

Expresses Appreciation for Opportunity Given to Hear Great Oratorio

I want to offer my grateful thanks to the Woman's club for the opportunity they gave us to hear the great music of "The Messiah" on Friday evening last. I had felt a little reluctant to go to the performance for I could not believe it possible to have it adequately given to us, and I want to express my appreciation of the finished performance, of the selections chosen. It was a dignified performance under the leadership of an excellent conductor, with a body of singers exceedingly well trained. I had heard the Oratorio more than once, entire, at the usual Christmas performance of the Handel & Haydn society in Boston and wondered if I should not miss much of the performance, and I want to say not once in the past did I enjoy more than was given to us on Friday evening. My husband, when a member of the Boston society had sung the Oratorio seven times in Boston and later more times in Chicago. It will interest those who sang for us to know that one of these occasions the lights failed and without a moments hesitation the singers and players went on, until the lights were again burning.

I was especially moved by the splendid chorus—"He Shall Be Called Wonderful, Councilor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." It was very fine and compelling.

May I use again the word dignified, the rendering of this great work of Handel written some hundred or more

years ago and destined to live still longer to give inspiration to those who value it.

Of the soloists I can only say, they came to us with cultivated and satisfying song, adding greatly to our pleasure and of the pianists that they made their instruments speak so finely, bringing a brave addition all the way along.

The Woman's club has our hearty thanks—and may many in need be helped and cheered.

Mary H. Chapin.

Coal Production in Illinois Increases

A gratifying seasonal increase in Illinois coal production is reported for October by Director John G. Millhouse of the state department of mines and minerals. The record shows that 155 mines in 28 counties produced 5,233,946 tons of coal—which exceeds the average for previous months in 1930 by more than one million tons. The output is still below the 1929 production. There were 175 mines in operation in October, 1929. The mines worked on an average of 18 days during the week, slightly more than in October last year. There were ten fatalities—one for each 523,394 tons of coal produced.

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