

# GRAND OPERA A SUCCESS IN THE UNITED STATES



CARASA, TENOR.

**A**gain the country is on the eve of grand opera. Song birds flock in the fall. They are at their best when the snow is on the ground or when there are eager and nipping airs in the long winter nights.

The story of opera in the United States begins at New York city—necessarily, because that was the first accessible landing place in the country for the songsters. But after the first few seasons in the metropolis the country grew, and other localities also got in tune. And now there are seasons of opera, and have been for many years, in Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington and Pittsburg in the east, Cincinnati and Chicago in the middle west and San Francisco on the Pacific coast, with intermissions for short seasons. In New Orleans there is an opera house (the only one of the kind in the United States) where French opera is given exclusively in French. It has been in existence for more than a half century.

The public is tolerably conversant with the vicissitudes and tribulations that encompass a season of opera and follow in its wake. The path of the impresario has been more exacting lined than strewn with rosebuds. But the public is music mad and has been ever since a lot of the Florentine nobility got together at the end of the sixteenth century and resolved to free dramatic music from its turmoils.

An appreciation of the growth and spread of grand opera in this country can be had only by a hurried review of its initiative in New York city.

The first home of Italian opera in the metropolis was the Park theater in

1820. After a few fluctuating seasons another place was selected, the Richmond Hill theater, in 1822. The house had been transformed from a private residence that had been occupied by Aaron Burr. The seasons under Manager Du Ponte failed; but, notwithstanding, he persuaded a number of rich men to erect the Italian Opera House, specially constructed with a view of presenting opera of the Italian school. The house was at the corner of Church and Leonard streets. It cost \$175,000 and was opened in November, 1823. It ruined two managers and for some time after the failures Italian opera seemed doomed in this country.

There was a caterer in 1844 named Palmo. He had made a fortune feeding New Yorkers. His place is still remembered by octogenarians. It stood on the corner of Broadway and Duane street. He built an opera house in Chambers street, in the same block as the new hall of records. It was the first theater in the United States that had a tier of private boxes. Its capacity was 800. Opera failed in this house, and the man who put up the building died an object of charity.

Still the public cried for opera. In 1847 the Astor Place Opera House was opened. It was built by 150 New

Yorkers, and opera was produced there for five years. The house held 1,800 people. The management had spirited rivalry from the Castle Garden in Battery park and from Niblo's Garden. On one occasion while the Astor Place was closed its rivals got possession of it and utilized it for a dog show. The scheme worked. It killed the house for opera.

So it was a dog show that led to the building of the Academy of Music, in which the Prince of Wales once danced. The structure cost \$335,000. It opened in October, 1854, and "Norma" was the opera. Her for a generation opera seemed to have a permanent

prosecution being that out of the blankets of an infant suckled by one of them a great toad had fallen and exploded in the fire like gunpowder. Immediately after the witch was found at home scorched and maimed. In spite of unsatisfactory evidence the two were convicted, whereupon the children's health at once began to improve.

Paris' Negro Lawyer.

Hector Apollinaire is the name of a negro who was admitted to the bar in Paris a few weeks ago. He is a native of Guadeloupe, about thirty years old, tall and muscular and very black. He enjoys the distinction of being the only one of his race among the recognized lawyers of Paris.

Test For Neurasthenia.

According to an English court, a test for neurasthenia is to make a man stand up, with head erect and eyes closed, and whistle. A neurasthenic subject, it is said, cannot do this.

Vitality of the Sick.

The vitality of sick people is always lower between the hours of midnight

## The New French and Italian Schools Have Supplanted the Classical Favorites—Growth of the Art In This Country.

in New York city. It remained a resting place for song for thirty years. But the drift of population was over. This led to the Metropolitan. A society fell in with the idea for many seasons, one of which was that it would erect private boxes, and these the old Academy never had. Any mention of the old Academy that failed to recall that it was there that Patti made her first appearance in grand opera in this country would be fatal to a writer. She had previously sung in concert in Tripler hall in 1852.

Birth of the Metropolitan.

The Metropolitan's first director was

signor Vianesi. The house was under the management of Henry E. Abbey. The first performance was in October, 1883. Mapleson was yet hanging on to the old Academy, and the original great war managers occurred while Abbey and Mapleson were rival managers. Mapleson had Patti and Ger-

trian, and Abbey had Christine Nilsson.

As showing how the demand for grand opera was increasing in New York and in the country it is only necessary to state that the cost of the new home, the Metropolitan, including the real estate, was \$1,722,978. Never-

theless, at the close of the first season the loss was \$600,000. A loss in business in grand opera does not within itself mean that the public has failed to patronize. Bad management shatters the most liberal patronage.

In spite of the fact that Abbey lost, he did much to fortify grand opera in the United States. Out of twenty-four grand operas for the season he gave nineteen in New York city, and, besides, he gave outside of the city fifty-eight performances in Brooklyn, Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Washington and Baltimore.

put it on its feet for a short season. The story of grand opera at the Metropolitan since Abbey's time need not be repeated here. It includes the names of Damrosch, Helll, Grau, Conried and—now, Dippel.

It was at the Metropolitan, too, that Savage went, in 1900, with his English opera which he organized in Boston. He made the arrangement with Grau, and the season lasted from Oct 1 to Dec. 15.

It is already stated elsewhere in this article that patronage of grand opera does not imply a fortune to the management. It is recalled that under the directorate of Maurice Grau, who was considered in his time a master in managerial work, he got from the public \$1,000,000 for one of his most successful seasons, but his profit was only \$75,000. But his management and that of those who followed in his steps showed that grand opera was no longer a venture in this country.

Hammerstein's Entry.

Twenty-five years ago it would have been madness for any one to predict that the time would come in the present generation when grand opera in New York city would demand another house commensurate in magnificence and in the scope of productions with



D'ALVAREZ, SOPRANO.

and other towns in which he has built opera houses and where he has given grand opera successfully. If grand opera had not expanded in the country, it is a question in the minds of many whether there would have been two great opera houses in New York city.

While grand opera has expanded gradually in the United States, its most recent success is due to the new school. The manager who produces a old time classical opera now does so for the purpose of exploiting the voice of some particular star rather than because of any demand on the part of the public to hear the opera. Even Wagner is no longer rated as modern.

It does not detract from the glory of grand opera that pleased the fathers to say that the new school has met with the requirements of this commercial age and contributed to the encouragement of present day managers.

In French opera the great nights are those in which are heard such productions as "Pelléas and Melisande" by Debussy; "Louise" by Charpentier; "Thais" and "Herodias" by Massenet; and "Samson et Delila," by Saint-Saens.

In Italian opera among the productions that draw critical and appreciative audiences and add to the success of the management by subscriptions and box office receipts are "Cavalleria Rusticana," by Mascagni, and "La Bohème," "Tosca" and "Madame Butterfly," by Puccini.

Even American opera is faintly making its way toward popular appreciation, as has been shown by recent productions. FRANK H. BROOKS



the Metropolitan, but it occurred when Oscar Hammerstein erected the Manhattan in a part of the city that had never seen up to that time a fashionable audience by night. The Manhattan cost \$2,000,000. It opened in December, 1906. It was intimated in some quarters that the erection of the Manhattan Opera House was the outcome of prejudice and some petty spite. The success of the Manhattan since it opened is an answer to that statement. Prejudice and spite are short lived. If it were otherwise there would have been no occasion for Hammerstein to go to other cities, as he has to Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago

## Porto Rico's New Governor

Colonel George R. Colton, Business Man, Soldier and Former Official in the Philippines, Takes Charge Nov.

PORTO RICO will soon have another American governor, Colonel George R. Colton. He will succeed Governor Regis H. Post, recently resigned on account of the ill health of Mrs. Post, Nov.

Colonel Colton's appointment was made by the president while the latter was at Beverly, Mass., and is the president's first Porto Rican selection.

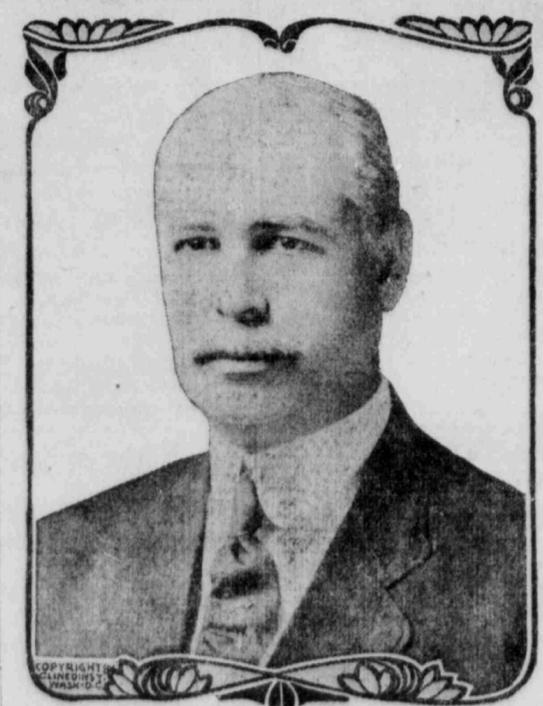
The appointee is of New England parentage, but he is credited to the District of Columbia. He was a business man at the national capital when he was selected by President Roosevelt for the office of chief collector of Santo Domingo customs. In that capacity he familiarized himself with conditions, and this incidentally led him to know something of conditions in Porto Rico. He understands and speaks Spanish and knows the character of the people whose affairs he is shortly to administer. One of the things which specially commended Colonel Colton to the president was his revision of the cumbersome Spanish regulations in regard to port affairs at the time when Mr. Taft was governor of the Philippines.

When matters in Santo Domingo were properly adjusted and running smoothly Colonel Colton was sent to the Philippines on the recommendation of Secretary Taft as assistant collector. He gave general supervision to the fiscal affairs of the islands and drafted the Philippine tariff bill which was passed by the senate and approved on the same day as the Payne bill. He is also responsible for the government inspection and guaranteeing of Filipino cigars.

Colonel Colton has had an interesting as well as a busy life. After leaving college he went to Texas and remained there for awhile, looking over the state and taking a vacation at the same time. He acquired a fondness for western life, and a part of his vacation money went for the purchase of a "drive" of cattle bound for New Mexico and remained in the southwest for four years. He returned to his home in the east, but his stay was brief. He went out to Nebraska and engaged in banking. He was manager of the concern that he organized and remained with it for a dozen years. While thus engaged he joined the First Nebraska regiment, composed of the most energetic young men in the state. Willie Devoy was waiting for troops to take possession of Manila the First Nebraska responded and was the first to arrive on the scene. In one of the attacks on the troops Colonel Colton led his regiment in person, and, although the enemy outnumbered the Nebraskans three to one, the Spaniards were driven back with a loss of 400.

Colonel Colton is the grandson of Chauncey R. Colton, a builder of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad. The railroad builder was noted for his firmness and strong character, and the grandson resembles him in these traits.

Colonel Colton was home from the Philippines on leave of absence when he was tendered the appointment of governor of Porto Rico by President Taft. The president has great confidence in Colonel Colton and expressed the opinion that he had the necessary qualifications for governing the people and conveying them of an earnest desire for their welfare. When Colonel Colton was in Santo Domingo he gained the confidence of President Morales and his cabinet.



GEORGE R. COLTON, GOVERNOR OF PORTO RICO.

error's salary is \$3,000 a year. There is an executive council of eleven members, five of whom must be natives of Porto Rico. The council is appointed in the same manner as the governor. The legislature consists of the council as an upper chamber and a house of delegates popularly elected for two years.

Judges of the supreme and district courts are appointed by the president of the United States, and the attorney general is similarly appointed. REUBEN KAY.

Trial For Witchcraft. One of the most interesting of English trials for witchcraft was that of the Suffolk witches in 1662. The two

## SNAPSHOTS OF INFORMATION.

Lace Developed by Men.

It is curious to know that lace, now almost the unique possession of women, owes its development if not its actual existence to men. When lace was being slowly evolved from drawn work the popes and great prelates of the church used it on their altar vestments and robes, fostered and encouraged its production and paid large sums for it.

Later lace became an absolute essential of masculine attire in ruffs, in collars, in sashes, in garters and even as a decoration at the shoe top. Under the Stuarts the collection of laces became a passion of the court, and noblemen were as frequently known for their possession of rare laces as for collections of valuable paintings or gems.

Texas' Lone Ular.

Texas is said to have selected its Lone Star emblem through a mere accident. A half century or so ago men's overcoats were ornamented with large brass buttons. It happened that the buttons on the overcoat of Governor Smith of Texas had the impress of a five pointed star. For want of a seal one of these buttons was cut off and used. The owner of this overcoat and button, Henry Smith, was chief executive of the provisional government of Texas which, in 1825, preceded the declaration of independence by Texas against Mexico and the winning of that independence in the battle of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836.

Prison Telephone Tricks.

While some prisoners in Helsingfors (Finland) jail were engaged in executing work on the prison roof one of them, a professional electrician, noticed that telephone wires passed close by the windows of his cell. Obtaining, nobody knows how, a telephone apparatus he managed to make a junction with the wires and obtained a local telephone directory. He commenced calling up on the telephone all his friends and acquaintances. When these chats at last tired him he began to "call" the entire prison administration, up to the governor. The telephone worked for about a fortnight, but was finally accidentally discovered by a warder and removed.

London's School For Mothers.

There is in London a school for mothers. One poor woman was dissolved in tears when her baby was unlimbed at the hospital and its wasted limbs revealed. She ingeniously explained her grief by saying that "it was a beautiful child last time it was undressed."

Where Ozone Comes From.

According to Messrs. Henriot and Bonny, ozone is produced by the ultra violet rays of the sun in the upper atmosphere, and the amount contained in the air near the ground increases when the air currents descend from the upper regions.

Savings Banks in Australia.

Australia's government savings banks have \$294,871,324 on deposit, equal to \$425 per capita of the total population of the commonwealth. The accounts average \$162.75 each.

Spiders as Barometers.

Spiders always come out shortly before rain, being advised by their instinct that insects then fly low and are most easily taken.

Germany's Glove Industry.

Germany holds the world's record for glove-making. She has 1,100 glove factories, of which 1,099 make kid gloves exclusively.

Woods Heavier Than Water.

Oak, ebony and mahogany are the three best known woods which are heavier than water.

## Uncle Sam's Treasurer

Lee McClung, Keeper of Yale Funds, Named by President Taft to Succeed Charles H. Treat.

IF Lee McClung, who has been appointed by President Taft to succeed C. H. Treat as treasurer of the United States, is not a politician he will have the satisfaction of knowing that few will have held the job were selected because of their political influence. The exceptions possibly were James N. Huston in the first administration of Cleveland and John C. New, who was appointed in 1875.

The position is a business office and does not offer the opportunities for distinction that other government offices do. The requirements of the office are integrity and solidity and executive ability.

McClung is a business man. After his graduation from Yale, in 1892, he traveled in Europe, and when he returned he made a journey through California. He was paymaster of the St. Paul and Duluth Railroad company and later assistant traffic manager of the Southern railroad. His connection with the Southern covered the period between 1902 and 1904, during which time he was stationed at Louisville. He was appointed treasurer of Yale in 1904.

While treasurer of Yale he became a director in a New Haven bank and also a director of a leading life insurance company of Hartford. As a student at Yale he took a leading part in athletics, playing on both the baseball and football teams for several years, captaining the football team of 1892. He was chairman of the Junior Promoters' committee, and in his senior year he received the largest vote as the most popular member of the class. He was considered the best halfback Yale ever had. Associated with him on the football team were such noted players as the Bliss brothers, James McCormick and the "mighty" Hefflinger. He is a member of Yale corporation and of the leading Yale secret societies, including Skull and Bones. But his selection as treasurer of the United States is based upon his sterling business qualifications.

He is a rich bachelor and is thirty-three years old. He received the degree of M. A. in 1905. His brother, Robert Gardner McClung, is a prominent lawyer in Boston. The new treasurer was born in Knoxville, Tenn., where his father, Frank H. McClung, is a retired merchant. The family is related to Chief Justice Marshall of the United States supreme court and to General Albert Sidney Johnston of the Confederate cause and whose death occurred early in the civil war. Lee McClung received his education at Phillips Exeter academy and Yale. With all his qualifications as a business man the new appointee is what is termed a good mixer, and that means that he is popular. When he was a boy he was noted among his comrades for being "square" and always at hand to help the "fellow who was down."

The department to which he is appointed is a branch of the United States treasury, controlling the national finances. It is the most extensive and complex of all the departments and in fact stands next to the department of state. It employs more than 5,000 people in Washington and has branches and offices throughout the United States.

As treasurer Mr. McClung will be charged with the duty of signing the paper currency and of receiving and keeping the money of the United States and with disbursing the same on warrants properly signed and countersigned. He enters upon these duties Nov. 1.

## Uncle Sam's Treasurer

Lee McClung, Keeper of Yale Funds, Named by President Taft to Succeed Charles H. Treat.

The first treasurer of the United States—known then as the United Colonies—was Michael Hillegas. He was a Philadelphia merchant. He was appointed by the Continental congress and held the office until after the inauguration of Washington. When the colonies ran short of money he and several other rich merchants advanced the necessary funds to sustain the government from their private funds. His successor was Samuel Meredith, also a Philadelphia merchant, an influential friend of Washington and a brother-in-law of George Clymer, a signer of the Declaration. One of the stories of Meredith is that he advanced the government \$120,000 and was never reimbursed. Thomas Tudor Tucker was appointed to the office in 1801 by Jefferson and held it until his death in 1828. He was succeeded by William Clark in the administration of John Quincy Adams. He held the place only a year, for Andrew Jackson came to the presidency then and made a clean sweep. Jackson's treasurer was John Campbell of Virginia, who held the place for ten years. All successors following were men little known in politics. The treasurer at the breaking out of the civil war was William C. Price of Missouri, an appointee of Buchanan.

The most widely known treasurer was Francis E. Spinner, whose signature was a puzzle to the country until it was finally deciphered. He was a New Yorker and was appointed at the suggestion of Chase, secretary of the treasury in the first administration of Lincoln. It was Spinner who first introduced women clerks into the treasury department. He served through the administrations of Lincoln, Johnson and Grant. He resigned in 1873 and was succeeded by John C. New.

Charles H. Treat, who steps aside for Lee McClung, was appointed treasurer in 1905. It was Treat who succeeded the nomination of Levi P. Morton for vice president in 1884. Mr. Treat was born in Maine and became interested in politics after he removed to Delaware. Later he removed to New York and took part in organizing the Republican club of New York city. He was collector of internal revenue for the second district of New York from 1897 to 1902.

FRANK VORLES

More Rain Now in Egypt.

In lower Egypt rain formerly fell very seldom. During the French occupation, about 1789, it did not rain for sixteen months, but since Mahomet Ali and Ibrahim Pasha completed their vast plantation—the former alone planted more than 20,000,000 olive, fig, cotton, acacia, pine trees, etc.—there now falls a good deal of rain.

Cooking by the Clock.

An ideal alarm clock has been invented in Berlin. It has a little saucepan, teapot and spirit lamp attached, which starts boiling the kettle at an appointed time. The clock does not ring until the kettle is boiled. This does not stop ringing until its owner gets out of bed and finally pours hot water into the teapot.

Watch Counts the Pulse.

A pulse counting watch has been invented for the use of physicians and nurses in London. The watch indicates without mental calculation the number of beats of the pulse in a minute.

Vagaries of Climates.

Montreal, with its winters of great severity, is 250 miles nearer the equator than is London. Montreal, indeed, is on the same degree of latitude as Venice.



LEE MCCLUNG, UNITED STATES TREASURER.