

THEATRICAL ACTIVITY IN RUSSIA.

AN INTERSTING PREMIERE.

By EMERY DERI.

Theatrical life in Moscow was never before so active, so pulsating, so interesting, as this last season. While the outside world's interest is absorbed by the political development within the Soviet Union and the theatrical circles of foreign countries take cognizance of the wonderful achievements of the Russian stage only when a Russian theatrical company is touring the great capitals of the world, the Russian newspapers reflect an almost unprecedented revival of the theatrical art in Moscow.

No less than forty theatres are playing at present at the Soviet capital, not counting the visiting road troupes, the performances of which are as good or sometimes even better than those of the regular Moscow companies. Almost all performances are inspired by the revolutionary spirit prevalent in Soviet Russia. Playwrights and producers, stage managers and actors are steadily in quest of new means of artistic expression and some of the new plays produced reflect even in their subjects the great transformation of political and theatrical life in Russia.

It seems that the Soviet Government considers the stage as the best means of revolutionary propaganda and encourages the production of plays in which the ideals of the communistic revolution are eulogized.

The best example of this was the interesting premier of the Great Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre, the opening of the new opera "The Decem-berist" by the composer Zolotarev. The first performance has been set to coincide with the hundredth anniversary of the Decem-berist revolt. The libretto is written on the basis of historical data and gives a dramatic picture of the revolutionary movements of a hundred years ago. The new opera, especially the music of M. Zolotarev, was enthusiastically received by the Moscow critics.

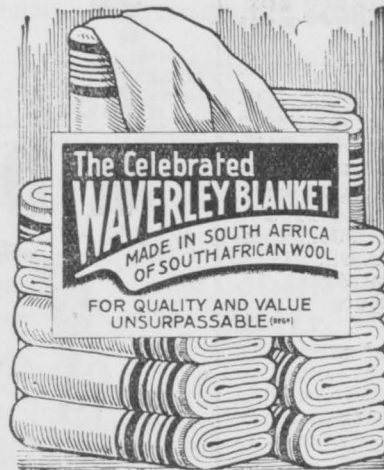
Even the ballet plans of the theatre reflect the revolutionary spirit of the present-day Russian stage. According to the Moscow newspapers, ballet master Goleizovsky has been commissioned to stage "Lalo" and "Don Quixote," two new ballets which are satires of the old style ballet.

The Little Academic Dramatic Theatre, which celebrated its hundredth anniversary last season, will include in its repertoire some new plays that deal with problems of social significance. Fore-most among these will be the performance of "Zagmuk," a play by the young playwright Gle-bow, and "Arakcheyevoschina," written by the manager of the theatre, Platon, around a theme based upon historical documents. Arakcheyev, an irresponsible potentate in the times of Tsar Alexander I, in the beginning of the nineteenth century, distinguished himself by his cruelty and despotism and Platon's drama will constitute a violent attack against the old political system.

The most piquant premiere of the theatre will be, however, the opening of "The Commissar's Brother" by Lerner, which is a bold travesty on Soviet life. It is interesting that the production of the play has been permitted by the Soviet Government, in spite of its unveiled attacks on certain representatives of the Soviet system.

—O:O—

Oh ye who deem one moment unamused a misery,
How will ye weather an eternal night
Where such expedients fail?—Young.



"Waverley" Blankets.

Made from selected South African Wool. Pure White, with whipped ends and Blue borders

Single 19/6.
3/4 Bed 27/6
Double 39/6
Each

Grey "Waverley" Blankets, pure wool, with whipped ends and Black borders.

Single 15/6, 3/4bed 19/6, Double 25/6 ea.

BEDSIDE RUGS.

There's nothing better for smartness, hard wear and warmth, than an All Wool Reversible. Artistic designs in nice Pink, Blue, Fawn, etc. colourings. Ask for Illustrations. Three serviceable sizes.

39/6, 29/6 and 19/6

WINTER COMFORTS

that give added strength to the meaning of the word "Home" never fail to give lasting satisfaction if purchased at



Johannesburg's Largest Furniture Store.
126, Market Street, just off Eloff Street.

ENGLISH WILTON Carpets.

Our big range includes many new patterns suitable for bedroom, dining room and lounge use. The blending of the colours is particularly good. Sizes for all rooms from 6ft. x 4ft. 6 in

FOR COSY WARMTH WITHOUT UNHEALTHY WEIGHT WE COMMEND

A Nice Down Quilt.

Good Sateen covers in well harmonised and contrasted colourings, piped and ventilated, with plain colour panels to tone. With such a big stock, colour schemes can be easily matched.

Single Bed from ...
35/-
Double Bed from ...
45/-

