

HONORS SALVINI MANY MEETINGS

THE GREAT TRAGEDIAN IS REMEMBERED ON HIS EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY BY SPECIAL PERFORMANCES.

Rome, Dec. 31.—That the Italians love their great men and never lose an opportunity of doing them honor is illustrated by the extensive preparations that have been made for the celebration tomorrow of the 80th birthday of Tommaso Salvini, Italy's greatest tragedian.

In Rome and in other chief cities of the kingdom the anniversary will be observed with special performances in the theaters and with exercises under the auspices of literary and dramatic societies. Probably the most notable of the celebrations will be that held in Florence, where the great tragedian has made his home during the greater part of his life.

Tommaso Salvini is the oldest living great tragedian and his name is a household word all over the world. It is not so long ago that he retired from the stage. He paid his farewell visit to the United States in 1890 and his Othello aroused all of the enthusiasm it had created on the occasion of his American tour in 1886, when Edwin Booth interpreted Iago. Salvini is very fond of recalling his experiences in America. One day, it is told, he was present at a sitting of congress in Washington. When the members became aware of his presence they gave him a perfect ovation, springing to their feet in their enthusiasm, and the presiding officer addressed him words of welcome.

Salvini was born in Milan, January 1, 1829, and began to study for the stage at an early age. He made his debut when he was 14 under the direction of the celebrated actor, Gustavo Modena, and rose rapidly in his profession. Even then he was a fiery, impassioned actor, and the call to arms for Italian independence in 1849 found a ready response in the emotional young man.

He served gallantly throughout the siege of Rome and became a friend of Mazzini, Garibaldi and other leaders. At the conclusion of the war he returned to the stage to achieve an almost endless series of triumphs. When he became a theatrical star of the first magnitude his repertory consisted of Shakespeare, Alfieri, Gaiussetti and many others. His principal Shakespearean characters were Othello, Macbeth, King Lear and Coriolanus.

Early in the '70s the great tragedian determined to change the scene of his histrionic victories to the new world. He first visited Brazil and other countries of South America. His first tour of the United States was in 1873. He gave 126 performances in the larger cities and the financial profits were such as to enable the tragedian to become a landed proprietor in Italy upon his return here. His next visit to the United States was in 1881 and it was also successful.

Salvini was as great a favorite in England as in America. An interesting story is told of his first visit to London. As the theaters were running nightly most of the actors were excluded from seeing him act, whereupon 450 of them sent him a petition setting forth this misfortune and begging him to have a performance for their benefit at an hour in which they could be present. Salvini consented with the greatest pleasure, and in the overflow house which came to see him 500 of the best places were occupied by the English actors.

BIG AUTO SHOW FOR SEVEN DAYS

New York, Dec. 31.—During the next seven days the center of interest for the automobile world will be in the Grand Central Palace in this city. The international show under the auspices of the American Motor Car Manufacturers' association has its opening tonight, after months spent in perfecting plans and making ready.

The vastness of the show this year is indicated by the fact that more than 300 automobile and accessory manufacturers are represented. The exhibits embrace everything pertaining to the motor industry, from the smallest bolt to the finished up-to-date, handsomely modeled touring car.

The exhibition is divided into five distinct departments. The entire main floor and part of the gallery sections are devoted to American and foreign gasoline, steam and electric pleasure vehicles. On the first gallery floor is the commercial and taxicab vehicles and motorcycles. Tires, parts and accessories are distributed about the galleries. The exhibition of commercial vehicles this year is larger and more representative than ever before.

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GOUGHAM GLAD TO SEE NEW YEAR

New York, Dec. 31.—New York is prepared to give a glad welcome to the new year tonight. In years gone by the celebration consisted for the most part of a great gathering of the people about the foot of Wall street to hear the Trinity church chimes. Nowadays things are different. It is estimated that more than half a million dollars will be expended tonight in celebrating the birth of 1909. This sum does not include the cost of many masquerade balls, by which means the foreign element celebrates, nor the thousands which will be spent in the clubs.

The estimate includes only the amount spent in the theatres, restaurants, and for cabs, flowers and favors. Table reservations have broken all records, and in the two score or more popular places along Fifth avenue and Broadway it will be a case of "standing room only."

SAN FRANCISCO WILL CELEBRATE

San Francisco, Dec. 31.—In the increased prosperity of the past twelve-month and the marvelous year of reconstruction San Francisco believes she has cause for rejoicing and for giving a joyous welcome to the new year.

Arrangements have been completed for an old time celebration tonight to give vent to the feelings of the people. Market street, which will be the center of the festivities, will be decorated and illuminated from end to end. Bands stationed at the principal street intersections will contribute to the spirit of festivity and merry-making with which the new year will be ushered in.

NIGHT RIDERS SEEK ALIBIS

Union City, Tenn., Dec. 31.—The introduction of evidence tending to prove alibis for the eight alleged night riders on trial for the murder of Capt. Quentin Raskin was resumed yesterday.

The question of whether a wife can testify for her husband was raised and decided adversely, but the wives of some of the offenders were permitted to testify to an alibi for other defendants.

AIRSHIP FLIES BREAKS RECORD

Lemans, France, Dec. 31.—Wilbur Wright's aeroplane made a record flight of two hours and two minutes today, covering 73 miles, official time. The ship carried one passenger.

Rink will be open until 12:30 to-night.

Grand masque ball at the Rink to-night.

CRONER'S JURY ACCUSES BELL

Denver, Dec. 31.—That Charles C. Dury came to his death from the effects of two gunshot wounds; that the gun from which the shots were fired was in the hands of C. Burdette Bell, and that the killing was felonious, is the verdict of the coroner's jury rendered yesterday in the inquest into the death of Dury.

The death occurred Monday afternoon as the result of Dury's meeting with Bell, who charged that Dury had stolen his wife and was living with her in a rooming house in this city.

Mrs. Bell told the story of the recent incidents of her life. She said that Bell had not supported her for several months; that she had been working at different things in order to help support herself and children; that she met Dury through responding to an advertisement for theatrical performers; that a week before the shooting she went to live with him at the Leon apartments.

She also stated that she had decided to break up the relations existing and that she had told Dury of her intention.

PIONEER DIES AT PORTLAND

JACOB MAYER, A PROMINENT WHOLESALE MERCHANT AND MASON, EXPIRES OF OLD AGE AT 82 YEARS.

Portland, Dec. 31.—Jacob Mayer, pioneer of Portland since 1857, a member of the wholesale drygoods firm of Fleichner, Mayer & Co., of this city, one of the largest wholesale houses in the Pacific Northwest, with branches at Spokane and Seattle, died today of old age.

He was one of the best-known Masons in the United States and the oldest on the Pacific coast. He was Pacific coast representative of the grand lodge of England, having been appointed to that honorable position by King Edward of England when the king was Prince of Wales.

He was born in Hesse Darmstadt, Germany, May 7, 1826.

MERCY MISSION FOR WAR FLEET

AMERICAN BATTLESHIP FLEET NOW NEARING EARTHQUAKE SCENE PREPARED TO GIVE VALUABLE AID TO SUFFERERS.

Washington, Dec. 31.—The matter of dispatching the American battleship fleet to the stricken city of Messina and other Italian points is now under consideration, and a speedy decision in favor of such employment is expected. The 16 warships are now making their way through the Red sea and should arrive at Port Said, the eastern entrance of the Suez canal, by Sunday. Owing to the fact that a full supply of coal and provisions must be taken on, the fleet can hardly reach Messina before January 15. With 15,000 thoroughly disciplined American sailors, a splendid corps of medical officers and surgeons and abundant supplies of medicine and food, it is believed that the American fleet will be a welcome visitor to the shores of Sicily, even a fortnight hence.

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