

RACIAL AMITY AIM OF WORKERS HERE

Mrs. Edmund Stirling Says Feeling at Present Is Tensest in Sixty Years

FAULT NOT ONE OF COLOR

The inter-racial feeling has not been so tense in the United States for sixty years as it is now, nor has there been such need for inter-racial understanding.

Such is the belief of Mrs. Edmund Stirling, of 4517 Kingsessing avenue, and a group of white and Negro men and women thinkers who make up the Inter-racial Committee of Philadelphia.

The committee is an offspring of the anti-lynching committee which was formed at the yearly meeting of Friends at Fifteenth and Race streets in 1910.

When its members took up the study of lynching in the United States they found that seventy out of eighty persons found that were Negroes and they felt it necessary to make a thorough study of inter-racial relations.

"The situation throughout the country is exceedingly tense," said Mrs. Stirling. "The economic nerve of the South has been touched by the migration of Negroes from that section. The education of the South, man sees this and is not ready to meet the Negro halfway in order again to get his help in industry."

In many places of the South, educational facilities have been greatly improved and welfare work of value has started among the Negroes.

"Our committee in Philadelphia is a nucleus for future conferences between the races here. There is need for the development of such confidence. There is a 'red' Negro party, a really dangerous anarchistic group. It is not the Negro, but it is a movement that should be held in check. Its members are defiant, revengeful. They completely look forward to riots and trouble. It is this we wish to prevent."

Chance for Understanding "We feel there is a splendid chance to reach an understanding between the races—to bring about working relations, and to make for the betterment of conditions for the Negro. Our committee is only two months old. At its first meeting we discussed segregation. Prominent and educated Negroes on the committee told us their people preferred living to themselves, having their own social life, their own churches, schools and meeting places. But in most districts where Negroes are expected to live, housing conditions are so bad that no decent Negroes want to live there. How can there be uplift; how can you expect them to be clean and decent when you give them filthy places to dwell?"

"There are fifteen colored schools in Philadelphia, where there are hundreds of Negro children. Negro population here has increased almost four times as much as the white population, according to reports from Washington for the last ten years. This is due, statisticians believe, to the fact that Philadelphia needed Negro workers as laborers more during the last few years than ever before. Many of the Negro residents are home owners—here to stay, and they fill an important place in our industrial life. With the halt foreign immigration the need for Negro labor has increased."

"Illiteracy is decreasing in the Negro race by leaps. Last year there were 152 Negro graduates from our higher colleges. When Negroes were emancipated 98 percent were illiterate. In 1910 this percentage had decreased to 50. I do not know more recent figures, but undoubtedly these last few years have meant even greater progress. Virtually all the educated colored folk return to help educate their own people. They want to raise the standards for their race. They do not want to intermarry with the white race."

Color Not Chief Objection "So many are apt to judge the whole Negro race by its average and criminal class. That is as unfair as judging our own people by the lower classes. If you come in contact with Negro artists, poets, talented men and women graduates of Harvard or other higher colleges, I believe color would not make so much difference."

"The inter-racial committee of Philadelphia is not organized with the idea of radically changing conditions here. It is to develop confidence and understanding among its Negro and white members first. We hope these feelings will later spread from our members to others and gradually include all the thinking people of both races. We want to discuss from different points of view race contact, segregation, education, welfare work, industrial relations, social relations—all these are subjects of intense importance."

"Something of today's situation is summed up by Daniel A. Brookes, of this city. He says Negroes of Pennsylvania are united in the beliefs that the migration of thousands of rural Negroes into this state may involve hostile and prejudicial sentiment which, if unchecked, may develop into reactionary, hasty ill-considered action; that Pennsylvania is facing only a small fraction of the benefits that could be derived from the advent of these thousands if opportunities for industrial and agricultural education, adjustment and placement were provided for in a form available to and assimilable by persons unskilled but with practical experience; that successful administering of educational advantages to the Negroes of the state can be accomplished only when Negro representatives are called into consultation on all educational discussion and given partial responsibility for decisions of educational policy."

Special Excursion to the COAL REGION SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13 \$3.25 To Tamaqua and Mahanoy City \$3.50 To Gilberton, Mahanoy Plane, Shenandoah, Girardville, Ashland, Mt. Carmel and Shamokin.

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HUNDREDS HEAR OPERATIC SOCIETY SINGERS



In "El Capitan," Members of the Philadelphia Operatic Society produced the musical play, under the supervision of John Phillip Sousa, its composer, at the Academy of Music last night. It will be repeated tonight. The photograph shows a scene of the play.

THE OPERATIC SOCIETY

Gives Fine Performance of Sousa's "El Capitan" Under His Direction

THE CAST Don Erico Medeiros, Reinhold Schmidt, Senor Amabile Pozzo, Gustav W. Wyatt, Don Luis Casati, Louis J. Martin, Mr. South, Fernando Verrada, Charles F. Robinson, Scaramba, J. Burnett Holland, Savatieri, Mrs. R. A. Robinson, Montalva, General Herbaba, Russell Homan, Mrs. R. A. Robinson, Thelma Melrose, Princess Margharita, Mrs. R. A. Robinson, Isabel, Dorothy Fox

The Philadelphia Operatic Society gave what was one of the best balanced performances of its career when it presented John Phillip Sousa's comic opera, "El Capitan," at the Academy of Music last evening under the baton of the composer before a large, enthusiastic and highly entertained audience.

"El Capitan" is above all things a frankly comic opera of sufficient complexity of plot to avoid the silly and yet not sufficiently so to require any analytical powers on the part of the audience. The music which Mr. Sousa has composed for the opera is entirely in keeping with the libretto and is typical of the work of the American march king; in fact, the march rhythm occupies a very conspicuous place in the musical scheme of the opera.

It was exceedingly well acted and sung. Reinhold Schmidt took the part of El Capitan, a role made famous by DeWolf Hopper many years ago, and did it splendidly. His singing was good, his acting very amusing and his enunciation of words both spoken and sung was clear. His presentation of the part would have done credit to any professional operatic comedian now on the stage.

Frederick W. Wyatt played the other comedy part, that of the Royal Chamberlain, in about as good style as Mr. Schmidt did the title role. Both were exceedingly funny in the parts and yet they were not overdone. J. Burnett Holland made a fortunate investment with the right amount of swag and bullying. The other male parts, while not so important as these, were acceptable performers and sang well. The three female characters were all very well taken. Thelma Melrose made a very personable and attractive Estrelita, with a true and clear voice.



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"ELIJAH" WILL BE SUNG

Tioga Choral Society to Give Annual Winter Concert

Mendelssohn's "Elijah" will be sung at the tenth annual winter concert of the Tioga Choral Society, in the St. Paul's Church, Broad and Venango streets, tonight.

Twenty members of the Philadelphia Orchestra will assist the society, and the concert will be directed by James B. Hartzell. Soloists are Mildred Jones, soprano; Mrs. Ruth Gorenfeld Gibb, soprano; Agnes Reinsider, contralto; Miss Marion Heuber, contralto; Henri Merriken, tenor; James Gibb, tenor; John Mixdorf, tenor; George E. Eunes, basso, and Elmer P. Sackro, basso.

The Tioga Choral draws its membership from among well-known women in the northern section of the city, and the annual winter concert is a feature event in the series of concerts given each year.

WILL MERGE 2 ORCHESTRAS

National Symphony to Be Assimilated by Philharmonic Society

New York, Feb. 3.—Announcement was made yesterday that the National Symphony Orchestra, the youngest symphonic organization in New York, is to be merged with the Philharmonic Society, oldest of American orchestras, that will be continued under the name of the Philharmonic Society, and give concerts in intimate association with the Metropolitan Opera Co. The merger is regarded in musical circles as one of the most important steps ever taken in the development of orchestra music in this city.

Clarence H. Mackay will be chairman of the board of directors of the combined organizations. Henry E. Cooper, president of the Philharmonic Society of New York, will be president of the new Philharmonic.

ANOTHER PHELPS LECTURE

American and English Verse to Be Discussed at Academy

Prof. William Lyon Phelps, of Yale University, will give the fourth of his series of talks on "Which Books Are Really Worth Reading" tomorrow morning at 11 o'clock in the foyer of the Academy of Music. He will take up American and English poetry of today, followed by references to several rattling good stories, as an appreciation of Joseph Conrad's novels. The following are among the books to be discussed: "The Congo," "General William Booth Enters Into Heaven," "The Chinese Nightingale" and "The Golden Whales of California," all by Vachel Lindsay; "Sword Blades and Poppy Seeds," by Amy Lowell; "The Three Taverns," by E. A. Robinson; "North of Boston," by Robert Frost; "The Shoes that Danced," by Anna Hempstead Branch; "Spoon River Anthology," by Edgar Lee Masters; The poems of Maschall Noyes, De la Mare, Gibson and Ralph Hodgson; "A Little Walk in Provence," by Archibald Marshall; "Wanted a Fool," by Philip Curtis; "She Who Was in Love," by Lawrence Binns; "Our Natupski Neighbors," by Cribb, and the works of Joseph Conrad.

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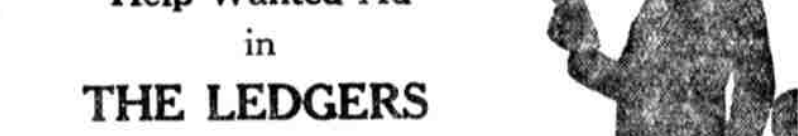
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Daily Photoplay Guide

Table listing various theaters and their current photoplays, including The Nixon-Nirdlinger Theatres, Carman, Century, Belmont, Cedar, Coliseum, Jumbo, Leader, Locust, Nixon, Rivoli, Strand, Astor, Aurora, Benn, and Bluebird.

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