

BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERT.

PROGRAM OF UNUSUAL INTEREST PRESENTED.

Splendid Interpretation of Tschai-kowsky's Symphony.

FINE PLAYING BY RACHMANINOFF, PIANIST.

The Parsons Theater never saw a larger, finer or more enthusiastic audience assembled to enjoy an orchestral concert within its walls than was seen there last evening, the occasion being the first of the season's concerts by the Boston Symphony Orchestra. The playing was superb, the program was brilliant, the soloist scored a double triumph as composer and pianist. Mr. Fiedler was welcomed as an old friend and his men played for him at their very best; the concert was a success in every way.

The beautiful overture to "Der Freischutz" was first on the program and from the lovely and broad melody that begins it to the splendid climax the playing was fine in spirit, exquisite in tone; every bit of melody shone in its fullest brightness and to the whole work was given a wonderfully sympathetic rendition. The Tschai-kowsky Symphony No. 5, in E minor followed and made a deep impression. The composer's "Pathetic" Symphony is familiar here but last evening's work was new to the great majority of the listeners. The opening is sombre in its deep tones and there is an odd but most attractive melody that follows immediately. The working out of the first movement is fine in its forcefulness and power and the playing was splendid in every phrase and bit of shading. There was great power of tone but sweetness of tone was never sacrificed and the deep, dark ending of the movement was wonderfully effective.

The anante cantabile offered the cellos splendid opportunity to shine and the tone given out was beautiful. There is a building up of tone in this movement that rises to a tremendous effect and then a silence that thrills precedes the gracious, appealing melody that, in its turn, serves to make way for another tone-structure of wonderful size and construction. And then, when the applause that followed a great rendition of a great symphonic movement had died away, there came the strangest, oddest, waits movement, rhythmic of course but far from gay; and the playing made every bit of its melody and every strange phrase of its greyness of tone come home to the audience.

The final movement rounded out a splendid symphony in brilliant effectiveness. The andante maestoso was particularly broad and fine and the finale was tremendously big in tonal effect with particularly fine work to the credit of the brasses. The symphony was heard with delight, and Mr. Fiedler was obliged to bow his thanks for the applause again and again, passing the approbation on to his players.

The Russian composer, Serge Rachmaninoff, was the soloist of the evening and he played with the orchestra his own "Second Concerto." His playing is strong and virile, his command of tone is excellent, his artistic sense in playing as a part of a great, harmonious whole with the orchestra is never for an instant at fault. The singing tone of the piano was clearly heard whenever the piano part belonged in the foreground, but there was no striving for prominence at the expense of the beauties of the orchestral parts of the work and the composer was content to be, most of the time, one of the players in the great band of artists whose efforts were all directed by the man who read the composer's complete score, Max Fiedler.

The composition is strongly effective, admirably balanced. The opening is finely rhythmic and sounds the depths of the piano's as well as the orchestra's tone. The development of the first movement is fine and the muted strings are beautifully used in quiet harmony with the piano. The strings, still under the mute, and the flutes sing richly in the *andante sostenuto* (second movement) and here the singing tone of the piano is especially noticed; the playing was superb in every part and was applauded to the echo. The allegro scherzando is strong and fine and there is a finale that is peculiarly effective. The composer and player was recalled to the stage over and over again and the players in the orchestra were

as appreciative of his work as was the audience. Mr. Rachmaninoff would have been forgiven by the audience if he had broken the orchestra rule and played again, but he was content to bow his thanks and took his place in one of the boxes to enjoy the orchestra's playing of the final number on the program.

Beethoven's "Leonora" overture, No. 3, was given after the two Russian numbers had been played and the lovely spirit of the work, the grace of the melodies and the effectiveness of the trumpet calls that sound so sweetly off-stage were fully appreciated by the audience. The playing was splendid and scintillated most brilliantly. The whole evening was a triumph for orchestra and leader.

The second concert of the Boston Symphony Orchestra's series here will be given January 17, and Mischa Elman is announced as soloist.

NO-LICENSE COMMITTEE MEETS TO RE-ORGANIZE.

Has Evidence Against Several Hartford Liquor Dealers.

The Hartford Citizens' No-License Committee has re-organized and is about to institute another campaign for the election in the spring. The meeting for this purpose was held last evening at the Young Men's Christian Association. After partaking of a supper served in the banquet hall there was a discussion over the outcome of the last election and it was concluded that a definite gain had been shown in the fact that twenty-eight votes had been added and the license supporters had lost 700. Statements made by the liquor dealers in the 10 o'clock closing fight before the common council were disputed, and it was said the committee had evidence to show that some of the statements were fabrications. Members claimed to have evidence of illegal selling, in spite of what the liquor men had said of their purpose to abide by the law.

Definite steps were taken towards securing a permanent office with a man in charge and this was left to the executive committee for selection. It was voted to hold monthly meetings from now on and to publish "The Hartford Issue" for educational purpose. A pastors' advisory committee is one of the new features of the campaign, and the names of all the pastors in the city who want to be identified with the movement will be put on the committee. Officers were elected as far as possible but there are several vacancies to be filled by the executive committee. Those elected are:—

Honorary Chairman—Daniel R. Howe.
Secretary—Truman J. Spencer.
Executive Committee—Wynlow Russell, Rev. E. C. Wilson, Lyle L. Rescott, Bennett C. Miller, James Harris, Charles E. Loveland, Myrton T. Smith, Charles A. Hickox, Clarence C. Gompf, John C. Conklin, Clarence M. Thompson, Gus F. Brockman, Halsey Spencer, William B. Obder.

CORONER'S INQUEST IN BRANDON CASE.

Coroner J. Gilbert Calhoun has ordered an inquest to be held at 9 o'clock this morning to investigate the circumstances surrounding the death of William J. Brandon of West Hartford. As reported in "The Courant" of yesterday, Brandon died at St. Francis's Hospital at 1:30 o'clock Sunday afternoon and an autopsy revealed a fractured skull caused by violence. Facts in the case brought out that he was struck shortly after midnight Saturday night by his brother-in-law, Clarence F. Nichols, and being rendered unconscious was dragged into the sheds in the rear of the Congregational Church, where he lay all night. Nichols was left to watch over him.

It was rumored about West Hartford Center yesterday that Nichols had told that he believed Brandon was dead and so he did not stay with him during the night, but came to Hartford, where he remained until early Sunday morning and then went out to West Hartford and roused the people. Nichols gave himself up Sunday evening, and is out under \$2,500 bonds. His lawyer Benedict M. Holden, said last night that it could not be expected that his client should say anything for publication before the trial.

PIERCE N. WELCH ESTATE VALUED AT \$850,000.

The will of Pierce N. Welch, late of New Haven, which was filed in the probate court at New Haven yesterday, leaves the greater part of the estate, the value of which is estimated at \$850,000, to the testator's wife, Emma G. Welch. To each of the five children, Cornelia W. Gaines of Bronxville, N. Y., Hilda W. Gross, wife of Charles W. Gross of this city, and Miriam W. Graves, Cora D. Welch and Pierce N. Welch, Jr., all of New Haven, is left \$50,000. Mrs. Welch and Pierce N. Welch, Jr., are named as executors.