

# PHILA. NOSES OUT BOSTON IN LITERARY LEAGUE RACE

St. Louis Claims Title and Leaves Quaker City in Puzzling Position as to Appetites of Readers

Are Philadelphia readers highbrows, or are they the type who go in for summer reading all the year round?

What makes this question so important right now is that some book fan out in St. Louis has just announced, out in the literary class in the near-by belt reads better stuff than the cultured public of Boston, Mass. He figured it all out in percentages and columns and decided that every round went to St. Louis by a big margin except one. They read more autobiography in Boston, but there are more people in Philadelphia who tell the story of their lives to the publishers than in any other city.

Until all this information came out nobody knew and nobody seemed to care what Philadelphia read. But when a place like St. Louis is by way of claiming to be a literary center, it's no time for the other cities to hang back.

Philadelphia and St. Louis may have the same general type of ball club, but that hasn't anything to do with literary averages. This is one of those questions of civic life, than which, you might say, there are few more important. Some one or other has said, "Tell me what a city reads and I will tell you what it is." New York reads the ads in the Interborough, Chicago reads crime and punishment, Pittsburgh reads anything—it's a simple rule. But to get back to the question of what this city reads, the answer is "yes," or words to that effect. The simple truth is that the Philadelphia reading public is too clever for the statisticians. The reports from li-

braries, publishing houses and book stores indicate everything from mild intellectual insanity to the point where the bookworm will turn and take a whirl at the light and airy printed matter.

To be concise, the percentage of fiction said to be read here runs from 20 per cent to 60 per cent, which makes the city's reading public either lead St. Louis or trail Boston in the matter of the consumption of stable literary products. The report of the free library at Thirteenth and Spruce streets shows two out of every three books taken home by readers is some sort of fiction.

A large publishing house in the city is

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authority for the assertion that Philadelphia reads from 40 to 50 per cent fiction. The manager of the largest retail book store insists that only 20 per cent of the books sold are fiction and that for the great part the readers of this city are on the trail of facts and uplift and all that sort of thing. The book store manager pointed out that a few pieces of fiction attain a greater publicity than any other form of reading and that fiction readers are the most apt to tell everybody about the books they are reading. He claims that his store sells far more biography, essays, history, literary criticism, poetry, drama and literature than fiction. He declares that 5 per cent of the books sold are poetry.

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## OPERA TO AID SEAMEN

Savoy Company to Appear in Benefit Performance Thursday Night  
The women's auxiliary of the Sea-

men's Church Institute has obtained the co-operation of the Savoy Opera Company in giving a benefit performance at the Broad Street Theatre on Thursday evening for the benefit of the institute.

This fund will be used in renovating and making over parts of the recently acquired property of the old St. Alban's Hotel at Second and Walnut streets. This building will be converted into temporary headquarters for the institute, occupancy of which will be taken shortly until the building fund for the new building has been accumulated. Mrs. Ernest Law is chairman of the women's auxiliary.

**Fingers Broken by Auto Crank**  
John Ewing, of 2727 Aspen street, broke three fingers and fractured his right hand while cranking his automobile yesterday at Broad street and Girard avenue.

# Portage ALL OVERSIZE Tires



**THE PORTAGE PATH**, which passes through the great rubber city of Akron, was once a rude trail over which Indians and trapper guides portaged the canoes and baggage of the early settlers as they journeyed from Lake Erie to the Ohio River.

For many years this trail—the *Cuyahoga-Tuscarawas Portage*—formed the boundary between warring Indian tribes, serving as a neutral strip upon which hostilities were suspended. It was here that Gen. Moses Cleaveland, the founder of the city of Cleveland, set a cornerstone to mark the Western boundary of the United States. By the "Ordinance of 1787" this Portage Path was declared to be a highway "forever free" between the North and the South.

The boundary of the United States is shifted far to the west; the trappers and Indians have gone; the once modest Portage Path is now a broad motor highway. The automobile has replaced the canoe; in place of men have come pneumatic tires to fill the role of "carriers" in modern locomotion.

\* \* \*

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Mid-Month List Now on Sale

# Columbia Records



## Ted Lewis Makes a Date in Cuba

You'll find it pure delight to dance to these two tantalizing fox-trots. Melodious incidental whistling by Ted Lewis himself makes "I'll See You in C-U-B-A" a sure-fire hit. Coupled with "The Moon Shines on the Moonshine," by these same exclusive Columbia artists.

A-2927—\$1.00

## Nora Bayes Sings of Boyhood Days

No one can carry you back to boyhood as convincingly as Nora Bayes. "Patches" makes you ache to wear those badges of boyhood once again. Coupled with the song "Without You," this exclusive Columbia artist's leading feature in *Ladies First*.

A-2921—\$1.00



## Art Hickman Hits Oriental Fox-trots

"Rose of Mandalay" and "Along the Way to Damascus" are two Oriental fox-trots by Art Hickman's Orchestra from the St. Francis Hotel, San Francisco. They'll fill you with all the rhythmic fire for which these exclusive Columbia artists are justly famous from coast to coast.

A-2917—\$1.00

A Few More Mid-Month Hits

- |                                      |        |  |        |
|--------------------------------------|--------|--|--------|
| Rose of Washington Square—Henry Burr | A-2928 | Shadows—Campbell and Burr              | A-2920 |
| Tired of Me—Lewis James              | \$1.00 | Sunshine Rose—George Meader            | \$1.00 |
| Railroad Blues—Fox-trot              |        | Hiawatha's Melody of Love—Medley Waltz |        |
| Yerkes' Southern Five                | A-2925 | —Prince's Orchestra                    | A-6150 |
| Shake Your Little Shoulder—Fox-trot  | \$1.00 | Beautiful Hawaiian Love—Medley Waltz   | \$1.25 |
| —The Happy Six                       |        | —Prince's Orchestra                    |        |

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