

# Canadian \$ Beckon U. S. Orks

## Across-the-Border Cities Now Regular One-Night Stands; Cold Canucks Like Music Hot

NEW YORK, Oct. 23.—Canada is looming as fruitful territory for bands in the East with a couple of weeks open time and a yen for one-night money. Toured infrequently in the past by American bands, it is rapidly becoming a regular port of call these days, with about a week's time for the average visiting band and two weeks of one-nighters for the proven money-makers.

Year round Canuck Mart Kenney and His Western Gentlemen tour the provinces drawing from 3,500 to 4,500 paid admissions to the door, and Bert Niosi, billed as Canada's "King of Swing," does almost as well. However, where American bands are concerned, Canadian tastes run to the sultry rather than sweet.

Duke Ellington opens in Montreal November 15 for his second visit in a short time, and Cab Calloway goes north two weeks later. Hal McIntyre played the same spots a couple of months ago, and Les Brown, Jerry Wald and Jan Savitt have also been recent tourists.

### Dough Is Good

Natives shell out for Yankee music, and \$1,000-a-night guarantees are now the established minimums for traveling bands, the bigger names receiving considerably more. Montreal, Toronto, London, Kingston, Ottawa, Hamilton, Kitchener and a few other key cities are the regular stopovers, and a few judiciously booked one-nighters on this side of the border licks the transportation headache.

Besides the single engagements, two clubs in Toronto, the Tic Toc and Kingsway, have been furnishing plenty of employment to our bands, usually small and colored. Fats Waller, "Lips" Page,

Snub Mosely, Coleman Hawkins and John Kirby are among those who have played the spots for two weeks or more.

REGINA, Sask., Oct. 23.—George Hamilton, grandstand booker of Winnipeg, is going for name-band promotions now and has built up a circuit to include Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon and Edmonton. Plans to get Fats Waller, Vaughn Monroe, Lawrence Welk, Count Basie and Joe Venuti for appearances this winter.

First outfit over the route was Fletcher Henderson who played to good business. His trip included a two-night stand at Edmonton, where the coin is flowing freely, and return stops at Saskatoon and Winnipeg. Henderson's Regina date attracted 1,100 to the Trianon ballroom at \$1.10 each.

## ASCAP's Income, Melons Mounting; Juke Box, Factory Fields Seen as Future Founts

NEW YORK, Oct. 23.—ASCAP members attending the semi-annual membership meeting here yesterday, heard Deems Taylor, president of the Society, and John G. Paine, general manager, paint a rosy picture of the organization's present activities and future prospects.

Income for the first nine months of 1943 has reached \$4,722,552, a gain of \$511,831 over the same period last year. Royalty distribution for first six months totaled \$2,363,323, \$280,000 better than last year's first six months, and the third quarter melon amounted to \$1,317,989, the best quarterly cut since 1940.

The bulk of the receipts come from the Society's 871 radio licensees, a gain of 181 for the year. The total of remaining licensees has dwindled somewhat with the curtailment of pleasure driving, altho wired music contracts have increased by 83, for a total of 385.

The present policy of licensing all spots, no matter how small, using music, was reported to have brought under ASCAP coverage virtually every music user in the country. Only 44 are claimed still outside the fold, and these are cur-

## Tommy Ryan Gets Blue Barron Band

NEW YORK, Oct. 23.—Tommy Ryan, ex-Sammy Kaye vocalist, opens at the Edison Hotel here Thursday (28) in front of Blue Barron's band. Ryan became "ex"-Kaye Monday (18), when Mrs. Maria Kramer, operator of the Edison, completed arrangements for the new tie-up, and Kaye gave Ryan a release on his contract which had about three more years to run.

Barron, who reported for army service this week, shares in the band billing and retains a piece of the band, his sister Clarisse looking after his interests with power of attorney.

## Jerome at Pelham Heath

NEW YORK, Oct. 23.—Henry Jerome moves back to the Pelham Heath Inn here November 2 for an indefinite run, replacing Bob Astor. Jerome closed the spot last July, after a 10-month engagement.

## Palitz Handling Recording for Army "V Discs"

NEW YORK, Oct. 23.—Pvt. Morty Palitz is now handling recording dates for the Army V Disc label, the same job he held with Columbia Recording before his induction seven weeks ago.

First shipment of V Discs went out October 10 to all our overseas bases with 30 12-inch records in each kit. Pressings are made by all record companies with plants on the East Coast and the army pays only for materials used. Platters are made from an unbreakable plastic compound requiring no shellac.

About 30 disks cut by live talent, pressed from old masters or taken off the air, will be sent each month but army men in charge hope eventually to have all recordings made by live talent. All performers contribute their services free, Tommy Tucker, Sammy Kaye, Benny Goodman, Morton Gould, Raymond Scott, Marian Anderson and Teddy Wilson already having completed recording sessions. Kits include pop, hillbilly, military, religious, semi-classical and classical music. Pop tunes, which make up about 70 per cent of each month's releases, are mostly standards, many servicemen overseas being unfamiliar with the latest hits.

Project is directed by Capt. Robert Vincent and is under the supervision of the Special Service Division of the War Department.

## Billie Rogers Has Yen for Own Band

CHICAGO, Oct. 23.—Billie Rogers, girl singer-trumpeter, is planning to form a male band and is talking it over with one of the booking offices. Miss Rogers, who leaves the Woody Herman band Wednesday (27), will marry Jack Archer, former manager of the Herman outfit and now a contact man for Mills Music here. Archer recently received an honorable discharge from the army.

ing and promotional work in that field.

The 1909 Copyright Law, which specified that music on coin-operated machines did not constitute public performance unless admission to the premises were charged, is expected to be tested in two suits prepared by ASCAP and already in the courts.

While these are admittedly test cases, and will probably be fought thru to higher courts whatever the decision, Paine expressed confidence that the final decision will be in ASCAP's favor.

## Universal Pays 17½Gs for "Always"

NEW YORK, Oct. 23.—Value of old copyrights to song publishers is highlighted by Universal Pictures' \$17,500 payment for use of Irving Berlin's "Always," the highest price ever paid by a film studio for the use of a single song. Tune will be sung by Deanna Durbin in a new flicker.

Warner Bros. paid \$12,500 to use "Over There" in "Yankee Doodle Dandy" and \$10,000 has been laid on the line a couple of times by MGM for single songs. In the case of Universal, as well as the others, price is paid for use of the one picture only, all rights reverting to the copyright owner.

rently embroiled in copyright infringement suits.

Ruling of the Florida Supreme Court giving ASCAP a clean bill of goods for operation in the State, will bring the Society an additional \$65,000 a year in revenue.

### Two New Fields Being Prospected

The period following the war is expected to increase ASCAP's annual take considerably by infiltration into the juke box and factory music markets. The highest court in England recently ruled that factory use of music constituted a public performance, and the ruling was followed by a deal between the Royal Treasury and the British Performing Rights Society whereby the British Society granted a blanket contract for all factories, receiving 25,000 pounds in English money yearly.

By agreement, this covers the duration period only, and after the war the British Society will presumably be free to arrange a different deal. ASCAP, too, is looking ahead to the time when factories in this country will no longer be engaged in war work, and is laying the groundwork now by extensive advertis-

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