MC 2035 POOR DOCUMENT

DOINGS OF THE STAGE AND SCREEN

Grace George, Well Known Here, to Direct For Husband

PRICE WEBBER ILL

Late Plays and Photoplays; Dallas Welford Scores; The Klark-Urban Co.; Fred Frear in Comedy; Charles Chaplin Films

William A. Brady has announced his plans for the new season. Most important is the permanent Playhouse company under the direction of Grace George (Mrs. Brady), who is a prime St. John favorite. The theatre will launch its season on Sept. 20 with Langdon Mitchell's "The New York Idea." There will be frequent changes of bills. Miss George has just closed a contract by cable with Kenneth Douglas, last seen in "A Pair of Silk Stockings," to play the George Arliss dole. Conway Tearne and Mary Nash will be in the organization.

Mr. Brady's announcement indicates that the stage has not lost Robert Mantell and DeWolf Hopper permanently to the screen. Early in January Mr. Mantell will be presented in a revival of "Henry VIII." Mr. Brady is trying to persuade Sir Herbert Tree to participate in the revival. Mr. Hopper will appear, in the spring, in revivals of "Wang," and "El Capitan," along with one new opera.

Is sickness a just cause for a strike? A group of Tssanay extra men think so, with the result that a number of scenes in "The Woman Hater," written by C. Chatfield Taylor and featuring Henry B. Walthall, had to be retaken. The script called for the use of a yacht, but the Lake Michigan gales were so cruel that the extra men all got seasick. When they were ordered to repeat the performance the next day they calmly refused, saying that seasickness was not part of an extra man's job, with the result that all the scenes they had previously appeared in had to be retaken with a group of extra men with stronger stomachs.

For use in taking the various scenes in "The Great Divide(" which Romaine Fielding is directing for the Lubin Company, he has invented a collapsible studio building and a portable electric light plant mounted on an automobile and generating its own power. Ethel Clayton and Robert Kelly have the stellar roles in this production.

Louis J. Gasnier, general manager of Pathe, is now making the necessary arrangements for the production of a novel series of three-part features under the general tale "Who Is Guilty," or "The Struggle For Life." The pictures are to be somewhat similar to the "Who Pays" series, which were such an unprecedented success, and, like them, each picture will be complete in itself, yet all will deal with the actual problems of life, presenting them in a forcible and graphic manner

Price Webber Ill.

The news that Price Webber is quite ill at his home in Augusta, Me., will be heard with regret by many old friends in St. John, who esteem the veteran actor and his wife, Edwina Grey, most highly. The word was received this week by F. G. Spencer. Mr. Webber was to have played an engagement at the Opera House here early next month, and old admirers in this city were looking forward to the event with interest. This is the first time in forty years that Mr. Webber has missed an engagement owing to illness. There will be many throughout eastern Canada and New England who will hope for his speedy recovery.

Charles Hopkins has selected Jules Eckert Goodman's dramatization of Robert Louis Stevenson's story, "Treasure Island," as the first play of the new season at the Punch and Judy Theatre. The play is in four acts and six scenes. The settings will show the old Admiral Benbow Inn, the quay at Bristol, the deck of the treasure ship Hispaniola, the Stockade, Spyglass Mountain, and Red Gunn's cave. The stage rights of the play were obtained by Mr. Hopkins from the Stevenson estate, represented by Lloyd Osborne.

Dallas Welford, who scored in Madame Sherry" in St. John, made an instant hit in New York this week in a new comedy, "Cousin Lucy," supporting Julian Eltinge.

Great care has been used in selecting the cast for the Vitagraph production of "Green Stockings," the adaptation of the successful play in which Margaret Anglin starred for three seasons. The leading roles will be handled by Lillian Walker and Stanley Dark, who was Miss Anglin's leading man for three years. The balance of the cast includes Charles Brown, John T. Kelly, Charles Wellesley, and Denton Vane.

Edna Goodrich returned on the St. Paul last week after two years abroad. Much of the past year has been spent as volunteer relief worker and hospital nurse. After a vacation of three weeks, spent probably in the Rockies, Miss Goodrich will go to California to act before the Lasky motion picture camera.

Fred H. Speare, who played in St. John in "The Merry Widow," and who created the role of Boris Andrieff in "Potash and Perlmutter," has been engaged by Al. H. Woods to play the leading juvenile role in "Potash and Perlmutter," this season.

Adelaide Wise, who has been visiting her brother, Tom Wise, at his City Island home for the past three months, left for Los Angeles last week to resume her work there in the motion picture field.

Klark-Urban Co.

The engagement of the Klark-Urban players at the Opera House is proving popular. Their presentation of "Within The Law" as an opening bill drew large houses, and the audience were well satisfied with the production. The show was undoubtedly one of the best offerings from a dramatic view point, offered to local stage followers in many months. The company has a nicely varied repertoire, and their stay should be welcomed. One of the greatest laughing successes in many years, "Stop Thief," in which a former local favorite, Mary Ryan, made a pronounced hit in the states, is included in next week's bills.

United States District Judge Morris has ordered the seizure of unauthorized and fraudulent Essanay-Chaplin films at Duluth, Minn., and issued an injunction against the use of films said to violate the Essanay copyright. Several films were also seized in Chicago.

Owing to the popularity of the Charles Chaplin films there have been several cases in which fake productions have been issued. In other cases films have been rented from the General Film Company, which distributes the Chaplin films for Essanay, and the film copied, and these copies sold or rented out as the original Chaplin productions.

The Essanay Company charges that the copying of these films is in violation of its copyright and that it will prosecute every case brought to its notice. This action was decided upon both to protect its own rights and to insure the public of seeing a genuine Chaplin film when advertised as an Essanay-Chaplin comedy.

Many complaints have been received by Essanay that films advertised as Chaplin's were spurious. Essanay announces that in order to protect the public it will not cease in its efforts to prosecute these film pirates until all have been driven out of the country.

The New York Mirror says Margaret Anglin is a California enthusiast. "Its skies, its climate, its glowing color are elements in my gratitude," she says, "but are minor compared with the obligation I feel for the appreciation which has always been shown to me in all of my theatrical efforts. I have played to many audiences all over the world, from the squat Arab, the volatile French and to the crowd in the Circus Schumann of Berlin, where Reinhardt produced the Oedipus Rex of Sophocles, but nowhere have I encountered the courtesy, the consideration and the kindly disposition of California audiences, who seem to encourage the artist, rather than challenge her, and whose pleasure it is to evoke the best that there is in one."

Safety First.

In order to discourage the growing tendency of the audiences at the Hudson Theatre to take sides during the performance of Roi Cooper Megrue's new drama of war, "Under Fire," Selwyn & Company have inserted the following request in the programmes:

"'Under Fire,' while dealing with certain phases of the great war, attempts to be neutral although its characters, being, English, Belgian, French and German, are naturally partisan. The management earnestly requests, therefore, that no member in the audience will indulge in any unpleasant demonstrations which might be offensive to others in the audience or to those on the stage."

Picture in Evidence.

For the first time in the history of the Pennsylvania courts a motion picture appeared as an exhibit on its own behalf. In the darkened court room of Judge John Patterson, of Common Pleas, Philadelphia, the Jesse L. Lasky Feature Play Company's production, Blanche Sweet in "The Secret Orchard," was shown before the court and about 100 spectators. After the National Board of Censors had passed the photoplay and had complimented the producers, the Pennsylvania Board of Censors declared "The Secret Orchard" might harm the morals of men and women of Pennsylvania. They barred the protoplay from exhibition in the state. It was the first time since the present censorship law went into effect in Pennsylvania that an appeal had been taken from the board. On this account the precedent was watched with unusual interest by the motion picture industry. After the photoplay itself had been shown in the court room, Judge Patterson said he saw no reason why "The Secret Orchard" shouldn't be shown in Pennsylvania and he saw many reasons why it should. He said it teaches a great moral lesson

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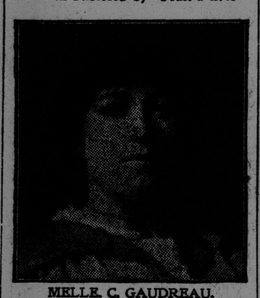

MELLE. C. GAUDREAU.

Rochon, P. Q., Jan. 14th, 1915.

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NEW WAY TO LEARN BIBLE STORIES

Rich Children Gain Knowledge By Acting

PASTOR GIVES PAGEANTS

Unique Experiment at Stockbridge, Mass., Has Proved a Success—On Cool Lawns Under The Shade Trees

Boston, Sept. 11.—They're teaching their children biblical stories in a unique manner out in wealthy Stockbridge.

The instruction takes the form of a pageant with the children of the exclusive residents of Stockbridge enacting the various parts.

The children make their own costumes and use toys for "props."

In this manner the Rev. George P. Merrill, pastor of St. Paul's church, has made Sunday school an every day occurrence.

"Let's pretend," that ever fascinating phrase of childhood, is the secret of his success. The stories, which used to be told in the hot class-rooms on Sundays, when the buzzing of a chance fly or bumble bee attracted more attention than the lesson itself, are now "acted out" under the shade trees and on cool lawns.

On the estate of Mrs. J. Graham Parsons a few days ago a party of fifteen children, including the children of Charles S. Mellen, former president of the New Haven system; Bernard Hoffmann, the New York artist; Thomas Southworth and other well-known summer residents of Stockbridge, acted out the drama of "Joseph and His Brethren."

It did not matter that there were not enough boys to go round, although one little one about three years old ran crying to her mother, protesting she could not be a "brethren."

The idea of thus impressing upon the minds of the children the lessons of the Bible originated two years ago when Mr. Merrill was pastor of a fashionable church at Newport.

Makes Costumes Themselves.

Beginning with the dramatic story of Abraham and his progeny, this pastor is leading his youthful "pretenders" down through the genealogy of that prolific Israelite, and Tuesday they acted out the story of Joseph and his brethren, from the time Joseph began to have dreams of power until he became the right hand man of Pharaoh, king of Egypt.

The audience consists solely of the parents of the children or their nurses. The spectators who are privileged to see the play-teaching hold themselves carefully aloof and refrain from applause or demonstration of any sort. Automobile scarfs and robes, simple coats and caps, are the costumes used. Joseph, on his throne, is a small boy seated on a rustic chair under a maple tree.

"How many children," began Mr. Merrill, "can remember what we learned last time? About Jacob and Esau, who deceived their father, Isaac, and about Jacob's dream of the ladder leading to heaven?"

Most of the children remembered very vividly, particularly the one who had impersonated Jacob and had gone to sleep with his head on a stone to dream of the ladder (an ordinary step-ladder, on which interested little human angels climbed up and down.)

"Today," continued the rector, "we will continue the story of Jacob and his twelve sons. Who wants to be Joseph, the younger?"

A volunteer was ready and as there were but five boys left, six girls took the places of six of the brethren of Joseph.

"Now, here was Joseph," continued the rector, in the role of an interlocutor, "a dreamer of dreams. He wanted to sit on a throne. Here is the throne." A chair was pressed into service and one of the Hoffmann boys was seated on the chair, a purple scarf draped about his shoulders.

Young Actors Enthusiastic.

"Joseph wanted to sit on a throne," the story was continued with action suiting the word. "He dreamed of power. Come up you brethren, and ask him what he dreamed."

"What did you dream?" piped up the brethren.

And with prompting from the pastor, Joseph told of how he dreamed that he and his brethren had been setting up sheaves of wheat in the field, and the sheaves set up by the brethren bowed down to those set up by Joseph. Minature bundles of wheat had been provided by the rector, and these were made to bow, duly and vividly, by the actors.

"And Joseph had another dream," the parable is continued. "He dreamed that the sun, moon and stars, eleven stars, the sun and moon representing the father and mother, Jacob and his wife, all bowed down to Joseph. Here you be Jacob, the father, and you, the mother." Two more girls were pressed into the cast.

"What," said Jacob, "Shall both thy father and thy mother bow down to thee, also?"

"Yes," replied Joseph, "with the prompting received from the rector.

"Joseph, you remember, was always ambitious and dreaming about power. And his father, you know, had put on him a coat of many colors, which increased his pride."

Here Joseph was fitted into a vest of flamboyant pattern, and a little red coat, and strutted about in true enjoyment of his role of high and mighty.

"Joseph, you see, was his father's favorite son, and when his brothers began fighting among each other, he told his father. Now, you brethren, must begin making believe fight together and make a noise."

A semblance of ruction was raised, with great gusto, by the "brethren," and Joseph, coached, runs to his father and "tells on them."

"Now the brethren" continues the Rev. Mr. Merrill, "don't like that tattling at all, so when they went out in the fields to tend their sheep, they planned how they might humble Joseph."

Here one of the "props," a toy sheep on wheels very easily becomes a whole flock of sheep and off go the "brethren," dragging the "flock" in to the tall grass where Joseph sets out to look for them.

Meanwhile 'the plot thickens" and more dramatis personnae are necessary, namely, the merchants approaching on camels across the plain, to whom the brethern plot to sell Joseph.

Joseph is caught by the "brethren" after a short chase and lodged in a depression in the lawn, which does duty as the well where, in Biblical story, Joseph was cast to await the coming of the merchants. Two more girls take up the roles of the merchants and the drama proceeds, 20 pennies taking the place of twenty pieces of silver for which the luckless Joseph was bartered as a slave to the Egyptian tradesmen.

Followed then the career of Joseph as a servant in the house of Potiphar, the very human touch concerning Potiphar's wife and her fascination with Joseph, and the climax, when Joseph becomes prime minister to the King of Egypt and his brethren comes and bow down to him, seeking corn in their famine.

The story of Joseph and his brethren, was really a tour de force for the Rev. Mr. Merrill's troupe of outdoor players, for it required a large cast and many properties, even with the simple expedients resorted to by the rector to impress on his self-taught scholars the "machinery" of the story, or play.

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The Proposed New Cabinet In Petrograd

Petrograd, Sept. 10, via London—Consultations regarding the forming of a new cabinet are in progress empowered by the council of ministers. M. Cherbatoff, minister of the interior; M. Khvostoff, minister of justice, and M. Kharitonov, the comptroller, are consulting leaders of the parliamentary majority on the subject. M. Krivoshein, minister of agriculture, is in consultation with the Moscow industrial interests on the same matter.

The cabinet members deputed to hold these conferences are expected to report to the council of ministers tomorrow.

The public is awaiting with keen interest the result of these conferences. Several ministers in newspaper interviews have repudiated the idea that they would cling to office from personal ambition.

There is no further talk of an immediate prorogation of the Duma. Everything hinges upon the question of a reorganization of the ministry.

Thinks Grand Duke Lacked Judgment

Rome, Sept. 9, 7.45 p. m., via Paris, Sept. 10—"Grand Duke Nicholas lacked sufficient energy to profit from his triumphs when the Russian armies were victorious," writes General Corsi, in the Tribuna. "He also lacked the influence to impress upon the emperor the fact that the bureaucracy was responsible for the insufficiency of military preparations. During the retreat, however, Grand Duke Nicholas showed a clear mind, capable of formulating precise views and reaching prompt decisions.

"Thus it was that the retreat, which might have been turned into a rout, became, through the leadership of Grand Duke Nicholas, one of the greatest military successes of history, from a strategical standpoint. It is without comparison, except for the famous retreat narrated by Xenophon."

ALLIES WILLING TO LET DUMBA PASS HOME IN SAFETY

London, Sept. 10—While there are no precedents of exact similarity there is good authority for the opinion that no difficulties will be placed in the way of the return to Vienna of Ambassador Dumba, or the passage of his successor to Washington. Diplomatic usage doubtless will provide a safe conduct without formal request. In the event that Washington makes such a request, a favorable reply from Great Britain may be expected as a matter of courtesy to the American government.

CARRANZA REJECTS PEACE CONFERENCE

Vera Cruz, Sept. 10—General Venustiano Carranza, first chief of the Constitutionalist party, has declined to acquiesce in the invitation of diplomatic representatives of the United States and the Latin American countries that he join the leaders of the various factions in Mexico in an endeavor to bring about peace, declaring that he could not consent that the interior affairs of the republic be handled by mediation of or by the initiative of any foreign government.

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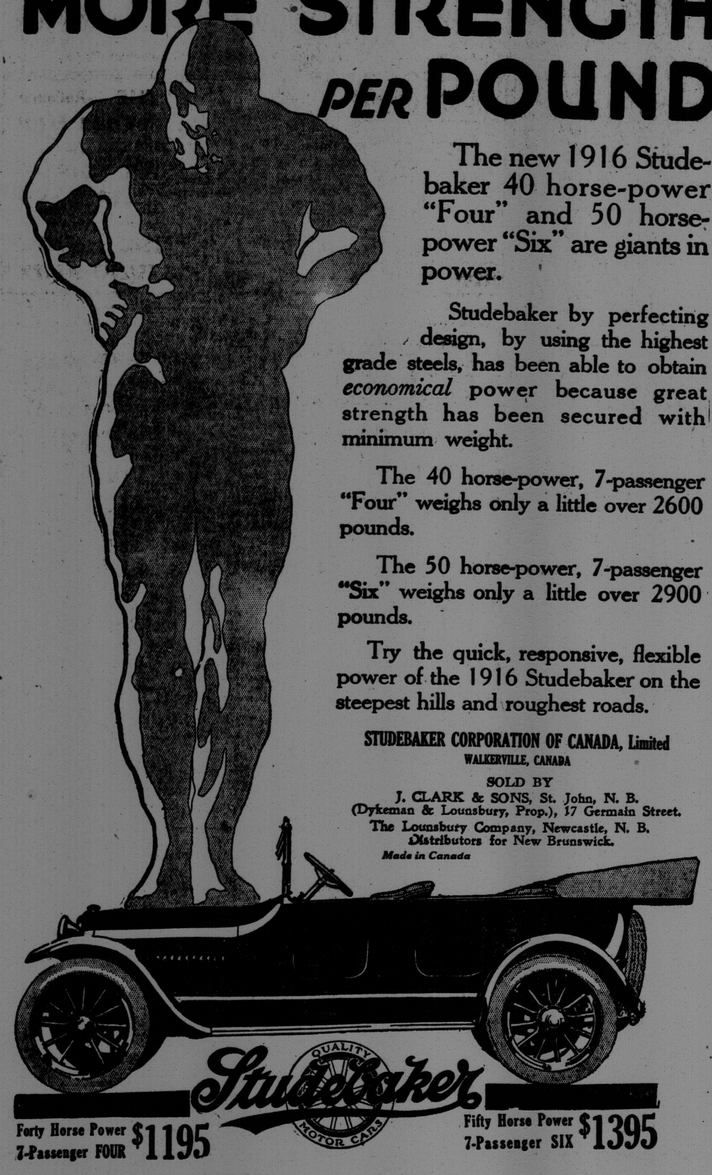

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