

## AUDIENCE OF 2,500 CAPTIVATED BY WIZARDRY OF RACHMANINOFF

(By William Walker Todd)

An audience of fully 2,500 music lovers was present last night at the Coliseum to greet the world-renowned pianist, Rachmaninoff, who was presented under the local management of Mrs. Frances Otey Allen.

The sudden change yesterday morning to ideal weather conditions brought in large crowds from a wide territory surrounding Shreveport, so that when the great artist appeared upon the stage he faced one of the largest and musically select audiences that has ever gathered in Shreveport for a piano recital.

The heating system of the Coliseum was in perfect working order, giving a summer-like temperature over the entire building, so that there was no unpleasant condition to detract from the perfect enjoyment of a musical feast that will linger permanently in the memories of all present.

The audience, despite its great size, was one of the most flatteringly attentive ever gathered in the Coliseum, the most perfect quiet being preserved throughout every number, it being possible to have heard the proverbial pin drop during any of the pianissimo passages.

Rachmaninoff, in addition to his towering genius as a piano virtuoso, conductor and composer of symphonic works, chamber music, operas, songs and piano works, is one of the most interesting and in a

manner baffling personalities in the musical world of today.

With a most unassuming, in fact almost deprecatory manner, his appearance upon the stage is as devoid of affectation or ostentation as it is possible to imagine, while his playing is almost utterly free of any of those physical mannerisms that so often mar the keyboard work of even the greatest.

A kindly, serious face, graven with lines indicative of a sensitive and deeply introspective nature, his countenance only occasionally lightened by a half smile in the moments when he is acknowledging the applause following each number, Rachmaninoff seems to reserve, as far as possible, his physical strength for the stupendous technical feats he sets for himself at the keyboard.

The Chopin "Fantasy," the production of one of the Polish tone-poets' most virile periods of composition, was a marvelous exhibition of the most perfect cantabile work imaginable, with alternating moods of fiery passages displaying the ultra-perfection of technical equipment. The Schumann "Carnaval," a series of playful musical pictures woven into a homogenous composition, was a glittering mosaic, clear and perfect, under the illuminating glow of his marvelous phrasing.

In the Chopin group which followed, Rachmaninoff displayed such a warmth of inspired interpretation as left one questioning if he might not legitimately be accorded the place of greatest living Chopin player, especially in his delivery of the "Polonaise"—frequently known as the "Revolutionary"—which was almost stunning in its intensity.

It was to be regretted that his program did not contain a larger group of his own compositions, though the two given were probably the most popular and representative of his smaller piano works. The perennially popular "Prelude" and his very characteristic "Serenade" are fascinating tone pictures and of the true artistic metal that can never become worn or hackneyed no matter how often they may be heard.

Moszkowski's playful "Juggler" quite captivated the audience, while the venerable pianistic war-horse, the Liszt-Paganini "Campanella" variations, beloved of all artists for its limitless opportunities for legitimate technical display, was vivified by Rachmaninoff into one of the most electrifying keyboard tours de force it has ever been the privilege of the writer to witness.

The glittering garment of technical ornamentation with which Liszt clothed the insipid Paganini tune makes it sound almost like music of a really high order, and when it is given in such a manner as Rachmaninoff delivered it last night it is something to be remembered for a lifetime.

Both from an artistic and finan-

## LIQUOR PROBE IN CAPITAL OF NATION IS SET IN MOTION

Alleged Leaks From Foreign Embassies to Be Thoroughly Investigated.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25 (By the Associated Press).—The machinery of the federal government has been set in motion to ascertain whether any foreign embassies and legations here have brought into the country excessive shipments of liquor which later was diverted into the bootleg trade in the national capital.

As a result of recent disclosures by the Washington police, who openly charge that some foreign envoys are using their diplomatic immunity to supply bootleggers, the treasury department has sent memorandum to the state department which is understood to call attention to certain "unusual shipments of liquor coming to embassies and legations here.

"While no formal protest concerning the shipments was made, high treasury officials said today that several shipments in recent weeks were of such magnitude as to attract the attention of prohibition enforcement officers. The treasury was represented as believing that more liquor was coming in than was "reasonably required" by the staffs of the foreign representatives here.

The treasury spokesmen declined to express an opinion as to whether any leaks in embassy and legation stocks had originated from the large shipments referred to. Neither would any official reveal which of the diplomatic representatives were concerned in the memorandum sent to the state department.

Baggage delivered. Phone 73.

BRUSSELS—A fresh regiment of full war strength left Antwerp to reinforce Belgians in the Ruhr.

cial standpoint the concert of last night was an eminent success, and Mrs. Allen is to be most heartily congratulated on the gratifying outcome of the event.

Rachmaninoff's manager, Mr. Smith, stated that in the event the concert of last night met with sufficient response from the public, he would feel justified at a little later date in presenting to the Shreveport music lovers Fritz Kreisler, probably the world's most popular living violinist, which promised treat will be welcome news to every musician and Kreisler admirer in this section of North Louisiana.

2037-39-41 Perrin, \$900.

Mrs. R. J. Hughes—Addition to garage 1634 Caperton, \$30.

Thompson & Serpell—Dwelling and garage 3025 Darien, \$3,000.

I. A. Nader—Dwelling 2040 Edgar, \$2,500.

B. J. McDaniels—Bath, 403 Boisseau, \$250.

A. E. Herrin—Dwelling 1609 Gilbert, \$3,350.

W. W. Waring Est.—Repair store 519 Edwards, \$250.

C. W. Bayne—Garage 3002 Boss, \$350.

City of Shreveport—Addition to house, Batture, \$325.

R. H. Dunn—Repair garage 2313 Darien, \$100.

Mrs. L. A. Holder—Two-story dwelling and garage 256 Columbia, \$8,500.

G. W. Stokley—Repair dwelling 1714 Allen, \$75.

Norman Meyer—Repair building 529-531 Market, \$400.

Mrs. A. Belcher—Repair dwelling 240 Dalzell, \$50.

W. T. Hilburn—Dwelling 2735 Darien, \$3,500.

H. C. Cravy—Garage 424 Olive, \$400.

J. P. Durham—Dwelling and garage 714 Kings Highway, \$3,500.

Dr. T. E. Williams—Dwelling and garage 710 Kings Highway, \$4,000.

F. T. Whited Jr.—Garage 357 Lister, \$650.

J. Dillinger—Store 729 Milam street, \$150.