

RUSSIAN BALALAIKA MEETS WITH FAVOR

Sweet Toned Instrument Has Several Combined Musical Qualities.

PECULIAR SYSTEM OF PLAY

KEYBOARD IS SIMILAR TO BANJO, BUT SHORTER AND IT HAS BUT THREE STRINGS—ITS POSSIBILITIES.

London, June 13.—The English musical world has fallen in love with the balalaika. It is heard in drawing rooms, on concert platforms, in army messrooms; hostesses find that a balalaika band is a greater attraction at a musical "at home" than the most famous of tenors.

The balalaika is an instrument that can set your nerves tingling. It suggests moonlight and serenade. It can be plaintive as the violin and as maddeningly sweet as the harp. Russia invented it; for hundreds of years it has been the national instrument of the peasants; its strings ring through the long, white winters; it is heard at every summer sunset. For generations voices have blended with its tones, and dancing feet have tripped to its music.

Prince Tchagadeeff, the leader of the Imperial Court Orchestra, showed England, the possibilities of the instrument last winter, when M. Andreoff's band performed in London; but it is only recently that amateurs have made the balalaika a fashionable craze. Today half the world seems to be learning it.

Soft and Haunting.

The first attraction about the balalaika is the real beauty of its tone. It is soft, sweet, haunting. The second point in its favor is that it is the easiest of all musical instruments to learn. Clifford Essex, who taught hundreds of well-known folk to play the banjo when the fashion for that instrument was at its height, says that the balalaika is far easier to play. He has known pupils who have practically mastered it in eight lessons, and some who have been able to perform quite pleasingly after two weeks' practice. The instruments, which are all imported from Russia, are simple, yet handsome in appearance. Some of the most ornately decorated ones may cost as much as \$25, but they can be obtained at as low a sum as 30 shillings.

The keyboard is something like that of a banjo, but is shorter, and there are only three strings. The first peculiarity that strikes the beginner is that two of the strings are tuned to the same note—E. The other string is tuned to A.

Not Like Other Instruments. It is not played like the banjo, the mandolin or the guitar, but in a manner quite peculiar to this one instrument.

The thumb of the left hand slides up and down the two E strings, while the other fingers are used for the higher notes of the A string.

The first finger of the right hand is passed rapidly and lightly over the three strings, and as it moves backward and forward a "tremolo" effect is produced. Occasionally all the four fingers of the right hand are swept across the strings to give the effect banjoists call the "rasp."

A hundred different effects seem possible with the balalaika. One of its beauties is the rather plaintive sliding note produced by the thumb and fingers gliding up and down the strings.

When played as a solo instrument it sounds well, accompanied by a piano, but the possibilities of the balalaika can not be properly understood till an entire band has been heard.

A balalaika orchestra is composed of almost any number of players, and the instruments they use are of different sizes but all of the same pattern. There are prima secunda, alto, bass and contra-bass balalaikas. Londoners will remember the haunting beauty of the "Volga Boatman's Song," played by Prince Tchagadeeff's band. It is supposed to represent the droning chants sung by men as they carry heavy timber down to the boats. Like sailors who sing as they weigh the anchor, the Volga boatmen find that music helps them to keep time.

There seems every indication that the balalaika will soon be almost as well known in England as it is in its native Russia. Army men going abroad often take a few lessons before leaving England, knowing that in lonely stations music will be appreciated.

COUNCIL WILL MEET

For the purpose of taking up the proposed vehicle ordinance in detail, considering each clause separately, the city council will meet this evening with the board of works and City Attorney Gardner in the office of the board of works at the city hall. The vehicle ordinance has been hanging fire for several weeks and as no settlement seems to be near, the meeting this evening was arranged to thresh out the matter and try to arrive at an agreement.

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IDEA NOT YET DEAD

Proposed River Bank Boulevard May Be Realized Some Sweet Day.

CITY HOLDS TO PROPERTY

Proof that the much discussed idea of a scenic boulevard along the western bank of the Whitewater is not entirely dead came this morning in the meeting of the board of works, when applications to lease and buy portions of the ground owned by the city on that side were refused without serious consideration. At the present time, the city owns more than half of the strip between the Doran and the Main street bridges, as well as a portion of the river bank to the south. Several years ago a winding roadway was surveyed, but lack of funds caused the improvement to be postponed. The applications this morning were for a lease on a strip that fronts on Richmond avenue, permission being asked to build and operate a blacksmith shop. Another citizen desired to buy some of the property and erect a bungalow. In moving that the city retain hold of the property, Mayor Zimmerman spoke feelingly for the proposed boulevard and promised that nothing should interfere with the city's plans in this direction.

SAINTS' DAYS THIS WEEK.

The following are the saints' days for the coming week: Sunday, June 12, St. Eschill of Sweden, eleventh century. St. Onuphrius, hermit, St. John of St. Fagondez; 13, St. Anthony of Padua; 14, St. Basil the Great, St. Methodius of Constantinople, 846, 15, St. Titus and Modestus, Blessed Gregory Lewis Bardaglo, 1097; 16, St. John Francis Regis, St. Aurelia, 562; 17, St. Nicander and Martin; 18, feast of the Sacred Heart, St. Marina.

June 19 is a day kept especially in Europe by Roman Catholics as one of their highest festivals. This is, as called by the French, the "Fete Dieu," the celebration of the name of God. In Catholic communities the consecrated host is carried through the open air, the whole population turning out to do honor to it, and kneeling as it passes by.

This feast is popular in Belgium and in the south of France. There are great processions in the streets of the towns and cities. Following the people the monks and the secular clergy comes the canopy and dias under which the priest of the highest rank walks, carrying the "body of Christ." After the principal streets have been traversed all return to the church which is decorated and illuminated, the incense ascends, the organ resounds with the whole force of its pipes, and the host is restored to its accustomed ark on the high altar.

As one walks through the streets during the week of this fete he will see on every corner little tables on which poor children spread a napkin and light some candles, adding one or more plaster figures of the virgin or saints. To the passersby they cry, "Do not forget the little chapel." These are a reminder of the chapels which in great pomp to serve as stations for the procession where mass was said in the open air.

A GENEROUS GIFT

(American News Service)
New York, June 13.—Mrs. Russell Sage gave \$15,000 to the Audubon society for its work in Georgia, Florida, Texas and South Carolina in protecting the bird.

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QUEEN HELENA IS A HEROINE AGAIN

Monarch's Visit to Scene of Earthquake Arouses Enthusiasm.

GENERAL GLOOM PREVAILS

MANY BELIEVE THAT THE WORST IS NOT OVER—CORRESPONDENTS' TELEGRAMS CONFISCATED BY CENSORS.

Rome, June 13.—All Italy now thinks of nothing but the earthquake, many believing that the worst is not over and that we are in, if not for a fresh Messina, at least for great loss and danger.

This disaster bears out the predictions of Frank Perret, the American volcanologist, who devotes his whole time to studying the volcanoes of Southern Italy. He has repeatedly said that not only Etna would overflow, which it will be remembered it did, but that severe earthquakes might be expected at any time.

It is almost impossible to know just how much of the truth about this earthquake is known in America, as the censor has been busy from the first moment, and unfortunately correspondents have had their telegrams confiscated right and left and are only informed of the matter when it is too late to take other measures. This of course does not suppress knowledge of the real situation for a moment, but it has the effect of causing those anxiously awaiting news from Italy to imagine that the affair is much more serious than it is.

This matter of the censor is so childish that one wonders that the institution does not die a natural death from ridicule.

The population of the whole south of the peninsula is in a most deplorable condition, even in places where shocks have not been felt. They nightly refuse to sleep in their houses and camp

in the utmost discomfort in the open squares and alongside of the country roads.

In Calabria they have taken to caves where men, women, children, dogs, horses, etc., all live together.

At Messina and Reggio the people are more philosophical. They are either so accustomed to peril that they no more regard it, or are convinced that their cities will be immune for some years, their vague idea being that Providence will not hit a man when he is down.

The presence of the king and queen at the scene of the disaster has aroused even more enthusiasm than at the time of the Messina earthquake, the poor souls saying that they did not think their majesties would consider them worthy of so much thought.

Queen Helena was clothed in a short skirt and coat, with common sense boots and she walked from hospital to hospital where she assumed a big white apron, the hem of her own gown being sewn with kisses and her head crowned with such blessings as perhaps no other woman has so earned. She has been indefatigable, so much so that her majesty has begged her to save herself, but in vain, and so several persons owe her their lives, as all about the country the ideas of surgery and attention to the sick and injured are primitive to a degree.

Thus another link has been forged in the chain which binds Queen Helena to her people.

HYDROPHOBIA SCARE

Lafayette, Ind., June 13.—Never before in its history has Lafayette been so agitated by a mad dog scare as at the present time. Not only in the city but throughout the county the ever-increasing epidemic of rabies is causing consternation. The city and county authorities are unable to account for the rapid spread of the disease, and there is wild talk of killing every dog in Tippecanoe county. Conditions have grown worse and worse until it is now admitted by all that the situation is serious. The police are killing scores of dogs, and will continue to shoot down unmuzzled animals just as rapidly as they meet them in the streets. But this does not do away with all the danger, for the pet animals in the homes are beginning to show signs of rabies, and several instances have been reported of women and children being bitten by household pets.

A WARSHIP CRUISE FOR THE MILITIA

Uncle Sam's Naval Reserves Will Be Given a Taste of Real Service.

EIGHT DAYS ON THE SEA

NAVAL FORCES OF SEVEN STATES WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE MANEUVERS OF FOURTEEN BIG BATTLESHIPS.

(American News Service)

New York, June 13.—Members of the Naval Militia in New York and New Jersey have been informed that they will make a cruise on the Atlantic Fleet this summer, and the men are already preparing for the trip, which is expected to be the most instructive and interesting the civilian sailors ever have had.

Heretofore the militiamen, as a rule, have had to be content with summer tours on obsolete cruisers or naval auxiliaries, occasionally participating in the torpedo boat and submarine maneuvers.

Not only are the New Yorkers and

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-BURGLARY-

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