

Thursday, February 20, 1930

THE DURHAM CHRONICLE

PAGE 2

### At Home

Come in & Chat Awhile

—Ruth Reeburn.

Dear Bobby,—I received your letter with a request for articles about great musicians. I will endeavor to give a synopsis of a life once a month for a while and this time I am quoting from *The Master Musicians—Stories of Romantic Lives*, by Cuthbert Hadden.

Here is the story of the life of

#### VERDI

Verdi used to be called the Grand Old Man of music, and such indeed he was. For he lived to be eighty-eight. Born at the village of Roncole, near Parma, within a few months of Wagner, he survived Wagner for eighteen years. His operatic career was divided broadly into two great periods, with an interval during which he wrote nothing. And here is the phenomenon: that he blossomed out in his old age with a style of opera so totally different from the works of his first period, so much grander and more artistic, as to make us almost regard him as two different composers. "Il Trovatore" and "La Traviata" were among the early works which received the applause of the public and held their own, the first especially.

Then, when Wagner's influence began to be felt in opera, Verdi regenerated his style and produced "Aida," which replaces the meaningless trivialities and vocal fireworks of the first Verdi operas by a dignity, a power, and a majesty that still procure it the favor of cultivated musical people.

It was after "Aida" (for which he received £3,000) that Verdi took his long rest. Sixteen years passed and then he began to sound the depths of his genius. First, in 1867, when he was 74, came "Othello," and next, in 1869, when he was 80, "Falstaff." Just think of it! The very finest of a long line of operas produced when the composer was fourscore! It was even said that Verdi would have written still another Shakespearean opera but for the awful labor of putting so many notes on paper. He used to work eight hours at a stretch and felt all the better for it, but at 80 an hour tired him.

His vitality was no doubt due to the simple life he had always lived. His people were poor—the father kept a small inn—and for long he was poor himself. He played the organ in the village church for six years and his salary was less than \$5. He married very early and after five years was bereft of his wife and family almost at a single stroke, his wife and two children having passed away from illness within a space of two months. And in the midst of this terrible anguish, to avoid breaking an engagement, he was compelled to write and finish a comic opera!

Fortunately Verdi's finances prospered. His operas paid him from the first, and with "Il Trovatore" his fortune was made. Theatre after theatre produced it after it was heard in Rome. At Naples three houses were giving it at the same time. The composer bought a fine country estate in 1849, and there he continued to live in almost complete seclusion. He was not, one gathers, a very genial person. At a rehearsal of Falstaff the artists gave him an ovation when he entered. "I thank you all," he said, "but will thank you more if you will do better in your performances than last time."

There is a story showing Verdi in a better light in connection with the production of "Aida" at Milan. A certain person named Bertoni went from a neighboring village to hear the opera. His outing, including supper, cost him 15 francs, 19 centimes. He happened not to like "Aida". However, next day, finding it praised on all hands, he resolved to give it another trial. This time he spent 20 francs and was more dissatisfied than ever. Full of anger, he wrote to Verdi telling the opera was a failure, doomed to early oblivion, and asking him for the return of 35 francs, 90 centimes, which sum, he alleged, he had

wasted in going to hear it. Verdi was not offended in the least, and taking his pen in hand he authorized his publishers to send Bertoni 31 francs, 50 centimes, adding, "It is not quite so much as the gentleman demands, but then he could have had his supper at home."

Verdi is charged with having been very parsimonious, but if that were really the case, he has the thanks of his own class, for he left his fortune, £120,000 to the home for aged and indigent musicians which he had already founded at Milan.

#### Nation-wide Lecture Plan

A nation-wide lecture service through the utilization of educational motion pictures is being planned by the National Museum, Ottawa.

For some years the museum has conducted a course of free lectures for school children and adults on separate days, and now it is planned to extend the course over the entire country through the distribution of films.

Already the museum has formed the nucleus of a motion picture library and is lending films to responsible organizations willing to pay the cost of shipment.

### Fashion Fancies

#### Hiding a Spring Fashion Secret



There's more under this collar than one might at first think, for it is hiding the fact that capes are one of Fashion's Spring secrets. In fact, in the model above the wide collar is not a collar at all, but a separate cape in soft, dusty pink flannel. The fan-shaped set-in pleats on the opening of the cape in front find emphasis in repetition on the skirt of the same fabric.

And still the cape is covering up something! It is that the "baby" colors are taking on sophisticated airs. Here it is the long-sleeved blouse of powder blue that verifies the rumor that blue and pinks, either separately or in combination, are looking for early popularity.

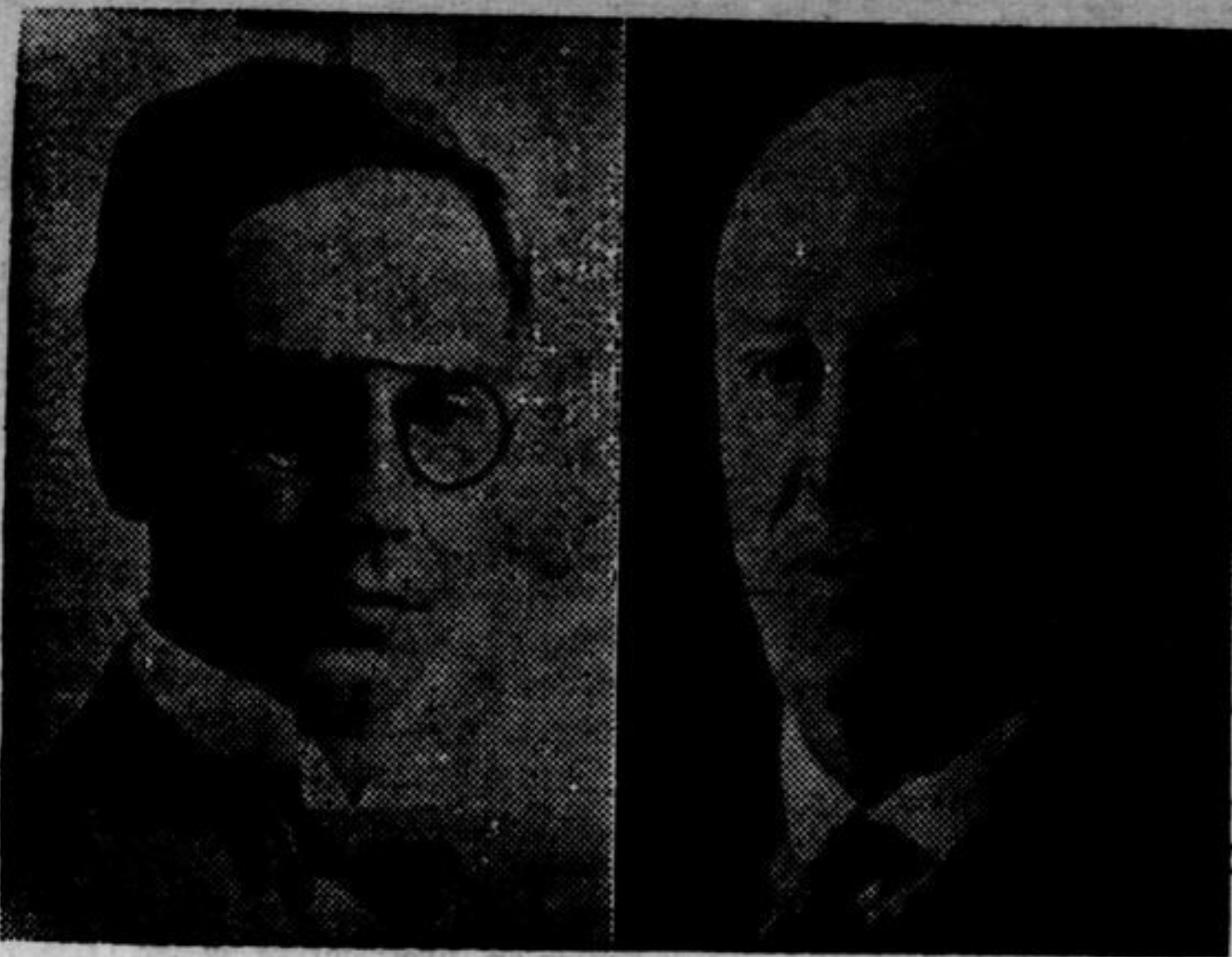
#### The Bolero Putting One Over



The bolero is putting one over on many of the new Spring costumes, and it is slight wonder that the one-time favorite cardigan is getting envious. Here it is a knit sport dress of plain dark red jersey that takes the jacket.

And there are more than a few fashion yarns being spun just now about lace-woven jersey, which is used adroitly by this model for the bolero and decorative insets on the sleeveless jumper. The skirt is content with plain jersey, but takes a deep interest in godets that give it a modern flare.

Read The Chronicle ads on page 7.



MANY NEW FACES IN THE FEDERAL HOUSE  
When the Federal Parliament opens this month there will be eight new faces in the House of Commons. Above are two new members (left to right): Vincent Dupuis, M. P. for Laprairie-Napierville, Quebec, and Dr. William Spankie, member for Frontenac-Addington, Ontario.

#### A CALENDAR ROMANCE

Our hero was the common sort when all was said and done;

He worked his head off dally and was out to get the Mon.

The reason for his diligence was commonplace, 'tis true—

He tried to swell his salary so it would suffice for Tue.

And maybe that's the reason why one day he lost his head,

And, falling on his knees, he cried, "Oh maiden, wilt thou Wed?"

He may have thought this sudden, but it seemed not so to her,

She lisped a quick acceptance and said forcibly: "Yeth Thur."

But when they went to keeping house he feared that he would die,

For oh, that modern maiden could neither bake nor Fri.

She could not run a bungalow, nor even run a flat,

So on many sad occasions in a restaur-

rant they Set.  
But he forgave her everything—as man has always done—  
When she presented him one day a bouncing baby Sam.

#### KNOWLEDGE

Knowledge is said to be power. Knowledge is power in the same sense that wood is fuel. Knowledge on fire is power. There is no more power in knowledge than there is in the stones or stars which you know, unless there be a spirit and life in the knowledge which give it its energy. In proportion as men have this spiritual power they do become strong in the world.—Alexander McKenzie.

#### Speaking Pharmaceutically

Two druggists were talking about one of their confreres who had just died. "He was a great druggist," said one. "He was," admitted the other, "but don't you think he made his chicken salad a little too salty?"

### MOVIES

#### "CHINATOWN NIGHTS" IS A GRIFFING PICTURE

Mystery, Action and Romance Combined in Unusual Drama of Chinese Underworld.

Melodrama, action, mystery, suspense are collected in the great picture, "Chinatown Nights," which Paramount made from the story by Samuel Ornit, well known authority on Chinese tongs of the United States. "Chinatown Nights" reveals the intimate, little known side of the Oriental underworld of the large cities of the United States and, into it, is woven a strange and absorbing romance.

An excellent cast of players headed by Florence Vidor, Wallace Beery, and Warner Oland, enacts this gripping drama which will feature the Star theatre programme for Friday and Saturday of this week. William A. Wellman, the man who made such outstanding motion picture successes as "Wings," "Legion of the Condemned," "Beggars of Life," and "The Ladies of the Mob," directed this picture. The sets are actual replicas of noted scenes in New York's Chinatown, famed in recent history as the centre of the fierce tong wars.

The story of "Chinatown Nights" centres around the struggle of two leaders of Chinese factions for control of the gambling rights in Chinatown. One of these, a strong, brutal, cynical white man, captures the love of a white society woman who, through his love is dragged down to the gutters of the underworld. Seeing her so reduced, the white man realizes his love for her and, with superhuman courage, he lifts her and himself up again.

"They say Mr. Destyle is financially embarrassed."

"Well, he's horribly in debt, but it would take more than that to embarrass him."

### NO LONGER SUFFER

...of the common cold, influenza, whooping cough, and all other respiratory ailments. Get "Rob's" today.

#### ASK DAD

Jack and his father had always been great chums, so it was quite natural that Jack, whose business had taken him to a distant city, where he had become infatuated with a young lady, should write to his father for advice before he proposed to the girl.

In due time he received the following letter from his father:

Dear Jack—Matrimony is a wonderful institution—if you find the right mate. The best advice I can offer is to compare your intended with your mother with whom I have been so happy for thirty years. If she can even approach your dear mother's home-making, housekeeping and evenness of temper, you are a lucky man and I advise you to grab her without delay.

Your loving

FATHER

P.S.—Your mother has just left the room. Don't be a damn fool. Stay single.

Read The Chronicle ads on page 7.

### ROBERT'S SYRUP

OF THE EXTRACT OF COOLIVER...  
BREAKS UP COUGHS

COLORFUL TONE -- PROVEN PERFORMANCE --  
LATEST CABINET DESIGNS --  
CANADA'S LARGEST SELLING RADIO  
CONVENIENT BUDGET PLAN OF PAYMENT

# You Get Them ALL in the New ROGERS-MAJESTIC RADIO



Rogers-Majestic Model 591  
Lowboy of figured woods with panel deeply set-in, giving very rich appearance. High-lighted panel and two diminutive overlays. Fancy grille. Eight fully-guaranteed Rogers Tubes. Super-sensitivity. Electro-Dynamic Speaker.

\$188 to \$358  
Complete with Tubes and Dynamic Speaker

To buy a Rogers-Majestic is to take advantage of the engineering skill and immense facilities behind the two greatest names in radio—now united into a single supreme product—the "Rogers-Majestic". Here is a set that answers every demand of radio—price, style, performance and service—one that will give entire satisfaction throughout years to come—offering a choice of many beautiful cabinets in almost every conceivable design.

See, hear and compare it to-day and you, too, will prefer the Rogers-Majestic. If desired, you can buy the "Rogers-Majestic" of your choice on the convenient budget plan of payment.

See the Advanced Models Now on Display at Our Store

H. J. SNELL  
Majestic Radio Dealer - Durham, Ontario



Rogers-Majestic Model 597  
Highboy Jacobson period cabinet of American walnut. Doors of matched but walnut overlays of genuine Australian lacquered on centre panel and fronts of doors. Bronze inserts in the walnut knobs. New Colour-Dynamic Speaker. Super-selectivity.

### "Ice Box Cookies"

1 cup butter; 2 cups sugar; 3/4 cups Purity Flour; 2 eggs; 2 teaspoons baking powder; flavoring; 1 cup nuts and raisins chopped (optional)



Make the dough in a roll and keep it overnight in the ice box on a cool place. Slice thinly and bake in a quick oven.

# PURITY FLOUR

Best for all Baking  
Send 50c for 700 Recipe Cook Book.  
Western Canada Flour Mills Co. Limited, Toronto.