

## BUT NOT IN HIS PLAYING

# Great Pianist Shows Strain Of Strenuous Concert Tour

By NORMAN CRIBBENS.

Ponderously, like the grim, ominous chords of his famous Prelude in C sharp minor, the great Sergei Rachmaninoff plodded into Vancouver's mellow sunshine Tuesday afternoon, his grave, pale face lined with melancholy.

"Please, I want only to sleep," said the Russian pianist-composer, in a low, mournful voice, as he left the private compartment of a Great Northern train.

He paused opposite the baggage car—a tall, slightly stooping figure in a wide black hat — to watch six burly men unloading his massive 1500-pound grand

piano. For Mr. Rachmaninoff will play nowhere without his own instrument.

He was tired after a succession of nightly performances at widely-separated points — Portland, Monday; Vancouver, Tuesday; Seattle, Thursday. His answers were monosyllabic — reduced to their essence.

Did he regard the piano as the most popular instrument? Yes. The most sensitive? Not always. How should his compositions be played? He did not mind. He did not have to hear them.

Only once did Mr. Rachmaninoff's awesome features crease in a faint smile. That was when he was told that a British pianist, Alec Templeton, had recorded a jazz tune, "Some of These Days," as he thought Mr. Rachmaninoff might have composed it.

But he made no comment. At the station barrier he turned to his questioner, extended a long, lean hand and in a low, funereal voice said:

"That will be all—thank you. Good-bye!"

Outside the station Mr. Rachmaninoff was introduced to several admirers. All they got was a handshake and an almost inaudible greeting. Then, with Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Hilker (representing Hilker Attractions) he crept into a waiting car and drove to Hotel Vancouver—to rest before his recital.

And, though tired physically, the fires of his genius are still aglow, as he revealed in his playing later in the evening.

## Magazine Salesmen Are Sought By City Police

Salesmen, canvassing for subscriptions to the Air Force Review, a magazine published on behalf of the Comrades of the Royal Air Forces Association, are sought by city detectives, who report the men are not authorized to represent the publication.

Armed with subscription blanks issued by the magazine, the canvassers have been soliciting subscriptions in the city for some time, officials said.

Local representatives of the publication, which is printed in Montreal, report that subscription salesmen have not been working for the magazine recently and that the blanks are not now used.

Detectives Fred Fish and Ar.