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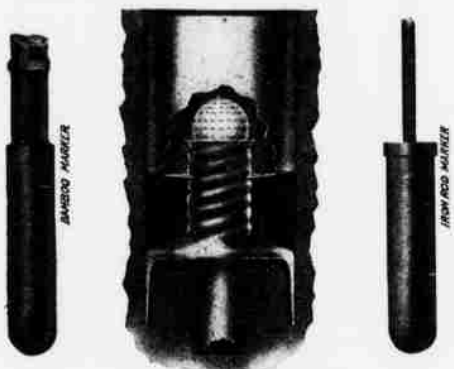
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Conducted by **Ralph W. Page**

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Saturday, December 25, 1915

A Rare Treat

There is one trouble with the enthusi-
ast. He is prone to herald with unmiti-
gated delight any pleasant prospect, a
bane from which we are not entirely im-
mune. Consequence—it would take a
clairvoyant to know whether he is herald-
ing the approach of the Knights of
Pithias or the Stonewall Brigade.

Believing as we do that the only com-
mon ground upon which all men can meet
in a friendly spirit with an open heart
andful of the eleventh commandment and
the utter beauty and tenderness of the
world is in the presence of simple melody,
we exhaust our feeble vocabulary every
time we hear a canary bird sing. We are
a music loving people, easily moved by
the crudest harmony, grateful in our slim
opportunities to the Sunday school choir
and the Victor machine and the cotton
pickers humming casually during the long
afternoon, for what little glimpse we can
get of the ruling passions of the world are
embodied in the folk songs of the Nations
and the battle songs of France, echoes of
the guitars on the Grand Canal and the
student chorus in Heidelberg.

It is peculiarly fitting in her kindly
effort to build up the ideals and the char-
acter of the boys and girls of this neigh-
borhood a generous friend of Young
America should have selected to send a
great singer and a famous violinist to
play for their benefit at the Christmas
season. It is further evidence that the
spirit of human sympathy and Christian
kindness still rules the sad world that two
great artists should give their time and
their talent and take a long journey to
add to the happiness and dreams of dis-
tant unknown children.

Madame Lyska and Wassily Besekir-
sky are going to give a recital at the
Carolina on Wednesday following Christ-
mas for the benefit of the Farm Life
School. It really is small matter who they
are, if they will play the great master-
pieces for us and render the sweet lyrics
of the Old World, and bring some of the
charm and memories of Christmas tide.

But it is always of great interest re-
gardless of the performance, to know
the details of a successful career. In the
palmy days of Orpheus, when 'Omer

smote his bloomin' Lyre, the reputation
of bards and minstrels went forth on the
wings of rumor, and arrived in the pic-
turesque vocabulary of the itinerant liar.
But today the Metropolitan Press has
monopolized the function of Mercury, and
if I am to tell you about these visitors I
will have to lapse into the mysterious lan-
guage of the critics and remark that his
intonation is "unusually impeccable" and
that she sings with "profound vocal
sentiment."

Why a magnificent voice or the play-
ing of a great violinist should call forth
praise in this astounding patois I cannot
tell. But here it is:

New York Tribune.

Mr. Besekirsky proved in the Mendel-
ssohn violin concerto that he is an artist
of artistic sincerity and possessed of much
poise. His style, especially in the last
movement, was finished and his intonation
unusually impeccable.

Boston Daily Advertiser.

Mr. Wassily Besekirsky, has been the
leading violinist of the Court Orchestra
of Petrograd; first Professor of the Vio-
lin of the Conservatory of Odessa; and
has had numerous engagements in the
great cities of Europe. He is one of the
host of many artists who are now descend-
ing upon America because of the war.

Mr. Besekirsky has a smooth tone, and
a very polished technique. Skips, runs,
double-stopping, fairly broad G-string
work, clear harmonies, all those points of
the execution were present in his work of
yesterday. The works in which he ap-
peared showed a wide enough scope. They
were an old Tartini sonata, a Slavie Dance
by Dvorak, a brilliant "Carmen" Fan-
tasia and a Reverie, by himself. The last
named was a poetic work and very ex-
pressively played. Altogether judging by
this debut, Mr. Besekirsky is an artist
of delicacy and refinement rather than of
astounding breadth.

From *La Chronique* we learn that

Madame Lyska, the lyric "Trage-
dienne," deeply impressed us by her
great dramatic power and the extreme
intensity of her voice.

Le Vendredisde Comedie.

Madame Lyska, a great artist, sang
Russian songs with infinite art and pro-
found vocal sentiment.

And again—

Madame Lyska l'eauriate of the con-
servatoire in singing, acting and recita-
tion and who has had the privilege of
working in Germany with Felix Mottl
and in Paris with Massenet, has been
heard in most of the great European cities
where she is a great favorite and is this
season singing in America upon the insis-
tance of her admirers who have heard her
abroad.

Vincent 'dIndy on hearing her, wrote
the following:

"I have heard Madame Lyska and have
been charmed by her voice, so powerful
and sympathetic, completed by deeply
serious dramatic musical knowledge."

She sings in seven languages and her
deep love of work together with her
travels and study of the people whose
songs she sings, has given to the world
a great artist.

Madame Lyska has had the honor of
singing to the Courts of Royalty and to
many of the great people of the world.
In London she sang with great success



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