

INTERESTING MINUTES WITH "THE MAN BEHIND"

How Scenic Equipment of Popular Plays is Produced.

NATURE IMITATED AT SHORT NOTICE

Interview with Harry Valerio, Scenic Artist of the Thompson-Woods Stock Company.



HARRY VALERIO

During the past few weeks theatre goers who have enjoyed the productions of the Thompson-Woods Company in the Opera House expressed great admiration at the complex manner in which the company's offerings were staged. In fact this department of the production has been the subject of as much favorable comment as any other, and it is fitting that it should be so, for a dramatic production without appropriate scenery would be like a valuable picture in a cheap frame—the excellence of one would suffer through the mediocrity of the other. Few theatre patrons, even the seasoned first nighters, realize the amount of work necessary to properly mount any one of the plays that St. John audiences have enjoyed.

In the case of a travelling company with pretensions to completeness special scenery is always carried with the troupe, but in a stock company that is not possible. Consequently it is necessary to paint and prepare complete new "sets" for every production staged and this fact will probably serve to answer the question so many theatre patrons propound when the company first came to St. John, "Why do they confine themselves to one bill a week? Why not give us more frequent changes?" The answer is plain in the light of the fact stated.

The company use none of the regular Opera House equipment with the exception of the curtains and stage frames, but all scenery is painted as it is needed.

How it is Done
When a new play is placed in rehearsal the scenic plot is handed to the scenic artist at the same time the members of the company receive their parts. While an actor is studying his lines the scenic artist and stage manager are just as busy producing the effects required. If the first scene calls for a hotel office it is the business of the scenic artist to produce that office, must the villain throw the shrinking heroine into a river or over a cliff in the thrilling second act, the scenic artist must have a cliff or river to receive her. Nothing is impossible—but, and here whispers a secret—many of the scenic effects that look so well from the front cause laughter or dismay if seen from the rear.

The End of a Freight Car

When a Standard man climbed 367 steps to the paint gallery of the Opera House stage one day this week he saw Harry Valerio, the Thompson and Woods' scenic artist, and his assistant Joseph Vera, he found them working away in close proximity to the roof. They were painting a scene for the production of next week's play "Get Rich Quick Wallingford," the particular piece of work upon which they were engaged being an interior view of the office of Wallingford and Company. Now it is more than likely that the office scene will be seen and admired by hundreds of theatre patrons next week, and it is not at all likely that their appreciation of it will be one whit lessened by the knowledge that part of it was saw service as the railway depot waiting room in the production of "The Travelling Salesman" and the rest of it did duty as a freight car in "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch."

Working from Photographs

Mr. Valerio willingly talked of his work. He was in overalls and jumper, and was busily engaged in producing on the top of "freight cars" doors and windows, properly lettered. His pattern for work was a flash light, photographic reproduction of the stage setting for the same scene when it was produced in New York, and his task was to reproduce the effect as far as possible. As far as the Standard man had an opportunity of observing he was succeeding very well. "When we get orders for a production we are usually supplied with drawings or photographs of the set used in the original production of the piece, and we work to reproduce the effect. That where the art comes in, it is not difficult to reproduce straight scenes such as interiors, but special effects are more difficult and are what every scenic artist works for. A sea scape, for instance, with a lighthouse lamp. There is also an opportunity for a good effect in next week's bill, when some of the scenes shows a lighted city in the distance. The bill we played this week also offered good opportunities in the village scene in the first and last acts."

It may be mentioned, although Mr. Valerio was too modest to say so, that the same village scene to which he referred was generally conceded to be one of the finest examples of stage craft ever presented to local theatre goers.

A Clever Craftsman

Mr. Valerio, although but a boy in years, has had a long period of experience in his chosen line of work.

FRENCH CARDINAL PUTS BAN ON THE TANGO AS OFFENSIVE TO MORALS

Those who Take Part in It Must Do Penance.

FRENCH ACADEMICIAN CALLS IT CHARMING

Jean Richpin Traces it Back to the Religious Dances of Ancient Egypt and Greece.

Paris, Jan. 9.—Cardinal Leon Adolphe Amette, archbishop of Paris, in an admonition which will be published in the churches here tomorrow, forbids the dancing of the Tango as a sin which must be confessed and for which penance must be done.

"We condemn," the archbishop said, "the dance imported from abroad known under the name of the Tango, which, by its nature, is indecent and offensive to morals, and Christians may not in conscience take part therein."

"It will, therefore, be the duty of confessors to take notice of this in the administration of the sacrament of penance."

Abbe Gouget, of the archbishop's household, said today that His Emphasis for some time had been distressed by the persistence of the vogue of the Tango and had hoped that it would be transitory, but he felt it his duty now to intervene formally.

Cardinal Amette also will publish tomorrow an official admonition on the dancing and eccentricities of modern dress.

"We remind the women," the Cardinal will say, "that they should observe always the rules of Christian modesty which too often are violated. We ask Christian women to unite in abolishing certain styles of dress which are contrary to decency."

Jean Richpin, a member of the French Academy, and his wife, who are the joint authors of a new comedy entitled, "The Tango," at the opening performance at which Premier Poincare was present, availed today that the Tango, as danced in the saloons of Paris, was a charming dance, adding that they had searched vainly for suggestions of immorality. Mr. Richpin said:

"I respect Cardinal Amette's decision, but must, nevertheless, reserve the right to refer equally to the authoritative utterance of St. John Chrysostom, who, in his time, did not condemn, but, on the contrary, approved dances such as suggestive as the Tango."

M. Richpin recently read in the French Academy an essay tracing the descent of the Tango from the religious dances of Egypt and Greece. Andre De Fouquieres, who, a year ago, delivered a series of lectures in America, today said that Cardinal Amette's prohibition of the Tango would produce profound emotion and dismay in Parisian social circles.

Concord, N. H., Jan. 9.—Hearings before the commission appointed by the United States court to determine whether the release of Harry K. Thaw on bail would endanger public safety were concluded today and three members of the commission went to Boston to consult their colleague, Dr. Morton Prince, who has been confined to his home by illness.

It is said that the findings of the commission will be filed with Federal Judge Aldrich within a few days.

He is an old employe of the Thompson Woods forces having painted many productions for Mr. Thompson from the Boston office. He was born in the Hub, and from childhood evinced a taste for painting. When at school he was successful in winning a number of prizes in competition for painting, and when he started to seek a career for himself, naturally turned to the line of work for which he had a natural bent. He was engaged in Boston theatres, and before joining the staff of Mr. Thompson, did considerable work in painting sets for vaudeville acts through New England, and also in dramatic productions. His associate, Mr. Vera, has been with him for several years, and the two work together in good shape.

Asked as to his pet ambition Mr. Valerio said it was to open a scenic studio in Boston or New York where he could mount and paint the equipment for big productions. Until he is able to realize that ambition he is well content to work in stock, as he says it is as good as a school where one has to paint a complete production every week, and get new effects in each. Although he remains unknown to the majority of theatre patrons, he has just as good an opportunity to win praise for his work as the company members who appear in the speaking roles, for every time a criticism of a play makes mention of the excellent scenic mounting, it is direct commendation for the art of Harry Valerio and his assistant, Joseph Vera.

NEW BRUNSWICK APPLES ARE IN GOOD DEMAND IN ENGLAND

Shipments Going Forward in Good Condition and Bringing Satisfactory Prices — Royal George and Lakonia will take away Large Quantities of Apples—December Exports.

A considerable quantity of apples was shipped from St. John during the month of December, and S. L. Peters, the Dominion Fruit Inspector, is of the opinion that the shipments during the present month will be considerably in excess of those for December. The steamers now in port, Lakonia for Glasgow and Royal George for Avonmouth will take away quite large quantities of apples. Apples from the cold storage plant are going forward in nice condition, and the enquiries being received from Great Britain indicate that New Brunswick apples are growing in popularity with consumers.

Mr. Peters said that owing to the general scarcity of fruit the apple shipments from this port this winter are not likely to be as large as last winter, but good prices are being received in the English market, and the returns will be satisfactory to shippers.

Mr. Peters, the Dominion Fruit Inspector, supplied The Standard with the following memoranda of shipments of apples from Port of St. John N. B. between December 3rd, 1915, to January 3rd, 1916.

Dec. 3rd, 1915, 3rd steamer Montreal, London, 200 barrels.

4th, steamer Cassandra, Glasgow, 6 1/2 boxes, 3,500 barrels.

10th, steamer Tunisian, Liverpool, 100 boxes, 146 barrels.

11th, steamer Pomeranian, London, 516 boxes, 313 barrels.

11th, steamer Manchester Port, Manchester, 1,641 barrels.

11th, steamer Rappahannock, London, 2 barrels.

16th, steamer Royal George, Avonmouth, 150 barrels.

17th, steamer Montfort, London, 654 barrels.

18th, steamer Saturnia, Glasgow, 657 boxes, 348 barrels.

20th, steamer Kanawha, Liverpool, 448 barrels.

20th, steamer Manchester Porter, Manchester, 854 barrels.

21st, steamer Kanawha, London, 259 barrels.

21st, steamer Gramplan, Liverpool, 29 boxes.

31st, steamer Montrose, London, 1 box, 1,003 barrels.

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3rd, steamer Manchester Corporation, Manchester, 588 barrels.

3rd, steamer Kanawha, London, 1,200 barrels.

Total shipments for month, 1,363 1/2 boxes, 12,304 barrels.

Alberta Members Will Meet Premier

Delegation of Sixteen on way to Ottawa to Discuss Matters of Interest to the Prairie Province.

Winnipeg, Jan. 9.—Sixteen Conservative members of Alberta Legislature, passed through Winnipeg this morning en route to Ottawa, where they will discuss with Premier Borden and his colleagues a number of questions of vital interest to the prairie provinces in general and to Alberta in particular. Members of the party stated that the chief matters to be considered would undoubtedly be the Redistribution bill as it concerns Alberta and the transference of natural resources to the provinces.

The S.S. Pandosia

Las Palmas, Jan. 9.—Passed S.S. Wright bound from Antwerp to Buenos Ayres.

SANITORIUM MEETING HAS BEEN POSTPONED

Tuberculosis Hospital Commission to have Met Yesterday—Construction to be Started in Spring.

A meeting of the commissioners of the St. John County Tuberculosis Hospital was called for yesterday, and some of the commissioners came to the city to attend, but as the chairman, Com. H. B. Schofield, was not present, the meeting was adjourned. The architect's plans for the building have been completed. It is intended to start construction work early in the spring.

Kennebecasis Fishing

A large number of men, young and old, are taking advantage of the mild weather and are fishing on the Kennebecasis river near Millidgeville and Sandy Point. On Thursday several of the fishermen caught as many as fifty hake and several codfish.

NEW YORK SOCIETY DIVIDED IN ITS OPINION OF THE TANGO



"I quite agree with Cardinal Farley and with others who are opposed to the tango as it is often danced," said Miss Elisabeth Marbury. "Many there are who do not know the proper way of dancing the modern dances, and this has given rise to the criticism against figures which are really pleasing and graceful."

"Shocking! Simply shocking!" exclaimed Mrs. Emma Kip Edwards, of the New York City Federation of Women's Clubs, who was looking on. "I never saw anything worse than these new dances. They may be all right for those who have rheumatism and need to be limbered up, but there is neither grace nor beauty in them."

Mr. Irving Brokaw, of New York, who last winter won the first prize at society's first competition in tango dancing, said that a dancer of good taste would not hold his partner in a manner to be criticised and that much depends upon the way in which the tango is learned in the first place.

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FORMER ST. JOHN TRUSTS CANDIDATE FOR OFFICE

RUMORS OF MORE TRUST DISSOLUTION

FINISH—MORGAN AND BAKER BIG STOCKHOLDERS.

Southern Railway Voting Trust Said to be Near Its

New York, Jan. 9.—Rumors current today that the Southern Railway voting trust is soon to be dissolved were characterized in official quarters as at least premature. A majority of both classes of Southern Railway stock has been held by the trustees—J. P. Morgan, George F. Baker and Chas. Lanier—ever since the company's reorganization in 1902. Efforts to terminate trust were made several years later, but these were successfully opposed by the more important trusts. Since then the trustees have several times made known their desire to retire, but have held on at the request of the interests which voted their retention in 1907. It is known that the Morgan interests and those allied with them have recently contemplated an early dissolution of the trust and negotiations to that end are understood to be in progress. The trustees feel that their mission has been accomplished and that no reason now exists for the continuance of the trusteeship.

Moreover, the termination of the trust is known to be in keeping with the new policy of J. P. Morgan and Company, several of whose more active partners recently withdrew from some thirty corporations and announced their intention to retire from others in the course of the early year.

ISLAND LADS RECEIVE THEIR PRIZES IN THE FIRST AID COMPETITION

Were Members of First Team of Queen Square School Cadets—Were Presented with Small Rifles.

Charlottetown, P. E. I., Jan. 9.—Five happy lads, C. Dougan, M. Sinnott, G. Moushian, C. Proug and W. Proug, composing first team of the Queen Square School, winners of the first aid competition at Prince Edward Island Cadets, received their prizes today from Mr. Justice Hassard, president of the Island branch of St. John Ambulance Association.

The prizes were the five cadet Ross rifles which Hon. Wallace Nesbitt, K. C., of Toronto, preceptor of the association has donated to each province for the above competition. Dr. Yeas, secretary of the association, conducted the examination.

In speaking at the presentation, he pointed out that since the cadet movement began, more cadets won trips to the D. R. A. meet at Ottawa from the Island than from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick put together. In 1912 only three cadets shot their way to the second stage of the Governor General's match. All belonged to the Island.

Last year one of these, Percy Landrigan, won the cadet aggregate for Canada and stood 28th on the list of 700 marksmen from all parts of Canada.

CHURCH SERVICES

Centenary Methodist
Rev. W. H. Barrackough, B. A., pastor—11 a. m. Rev. J. A. MacKeigan, B. A., will preach, 2.30 p. m., Sunday school and Bible classes 7 p. m. Pastoral subject, "The Street." The last of the series on "Our Educational Forces."

The Centenary Brotherhood will meet on Tuesday evening instead of Sunday afternoon to hear the National Secretary of Men's Brotherhoods, Mr. Thos. Howell.

Royal George Concert
The committee making the arrangements for the grand concert by the Royal George entertainers on Monday evening, desire to state that all the costumes have been designed and made on board the Royal George; the band instruments and properties having been purchased from Gamage's, London. Attractive souvenir programmes may be had from the ushers. Admission for this concert 25 cents.

Congratulations
Norman L. McGloan, manager of the Trust company of North America, with head offices in Montreal, arrived in the city yesterday and is the recipient of hearty congratulations upon a happy nuptial event soon to transpire. Mr. McGloan is a former young St. John man who has won distinctive success in Upper Canada.

Henry E. Hagan Running for Berth in Boston City Council.

BACKED BY GOOD GOV'T ASSOCIATION

News of former New Brunswickers in and around the "Hub" — Mrs. Ellis Trying to Get Daughter.

Boston, Jan. 9.—A bitter mayoralty campaign is being conducted by two Democratic factions, and many charges have been made by each side. Thomas J. Kenney is being supported for mayor by the regular Democratic organization, many Republicans and the Good Government Association. His opponent is Congressman Cursey, head of the so-called Tammany forces. There is no regular Republican candidate, and Mayor Fitzgerald is not in the field.

The election will be held next Tuesday. Interest in the fight seems to be largely of a local nature. St. John is represented among the candidates. Henry E. Hagan, of the Dorchester district, a retail shoe dealer, is a candidate for the city council. He was born in St. John 48 years ago. He is strongly recommended by the Good Government Association, the leading spirit of which was Edmund Billings, collector of the port of Boston and a native of St. George, N. B.

Police Commissioner Stephen O'Meara made a statement today denying a report that he intended to resign as head of Boston's guardians of the law. Mr. O'Meara is a native of Charlottetown, and was formerly a newspaper publisher here.

Collector Billings is endeavoring to make the much abused customs service popular. He makes the announcement that he expects all his officers to be polite, and asks that the public be courteous. Mr. Billings says: "Before Stephen O'Meara taught the public to respect the difficulties under which the policeman performs his duties, it was the fashion to abuse the officer at all times and in all places. I have gone by thanks to Mr. O'Meara's intelligent and spirited defence of the men. But it is still the fashion for people, especially for tourists, to say harsh things about the hard working and faithful customs inspectors. I hope to be as successful in altering the public attitude toward the men in the customs service as Commissioner O'Meara has been in his department."

Mrs. Harriet C. Ellis, wife of Rev. John Ellis, who fled to Japan with his young daughter, has issued a public appeal for funds to aid in recovering the little girl. Her lawyer, former Senator Roger Sherman Hoar, thinks there is a good chance of recovering possession of her daughter through the courts of Japan. In the meantime an effort is to be made to induce Ellis for jewelry by the Massachusetts courts. The former St. Stephen man continues to reside in Tokio, where he is teaching.

The feeling in New England railroad circles has improved by the announcement that a receivership for the Boston and Maine will be avoided. The road's stock has strengthened in consequence. The employees of the New Haven and Boston and Maine railroads are somewhat uneasy over the new retrenchment policies.

Rev. Andrew J. Gray, D. D., of Danville, Ill., formerly of New Brunswick, will spend the winter in Egypt and the Holy Land as secretary for an educational touring party. His address is now care of Barling Bros., 8 Bishopsgate, London, E. C., England.

The death is announced of John W. Dalton, of Dorchester, Boston, formerly of Prince Edward Island. Mr. Dalton was a brother of Hon. J. W. Dalton, the well known fox promoter of that province, who was visiting him at the time of his death.

Other recent deaths of former Prince Edward Islanders here included those of Mrs. Phoebe Gallant, widow of Silvanus Gallant, aged 71; and Adam Murphy, of 26 Frothingham avenue, Charlottetown.

A MOTOR BOAT TRIP
Messrs. Francois Lamoureux and Arthur Rossiter Windus, left yesterday morning on a prolonged lobster and juniper trip.

Unfortunately forgetting their lobster traps, their friends are hoping that they will have some measure of success gaining, although they are of the opinion that it is extremely difficult to shoot lobsters.

County Authorities Puzzled
The county authorities are puzzled over the payment of a bill of \$79 incurred by the hire of teams to take the chain gang out to the Parish of Simonds where they were working on the roads last summer. The county has no funds for this purpose, and the Highway Board of Simonds left no money available.

A Defective Conductor
The North End police have reported Edward P. Raymond for having a defective water conductor on a house for which he is the agent at 673-675 Main street. They have also reported Nathan Jacobson for having a defective and dangerous awning, which extends over the sidewalk from his store on Main street.