



Ornate interior of Ottawa's Grand Opera House in 1899. Curiously, despite the stone columns, balcony

fish their facility as the young capital's centre of culture. Opening-night balustrades, and elaborate cornices, the chairs in the front row and in the lower right box appear to be ordinary wooden ones. Note the "G.O.H." emblem above the stage.

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girders. Brick veneer was added about six months after the building was completed. The contractor was Mr. Alex Garvock, whose descendants built the Regent Theatre some four decades later.

No mistake can be made about the Gowan brothers' intention to establish their facility as the young capital's centre of culture. Opening-night balustrades, and elaborate cornices, the chairs in the front row and in the lower right box appear to be ordinary wooden ones. Note the "G.O.H." emblem above the stage.

torium, is known to exist.

Opening night was attended by the Governor General, the Earl of Dufferin, and Lady Dufferin, along with several other Rideau Hall dignitaries. Chosen for the occasion were Balfe's *The Bohemian Girl* and Rossini's *Cinderella*, the evening concluding with *Lisichen and Fritsichen*, an opera by Offenbach. Performing the programme was the Hohman English Opera Company, which had appeared at Her Majesty's in the previous decade. Judging by the minutely detailed account of the performance in the following morning's newspapers, the culture-starved, sell-out Ottawa crowd enjoyed the performance thoroughly. At the close of the opera, John Gowan was loudly called onstage by the jubilant crowd. He thanked Their