

January 1952.

Prison Farm Inmates Have Annual Concert

Monteith (Special) — The inmates of the Industrial Farm presented their third annual Christmas concert Saturday evening to a large crowd.

Guards and their families, townspeople, and visitors from Timmins, Iroquois Falls, Montrock, Ansonville, Mathe-son, Porquis and Shillington came to the concert.

WELCOMING

The Superintendent, D. Whyte, made a brief speech of welcome to the visitors, and introduced the master of ceremonies for the evening.

Like all other participants in the show, the m.c. was anonymous. He welcomed the guests, and expressed the hope that they would enjoy the program, prepared by the inmates with the co-operation of the staff.

The first number was a group of carols — "O Come, All Ye Faithful," "Silent Night," and "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" — sung by a six-man choir.

SOUTHERN VOICE

Two solos by a prisoner with a Southern voice were second on the program. The songs were "I Must Have Done Something Wonderful" and "Pennies From Heaven."

Next on the program was a singer, dressed in typical cowboy garb, who accompanied himself on the guitar. He sang "Little Old Band of Gold" and "I'll Never Slip Around Again."

Ed Fokes, of the Farm staff, sang by special request — "It is No Secret What God Has Done" and "Dear Hearts and Gentle People."

At intervals between numbers, the master of ceremonies related jokes and anecdotes.

MOCK RADIO SHOW

The stage was next arranged as a broadcasting station studio, and the m.c. introduced "Radio Station IFM."

A group of seven Western entertainers and a clown, all in costume, came onstage and presented a mock radio program.

They started out by playing "Burnt Potato," followed by a duet — "Beautiful Brown Eyes." Then the whole group joined in for two waltzes, "The Kentucky" and "Life in the Finland Woods."

ALSO A CLOWN

The audience greatly enjoyed the spirited music of this group of inmates, as well as the comical antics of the pianist, who was a real "live wire."

A harmonica player obliged with two selections, "The Bumble Bee" and "Reel of St. Anne."

"Alone," was sung as the jungle scene changed to a kangaroo court, with a lawyer, a judge, a constable and six prisoners.

As each culprit came before the monk judge, convictions followed, with a sentence to Monteith.

Two prisoners, dressed as women, were hailed into the scene, but managed to charm the judge and were summarily dismissed.

RETURN TO MUSIC

The legal system having been disposed with, the prisoners prisoners' show returned to music.

Four cornet solos were greatly enjoyed by the crowd. They were: "Darling, I Am Growing Old," "Little Town of Bethlehem," "Blue Skies" and "Alexander's Ragtime Band."

The mock radio station then returned to action, with an instrumental quartet, two guitars and two harmonicas. They played an old Western, "Redwing," a modern Western, "Some Mother's Son," and "Les Fraises et les Framboises," with a jitterbug dance by the prison's clown.

The group played a medley of songs, including "Rock Valey and Soldier's Joy."

During the intervals in the lengthy program the clown, billed as "Houdini - Blackstone," delighted the spectators with his dancing a card tricks.

FIRE SWALLOWING

He capped it all by fire-swallowing, and then lighting a gas jet.

A selection by a harmonica soloist, "Have I Told You Lately That I Love You" was much enjoyed, as was a mandolin solo, "Anniversary Wlitz." These were followed by a group number, "Chicken Reel" and "Haste to the Wedding."

The producer director of the show was then called on to take a bow. He gave much credit to Mr. Whyte and his staff for their help.

The concert concluded with the whole sat on stage, as well as "Little New Year 1952," and the playing of "Auld Lang Syne."

The leader of the group, unnamed liked the rest of his companions, sang "The Ballroom Was Quiet and Empty."

A piano solo, "Shiek of Araby," followed, and then a lively Western number, "Flop - Eared Mule" "Under the Double Eagle" and "Red River Valley" was performed as a duet.

OVERCOME BY EMOTION

Two vocal solos, "Cold, Cold Heart" and "Slipping Around," were presented; adding to the audience's amusement, the pianist was overcome by emotion, and wiped his tears away with a handkerchief which resembled a tent in size.

The hanky was brought into use whenever any melancholy selection was presented.

An instrumental trio continued the program, playing "Devil's Dream."

A specially - composed solo — "Thirty Days at Monteith" — was sung by a prisoner.

A prisoner identified only as "Larry" performed in the Jolson manner, and did up "April Showers" and "Mammy."

IN A STEW

The stage scene shifted to a jungle on the shores of Lake Nipissing, where a cast of seven in-crepid men sat around a stew pot of vegetables, debating how to get some meat to make it a meat - and-vegetable stew.

A solo, "I'll Sail My Ship