

'MARTHA' DELIGHTS PACKED HOUSE AT PAGE THEATRE

Seldom has a Medford audience been more delighted with an operatic performance than in the production of "Martha" last night by the Andrews Opera company. While we see some of the best dramatic talent here, we rarely have the pleasure of listening to opera of the higher class, and yet Medford is ever ready, as last night's audience demonstrated, to patronize most liberally the higher grade musical entertainment. We gave a crowded house to Damrosch orchestra, Madame Schumann-Heink, Madame Galski, Madame Nordica and the Lombardi Opera company. It would seem that operatic managers might with profit include Medford in their route.

"Martha" is a delightful opera, and while it is usually classed as a grand opera, the plot is on the serio-comic order. The delightful melodies that are familiar to all music lovers are interspersed with bits of comedy and spoken dialogue, which convey the story to the audience, even though they have not previously familiarized themselves with the plot.

Mrs. Ed Andrews, in the title role, was everything that could be desired in the part. She has a lyric voice, unusually flexible, which is well suited to the role of "Martha." She was thoroughly dramatic in the heavier scenes, yet in "The Last Rose of Summer" she sang with a quiet pathos that held the audience spellbound.

Julia Zumwalt gave a most intelligent and artistic rendition of the part of Nancy. She won favor in the first duet with Martha and held her audience through the entire performance.

George Andrews is well suited to the part of Plunkett, the jolly farmer. He has a splendid baritone voice and in the duet between Nancy and Plunkett in the third act he developed some excellent humor. He was especially good in his solo, the drinking song, and in the duet with Signor Giordano in the opening of the fair scene.

While Sir Tristan is the very antipodes of Koko, yet Ed Andrews demonstrated that he is equally at home in the high comedy part of the English lord. Mr. Andrews is a versatile comedian and always pleases his audience.

Salvatore Giordano not only pleased, but thrilled his audience, and was encored again and again. He most generously responded to the many encores and it is really remarkable that he could hold up with such power and finish to the finale of the last act.

After hearing Signor Giordano there is no doubt of his being able to hold his own as a member of the Metropolitan forces. It is only doing this artist justice to say that he is in a class with Caruso and other world-famed Italian tenors. He is a handsome man, a splendid actor and a most superb singer.

The local Elks lodge is to be congratulated on the splendid operatic entertainment that it has been instrumental in bringing to the music lovers of Medford.

15 SHIPS SUNK BY SUBMARINES

LONDON, March 9.—Fifteen British steamers sunk out of a total of 8734 vessels of more than 300 tons which arrived at British ports or departed from them January 21 to March 3 was the record achievement of German submarines, according to figures issued by the admiralty. Vessels of all nationalities were taken into account, excluding, however, those used by the admiralty for naval and military purposes. Twenty-nine members of the crews of the steamers torpedoed lost their lives.

The total number of vessels which arrived at British ports during this period was 4619, while the number which departed was 4115.

AMERICAN REPLY TO BLOCKADE RECEIVED

PARIS, March 9.—The Journal today says it understands the American reply to the French and British notes concerning the blockade of Germany has been received in Paris and London.

Its contents follow closely the lines already announced in American newspapers. It asks the French and British governments for detailed information as to their purposes, and particularly what measures they propose to adopt to carry them out.

PROBE OF BLAZE ABOARD LATOURAINE NOW UNDER WAY

HAVRE, March 9.—A rigid inquiry already has been begun into all the phases of the fire at sea aboard the French line steamer La Touraine, which docked here yesterday afternoon and landed safely all her passengers. Admiral Charlier of the ministry of marine and Director Duport of the Compagnie Generale Trans-Atlantique, boarded the vessel upon her arrival and started the investigation at once. The report of Admiral Charlier will be submitted to the government.

The fire, which was confined to one of the holds, was extinguished at midnight Sunday, and the last stage of the voyage was completed without incident.

Life belts were distributed among the passengers and the boats were prepared for instant use as soon as the flames were discovered, but at no time was there any real danger, according to a statement by Captain Caussin, who declared the S. O. S. call for assistance was sent out merely as a measure of precaution. There was no disorder and no panic, he said, the passengers accepting the situation calmly in the belief that the fire would be conquered and that other steamers would reply promptly to the wireless summons.

The steamer Rotterdam, one of the vessels which answered La Touraine's call and stood by until the fire was extinguished, left the French liner at Pravel Point, Eng. The French cruisers Guichen and Dupit Thomars, which also went to La Touraine's assistance, escorted her, however, as far as Cherbourg, and then continued on their way. Other vessels which answered captain's call were informed that there was no need for their trips after receiving the thanks of the liner's commander.

BRITISH LOSS IN PERSIA FIGHT 400

AMSTERDAM, March 9.—An official statement from the Turkish ministry, received here today from Constantinople, says that the British lost 400 men in the recent battle at the head of the Persian gulf. The statement follows:

"Three battalions of British infantry with two quick-firing field guns, two mountain guns, one machine gun section and one squadron of cavalry, attempted on March 3 to attack our positions in the region of Ahwase, in Khuzistan). After a counter attack by our troops the British fled in disorder to their ships, leaving 400 dead or wounded. Among the dead were one British major and four other officers.

BULGARIA FACES CABINET CRISIS

PARIS, March 9.—A ministerial crisis similar to that in Greece has occurred in Bulgaria, according to information reaching Paris in special dispatches. Premier Radoslavoff is reported to have been overthrown by the influence of King Ferdinand and the followers of Dr. Ghendieff, former foreign minister, because he desired to take immediate action against Turkey by occupying Adrianople.

Although this information has not been definitely confirmed, it is generally believed in French official circles that Radoslavoff had resolved to march on Adrianople if Greece pronounced for the triple entente and Venizelos made such an announcement at Athens when the question of intervention came up.

NEW CABINET FOR GREECE UNDERTAKEN AT KING'S REQUEST

ATHENS, March 9.—The M. Gounaris, deputy for Patras, has consented at the request of King Constantine to undertake the task of forming a new cabinet. It is reported that M. Baltadjis, who was foreign minister in the Theotokis cabinet, has consented to take that portfolio under the leadership of M. Gounaris.

M. Gounaris will submit his list of ministers to the king tomorrow it is understood and obtain an agreement that the chamber will be dissolved if the supporters of the ministry are in the minority, which is considered highly probable. The new premier is expected to favor the continued neutrality of Greece.

Greece has been facing a cabinet crisis since the end of last week, when Venizelos, the premier, who favors Greek participation in the war on the side of the allies, resigned because his policy did not meet with the approval of King Constantine, who desired that the country remain neutral. M. Zalmis was requested yesterday to form a cabinet, but he declined.

PARIS, March 9.—M. Rhalys, a former prime minister of Greece, in an interview at Athens, printed in the Matin, says that King Constantine acted on the advice of his general staff in opposing the policy of intervention proposed by Mr. Venizelos. The staff was of the opinion that an expedition against Constantinople would weaken the military situation on the Bulgarian frontier, which in Athens is regarded as dangerous in view of Bulgaria's doubtful attitude.

YAQUIS DONE WITH MEXICAN FACTIONS

NACO, Ariz., March 9.—Last week's mutiny of Paqui Indians against their Mayorenia commanders continues, according to reliable information reaching here today. Several hundred of them arrived at Cananea from their encampment yesterday, announcing that they were through with the Mexican factions and henceforth would consider all Mexicans their enemies. Rioting among the Indians at Cananea last week was quelled by expelling the disturbers, Mexicans declared.

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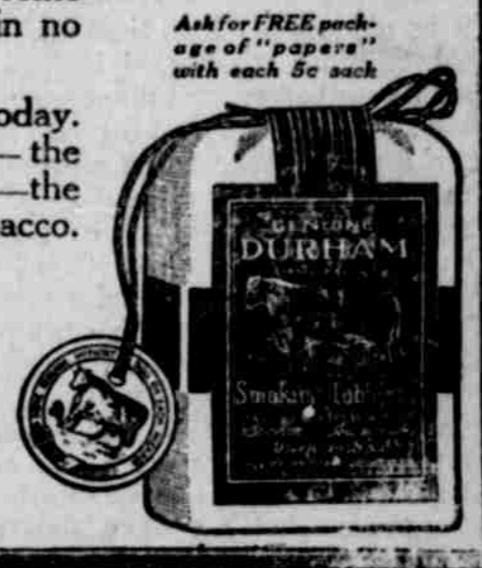
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