

## RACHMANINOFF GIVES ADVICE TO BEGINNERS

First Learn if You Have Talent  
—Still Skeptical About  
the Radio.

Sergei Rachmaninoff, celebrated Russian pianist and composer, looked back over nearly half a century today and told a Post-Dispatch reporter what he would do if he were a youth on the eve of a musical career.

The pianist, soloist this afternoon and tomorrow night with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, said that his method of developing his talents would not change—that the course of true musicianship must forever remain the same.

"Let the young man who displays aptitude first learn if he has talent," he advised, leaning forward earnestly in his suite at Hotel Statler. "Let him go to a recognized expert and listen to him rather than the voices of his friends and admirers.

"Then if he has talent—ah, let nothing stop him. But it cannot be done all at once. There is no short cut. To be true to a talent means to work like a dog for years and years. But it is worth it. You know, a talent, any talent, carries with it an obligation."

The Russian, his somber face relaxed in a rare retrospective smile, drew reflectively on a long cigarette.

### Nine Years of Practice.

Then, after a scornful "poof" for "six weeks courses," he recalled that after nine years of constant practice he was adjudged ready to begin a course with a famous professor. He remarked that today, after more than 40 years as a recognized concert artist, he still practiced daily.

"How can it be otherwise?" the pianist exclaimed, flexing powerful, sensitive fingers, "it is necessary."

"Ah, but I would know it," observed Rachmaninoff, when asked how an occasional skipped practice session would affect his playing, "and soon my audiences would know it."

Years of concerts, he said, had failed to make him blasé toward his auditors. Always, when he steps upon the stage, he said, "I have a connection with the audience." After the first few notes, he added, he "feels his audience."

"I am lucky," he observed, "in having very nice audiences, nice in every way."

Rachmaninoff conceded, however, that he preferred to play in cities which maintain symphony orchestras. Such communities, he observed, have created distinct musical backgrounds.

### Skeptical About Radio.

Rachmaninoff, like Kreisler, remains skeptical about the radio. He asserted today that no attempt was made to improve it mechanically "now that business is good," and said that it should be so improved that reception would not be affected by climatic conditions.

The pianist, who has recorded his Third Concerto and many other

## WHITE HOUSE AID



**CAPT. H. CLYDE HARTSEL,**  
**MARINE CORPS** officer who  
has been named navy aid to  
the White House.

works said he considered the phonograph a "real base of art" and felt that it reproduces accurately. But he hesitates to broadcast over the radio. Holding that "times are hard for the artist," that many prefer to sit at home by a radio receiver rather than go to hear the musician. The musician, too, he feels, cannot do his best "playing into an instrument" although the growing practice of inviting studio audiences is alleviating that condition.

But broadcasting, Rachmaninoff believes, is a hindrance rather than a help to the musician.

"In my opinion, if I played over the radio," he observed, "well, my next recital in New York would not be sold out."

## COAL MEN MEET TO FORM THREE-STATE GUFFEY BOARD

75 Producers, Representing Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma, at Kansas City Conference.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Nov. 15.—Seventy-five coal producers from Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma assembled here Thursday to select a district board to put in operation the Guffey Coal Act.

W. E. Blucher, Kansas City, assistant deputy district secretary of the National Bituminous Coal Commission, presided at the meeting. The producers heard Dan M. Nee, Collector of Internal Revenue for Western Missouri, explain the method of tax collection under the plan.

David Watkins, Excelsior Springs, was named labor representative on the board a few weeks ago. A relatively small percentage of the production in the three-state area was represented at the meeting and Blucher said many producers were not signing to conform with the act because of legal advice and uncertainty about court action against the law.