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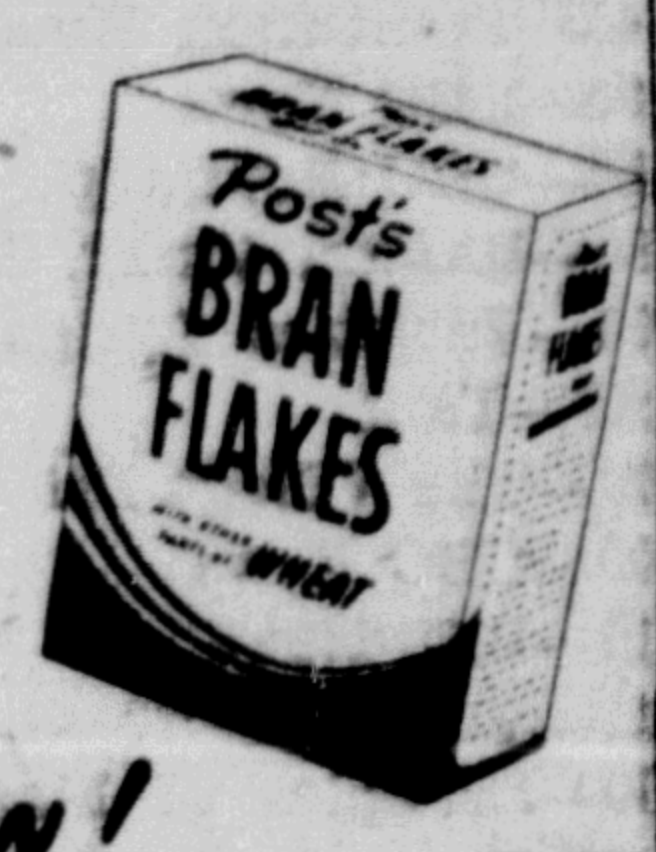
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OPERA IN ITALY FACING DEFICIT, FEW HOUSES OPEN

Production Costs Soar, But Devotees Cannot Afford Average Price of \$3 a Seat

ROME, (Reuters)—The visit to Italy early this summer of Arturo Toscanini will coincide with one of the most serious financial crises in the history of Italian opera.

The famous Italian conductor is reported to have accepted the invitation of the playwright, Sabatino Lopez of Milan to be present in Italy for the celebrations next June in honor of the Italian composer Arrigo Boito.

It is hoped here that Toscanini will take the opportunity of initiating a special summer season of opera at the famous Scala Opera House in Milan, now one of the few in Italy which has sufficient funds to function.

The well-known Italian composer and music critic, Renzo Rossellini, commenting in a recent interview with Reuters on the financial crisis which has hit Italian opera, said:

"It arises principally from the fact that a large number of opera houses are unable to reopen this season owing to the gap between increased production costs and the increases which can be made in prices for admission."

"Unless a radical change improves this situation, it is difficult to see how and when the traditional activity of the opera in Italy can be restored to pre-war level."

\$2,200,000 SUBSIDY
The Italian government is stated to have set aside funds totalling 1,200,000,000 lire (about \$2,200,000) to cover the present opera season. This represents an increase of 800,000,000 lire compared with the 1946-47 season.

But in spite of this large contribution from the government some 286 provincial opera houses are still closed in Italy, causing unemployment among at least 50,000 workers.

It is estimated in operative circles here that every opera produced is put on at a deficit of at least 1,000,000 lire per production. At the same time, the mass of Italian opera lovers cannot afford prices which average about 1,000 lire (\$3) a seat.

The Comunale at Reggio Calabria has announced that it will shortly open its opera season, but otherwise only four large state-aided opera houses are at present putting on shows in Italy.

They are: the Scala at Milan; Venice at Venice; Teatro Dell Opera at Rome; and San Carlo at Naples.

Four of the leading Italian opera houses which are closed this year are: the Carlo Felice at Genoa; the Comunale at Bologna; the Politeama at Palermo; and the Massimo at Palermo.

Another serious problem is the emigration of most of the best-known Italian singers to more profitable centres abroad. The "emigrants" include Beniamino Gigli, who recently concluded successfully tours in Britain and

Skipper Quits Sea To Start Laundry

HALIFAX—Capt. Fergus Cross of Halifax is forsaking the quarter deck for the laundry; the mainsail for the diaper. The 33-year-old master mariner who commanded the Montreal-Australia-New Zealand Line ship Ottawa Valley, will help the city's mothers by washing infants' unmentionables.

"Only \$2 a week for the service and we do everything except put the diapers on," said the 250-pound skipper recently. He's the father of three small children and he knows whereof he speaks.

His venture will be shared by Edward Christolm, a former flying officer with the R.C.A.F. Mr. Christolm, who just completed a commerce course at Dalhousie says he hopes to be the book-keeper of the outfit. Capt. Cross expects to get all the dirty work.

REALLY BIG THEN

Louisiana, when it was purchased from France by the United States, included all the territory from the Gulf of Mexico to the Canadian boundary and from the Gulf of Mexico to the Rocky Mountains.

Seven babies died here from a mysterious and virulent disease.

Modern Etiquette

By ROBERT A. LEE

Q. Is it an act of refinement to talk loudly in a public place?

A. No person of refinement is ever guilty of this—not even in his own home. A quiet voice is a mark of good breeding. To speak for the benefit of other people in streetcars, buses, theatres, elevators, stores, on the street, is considered the height of vulgarity.

Q. When a woman meets a man of her acquaintance, which should speak first?

A. The woman. However, if they are old friends, he may speak first.

Q. Should you ever ask a friend what his or her salary is?

A. No.

France and now is preparing to leave Rome again for South America where he has made his home in Buenos Aires; and the contralto, Cioe Elmo, who is living in the United States.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

In the Matter of the "Administration Act" and

In the Matter of the Estate of Albert Samuel Deschamps, otherwise known as Samuel Deschamps, Deceased, Intestate.

TAKE NOTICE that by order of His Honour Judge W. O. Fulton, made the 3rd day of May, A.D. 1948, I was appointed Administrator of the Estate of Albert Samuel Deschamps, otherwise known as Samuel Deschamps, deceased.

All parties having claims against the said estate are hereby required to furnish same, properly verified, to me on or before the 15th day of June 1948, after which claims filed may be paid without reference to any claims of which I then had no knowledge.

All parties indebted to the estate are required to pay the amount of their indebtedness to me forthwith.

GORDON F. FORBES, Official Administrator, Prince Rupert, B.C.

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GREAT TIMBER ASSETS

The value of pulp and paper produced in Canada is a fifth greater than all the mineral production including precious metals, iron, non-ferrous metals, coal, gas, asbestos and salt.

You saw it in the Daily News

BARBARA ANN COULD MAKE \$100,000 AS PRO

OTTAWA—Barbara Ann Scott could make \$100,000 during the first year she was a professional, according to Jack Harris, Chicago sports promoter. He is in Ottawa as manager of a tennis team appearing here. He has in mind the making of an offer to Miss Scott, the world's figure skating champion. He says "the ice business needs her."

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PUBLIC DEMAND

Removal SALE

CONTINUES

TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY, May 5 and 6

HERE ARE STILL MANY ATTRACTIVE BARGAINS FOR THE THRIFTY SHOPPER

Only SHORTIE COATS—Plain and plaid, with hoods. Regular Value \$14.95. SALE PRICE \$9.95

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Only SKIRTS—Wool and plaid. \$3.95

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Timely Topics from Terrace

Terrace Civic Centre Drama Club Presents Fine Show

TERRACE—Two one-act plays and a variety of solos, dances and impersonations provided lively entertainment for the audience that crowded the Terrace Civic Centre recently to witness the Drama Club's initial presentation.

Much of the success for the show is due to the work put in by Mrs. W. Chesher, chairman of the drama committee and to Alf Yoxall, who, as director of the plays was continuously faced with the problem of finding new members to fill the vacancies left in the cast by members leaving through sickness or other reasons.

For a time the bare stage presented difficulties in the form of poor acoustics but this was overcome to a large extent by several civic-minded citizens who freely devoted their spare time to the job of sealing the stage in and attending to other necessary jobs.

Nothing can be done about the bare hall at present but it is hoped that soon it may be converted into some semblance of an auditorium by next fall so that an audience may enjoy stage presentations in more comfort.

G. McAdams, who acted as master of ceremonies during the evening, announced that the new Symphony Orchestra had joined the Civic Centre group of activities and that next fall a bigger show would be staged. He invited everyone who cared to, to come out and help in the capacity of actors or workers behind the scenes, they were all needed, he said.

Thanks were extended to all those who helped with the show in any way, the Red Cross hospital, for the use of a wheel chair and the Oddfellows' Lodge for the loan of chairs were particularly mentioned.

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