

A Series of Talks on Music

By Prof. C. C. Laugher, Mus. Bac., Sarina.

NO. IX.—THE FIRST VIOLINISTS.

The perfection of the violin making was completed during the latter part of the sixteenth century and the beginning of the seventeenth century.

The development of the violin to the unsurpassable perfection attained by the great violin makers naturally coincided with the remarkable development of the technique of violin playing.

The Italian violin makers during the course of the seventeenth century, brought their skill up to the highest perfection and put into the hands of the performers the most perfect instrument for expression that human ingenuity seems capable of devising.

The central idea in the soloists mind is to make effect by melody with subordinate accompaniment.

One of the first to make good with the violin was Lully, born at Florence; his musical talent was discovered by a shoemaker monk, who taught him rudiments of the guitar and by some means he got hold of a violin and between the time of washing floors and acting as scullion in the kitchen, his spare moments were used on the violin.

Lully was overheard playing popular airs on the violin and was soon given a place in the Princess' band where he quickly excelled; but being of a mischievous disposition, he was caught writing rude verses about the princess, who promptly dismissed him.

In the same period, Baltzar, a famous German violinist won a great reputation in England, in fact, he was the first great performer on the violin heard in England, his art seemed touched with magic.

Speaking of his wonderful execution, Anthony Wood wrote:—None in England ever saw the like." Wilson, the greatest judge of music at that time, stooped down to Baltzar's feet to see if he had cloven feet, to see if he was a devil, because he acted beyond the parts of man; Wilson also declares that he became so popular that so many delighted to drink with him and making him drunk that by drinking he was brought to the grave.

The first to arrange concerts for profit was John Banister, an English violinist of the same period, who established a series of concerts in London for money making. These were held at his own house, and were continued until a short time before his death.

At this period the greatest violin makers had brought their skill up to the highest perfection in violin making.

The actual inventor of the violin is not known nor have we the correct date.

The first mention of the violin as part of the orchestra is made by Monteverde, when he gave a performance of the opera

Orfeo in 1650.

We also hear one Baltazarini, giving performances in England in 1577.

The principal Italian makers of the seventeenth century were Amati, the Guarneri and the Stradivari families, "all of Cremona" who so jealously guarded the peculiar secrets of their manufacture that no modern maker has so far been able to reproduce instruments of the same quality.

So valuable are these violins that the high record price for a Stradivarius is said to be \$15,000, and a Guarnerius, formerly belonging to Wieniasky and since sold to John McCormack (the tenor singer) for \$18,000.

The violin was considered at one time the common property of man, yet many failed to obtain proper instruction and would adapt his own ease in playing it, the result was "slovenliness" for he simply fiddled at playing, hence the name fiddle which reminds us of the boy who asked his father: What is the difference between a violinist and a fiddler? About three hundred dollars per evening, my child, answered the father.

A new baby had arrived in the house of a strong co-operative member. Little Johnnie was very anxious to know where it came from, and was told by his aunt that they got it in the doctor's shop.

"Well," replied Johnnie, "there'll be a big row in the house when my father comes home tonight."

"Why?"

"Because my father'll say you should have got it from the Co-op."

Ninety-eight per cent. of the criminals hanged in Canada during the past eleven years have been foreigners. In that time only seven native Canadians or English-speaking citizens were executed.

One of the best known guides in Nova Scotia gives this testimonial of MINARD'S LINIMENT—

Have used MINARD'S LINIMENT in my home, hunting and lumber camps for years and consider it the best white liniment on the market. I find that it gives quick relief to minor accidents, such as sprains, bruises and all kinds of wounds. Also it is a great remedy for coughs, colds, etc., which one is liable to catch when log driving and cruising during the winter and spring months. I would not be without MINARD'S LINIMENT and cannot recommend it too highly.

(signed) Ellison Gray

East Kemptville, N. S., Feb. 24, 1920.

1921 TENDERS 1921

Tenders for the Collection of County Poor, Railway, Patriotic Fund, Dog and Provincial Highway Rates in each Ward in Kings County for the year 1921 will be received at the office of Municipal Clerk, Court House, until

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31ST, AT 12 O'CLOCK NOON

The Tender must include the names and Post Office addresses of two responsible parties willing to become bondsmen in event of Tender being accepted.

The Collector must be a resident of the Ward in which he collects the rates.

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and
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ANNE M. STUART,
INVESTMENT BROKER.

PRICES OF GROCERIES

(From the Toronto Globe.)

In connection with reports that housekeepers have found little or no reduction recently in prices of food a prominent wholesale firm of Toronto sends to The Globe a statement showing the prices charged by it on December 20 for staple groceries with the prices it charged in July:

	July.	Present.
Sugar, per hundred lbs.	\$24.71	\$10.71
Rice, blue rose, lb.	.18	.10
Peas, doz.	2.00	1.47
Corn, doz.	1.80	1.40
Tomatoes, doz.	2.00	1.45
Syrup, 2's, case	6.70	5.55
Soap, per hundred cakes	10.00	8.50
Cornstarch, lb.	.14	.11
Canada, laundry, lb.	.12	.09
Tapioca, lb.	.13	.08
Sago, lb.	.12	.03
Shelled walnuts, lb.	.55	.45
Split peas, lb.	.09	.06
Rolled oats, bag	6.25	3.70
Cornmeal, lb.	.06	.03
Pot barley, lb.	.08	.05
Pearl barley, lb.	.09	.06
Black pepper, lb.	.40	.25
Shelled almonds, lb.	.55	.45
Pekoe tea, lb.	.40	.25

"You will see from this," writes the Toronto wholesale firm, "that there has been a considerable decline in the price of staple groceries," but it is questionable whether housekeepers have received their full benefit of the decline. Consumers might satisfy themselves on this point by comparing the statement with the prices actually charged to them.

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A SURE RECOVERY

(From the Brantford Expositor.)

It is not at all probable that Canada will be disturbed to anything like the same extent as the United States will be. The evidence in every direction is that the country is adjusting itself gradually to the changing conditions, and while the process cannot be accomplished without some painful results, it is confidently expected that the marvellous resources of Canada, and the proved wisdom and skill of the financial and industrial leaders will be equal to the task of piloting the country through whatever exigencies may arise, with perhaps less disturbance than in any other country. To this end the entire thought and skill of the business world, as far as possible, is being directed.

Minard's Liniment for Diphtheria.

Cause of Early Old Age
The celebrated Dr. Michenhoff, an authority on early old age, says that it is "caused by poisons generated in the intestines." When your stomach digests food properly it is absorbed without forming poisonous matter. Poisons bring on early old age and premature death. 15 to 30 drops of "Seigel's Syrup" after meals makes your digestion sound.



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PHOSPHONOL FOR MEN

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