognition as Portland musicians, and have played here with great success. The Nortonia Orchestra plays three every night from 9:30 to midnight, excepting Sunday night, when the concert hours are from 6 to 8 o'clock.

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into custody. It is reported that four of the prisoners have official ranks and that one is a member of the family of Wang Wen Shao, former Grand Councilor. Most of the prisoners are men educated abroad and they had recently come into Peking from the outlying provinces. The police in this matter are acting upon the

order issued by the throne in December to the Board of the Interior, to suppress public meetings and to watch closely all places where revolutionists were supposed to congregate.

Yuan Shi Kai, Grand Councilor, has recently established a "personal" police force under the direction of the fore-

ign, whose duty it is to safeguard all high officials who are apprehensive of attack.

Wants Committee Discharged.

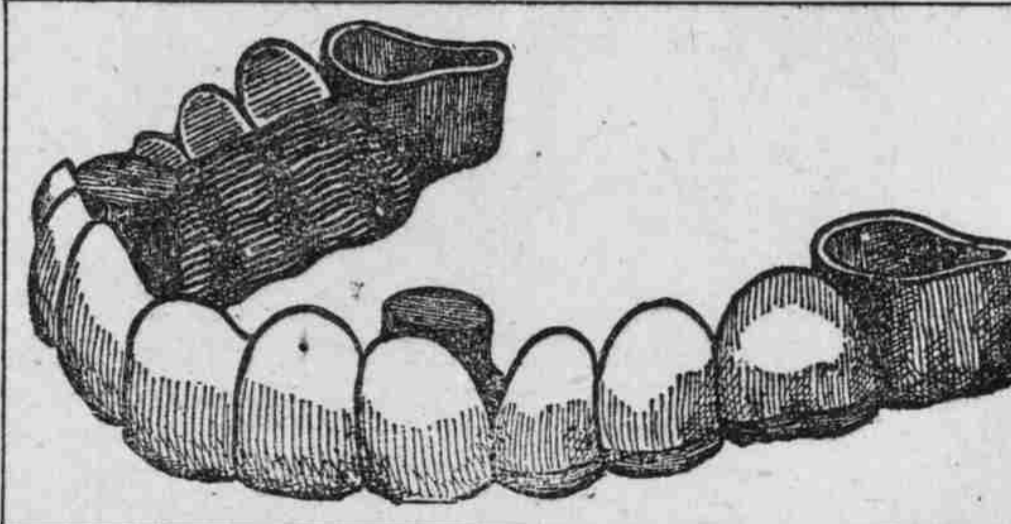
WASHINGTON, March 21.—Senator La Follette today introduced a resolution dis-

charging the committee on Interstate Commerce from further consideration of his bill providing for the valuation of railroad property by the Interstate Commerce Commission. Mr. La Follette will at some future time move the adoption of his resolution.

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