

FAIRY TALE WITH BIG
BUNCH OF HUMOR IN ITA Theatrical Man Tells Some Remark-
able Stories of His Travels in
Edmonton and Calgary.

The New York Sun publishes the following: From Edmonton, far up in Alberta, to Cayenne, in French Guiana, 23,000 miles of tramping, is the record of the W. S. Hawkins Opera Company, which disembarked here yesterday after landing from the Royal Dutch West Indian Mail steamship Surinam, from Paramaribo. They had been out since June 1, last year, singing everything from "Faust," and "The Show Girl."

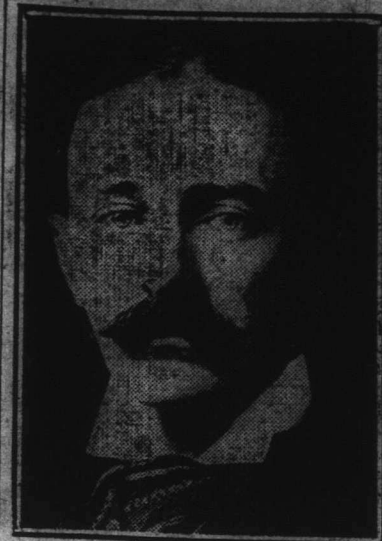
They played before folks in evening clothes and before folks with practically no clothes at all. They had audiences of Sioux and Crow Indians in the Northwest and Bush Indians in Surinam. Cowboys whooped for them and fur traders waited at the stage door with presents of ermine and mink skins for the ladies of the chorus. A tornado once unroofed the show and the prima donna had to reach for high C in a swirling wind and a driving rain. They were snowbound, seasick and fever stricken. They came home with not only a bag of entertaining experiences but pocketfuls of money. The tour netted a profit of between \$25,000 and \$27,000.

The company was organized last spring for a tour of the British provinces by M. S. Robinson, who put up the cash. Mr. Robinson figured it was a good gamble on a stunt worth trying to see if an opera company could sing dollars out of the pockets of people all the way from Vancouver to Caracas. He guessed right, as it turned out, and the troupe was so tickled with their success that they are thinking of trying it again next year.

It was Frank Nelson who told that story of the tour. He is a Scotchman, very brisk and alert, as he had to be to keep his company up to the notch under all sorts of queer conditions.

In the Windy City
"You bet we're glad to get home," said Nelson, "but it was some trip, son, some trip. I'll bet we've got the record, all right. We played to our first audience in Vancouver on June 1, and then worked slowly east, taking in Laggan—a great tourist point—they go there to see the glaciers and make short trail trips through the Yoho valley—Calgary, Edmonton, Medicine Hat, Moose Jaw, Regina, in Saskatchewan and a whole lot more towns that would make folks here sit up to see. They are so progressive and hustling."

"It was in Calgary that we had one of the scariest experiences in the whole trip. We were singing 'Fra Diavolo' in the Academy of Music when a tornado from the States hit part of it, right off the opera house. The crowd showed nerve. Of course a few women screamed and others were one or two foot men as usual, but the majority of the audience stuck right in their seats. There was no place to go. It was blowing guns outside and raining hard, so the opera house was as comfortable and safe as any other location."

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR HORACE
WHITE, of New York, who will suc-
ceed Governor Hughes.

"Well, Miss Storm was singing when the twister hit us. She stopped only a moment or two to give the orchestra a chance to brace up, then went right on. It was funny. The roof over the stage was intact, as it happened, and we were nice and dry, but the audience was as wet as a hen in a shower. I don't believe a company ever got more applause than we did that evening."

Some Indian Yarns

"An agent of the Canadian govern-

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ment came to us at Calgary, and asked us to give a special performance for the Sioux and Crow Indians. He said it didn't make much difference what opera we put on, it would be all the same to the redskins. So we gave 'Pin-afore.' The chiefs sat in front, then the bucks and away back in the house were the squaws and a lot of squirming papooses. It was a funny show. The Indians sat there without making a sound except an occasional grunt and you couldn't tell whether they were grunting with you or at you. But between the acts they applauded like the mischief, 'how-howing' and jabbering and clapping their hands like white men. At the end of the opera they gave us a really fine ovation—I suppose that's what you would call it—but I couldn't understand what they were shouting.

"You would have split your sides if you had been around at the stage door of the Academy of Music say fifteen minutes after the final curtain. Half a dozen young Indians, blanketed and feathered and painted like totem poles, were lined up. What for? Waiting for the girls to come out. The girls were nervous, but the Indians didn't mean anything, you know. They didn't speak or take a step. They just wanted to see what the singers looked like at close range."

Edmonton a Fast Town

"I guess we played further north than any opera company ever has, so far as I know, at any rate. We were in Edmonton, the capital of the Canadian Pacific branch, for four weeks, and there wasn't a night or a matinee that we didn't have a bumper house. Most of the people here are Scotch. They are pretty nice at entertaining, too, and there never was a crowd of girls who had a better time. Some of them went for short dogged trips—properly chaperoned, of course—to the north. A fur trader offered his hand and heart and about \$100,000 worth of property to the prima donna. But she couldn't see it that way. I think she got a mink coat anyway. While we were at Edmonton all of us made a trip to old Fort Saskatchewan, twenty miles to the north of the capital, and part of our escort were Cree, who sold very cheaply, some wonderful specimens of porcupine work on tanned buckskin. Good porcupine work—designs worked in colored quills—is harder to get nowadays than good beadwork and both are getting scarce."

"We gave some interesting performances at Medicine Hat, singing Gilbert and Sullivan operas to audiences that were made up in part of Blackfeet. Moose Jaw was kind enough to turn out good crowds for us, and at Regina, the capital of Saskatchewan, a flourishing prairie city in the heart of the great wheat growing country, we had big crowds. A detachment of the Canadian Northwest Mounted Police at Regina gave us a special dinner. They said they were so glad we had turned up to break the monotony of things that a dinner we had given. From the pleasure we had given. From the yawns they told in a somewhat sort of way I shouldn't say they were troubled much with monotony."

You don't have to know very much in this world if other people know less. There's something about a reformer that makes nearly everything else want to be a criminal."

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Important Decision in Camrose Libel Case
Judge Censures Defendants

In re Messrs. The Investigating Public Vs. Knockers and Doubters, et al Before His Honor
Judge Discrimination in the Court of Public Opinion.

H. R. WILLIAMS, SPECIAL FIELD AGENT FOR WATSON & BURGESS, ON BEHALF OF THE PLAINTIFFS STATED THAT THE PROPERTY IN QUESTION "KENSINGTON" A SUBDIVISION TO THE SOUTHWEST OF CAMROSE WAS ALL LEVEL, WELL LOCATED AND A LUCRATIVE INVESTMENT AT \$75 PER LOT, \$10 CASH, BALANCE \$5 A MONTH. THE ACTION WAS BROUGHT MERELY TO PUT DEFENDANTS OUT OF BUSINESS. THERE WAS NO DEFENCE.

HIS HONOR IN SUMMING UP THE CASE, SAID THAT IT WAS CLEAR FROM THE EVIDENCE THAT THE DEFENDANTS WERE UNAWARE OF THE FACTS THAT CAMROSE HAD (1) THREE TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROADS, (2) ABUNDANCE OF CHEAP COAL AND GOOD WATER, (3) THE MANY PROMINENT WHOLESALE IN CAMROSE ASSURED ITS INDUSTRIAL FUTURE, (4) THE THREE BANKS ALREADY DOING BUSINESS THERE WAS EVIDENCE OF THE FINANCIAL PROSPERITY OF THE TOWN, (5) THE ATTENTION TO THE SOCIAL SIDE OF LIFE WAS SHOWN BY THE CAMROSE CANADIAN CLUB, (THE ONLY BUILDING OF ITS KIND IN CANADA) AND THE EDUCATIONAL BY THE BUILDING OF A SCANDINAVIAN COLLEGE IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO ACCOMMODATE 300 STUDENTS, PROBABLY INDUCED BY THE FACT THAT NO CASE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE HAD DEVELOPED DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

IN SHORT, SAID HIS HONOR, THE DEFENDANTS, MESSRS. KNOCKERS, DOUBTERS & CO., WOULD BE CALLED UPON TO PAY THE COST OF THE ACTION. NO DAMAGES WOULD BE AWARDED AS THEIR FAILURE TO INVEST IN KENSINGTON WOULD PROVE IN THE FUTURE TO BE A SUFFICIENT PUNISHMENT.

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