

What the Theatres Offer

Following the final preliminary rehearsals on Saturday, the organization engaged for the season of English musical comedies at the Royal Alexandra will leave New York for Toronto on the New York Central Saturday night, arriving some time Sunday morning. Three special cars are required to transport the chorus, principals and effects for the opening on May 11.

The first opera will be "San Toy," which enjoyed a season's run at Daly's Theatre, New York. Coincident with the production of the English musical comedies in Toronto, the cast of principals includes most of the players who have been identified with the original companies of Daly's Theatre, prominent among whom are Elgie Bowen, Helen Mostyn, Laura Butler, Harry Girard, Clarence Harvey, William Romaine and George LeSole.

The assembling of this company has been most favorably commented upon in theatrical circles as representing quite the most pretentious and evenly-balanced coterie of lyric players which has ever been presented in a summer season, and which easily emphasizes the liberality of the Royal Alexandra management in providing the best of material for the entertainment of its patrons.

Following "San Toy," the repertoire will comprise all of the successes produced at Daly's theatres, London and New York, in recent years, each one of which will be enhanced by an adequate production comprising complete electrical equipment and the same elaborate scenic environment which signified their success in England and America.

The company numbers sixty people, all of whom have been drafted from the principal first-class musical organizations which have recently closed their seasons.

Dundreary Coming.

It seemed as if the same Dundreary craze which swept over New York fifty years ago had resumed its sway, judging from the laughter and applause with which all the good jokes were greeted at every performance of Mr.



MR. E. H. SOTHERN
Coming in Lord Dundreary.

Sothern in his father's old character. Prominent members of Mr. Sothern's company this season are: Rowland Buckstone, Sidney Mather, Frank Belcher, Malcolm Bradley, John H. Hines, Albert Howson, William Harris, John Taylor, Virginia Hammond, Gladys Hannah, professional standing, George Kathryn Wilson. They will be seen at the Princess in "Lord Dundreary" the week of May 11.

Great Play at Princess.

George Broadhurst's play, "The Man of the Hour," has more entertaining quality to it, inasmuch as it is a well-planned demonstration of what actually occurs in American politics. Of course, "The Man of the Hour" is dramatized action, but George Broadhurst obviously constructed his play to make it harmonize as nearly as possible with actual events of the times as they occur in franchise fights in our American cities, some of which are in the clutches of organized greed.

This play demonstrates how some professional politicians pose as being friends of the people; how they plan the election of men whom they hope to use to further their own desires after election, and how the "boss" schemes to make public office a pri-

vate snap for unscrupulous individuals and organizations by abuse or bribery. In this play, "The Man of the Hour" is a young man, honest, sincere, determined to adhere to principle, whatever the result may be. Great losses confront him. His family honor is threatened. His sweetheart spurns him, and all the world seems to turn against him at the critical moment, when he is prepared to veto a franchise which the "bosses" and a corrupt corporation had drawn up to rob the people of their rights and to reap rich profits for themselves.

"The Man of the Hour"—mayor of the city—follows his mother's advice to let honesty guide him whether life or death result. Then comes the grand climax. The grafters are trapped. Their cunning schemes are exposed; their rottenness is revealed. They find themselves thwarted and outwitted by the honest mayor of the city. His sweetheart sees the truth and returns to him. The play will open at the Princess Theatre on Monday evening, when he is prepared to veto a franchise which the "bosses" and a corrupt corporation had drawn up to rob the people of their rights and to reap rich profits for themselves.

"The Little Trooper" at Grand.

It would be a difficult matter to decide which contributed most to the indisputable success achieved by "The Little Trooper." To ignore some of the highest stage settings ever seen here, to overlook the really stunning aggregation of show girls and choruses, and to say nothing of the cast and the

rich, harmonious costuming, the color blending, and indeed the entire stage picture, would certainly be an injustice. "The Little Trooper" will be seen at the Grand next week. Referring to the production, The New York Times said: "It is evident that the sponsors for 'The Little Trooper' were familiar with the best comic opera requirements, for they have combined in this attraction all the essentials. We have yet to see a handsomer chorus, or a more musical one, more attractive stage settings, a more harmonious color scheme in costuming or a better cast."

"Three Little Maids."

The first performance of the Toronto Press Club's revival of "Three Little Maids," the English musical play, will be given at the Royal Alexandra Theatre on Thursday evening next. Judging by a private view at rehearsals, the principals, chorus and orchestra will challenge comparison with the original Broadway organization which appeared in Toronto four years ago. The company comprises several English players of high professional standing, George Williams, tenor, was formerly with the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company, in England and South Africa; Miss Lily Lovell, Miss Nellie May Stewart and Miss Besse Hunter, will be the "three little maids," and the cast, numbering fifty people, will include Miss Brenda Spence, H. E. Hitchman, Miss Bertha Hewson, J. C. Craig, Miss Jeannette Glass, Miss Edna McAlmish, Miss Maude Dunstan and Miss Laura Hughes. The orchestra of the Royal Alexandra Theatre will be augmented to double its usual strength, and will be conducted by Dr. Fred Nicolai. The three acts, showing, respectively, the golf links at Market Malory, a fashionable Bond Street tea-shop, and Lady St. Malory's ballroom, will be superbly mounted. The production is under vice-regal patronage, and a distinguished audience will be in attendance at the first performance. The annual souvenir program, containing stories, verses and cartoons by members of the Press Club, will be distributed free at each performance.

ALMA HEARN
In "The Little Trooper" at the Grand.

HARRY CLAY BLANEY
As "Willie Live" in "The Boy Detective" at the Majestic.

freeshing bit of dramatic comedy play. It is produced on a magnificent scale and presented by a capable company. It is from a numerical and ability standpoint, undoubtedly the strongest company which has ever appeared in a popular-price theatre. The play, "The Boy Detective," is filled with love, romance and adventure, intermingled with clean, catchy comedy and pleasing specialties, thus alleviating the dullness and casting them into oblivion. During the week a matinee will be given every day.

Old Time Minstrels.

Two nights of amateur minstrelsy of the highest order is promised by the Toronto Rowing Club in the Royal Alexandra Theatre on Monday and Tuesday next. The organization of 100 performers in a black-face show is perfect now, and all that is needed to make the venture an unqualified success is a crowded house at each performance, and the friends of the club are assisting to bring about this happy condition. Tickets can be had from the members and exchanged at the theatre for reserved seats. The plan is now open at the box office of the theatre.

Vaudeville at Shea's.

The headline act for next week at Shea's is Joe Hart's "Crickets," the best girl act in vaudeville this season, a fantasy with novel scenic and electrical effects, and presented by a capable company, including a number of dainty girls with fine voices. Miss Katherine Bunn is the prima donna soprano. She has a delightful personality and presents a number of tuneful songs, assisted by a well-trained chorus. W. N. Cripps, the tenor of the organization, is a former Buffalonian, who has met with success on the vaudeville stage. The "Crickets" are seen in a ballet of Geisha Land, and afterwards, intermingled with the battleship Maine. The act is elaborately staged with gorgeous scenery and sensational electrical effects.

"Motoring" is on the bill for the week. There is another promise that is always made good. "Motoring" is the name of the act when first seen, two seasons ago, and everybody who owns, runs or rides in an auto howls with delight at the mishaps pictured in this act.

Cartnell and Harris have not been seen in Toronto for a long time, and they have a comedy singing and dancing skit.

The Dillon Brothers have written many of the popular songs of the past two or three seasons, and will sing a whole budget of new ones.

Mr. and Mrs. Allison are always welcome in their comedy sketch, "Minnie

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Madame Reed's Recital.

Madame Le Grand Reed has arranged the following program for her recital at Conservatory of Music Hall on Wednesday evening, May 5:

- (a) "Les Regrets" (from "Le Tasse")
- (b) "Love's Springtime" (Hammond)
- (c) "Eber et Moi" (Beach)
- (d) "Ah Qui Bruit d'Armoire" (Tchakowski)
- (e) "Love Has Wings" (Rodgers)
- (f) "Retreat" (LaForge)
- (g) "Like a Rosebud" (LaForge)
- (h) "The Butterfly" (LaForge)
- (i) "Walker's Prize Song" (from "The Medallions")
- (j) "Alr de Salome" (from "Herodiade")
- (k) "Retreat" (Massenet)
- (l) "Ah, Love, But a Day" (Farjeon)
- (m) "One Rose" (Wagner)
- (n) "I Should Come a-Loving" (Wagner)
- (o) "A Spring Song" (Gerard Barton)
- (p) "Cello-Spanish Dance, 'Vito'" (Popper)
- (q) "Well" (old French cradle song)
- (r) "N'Neige" (Bemberg)
- (s) "Love Song (Stanzas), cello obbligato, by request of the pianist.

The plan opens this morning at Nordheimer's.

At the Star.

At the Star Theatre, commencing next Monday matinee, one of the brightest spoken in the western world, namely, "The Moonlight Maids" Company, will open a week's engagement. It is the first appearance of this organization in this city during the present season, and from the press reports that we have seen from surrounding towns, it should be one of our best.

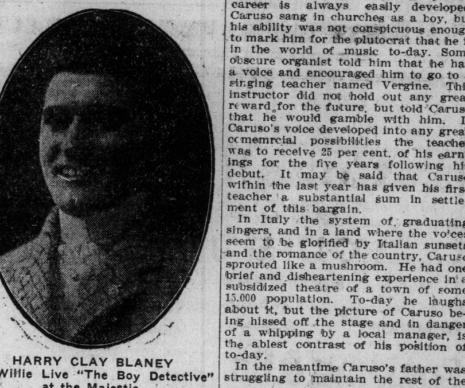
The olio are Brown and Bragg, singing and talking comedians; Tanner and Gilbert, America's greatest versatile sketch artists; Mile. Bartellet, French chansonnier; the "Three Madcaps," a quartet of singers, dancers and musical comedians; and Al and Peyster, the world's famous acrobatic comedians.

Caruso on Monday.

Caruso admitted to come from very humble stock. His father, as any man with the obligation of committing nineteen children to the future of Italy, was lacking in imagination. Also he had no ear for music. In Italy, where everybody sings, the germ of an operatic talent was always developed. Some Caruso sang in churches as a boy, but his ability was not conspicuous enough to mark him for the plotter that he is in the world of music to-day. Some obscure organist told him that he had a voice and encouraged him to go to a singing teacher named Almo. This instructor did not hold out any great reward for the future, but told Caruso that for the five years following his debut, if he would sing in Almo's hall, he would receive 25 per cent. of his earnings. Caruso accepted the offer, and in the last year he has given his first teacher a substantial sum in settlement of this bargain.

In Italy the system of graduating singers, and in a land where the voices seem to be glorified by Italian sunsets and the romance of the country, Caruso sprouted like a mushroom. He had one brief and sobering experience in the subsidized theatre of a town of some 15,000 population. To-day he laughs about it, but the picture of Caruso being whipped by a local manager, is the ablest contrast of his position to-day.

In the meantime Caruso's father was struggling to maintain the rest of the



HARRY CLAY BLANEY
As "Willie Live" in "The Boy Detective" at the Majestic.

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nineteen. The tenor previous to his being a singer had developed an earning capacity of 40c a day in a factory which turned out chemical products. Forty cents a day would not enable a man to lead a double life in any country, but was a very considerable contribution to the pot that was kept boiling for the Caruso family—nineteen. Old man Caruso was heard to say in the early days of his career, "The public is paying a lire to hear my son sing."

Caruso lives handomely, scatters his money with the prodigality of a spendthrift, but does not go in for display. He relies for companionship entirely upon a handful of good fellows in New York, and where he declines the fee of some thousands to sing for the very rich he will get up after dinner and thrill a small company with his favorite aria. Intensely proud of the devotion of his countrymen, Caruso is seldom known to accept any formality in the way of demonstration.

The concert at Massey Hall on Monday evening will attract the most brilliant audience seen in many years.

At the Gayety.

At the Gayety Theatre next week, the famous beauty show, Bob Manchester's Crackerjacks, will make its annual visit here. There are thirty-five in the company this season, with twenty-four pretty girls, all in one grand ensemble of song, dance, gait and pose. The most beautiful costumes seen in any company are worn. The pick comedians are introduced, and most prominent is the king of all eccentricity, Bob Van Ooten. He is assisted by such well-known people as Varden, Perry and Wilber, who introduce the latest and best hits of New York. The opening burlesque, a comedy mélange of Straccata, is brought out to satirize that famous resort, with its concourse of society, as it was, and as it is, in all its pomp and splendor, and introduces the model Venus queen, Miss Ruby Leon, and Lilly Vedder, a little lady full of ginger and get-up. The olio introduces Varden, Perry and Wilber, three great singers, dancers and musicians; the well-known sketch team, the Madonnas; the spectacular specialty extravaganza, "The Birth of Uncle Sam"; the Millard Brothers, riders of the wheel, and the Three Madonnas, a trio of acrobats. The show concludes with a great burlesque, "Nature in Marble Hall," a splendid but a real burlesque, having a plot, something seldom found in comedies of this kind, and introducing the Millard Brothers, riders of the wheel, and the Three Madonnas, a trio of acrobats. The show concludes with a great burlesque, "Nature in Marble Hall," a splendid but a real burlesque, having a plot, something seldom found in comedies of this kind, and introducing the Millard Brothers, riders of the wheel, and the Three Madonnas, a trio of acrobats. The show concludes with a great burlesque, "Nature in Marble Hall," a splendid but a real burlesque, having a plot, something seldom found in comedies of this kind, and introducing the Millard Brothers, riders of the wheel, and the Three Madonnas, a trio of acrobats.

The Caruso Seats.

There are a number of the best located seats left for Caruso, although the rush for the lower priced seats has been so great that some of the sections are entirely sold. It goes without saying that there will be a tremendous audience and one of the most brilliant character. The box office will be open to-day from 9 to 5 p.m. On Monday evening there will be 300 rush seats at \$1.50, which will be placed on sale at 7:15 p.m.

ONE TEACHER, NINE PUPILS.

Trustees Are Astounded at the Smallness of the Class.

Trustees Davis and Chairman Lawlinson of the property committee waxed of wroth yesterday over finding a big, able-bodied man teaching a senior fifth class at Ryerson school with only nine pupils. The teacher in question draws \$1100 a year. He stated to the visiting committee that the average attendance was 18, and that 19 pupils were registered. There are a couple of junior fifth classes of 23 each in Ryerson, and the committee wanted to know why this small class could not be absorbed and a teacher saved.

George Newman, who fell from the second floor of Bolton-avenue school while cleaning windows, necessitating his being in the General Hospital for a week, appeared before the property committee of the education board for some compensation.

The question of erecting a school in the vicinity of St. Clair-avenue and Avenue-road to relieve the overcrowding of Conington-street school, was allowed to stand till next week.

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The Canadian Institute. The members of the Canadian Institute will hold their annual meeting at the library, 198 College-street, this evening at 8 o'clock. The members of the institute will be elected and the usual sale of periodicals will be held.

"SPRING FEVER"

The need of a spring medicine seems to be universal. This is due to the fact that during the winter the blood becomes impure on account of the hearty food eaten. This causes that tired, weary, all-gone, don't-care-to-work feeling which is so prevalent at this time of year.

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Mr. F. H. Leard, Saskatoon, Sask., writes: "I have used Burdock Blood Bitters as a blood purifier and think it an excellent remedy. Everyone should take it in the spring to cure that tired feeling that comes to so many at this time of the year."

Mr. H. Langley, Hamilton, Ont., writes: "I have used Burdock Blood Bitters as a spring tonic, and I find it the best thing I ever take. It builds me right up and I use it every spring. It is excellent for the blood."

"SPRING MEDICINE"