

VANCOUVER LITTLE THEATRE ASSOCIATION  
(Ninth Production)

The Little Theatre Association again presented a varied programme for the enjoyment of lovers of the drama. In "Sicilian Limes" the actors were severely handicapped by the poor construction of the play which was highly artificial and lacked action. The idea of two contrasted scenes being acted simultaneously, a banquet in the background and a conversation between a Sicilian peasant and the mother of the famous singer who owes him her chance of a career, was very effective and well carried out.

In great contrast to "Sicilian Limes" was the second play of the evening, a tragedy entitled "Trifles." Here was a most excellent vehicle, highly emotional and so well written and acted that it seemed as though the fourth wall of the New England Farmhouse which formed its setting had been removed to allow us to witness an actual occurrence. Mr. Wright, a farmer, has been murdered and suspicion attaches to his wife who has been arrested. Mrs. Hale, a farmer's wife, and Mrs. Peters, the Sheriff's wife, sitting together in Mrs. Wright's kitchen while the men gather "evidence," bring out in their conversation, and in the trifles they notice about the room, the fact that Wright was a hard, cruel man who made life unbearable for his wife, who had been so bright and pretty as a girl, so cowed and faded as a childless wife. The inevitableness of the dialogue and the finish and sincerity of the acting made this play quite THE success of the evening. Miss Sterling, as Mrs. Peters, gave a faithful characterization of a kindly woman torn between her essential sense of justice and her respect for the law; while Miss Nowlan as Mrs. Hale presented a powerful study in repressed emotion. Though she is silent for several minutes after her entrance her personality commands immediate attention and dominates the play from the first.

The delightful and highly satirical humor of "The Angel Intrudes," was a welcome relief after the tension of "Trifles." Mr. Shearman made a most handsome angel, and one could hardly blame Annabelle for falling in love with him even on such short notice. Mr. Goodall as James Pendleton, about to elope with a flapper, and wishing he wasn't, unable to get out of it with decency, yet most ungrateful to his guardian angel who comes to his rescue in a most original and unconventional manner, was very convincing. Miss Hamilton gave a vivid and most amusing characterization of Annabelle, an abandoned little flirt. Miss Hamilton's clear and vibrant voice, and her careful enunciation are not the least of her assets. The play was a clever one, and the dialogue refreshingly witty.

The McIntyre Quartette again gave a most excellent musical programme. The stage settings were all very effective, and the rapidity and quietness with which the scenes were changed speaks well for the efficiency of the stage directors.

L. A.

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF THE PRESENT SOCIAL UNREST  
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great as it might have been had it given a little more attention to the things of this life rather than to the life hereafter. That the church is losing its grip on the great mass of humanity is beyond all question. When one listens to the average sermon one is struck with the hopelessness and helplessness of the whole thing. They say war clouds are hovering upon every horizon, the prospect of our witnessing one of the worst and most horrible and unthinkable catastrophes is not a remote possibility. Great seething social unrest is prevalent in every land. A black and dreary outlook indeed! But worst of all is, that they have no solution save one and that is that you turn to Christ. No thought do they give to the great economic problems that are confronting us today. A people that starves is a people that thinks only of material things, of food. Before the church can command the attention of the laboring class she will have to show an earnest desire to aid them in the solution of their economic difficulties. When she has done this, then the laboring class will be free to think of the grander, nobler, more spiritual things of life and not until then. Prayer without food avails nothing unless it give the individual the necessary self-control to starve to death while his fellow men survive amid the most luxurious surroundings, without raising their voices in protest.

Selfishness, recognized as one of the greatest evils in the world, is, after all, the outcome of our endeavor to fulfil our most primitive instinct, that of self-preservation. The harder it becomes to preserve ourselves and our families then the more selfish we will naturally become. I say naturally advisedly, for it is surely only natural that we should endeavor to survive. If we were truly unselfish, I fear that our sojourn on this earthly sphere would be but a short one indeed.

The great social and labor movements occurring the world over are the outcome of an endeavor on the part of the human race—at least that portion of it which finds the struggle becoming really hard—to devise ways and means of making existence healthier, happier and easier. It is an endeavor to make the fulfilling of our primitive instincts an activity that does not mean the killing or starving of our fellow men. Though force may hinder, nothing less than death can prevent the ultimate satisfaction of these instincts. The sooner we recognize at the basis of all our unrest the great primitive instincts struggling for fulfilment, the sooner we recognize the futility of any force being used to prevent this fulfilment, and the sooner we set ourselves about the task of making fulfilment possible without undue struggling on the part of individuals, the sooner we will have "Peace on Earth and Good Will Towards Men."

That economic considerations should not dominate life is true, but that they will dominate it if we fail to study and intelligently consider the great economic truths is, to any thinking mind, obvious. It therefore becomes the bounden duty of us, each and all, to do our part, intelligently, to make this life a glorious and happy experience for struggling humanity, rather than one which makes them pray that death might come to free them from all their trials and sufferings. Only when we do this are we doing our duty towards our fellow men, as the Creator intended that we should. To abuse those who are struggling to lessen the burden should and will be, recognized as one of the greatest crimes man can commit against his fellow man.

The crying need of our day is for men and women with vision broad and far-reaching enough to see a new order emerging out of the present chaos, with earnestness of purpose to follow a line of endeavor that will lead to the desired goal, regardless of personal abuse and suffering, and with a knowledge that will serve to guide them at all times in the pathway of righteousness that they may be true and faithful guides to their less enlightened fellow men.

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