

### C.N.R. Official May be Head of Mexican Rlys.

(Associated Press.)

BATTLE CREEK, Mich., Feb. 20.—Possibility that R. A. C. Henry, an official of the Canadian National Railways, may be appointed to head the national railway system of Mexico was indicated here tonight by Sir Henry Thornton, president of the Canadian organization.

Sir Henry, who has just completed a survey of the Mexican system at the invitation of President Calles, indicated he had recommended the appointment to Calles as part of a contemplated re-organization plan.

super critic although I have followed closely the first rank of pianists for over a quarter of a century both in Europe and on this continent.

I cannot imagine a finer or more perfect technique or a more beautiful tone than was heard last night. The former was absolute perfection and the latter in the superlative degree of loveliness. But these are not the features that in my opinion places Rachmaninoff above the others. It is the emotional warmth combined with his enormous wealth of musical understanding and interpretative power that places him on such a high pinnacle of pianistic artistry. In listening to his playing one is profoundly impressed with his musicianship which he has the power to impart to his hearers through his perfect equipment as a pianist.

He is termed the "composer-pianist", which I would change to the musician pianist. That is to say his outstanding art combines the two

into a perfect unit. This fact was impressively demonstrated in the Liszt "Fantasia Quasi Sonata". This work never appealed to me from a musical sense and in my mind stressed Liszt the technician and not the musician, but last night it appeared in a new light and musical beauties were revealed that previously had remained hidden.

The numerous programmatic piano-forte pieces, of which this Sonata is one, by Liszt, are more in the light of experiments in devising new effects and attempts at expressing noble sentiments, moods and conceptions. We cannot help admiring them, but they fall far short of the master's true conception of music. Liszt reaches his real art standard in his symphonic music, where he gives full scope to his musical powers and not giving his main thoughts to the capabilities of the piano as an instrument. This Sonata is very difficult, but for Rachmaninoff they were so

easily overcome last night that the average listener would hardly realize they existed.

The rendering of Chopin's "Fantasia" was a truly remarkable performance. This inspiring composition was played with such a wealth of tonal color that it went to the mind of the listener in the form of a beautiful picture in tone. It was the finest thing of the evening and revealed the real greatness of the man as an artist. The same composer's two studies, C sharp minor and A flat major and the scherzo were also exquisitely played in which the poetical character of the music stood out in such bold relief.

Two of the recitalist's own compositions, a study and his famous Prelude in C sharp minor worked the audience into a high state of enthusiasm. He had only got as far as the first phrase of the Prelude when a spontaneous outburst of ap-

plause broke out from all parts of the house.

A lovely number by Medtner, "Fairy Tale, op 34, No. 1, also made a deep impression and the Busoni treatment got two of Bach's Organ Choral preludes were rendered with a true spirit of the classical majesty of the music and with a devotional atmosphere.

The final number, Tausig's arrangement of a waltz by Strauss, so brilliantly rendered brought one of the finest piano recitals we have ever heard in Ottawa to a close. He was recalled time and time again, and eventually contributed an extra number as an encore.

We are once more indebted to Mr. A. Tremblay for the rich artistic musical feast that was offered to us.

Looking for a buyer for some poultry? Insert an ad. in The Citizen's "Poultry" column.—(Advt.).

## MUSIC

Edited by T. J. PALMER.

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### THE RACHMANINOFF RECITAL

The Russell Theater was completely filled last night by a most enthusiastic audience to hear the famous master pianist and creative musician Sergei Rachmaninoff in piano recital. Their Excellencies the Governor General and Viscountess Willingdon and party from Government House occupied the Vice-Regal box. Ottawa decidedly revealed a high standard in musical appreciation by the large turnout to hear the best in music interpreted by one of the greatest musical geniuses of all times.

I believe it is two years ago since Rachmaninoff formerly appeared in this city, but the super artistry of his piano playing on this occasion never faded from the memory of the majority of those who heard him.

There is something in the playing of Rachmaninoff that places him in my own mind above any of the other great pianists of the day. No doubt there are many who will not agree with me, but I do not pose as a

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