

GRAND OPERA IN LOS ANGELES IS PRODUCERS PAIN

Impressario Gambles \$500,000 in Contracts for Next Season, But Fans Remain Cold and Indifferent.

By Leo Baron
(United Press Staff Correspondent)
LOS ANGELES. (UP)—A symphony orchestra playing "Tiger Rag" would be guilty of nothing short of heresy, but L. E. (Bee) Behmer, impresario of opera here, is publicly chanting the blues these days.

With half a million dollars worth of opera talent under contract, Behmer is worrying about the prospects for next season. And dismal prospects they appear, too.

The infidelity of opera fans, the high cost of big names, the radio, the movies, the unions and last, but by no means least, the conflicting dates of eastern schedules, have combined to make his life pretty unpleasant.

Dislike Local Talent
Los Angeles opera-goers' aversion for local talent is trouble No. 1 for Behmer. That means big names must be imported and big names cost money.

John Charles Thomas for instance, Behmer points out, would not do as well as "Blank's Cough Syrup" at \$5,000 a broadcast for 26 weeks on the air than \$1,200 a concert he could earn in Los Angeles.

The movies also have played no little part in harassing the opera here. An oboe player will find it more profitable to make sound effects for Bing Crosby's newest picture than to blow his instrument with the poor struggling Philharmonic orchestra.

The unions? Behmer's answer is that it cost him \$1,146 more for musicians during a two-day run of "Emperor Jones" here this season than it did in San Francisco, gambled \$500,000.

But with all these handicaps, Behmer has gambled \$500,000 in grand opera contracts for next season which tentatively is scheduled to open October 2 and continue until October 10 or 12.

Some of the artists able and willing to appear include Elio Pines, baritone-bass; Elizabeth Rathberg, soprano; Ninon Vallin, premier soprano of France; Mario Chamlee, tenor; Market Windhelm, tenor; Alfredo Gandolfi, baritone; Richard Crooka, tenor.

Lucreti Bori and Grace Moore are wanted but are not expected for one cause or another.

Barnes in Ashland—Ernest Barnes of Medford was a business visitor in Ashland Wednesday.

Stage Show at Craterian Sunday



The Gilmore Circus comes to the Craterian theatre "in person" for a one day engagement Sunday. Jack Clifford, former Orpheum headliner, is the Sheriff. On the screen, "He Was Her Man," reunites Joan Blondell and James Cagney.

EUROPEAN TRAVEL DUE FOR INCREASE AS COSTS SHRINK

Foreign Travel Division of AAA Believes 10 to 15 Per Cent More Americans Will Go Abroad This Year

WASHINGTON. (UP)—While it expects the number of vacationists who "See America First" to increase 20 per cent this year, the foreign travel division of the American Automobile association also believes lower costs, special rates and economically planned tours will mean a 10 to 15 per cent boost in the number of natives who travel abroad.

In a survey conducted by the A. A. A. division, it was disclosed that the number of passports issued through April was 12 per cent above last year, with applications still pouring in. Also, since January 1, the division has handled 30 per cent more cars destined for foreign lands.

Special Tours
Compensating influences such as lower steamship, rail and hotel rates and a great variety of economically

planned special tours, it was explained, have more than offset devaluation of the dollar in terms of certain European currency.

Steamship rates are said to be at the lowest level since 1926, while the cost of transporting automobiles aboard fast liners has been reduced 40 per cent.

Those who prefer to travel through foreign lands by rail will find unusually low rates in effect in virtually every country. Germany has reduced its rail fares for tourists 60 per cent; France is offering round-trip tickets for week ends or longer at a 30 per cent reduction; and Britain, Holland and other countries have made drastic cuts in rail vacation-travel costs.

Hotel Rates Lower
Hotel rates in all principal cities abroad, it was said, average 30 per cent lower than in 1926.

Conducted tours are priced lower this year than they were in 1930, and a tour which cost \$795 four years ago would cost \$592 today.

WALLA WALLA OPENS OWN DIAMOND JUBILEE

WALLA WALLA, Wash., June 15.—(AP)—A five-day Diamond Jubilee celebration commemorating the spirit of the old west began today with Walla Walla citizens and Whitman college joining.

BELLINGHAM, Wash., June 15.—(AP)—A crew of 30 men was sent out today to fight a four-acre brush fire within the east city limits where it was threatening storage piles of cut fuel wood.

NEBRASKA PROHIBS LAUNCH CAMPAIGN TO BEAT REPEAL

80,000 Members Christian Temperance Churches Who Neglect to Vote Will Be Urged to Go to Polls

LINCOLN, Neb. (UP)—Dry forces of Nebraska, recognized as a stronghold of prohibition before enactment of the 18th amendment to the federal constitution, will be mobilized to defeat a movement for repeal of state prohibitory laws, R. P. Hutton, state superintendent of the Anti-saloon league has announced.

Voters of the state will pass upon a proposal for state repeal at the general election in November. Urges Dry Voters On
"If the 80,000 members of the Nebraska Christian temperance churches who habitually neglect to vote can be gotten to the polls this fall, whisky will not be legalized in Nebraska," Hutton predicted in his annual report.

"If these voters sit at home, whisky joints will open up along the paths of youth; solicitors will hunt them down in their homes," the militant dry declared. Hutton assured Nebraskans it will be a good advertisement for this state if a big vote in favor of prohibition is polled.

Attract Attention
"Such action would attract here desirable settlers and enterprises," he said. "But we couldn't be bad enough to be conspicuous, no matter how hard we tried. And to be hopelessly average is to be helplessly lost."

He urged Nebraska and Kansas, heart of the "Bible Belt" to be conspicuously righteous and conspicuously sober.

Hutton proposed that a state meeting of church leaders, women's club heads and temperance organizations be held "sometimes before the month

ends," to organize for a state-wide campaign for prohibition, to be carried into every voting precinct. "A big vote for prohibition is not only right but profitable," will be the rallying cry of the drive.

PORTLAND, June 15.—(AP)—Portland settled back today to something more nearly like its accustomed routine as the ceremonies and celebrations attending the 26th annual festival of roses drew to an end.

Those on the line of march yesterday in the grand floral parade estimated that as many as 150,000 persons jammed the streets and Multnomah stadium to witness the spectacle. This year's festival was declared by city officials and visitors to have been the most gorgeous and entertaining seen in many years. The Canadian legion convention, held in conjunction with the festival, added much color and splendor, and brought about 5000 Canadians to the city.

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