

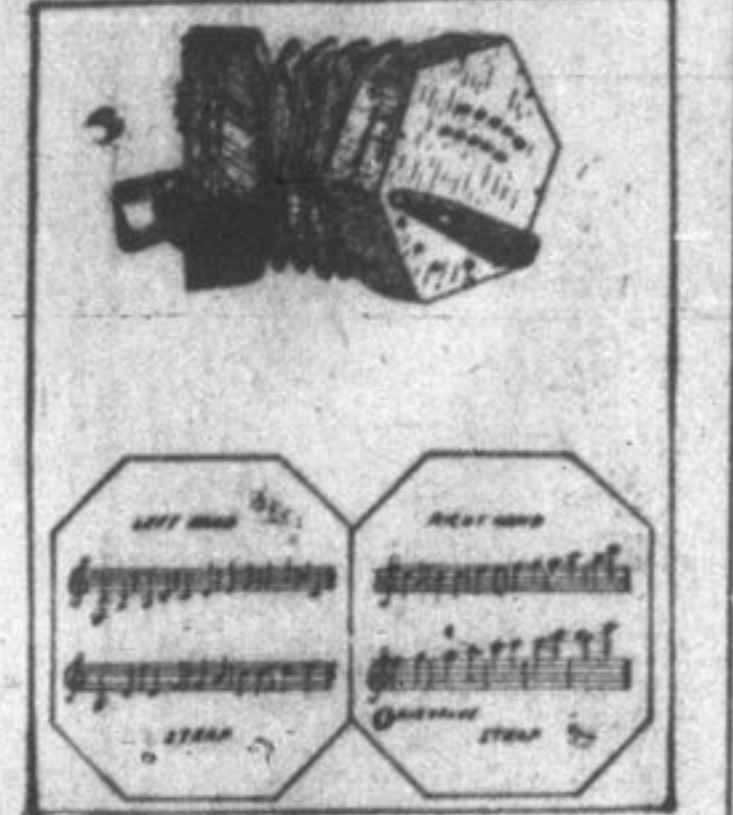
YEAR 85. NO. 237

KINGSTON, ONTARIO, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1918

SECOND SECTION

Music in the Home

The Concertina. The concertina is a wind instrument with free reeds. It was invented by Sir C. Wheatstone, the son of a music seller and practically the inventor of modern telegraphy. It is a well-known instrument, and is com-



posed of two rectangular or hexagonal keyboards with a long expanding bellows between. Rows of keys are on these keyboards, which, by pressing certain valves are opened, admitting air to the reeds underneath and notes are produced. These reeds are narrow strips of brass riveted at one end to a plate on the inside of each keyboard; they are bent in different directions in order to be actuated by the expansion and suction of bellows, while the instrument is played. The pitch is determined by the length and thickness of reeds.

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The English concertina is double acting, the same note being produced on expansion or compression, but the German plays a different note for each movement. Treble, tenor, bass, and double bass instruments are made, but the compass of the whole set is seven octaves.

The timbre of the instrument is most delicate, while being capable of infinite gradations of tone, hence its capabilities have been thoroughly appreciated by composers such as Tschaiikowsky, Molique, Regondi, and others, who have written exquisite concertos for it.

In the past when its glory was at its zenith, numerous concerts were given in which it occupied a prominent part. One Mr. Cadwell issued a pamphlet in 1865, extolling its wonderful powers and recommending it for general use.

It was found most suitable for classical music, instruments of different pitches being got together, and yielding rich and powerful effects.

It seems such a pity that so beautiful an instrument, so exquisitely melodious, should be allowed to fall into comparative disuse. It ought to be revived again. Many performers on the concertina, like Signor Giulio Regondi, have caused extraordinary favor in the past, while Cadwell has recommended every player, when travelling, to take his concertina with him without fail, in order that his pleasure may be augmented.

After Regondi, George Case did a great deal to popularize it, but Richard Blagrove was its principal exponent.

A skilful player can produce an infinite variety of tone and effects, it being possible to play with great expression with a complete sostenuto and staccato. Not only so, but music written for the violin, flute, and oboe can be played on the instrument with alteration; though music written solely for the concertina can only be played on an organ or harmonicon, but only these two instruments can compete with it in producing the sostenuto and staccato combined.

Some of the specially written concertina music is worthy of note. Two Concertos in Grand D for solo concertina two in D and E flat by G. Regondi. A sonata for concertina and piano in B flat by Molique. Quintet for concertina and strings by G. A.

Maclaren, and an Adagio for eight concertinas in E, and an Adagio for eight concertinas in E by E. Silas, besides much brilliant solo music by others.

The concertina has the merit of being easy to learn, though, like all other instruments, practice is the key-note to success. The following hints to the would be student may be acceptable.

The instrument is held by passing the four fingers of each hand through the straps at each end. It can be played while sitting or standing, only more expression can be given to certain pieces by gently waving the concertina to and fro and this can be done better while standing.

The valve key is worked by the right thumb. NOTE—The keys must not be pressed when the valve is open. The very character of the performance, its expression in fact depends upon the manner in which the loud and soft tones are produced, the force and rapidity with which the bellows are operated.

Again a perfect knowledge of every key, with its relation to the others must be obtained, and this can only be secured by plenty of scale practice in various keys.

Never use the bellows with closed keys unless the vent is opened, or they will soon get strained and leaky, thus diminishing the volume of sound.

Though hand playing is out of the question, yet the concertina goes well with violin, flute, or piano, as they may be tuned to accord or accompany the voices of his companions.

Gounod and the Old Man.

One night near the middle of the last century, three lively young students were strolling along a Paris boulevard in quest of exercise and recreation. In the course of their walk they came across an old man who was trying to play a violin he was almost



too feeble to manage. The generous young fellows went down in their pockets, but the whole trio could only raise a few cents and a piece of rosin, hereupon one of them proposed to take the old man's violin and accompany the voices of his companions. No sooner said than done. Commencing with a solo upon the theme of the Carnival of Venice, a large concourse of listeners was soon attracted. Then came a favorite cavatina from La Dame Blanche, sung in such a manner as to keep the audience spellbound; and yet again the trio from William Tell. By this time the poor old man was galvanized into life and activity by the artistic performance. He stood erect, and with his stick directed the concert with the authority of the practised leader. Meanwhile contributions of gold and silver rained into the old man's hat. To his astonished and grateful demand to know who were his benefactors, he received from the first the name of Faith, and from the others the response of Hope and Charity. "And I," said the poor old fellow, "used to direct the opera at Strasbourg. You have saved my life, for now I can go back to my native place, where I shall be able to teach what I can no longer perform." The young violinist was Adolph Hermann, the tenor was Gustav Roger, and the originator of this charitable scheme was Charles Gounod.

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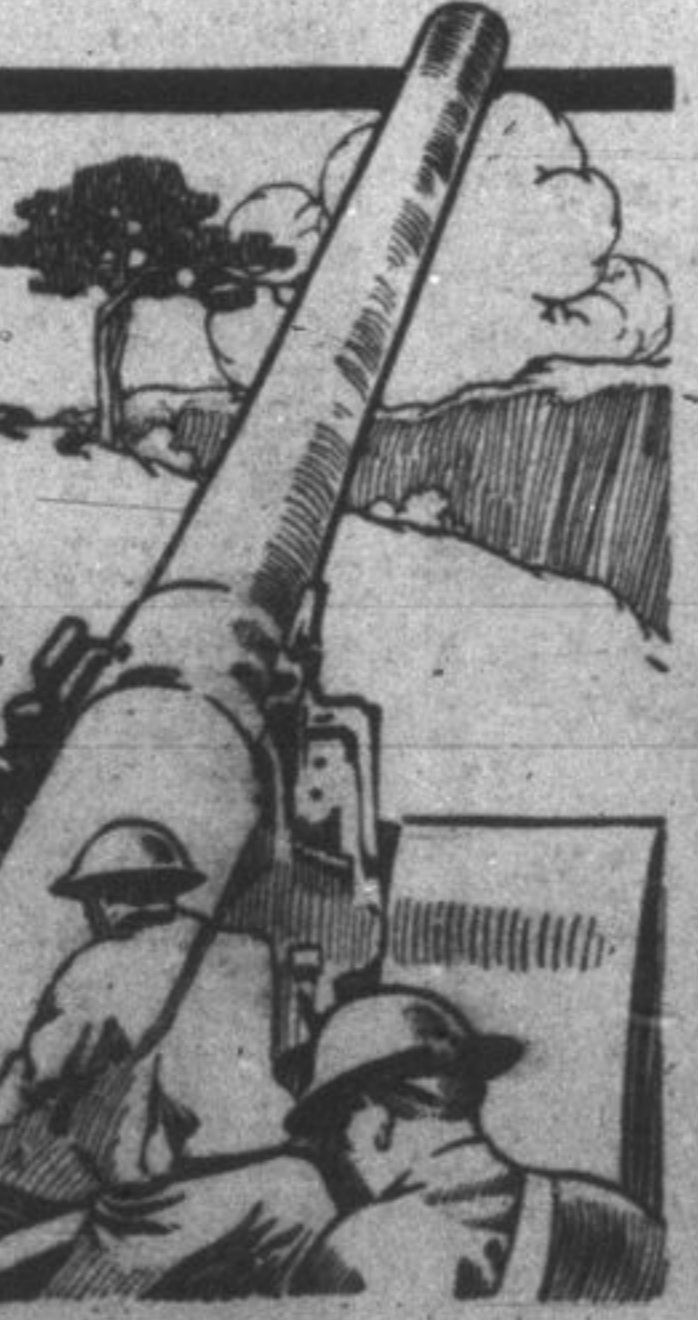
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TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

If some of our city subscribers have failed to receive their Daily Whig during the past few days we must ask them to be patient. The Spanish influenza is no respecter of persons, and some of the route boys have fallen victims to the epidemic. Substitute carriers are being supplied, but it takes a few days to train a new boy. Vacancies have now been filled, and it is to be hoped every subscriber will be reached this evening. In case of failure, a prompt report to this office will be appreciated.

A quiet wedding was solemnized in Brockville on Tuesday. Miss Florence Hazel Smith, second eldest daughter of Thomas Smith, to William Bernard Kelly, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. William Kelly. If you do not want to be shunned by your friends, keep your troubles to yourself.

WAR PUZZLES



GREEK FLEET AND FORTS Were turned over to Allies upon demand of England and France, two years ago today, October 11, 1916. Find a Greek. YESTERDAY'S ANSWER. Upper right corner down at back.

INFORMATION ON INVESTMENTS

When you have money to invest you can get full information from us on all Canadian securities. The services of our Statistical Department are at your disposal to enable you to secure all particulars. Our Market Circular will enable you to keep in touch with the developments in the financial world. It will be mailed free on request.

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GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY SYSTEM LOCAL BRANCH TIME TABLE

IN EFFECT SEPT. 20TH, 1918.

Trains will leave and arrive at City Station, Foot of Johnson Street.

Table with columns for train number, destination, and time. Includes routes to Lvs. City, Arr. City, and various local destinations.

Other trains daily except Sunday. Direct route to Toronto, Peterboro, Hamilton, Buffalo, London, Detroit, Chicago, Bay City, Sarnia, Montreal, Ottawa, Quebec, Portland, St. John, Halifax, Boston and New York. For Pullman accommodations, tickets and all other information, apply to J. F. Hanley, Agent, Agency for all ocean steamship lines. Open day and night.

Frequently newspapers correct items that were absolutely true in the first place. No man is truly honest who declares that he ever made a fool of himself.

Almost any married man will freely admit that in the choice of a partner his wife's judgment was superior to his own. Many who think they will be chosen are not even called. One way to dodge the divorce courts is to stay single.