

"DESERT SONG"

A great success : Gala night at the end :

Stage loaded with flowers

CHELMSFORD'S Regent Theatre was "sold out" on Saturday night, when the final performance of "The Desert Song" was given by the Chelmsford Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society. It was a gala night. Every one of the many popular songs in the show had to be repeated two or three times; the whole cast responded gaily to the loud applause from all parts of the house.

The principals, far from showing any effects of the eight performances, were at their best. So were the chorus and the dancing girls. They had to come on again and again. "A wonderful show" was the unanimous verdict.

At the end of Saturday night's show, it took nearly half an hour to hand up the flowers, baskets of fruit, and other gifts which admirers had sent to the theatre for the performers.

Dorothy Cox, who played the

part of Margot; Leonard Pease, outstanding as the Red Shadow, and Audrey Parrett, a brilliant Azuri, were literally loaded up with presents.

Many others had armsful of flowers and fruit.

By the time the last of the bouquets had been received, the stage was a mass of flowers, colourful costumes, and beaming faces.

Gift for producer

Then, acknowledging loud calls for "Producer," Miss Madge Macklin appeared on the stage, and was given an ovation, both from the company and the house. Miss Macklin was presented with beautiful flowers and other gifts, including a handbag from the members of the cast.

The President of the Society, Mr. Sidney C. Taylor, standing before the footlights, heartily congratulated the performers upon "this magnificent show."

Miss Macklin added her thanks.

Mr. A. R. Barneveld, chairman of the Society, who was also pianist in the orchestra and for the rehearsals, returning thanks, acknowledged the encouraging support from the public.