

PEOPLE YOU READ ABOUT



ONE oddity will be noticed in the photograph above. The large man to the left is not observing the camera. The sailor-man next him is trying not to. The soldier at the end has his gaze glued on the lens. You imagine this might be a scene in an awkward squad rehearsal of a play, with the experienced veteran doing his best to make the other actors look spontaneous. And so it is. The fine-looking civilian is the late Sir Beerbohm Tree, England's greatest producing actor and stage magician since Henry Irving. The man next him is Capt. C. A. Adams, of the U. S. Navy. The other man is Col. W. Chadfield, U.S.A. The place is the New York Press Club. The occasion was the exhibition of war posters shortly after the declaration of war by the United States. The photograph was probably the last taken of the great stage magic-maker, who died in London a few days ago. It illustrates how earnestly this man of genius worked and spoke and acted on behalf of the war—which to him was latterly as important as his own art. Beerbohm Tree's recent Shakespearean tour in Canada and the United States was a direct contribution to the inspired patriotism of English-speaking people in its presentation of great dramas taken from British history.

Sir Herbert Tree, as one met him casually in Canada at luncheon, was almost the living image of Mr. Asquith and he was also the prince of story tellers. In his acting he is said to have been the master of self-effacement.

Before he obtained his engagement in "The Private Secretary," which really marked the start of his fame and was probably the first part created by him, says the New York Sun, Sir Herbert had become a master of makeup, and in contrast to the majority of the leading men of the period he seldom allowed his own face to be seen upon the stage. He sought to present every character in an entirely different guise, and he carried his artistic self-abnegation to the extent of making himself as repulsively ugly in one part, for instance, Caliban, as he would transform himself into one of the best favoured of men in the next. As an actor he was never the equal of Irving. As a stage craftsman he went the great Irving one better. His mammoth productions, which were really dramatic pageants, were made possible only by the most marvellous attention to the minutest details of stage business, of costume, lighting, gesture, movement, tableau, rhythm and colour.

And as Henry Irving took many of his delineations of famous characters direct from life, so Beerbohm Tree—his real name was Beerbohm—took his from the men and women he met, on the Shakespearean principle that "All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players." He got his remarkable portrayal of the curate in "The Private Secretary" by studying a certain curate whom he often invited to dinner for that purpose. He played in Canada but once—in Henry VIII. last season. And of all the old guard of great producers he was the most genial, off-hand and benignly simple. His star associate on that tour was Lyn Harding.



enthusiasm of Broadway for the Italian Commission was intended no doubt for the handsome young man below with the white gloves. From the Battery to Central Park, Broadway was jammed with Italians. Little Italy had a grand holiday. And the Spaghetthis looked and saluted the hardest at Prince Udine, son of the Duke of Genoa, cousin to King Emmanuel. It was he who presented the address to the President at the end of May.



LIEUT.-COL. PAT EDWARDS of Ottawa, who is given credit by the Central News Service with leading the Canadian infantry at the great battle of Vimy Ridge.

SIGNOR MARCONI, member of the Italian Diplomatic Commission, walking at Convocation with a distinguished American professor who seems to think there's a joke somewhere. But Marconi probably thinks the joke is on the professor. This is but one of the many visits made by Marconi to New York, so that a large percentage of the



SMILING now—Congressman Gardner of Massachusetts, in khaki, calls his own bluff by quitting Congress to enter the Army. Gardner is no recent convert of soldiering. He has been a preparedness advocate a long while. Last February in Congress he bucked against J. Hampton Moore, who made an anti-British speech.