

Rachmaninoff Gives Fine Concert to Packed House

Sergei Rachmaninoff fulfilled Columbian's every expectation for an evening of great music at the Township auditorium here last night. The program included Bach, Beethoven, Schubert, Chopin, Liszt and a group of three of the pianist's own compositions. In answer to the vigorous demands of the packed auditorium he gave two encores, his own "Prelude in C Sharpe Minor" and Moussorgsky's "Gopak."

Mr. Rachmaninoff is as austere as the Russian winters of his childhood and his entrance upon the platform is slow, deliberate and sufficiently glacial to freeze the chattiest audience to silence. An electric heating pad must, however, be installed somewhere in his piano bench for he no sooner takes his seat before the keyboard than he begins to melt, and with his first note no house, no matter how large or cold, could help but thaw.

It was a splendid concert that the pianist gave his Columbia audience. Although not programmed, Comrade Rachmaninoff opened the evening with a piano arrangement of "The Star Spangled Banner" which brought the audience to its feet. After the National Anthem Mr. Rachmaninoff flowed into the Bach-Liszt "Organ Prelude and Fugue in A Minor." It would be difficult with such a program and so large an audience to select the work which drew the warmest reaction, but to this listener it was the next number, the Beethoven "Apassionata," that stood out as the finest of the evening; this despite the fact that the last movement, the allegro ma non troppo, seemed a little fast and that over the whole there was the definite gloss of Rachmaninoff. Two Schubert numbers, the "Impromptu in A Flat Minor" and "The Trout" brought the program to the intermission.

The second half of the evening opened with a Nocturne and two Mazukas by Chopin and these were followed by three of the pianist's own compositions, "Humoresque," "Daisies" and "Oriental Sketch. Liszt's "Sonetto del

Petrarca in A Flat" and his "Rhapsody No. 2," closed the formal program. With a technical equipment that has won him world renown Mr. Rachmaninoff matched the demands of an exacting program. His playing is never of the routined, standardized type which so often marks even some of the great artists. Always he gives to his music a notable propulsive energy that at the same time reveals a sensitive and discerning temperament.

Occupying the right box last night were Maj. Gen. J. P. Marley, commanding officer of the Eighth Division, and Mrs. Marley, Col. and Mrs. George Shea and Lieut. and Mrs. Earl Kindig. In the left box were Mr. and Mrs. Robert Harley, the former the son of Governor Harley; Mr. and Mrs. Latta Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Davis and Mr. and Mrs. Burton Morris.

The fifth and next concert in the series being presented here under the auspices of the Columbia Music Festival association will be held on February 23 when Richard Crooks, famous American tenor of the Metropolitan will be presented. Tickets for this concert are now on sale at the Festival offices, 13 Arcade building.

M. du Q. B.

Water, Light Rates Are Cut At Newberry

Newberry, Jan. 16—(Special)—A reduction in the water and electric rates for Newberry has been approved by the commissioner of public works.

The reduction is scheduled to go into effect immediately and will lower all water and electric bills which will be mailed from the office of the commissioners on February 1.

The minimum rate is 72 cents for 4,000 gallons of water and 18 per gallon for the first 10,000 gallons. The new schedule