

# HIDDEN FIRE OF RACHMANINOFF

## HIS TALK With BOUCHETTE

"HIS APPEARANCE IS AS VIRILE AS HIS PLAYING"

By BOB BOUCHETTE

They say Rachmaninoff is an icicle. He barely changes expression as he sits at his piano in public.

There is another Sergel Rachmaninoff and it glows like a live coal. I saw, for a moment, the fire beneath Rachmaninoff's exterior as I interviewed him in the Hotel Vancouver today. He gives a piano recital at the Vancouver Theatre to-night.

He is not an easy man to meet. He makes you feel, at first, that you



Rachmaninoff

are not wanted. You find him formally polite as the conversation progresses, but he is never mellow.

I called on him by an appointment made through his manager. At his bidding I entered the suite. Rachmaninoff was seated at a desk copying a score. He eyed me with what I took to be hostility. His glance seemed to say: "Well, what are you doing here?"

Then his wife, who always travels with him, came into the room. She smiled and reminded him of the appointment. Rachmaninoff asked me to sit down.

It was while speaking of Russia that I saw the smouldering, inner Rachmaninoff.

I had questioned him as to the effect on Russian art of the Solvet regime. His eyes blazed and he glowered.

"I have not been in Russia since the Czar Nicholas was murdered," he said, and he sounded as if he were making an accusation.

"But you know, of course, what they are doing there in music?"

"Very little. It is difficult to obtain the scores." His eyes flamed again and he made a quick gesture with one of his huge hands, as though he were brushing something away. "Please do not speak to me about Russia and the Revolution. When I think of it I see the thousands of artists and enlightened men they killed and I see millions starving."

Rachmaninoff, a native of Novgorod, comes from an aristocratic family. He lost his estate and all his possessions during the Revolution.

Rachmaninoff's intense masculinity is the most striking of his characteristics. His appearance is as virile as head like a cap, is closely cropped and

## VANCOUVER YOUTH KEEPS FIT



—Photo by Sun Staff Photographer.

Seventy-five husky and enthusiastic young Vancouverites, most of them between 18 and 25, and a large proportion of them unemployed, turned out at Macdonald School on Tuesday night for the first classes there under the scheme of directed physical education and recreation which is now well under way at three city centres. In this picture 50 of the class are being directed in physical culture exercises by Ian Eisenhardt.

## TODAY

By ARTHUR BRISBANE

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Here's a Mare's Nest  
Saint Alexander  
Old Men, Hark

Gen. Smedley D. Butler of the United States marines, gives names and addresses of gentlemen in Wall Street who asked him to march on

Washington with 500,000 war veterans, and form a dictatorship, a la Mussolini-Stalin - Kemal Pasha-Hitler.

Those wicked, bad and courageous Wall Street men were prepared to make it worth the general's while.

But General Butler spurned them, "and how," according to his friends, who suggest that Gen. Johnson, formerly of NRA, was selected for the United States dictatorship.



Mr. Brisbane

head like a cap, is closely cropped and not parted. Every line in his face speaks strength.

### ASSIDUOUS PRACTICE

Although Rachmaninoff has been a composer, virtuoso and conductor for more than 40 years, he still practises as assiduously as he did when he was a boy.

"I find it necessary to put in two hours a day at the piano," he said. "I need that amount of work to keep my fingers supple."

As we parted, he smiled for the first time. It was a brief flash of light across the darkness that lies upon his face. I carried away with me the impression of a man of melancholy, of a mind in which painful memories dwell.

When General Johnson was questioned about that, his language did not desert him. Said he:

"He had better be pretty damned careful. If anybody said a word to me about dictatorship, I'd throw him out of the window."

Somebody may have been deceiving General Butler.

In any case, we are a long way from dictatorship, Wall Street brand or any other brand. And of all localities, Wall Street would have most to fear from dictatorship.

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Authorities of the Serbian Orthodox Church have decided to canonize King Alexander, recently murdered, because, having died "a martyr to the nation," he deserves to be included among the saints. The Serbian newspaper Varda shows a picture of Christ "welcoming Alexander to sit at His right hand in the Kingdom of Heaven."

Many saints are in heaven, some that, unlike King Alexander, lived in poverty and humility, and never shipped millions to other countries, as Alexander did.

Which of those well established saints, some of them in heaven more than a thousand years, will have to make way for the new Serbian saint? Merely being shot would seem too easy a way of securing so glorious a seat for all eternity.

\*\*\*

Old men are invited to rejoice at this news:

Dr. Wilder D. Bancroft, teacher of chemistry at Cornell University, says:

"Small doses of sodium rhodanate will prolong life at least two years."

The National Academy of Sciences discussed that statement. Some doubted the wisdom of "prolonging

## Gas Meter Lunch

Thirty members of the Engineering Bureau of Vancouver Board of Trade had luncheon on Wednesday in the meter room of the B. C. Electric gas plant and afterward were given a running technical description of the plant and processes by John Kellor, superintendent, as the various sections were visited.

The plant, one of the most modern in existence, has a capacity of over 3,750,000 cubic feet of gas daily and coke production is an important feature.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

Dr. Frank Young announces the opening of modern Dental offices at 201 Birks Building, 718 Granville St., Sey. 6313. Residence, Bay. 4757R. \*\*\*



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