THE EVOLUTION OF CANADIAN COMMERCE---Seven Pictures

No. 2—The Fortified Trading Post of the French Regime in Canada, When Indians Were Kept Outside the Gates.

Amusements

Royal Alexandra

Mr Hamlet of Broadway.

Judging from the uproarious laughter which frequently filled the Royal Alexandra last night, "Mr. Hamlet of Broadway" is an exceptional mirth-producer. Possibly the title may provoke the idea that Shakespeare's immortal play is being parodied. This is, however, very far from the motive of the farcical comedy that is now presented. It is not the tragedy that is the subject of the musical diversion which bids fair to be the attraction during the exhibition week, but the experiences of the comedian who undertakes at short notice to play the part. Various adventures befall him and these are provocative of the hilarious response which, after all, is the best mark of popular approval.

When the object of an entertainment is frankly amusement criticism is disarmed. And for this season there are worse things than harmless amusement for, after all, where would our National Exhibition be were it not for that all-pervading inducement? In the production of a musical whimsicality which is frankly nothing else to command it than good, wholesome, hearty laughter, something has been done to blow the cobwebs of life away.

"Mr. Hamlet of Broadway" is a thoroly bright and breezy production, depending quite as much on the personality of the players as on the quality of the play. But after all that is not a note of depreciation when the company is all that can be desired. For the lighter and more popular productions it is individual excellence that counts, and of that in "Mr. Hamlet of Broadway," there is enough and to spare. Without reference to public and other bodies that bulk largely in individual instances, this farcical comedy is full of enjoyable happenings, opening up lines of humor which would otherwise remain unknown. That is the best justification of its vogue.

The first night performance was witnessed by a crowd that filled every seat and several hundred stood up at the back.

Princess

The Talk of New York.

The Princess Theatre enjoyed an auspicious opening for the season last night, when George M. Cohan's musical play "The Talk of New York," drew an audience which completely filled the house. The story is well known in Toronto, Victor Moore with a full company having appeared here last season. Briefly told, it deals with one Kid Burns, a race-track plunger, who endeavors to cut into New York society thru the influence of Dudley Wilcox, a millionaire. In this operation he runs into a former acquaintance, who is traveling under the name of Grace Palmer, and who has designs on the Dudley bank account thru the son Joe. Meanwhile Burns is able to win the heart of "Jerry" Wilcox. The duplicity of the one is finally revealed and Burns saves the family reputation by taking the blame for a shooting affair, which was intended to put an end to the Palmer woman, but only wounds her.

Victor Moore as Kid Burns repeated his former success. His characteristically droll humor kept the house in a roar at all times. After the third act he was compelled to respond to a curtain call.

Miss May Phelps made her début to a Toronto audience as Grace Palmer. The part at best is an ungrateful one and would tax the talent of an older actress. But Miss Phelps succeeded in giving it a touch of heart interest, and before the curtain fell at the last act she had won the favor of her auditors.

Of the remaining members of the company Charlotte Gray in the part of Geraldine Wilcox was sweet and captivating, and as Dudley Wilcox, George O'Donnell met every requirement.

The play is full of bright, catchy songs, the humor is pungent and refreshing.

This theatre present a splendid appearance. The interior has been entirely redecorated anad upholstered. Ivory white and gold is the prevailing schemes in proscenium and the boxes and the walls are tinted a rich red.

Every consideration has been shown to provide for the comfort and convenience of patrons.

Grand.

The Gay Musician.

In the presence of a crowded house and with every demonstration of unqualified praise, Julian Edwards' superb comic opera, "The Gay Musician," was rendered last night at the Grand Opera House by John P. Slocum's big company of New York singers, commencing a week's engagement.

For this season, Manager Slocum has gathered together a remarkable company of singers and from the prima donna to the last row of the chorus, each voice can be said to be of melodious quality. The skilled hand of the composer and manager is evident thruout the entire performance, making it go with a swing that caught the fancy of the audience.

Frances Lee, the prima donna, educated for the stage by Oscar Hammerstein, the grand opera impressario, has a magnetic presence and a voice of unusual tone and sweet quality. She easily dominated last night's performance and proved herself to be an artist in every respect.

The same can be said of Harry Benham in the role of the musician and of Mlle Jacqueline Du Barry, who sings the part of his wife. Both are singers of much merit and their various numbers were given with that precision that is so essential to comic opera.

The comedy of Richard Karl, as an old sailor and of Margaret Crawford, as his former sweetheart, kept the audience constantly laughing and their "baby" duet, assisted by the "Dutch Girls," was one of the big hits of the evening.

Roger Gray could not be excelled as an eccentric dancer and his numbers with the "show girls" and the "pony ballot" are among the best of their kind seen in Toronto in a long time.

Leo H. White presents an English role that is not a caricature and dances cleverly and W. F. Ryan is a comedian of much worth and does not overact but portrays his character naturally.

Freda Klingel, as a soubrette, won the audience by her coy acting and a dainty dance that is also one of the hits of the performance.

In fact, the entire company and the show girls, ballet and chorus, have every qualification that makes for success and stamps the organization as one of unusual merit in every way.

The augmented orchestra helped to make the production complete and the Grand is sure to do a banner business for this week, as it well deserves to do. Matinees will be given on Wednesday and Saturday only of "The Gay Musician."

Shea's.

Nellie Waring in Vaudeville.

Nellie Waring is a dainty little Englishwoman who can sing and dance with a vividly alive attractiveness that takes you right with her from the drop of the hat, the lift of the curtain, excuse me. Both of these things she does at Shea's this week. There is something genial and generous about these English comediennes; they give you something more than a sample of their ability. Five songs is what they seem to consider a fair offering, and they keep getting better and better all the way thru, with Miss Waring at least. She is like Lily Lena and Alice Lloyd, and still she is not so like them as she is her dainty and wholly acceptable self. You really ought to hear and see her.

Una Clayton, Mona Ryan and Francis Morey present a human interest sketch written by Miss Clayton, which she has called "His Local Color." It is filled with laughs and the humor is of that whimsical sort that makes you feel better for quite a while. Then Fred Singer has a queer little German fable sort of sketch, introducing imitations of famous violinists and incidentally some very excellent music.

You have heard the remark, "More fun than a bag of monkeys," well, there is lots more fun than that in Maud Rochez's "Naght in a Monkey Music Hall," because there are far more than a bag of monkeys. They are much funnier than the ordinary zoo monkeys, too. If there were anything in the saying, "laugh and grow fat," this act would be a crime.

Eugene Howard and Willie Howard, as the Hebrew messenger and the actor man, are as funny as any four men in their line. They have new parodies and good ones, and their patter is somewhere where they make the laughs. There is nothing the matter with the Basque Quartet. They sure can sing some. Veronica and Hurl-Falls are good acrobats, and the moving pictures are up to previous samples.

Star.

The Cherry Blossoms.

The Cherry Blossoms Company at the Star this week is a two-act burletta with vaudeville acts sandwiched in.

In the first, Mildred Emmerson and company present Lincke's "Glow Worm" creditably. The principal has a sweet voice.

The show opens in Monte Carlo. Several comedians cut up and the chorus executes a number of songs and dances. It is remarkably free from plot and the audience is relieved from thinking.

Princess Sinhari and company give a vaudeville turn illustrative of Oriental scenes, which comprise a snake dance.

The first scene of the second act is laid in "The Isle of Gazook Gazee." (wherever that is). The second is in a coral cairn at the bottom of the ocean, and the third is in the residence of Neptune.

The acts provide the opportune moments for a number of tuneful lays, and between songs the comedians hold forth.

Gayety.

The Parisian Widows

Two solid hours of fun and furious frolic greeted the patrons of the Gayety on Monday afternoon, when Weber and Rush presented their company of burlesquers in "The Parisian Widows." The opening act is staged in several scenes, the first of which shows a burlesque company discussing their troubles to music in a theatrical boarding house. Arthur Bell, as the Dutch landlady, is very funny and sings a bully song entitled, "Love Thy Neighbor as Thyself." The feature of the first part is a scene showing the stage devoid of scenery, with two comedians trying to rehearse, and the difficulties they experience as the property man—Ike Wall—he looks the part—goes his noisy way setting the stage in order for the brilliant dress rehearsal that winds up the act.

The vaudeville portion of the show is distinctly above the average. Miss Belle Bell of "The Musical Bells" sings a catchy song about her little kangaroo and does wonderful stunts on a strange instrument composed of bells. Margie Hilton and her eight Dresden Dancing Dolls called forth repeated encores, while Ben Pierce, nature's pure fool, kept the audience in roars of laughter.

The show closes with a rollicking romp called "Fun in a Department Store," which, tho it is without form and void, gives Emily Miles—as cute as a basket of kittens—a chance to sing her airship song, "Take Me Up With You, Dearie," which fairly brought down the house. The company is a good one and well balanced, while the stage settings and costumes are of the best. Patrons of the Gayety will be well repaid in enjoyment for a visit with "The Parisian Widows," which will run for the balance of the week.

Majestic

Vaudeville Next Week.

On Monday next, Toronto will have another vaudeville theatre. At midnight last night, decorators took possession of the Majestic for the Wm. Morris Inc., vaudeville circuit, with instructions to work day and night in completely renovating the house. The season will open on Labor Day. Matinee and evening performances will be given daily at 2.15 and 8.15 p.m.

C. E. Macmillen, formerly of the Academy, Montreal, will be the local manager. He promised last evening that some of the greatest European vaudeville attractions will be brought along. Next week, for instance, the headliner will be Maud Odell, the famous English beauty, and winner of the Sandow gold medal for physical culture and development. She is just now the sensation of New York. Herbert Lloyd, an English comedian of note, will be seen in a burlesque of vaudeville. Others on the opening bill will be Bosanquet, violin virtuoso; the Yoscarys, acrobats; Scott and Whaley, song and dance artists, and some others. There will be an orchestra of nine pieces and girl ushers. Prices will be 25c and 50c.

Mr. Macmillen is a brother of Francis Macmillen, a violinist, well known thruout Europe. He says that the Morris Inc. have planned a tremendous vaudeville campaign thruout America this season and have opened up 34 new theatres.

Griffin's

New Vaudeville House.

A bang-up bill of refined vaudeville, overflowing with clever comedy and novelty delighted large audiences at the four performances given yesterday at Griffith's Agnes-street fire and ten cent vaudeville theatre, on the occasion of its initial opening. Gerard & Weston, two monarchs of melody, held the head line position, and Princess Suzanne, the midget wire performer, won deserved applause for her novelty turn. Morrison & Davis, singers and dancers, were well received, while Frank Walsh was one big laugh with his funny parodies. The Three Jordans held the audience spellbound with their aerial feats and Patterson & Van more than pleased with their rapid fire conversation and singing. The moving pictures were timely, funny and interesting.

DIDN'T WANT TO BE RESCUED

Drink-Crazed Man in River Cut Rope Thrown Around Him.

BELLEVILLE, Aug. 30.—Luke Shaw, aged 30, unmarried, made an attempt to end his life by throwing himself from the footbridge into the river. He was carried down to the entrance to Victoria Park, where Joseph Bolster threw a rope around him and tried to pull him out. Shaw cut the rope with a knife, gashing himself severely at the same time. Assistance was secured, and the man was taken from the river and locked up. He is said to have been crazed with drink.

FEARS DEATH, SHOOTS HERSELF

Mrs Anna Wilson, Formerly of Toronto, Attempts Suicide at Buffalo.

BUFFALO, Aug. 30.—Mrs. Anna Wilson, who with her husband John Wilson, came from Toronto two months ago, shot herself in the abdomen at her home, No. 44 Elm-street, to-day.

The police are holding the husband, but the woman in her ante-mortem statement said she shot herself fearing that she was about to die from heart failure.

The Wilsons, who were married in Toronto eight years ago, came to this city two months ago.

$20,000 PRIZE FOR AVIATORS.

PARIS, Aug. 30.—The "Matin," believes the time ripe for aeroplanes to leave the racetrack and make real voyages from town to town. It therefore offers a prize of 100,000 francs ($20,000), to the owner of the machine which makes the fastest time in a circuit from Paris to Dijon, Belfort, Nancy, Lille and Paris before August 31, 1910.

A Fast Typewriting Machine.

The Flexotype does typewriting in a wholesale way, a page at a time, from 5,000 to 10,000 pages an hour. It is shown in operation at the exhibition by the United Typewriter Co.

FAIR TICKET BROKERS

Is it Fair to Stop Them Getting Reasonable Commission?

Does it look right for the Exhibition Association to sell thousands of dollars' worth of tickets to gentlemen on a commission basis—understanding that they intended to resell them—and then to insert advertisements in the papers advising the public against buying tickets from them? Does it sound fair? Is it just?

These are the questions that are being propounded by some of the gentlemen at whom the following lines were aimed in the press announcement of the Exhibition Company:

"The public are warned against buying tickets on the street."

As a result of these notices Inspector Black yesterday told some of the six-for-a-dollar vendors that they weren't within their rights and to "move on." But the men protested their rights and went on selling without further molestation. Last year the association threatened to summon these people for selling at prices which netted them more than their 10 per cent. commission. Legal advice indicated that there were no grounds for prosecution and they were not pressed.

Again, this year, thousands of tickets were unloaded on the curb speculators. As late as Friday morning these bulk sales were made; but on the following night the "beware" ads were inserted in the newspapers.

While speculation in tickets might be undesirable when it comes to charging a person more for the article received than he might pay if he bought it under other conditions, yet it can be said that the speculators have always given value at least for their money. Even if they sold at $1.50 per six tickets, the price would be the same as that charged at the wickets. Different prices are being asked for almost every mercantile commodity at different shops; but so long as the privilege of buying at the cheapest isn't cut off there should be no kick coming.

If the exhibition people feel that the public should be protected, they could go about it in some other way than by selling to wholesale patrons and then trying to kill their chances of getting rid of what they buy.

Mossop's Opens To-Day.

Mossop's new eight-storey hotel on Yonge-street, just south of Melinda, will open its doors to the traveling public to-day. Eighty rooms will provide sleeping accommodation for about 200 guests. The hotel is to be run on the European plan, and a handsome grill room will cater to the wants of the inner man. The fittings thruout are fine and up-to-date and the house is fireproof. The new hotel should do its share of the exhibition trade.