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USEMENTS IN ST. JOHN; WHAT THE PLAYHOUSES OFFER

THE OPERA HOUSE

he W. S. Harkins Company, will pre- "The Lottery Man," a great New k success, at the Opera House istmas night. Many situations have resorted to in plays to present the py culmination of a marriage vow. In e Lottery Man," Rida Johnson Young s hit upon an entirely new idea. The hero is Jack Wright, a newspaper porter. He is single and unloved, save r the devotion of his mother. He plans make money for both himself and his per by conducting a lottery with him- f as the prize. Coupons, printed in the per, are sold for a dollar each. Most of m are bought by old maids. Wright mises to give himself up to a loveless rriage to the woman who gets the lucky mber.

magine his predicament. As he ex- ins, the first woman he meets on the eet has a right to claim him as her hus- nd. As a matter of fact, fate sends un- d to him—and his sweetheart—that winning number falls into the lap of an old maid, a most unattractive per- who gloats over her victory. It de- ops, however, that the spinster has len the ticket, and with the threat of son, she disgorges. "The Lottery Man" en produced in New York, had the dis- tion of remaining there in one theatre practically the entire season. Miss ce Baxter, Miss Olive West, Miss Betty ncroft, Miss Evelyn Henderson, Miss ce Snyder, Thomas Carrigan, Cecil Mag- , Gerald Daly, and Thomas Waller, all r artists to St. John will appear in "The ttery Man."

fr Harkins and his company arrived e yesterday. The Christmas matinee l be "Girls."

UNIQUE.

he Poison Cup, a Reliance drama; As Used To Be, a Champion Indian picture; Corner In Criminals and A Lover's e, two Solax comedies, are the four ures announced for Wednesday and rsday's bill at this theatre. This com- es several good hearty laughs, a thrill wo, and an intensely interesting drama. The comedies are clean cut, sharp and snappy. One manager says of them: "They are comedies that actually rip humor to tatters." The Indian picture deals with an Indian uprising and a gambler's chances on the outcome. A love story is cleverly woven into the plot. The Poison Cup is said to be one of those strong pictures that deals with a heavy problem, that of a woman who marries a drug fiend who becomes a thief. Her attempt to do what is right in the face of the load about her neck, and her absolute failure, make this story an interesting one.

THE STAR.

Wednesday and Thursday's programme at the Star Theatre, north end, has a list of four photo plays in drama and comedy with Walter A. Brown in a new song. This little theatre is keeping up with the holiday order of things, announces some fine films of pictures as well as keeping to the front with vocal talent. Notice is given in their advertisement of tonight that "The Two Orphans," by Kate Claxton, will be shown on Friday and Saturday of this week. This beautiful drama with its wonderful scenery of olden times promises to draw large houses. The Star management announces that the Christmas Day programme will be made up of five big feature subjects with special singing and music.

THE GEM.

A thrilling drama of the western mines is portrayed by the Vitagraph Company at the Gem for the mid-week, in "The Half-Breed's Daughter," a story of love and jealousy, with a gripping plot which calls for exciting climaxes and stirring incidents. Travel pictures of "Rangoon, India," are shown, as well as a powerful Biograph story, "The Miser's Heart," telling a story true to life, in which a child and a tramp are central figures, and lend pathos and gentleness to the tale, while making strong the contrast with the other side. A comedy on the troubles of a little man who desires to get married, is given in "Little Maritz is Too Short." Miss Helen Ardrie will sing "There's a Girl in the Moon," while the orchestra has some nice new pieces. Special Christmas pictures are being billed.

Many a man who is always talking about what a fool he used to be, isn't very old.

ALD. KEIRSTEAD INQUIRY

G. Gray Murdoch a Witness—County Secretary Is Called—New Features

The connection of any city official or officials with the affidavit charging Ald. Keirstead with graft in attempting to secure the liability insurance on the Lancaster sewerage excavations was the subject of investigation last night at a meeting of the special committee of the common council appointed for the purpose. Two of the witnesses told of the affidavit being in the possession of the city engineer but no evidence was produced to show that the engineer had been instrumental in having the affidavit drawn. G. Gray Murdoch asserted that he had secured the affidavit for the sole purpose of completing his records of the work, but could not explain of what use it would be to him. He denied having discussed the matter with his father until the affidavit had been drawn, but when confronted with his father's evidence he said that he might have mentioned it.

Ald. Norman McLeod, said that Ald. Smith had told him that the city engineer had an affidavit showing that Ald. Keirstead had attempted to charge Corey $500 more than the regular rate for liability insurance in consideration of the use of his interest, and that of the county secretary, and that Ald. Keirstead and Mr. Kelly were to divide.

Ald. Elliott gave evidence regarding conversation with the city engineer, when the latter said they had Ald. Keirstead were they wanted him, and told him about the affidavit, also mentioning Mr. Kelly's name.

R. S. Ritchie of Lockhart & Ritchie accounted for the difference in rates for water mains and sewerage by saying that the labor on big sewers is more dangerous but this work was more like water main laying.

W. A. Lockhart, of the same firm, said their rate was given according to the rules of the Underwriters' Associations. He denied that they had refused to issue a bond to Corey because he was a Syrian.

G. Gray Murdoch gave his reason for having the Corey affidavit made by saying that he wanted it to complete his records of the work and that he had used no threats or compulsion to secure it. He had not discussed the affidavit with his father before it was made, but when confronted b yhis father's evidence, said that he might have mentioned it.

George Keirstead told of the interview which he and Ald. Keirstead had with Corey. He insisted that the suggestion that Ald. Keirstead's influence as an alderman might be of use came from Corey and not from the alderman. Corey said it, laughingly, and the alderman merely smiled.

J. King Kelley, county secretary, swore that any connection of his name with the matter was an unadulterated lie. He knew nothing of the insurance contract and had never mentioned it in conversation with Ald. Keirstead. The only times that Corey's estimates were held up there was only a delay of a couple of days until the requirements of the contract were complied with.

Louis Corey denied that any threats had been made to induce him to sign the affidavit.

The committee, after a private session, adjourned until next week.

MORNING LOCALS

The fire department was called out this morning at one o'clock for a slight fire in the basement of a house at the corner of Main and Acadia streets.

A new club for young girls living in the city but whose homes are elsewhere, was formed last night at a meeting in the King's Daughters Guild. It will have quarters in the Oddfellow's Hall and will be conducted under the auspices of the King's Daughters and the University Women's Club.

The unveiling of a tablet on the Bank of Nova Scotia building, marking the site of the first newspaper published in the community will be at a quarter after twelve tomorrow.

At a meeting of the W. C. T. U. held yesterday afternoon it was decided to distribute Christmas baskets to the poor on Saturday so that the people will have them in time to prepare for the Christmas dinner.

George W. Heaney, a carpenter, had his left eye badly cut by being struck with a piece of wood while at work yesterday. Dr. Neve put four stitches in the wound.

Mr. and Mrs. John W. Elliott and their three children have arrived in the city from Florida and will begin farming in New Brunswick. They have purchased a farm in Queen's County from Alfred Burley & Co. Mr. Elliott's father and mother who came from the south with them will also engage in farming in New Brunswick. The Burley company has several families coming to New Brunswick in the spring.

In the police court yesterday afternoon Dennis O'Neil, proprietor of a retail liquor business in Main street was fined $20 for selling liquor to an intoxicated person. The case arose over the arrest of Frederick Stewart for drunkenness in Main street on Monday afternoon.

The loss on the Brock & Paterson stock has been fixed at $5,300. H. W. Frink, E. H. Fairweather, and E. T. Cardel adjustors, have placed the loss in the York Cotton Mill fire at $9,000.

Temperance legislation and the enforcement of the liquor laws were discussed yesterday during an interview between representatives of the N. B. Temperance Federation and Premier Flemming. The temperance people say they were encouraged by the attitude of the premier.

George Price left yesterday for Chicago to join a theatrical company. Miss Margaret Price, his sister, left with him en route to New Orleans.

Sergeant-Major Pctis and Sergeant Charles Doherty, who have been attending military school at St. John's, Quebec, returned to their homes in this city last evening.

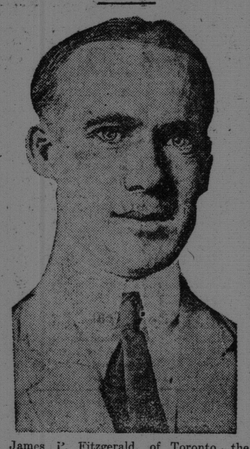
At the Natural History Society rooms yesterday afternoon a large number of the members of the ladies' auxiliary were present at the lecture delivered by Mrs. John A. McAvity. The subject was that famous play, The Blue Bird, which has been so successful both in London and New York. Mrs. McAvity read portions from the play and pictures of different scenes of the play were shown on a large screen by means of the reflectoscope. The play deals with the adventures of two poor children who are accompanied through scenes of enchantment by a fairy who first appears to the children as an old woman, but later proves to be a fairy princess. Mrs. McAvity held the close attention of her audience, and the lecture was thoroughly enjoyed.

The case of William A. Cairns vs. the Acadia Fire Insurance Co., has been settled out of court.

At a meeting of the local machinists last night Messrs. Wilson, Carter and Wilcox were chosen to represent the association on the Trades and Labor committee to select a candidate for one of the commissioners in the coming civic elections, also to name four candidates for the local house in the provincial election.

It is humane to put some things out of their misery, shattered hopes, for instances.

CANADIAN BASEBALL LEAGUE



James P. Fitzgerald, of Toronto, the newly-elected president of the Canadian baseball league. The schedule is made up of Ontario cities and was inaugurated last year and its first year met with success.

SPORT NEWS OF A DAY; HOME AND ABROAD

The Ring

Nelson in the Open.

New York, Dec. 20—Battling Nelson has taken advantage of the illness of Ad Wolgast, the lightweight champion, to come out in the open with a renewal of his defi to all lightweights. Though it is against the law to post forfeits in this state, the Battler says he has deposited a check for $2,500 to clinch a match. He explains his wishes in the matter. "Some one has to be the champion and I am ready to met all comers as fast as they appear, I am back in my old championship form. I do not claim the title, but will defend it until Wolgast is sufficiently recovered, to meet me for it."

Baseball

Diamond Sparkles.

Patsy Donovan will be a scout for the Red Sox again.

"If I had been retained as manager of the Highlanders," said George Stallings, "I would have advised Farrell to trade Hal Chase to the Chicago White Sox for Pitcher Ed Walsh and a bunch of money. I believe Comiskey would have made such a deal, in which event the Hillmen would have won the pennant in 1910. I have no ill feeling toward Farrell and am sure he made a good choice in selecting Harry Wolverton. Wolverton is a determined fellow who has plenty of nerve. He knows baseball from top to bottom and is a great hustler. But I would advise him to trade Chase. I have no desire to become a major league manager again. There is no truth in the report that I have received offers from the Philadelphia and Cincinnati National league clubs. I own a third interest in the Buffalo club, and, although I had an inferior team this year, the club had the best financial season on record."

The Turf

British Turf.

London, Dec. 19—With the fiat racing season at an end, sporting men are discussing the usual array of statistics published by the papers. In the list of winning jockeys, Danny Maher, the American rider is third with firsts under the wire, but second in percentage.

For the preceding seven years Maher has been first in percentage although in winning mounts he was second to Wooton in 1909 and 1910. For the first time since 1903, Maher has failed to ride 100 winners, the number this season being one short of the century mark. Since 1900, when he made his first appearance on an English race course, Maher has ridden 1,197 winners an average of 99 a year. Wooton in six years has ridden 673 winners, an average of 112 a year. Wooten had by far his most successful year this season having been up on 187 winners out of 746 mounts.

It was clear many weeks ago that Earl Derby senior steward of the Jockey Club would head the list of winning owners. His aggregate of $215,000 is nearly double the amount which placed him second to Mr. Fairie last year. No owner has had such a sum to his credit since 1896 when Leopold de Rothschild topped the list with a total of $233,800. Two horses, Steadfast and Swynford won most of Lord Derby's money for him.

A TORONTO HOCKEY PLAYER

Herb Flesher, an Eaton hockey player of Toronto, who saw the Winnipeg Victorias and Toronto Varsity play hockey in Winnipeg and says the O. H. A. style of play is much more effective. He was impressed with the speed of the Winnipeggers, but said they play the puck ahead and shoot too far out.

COLDS CAUSE HEADACHE

LAXATIVE BROMO Quinine, the world wide Cold and Grip remedy removes cause. Call for full name. Look for signature, E. W. GROVE, 25c.

Miss Ida Lovering, artist of Ottawa, has been commissioned to make a pastelled portrait of H.R.H., the Duke of Connaught.

GERMANY'S EXPENSES HUGE

Budget for 1912 Shows Total of More Than $700,000,000 — More for Army, Less for Navy

Berlin, Dec. 20—The Norddeutsche Algemine Zeitung publishes a summary of the imperial budget for 1912. The total expenditures is given at approximately $704,840,750 an increase of $14,516,750. The army expenditure is given as $192,626,000, an increase of $10,310,250. On the navy $114,353,750 is to be spent, a decrease of $199,500. The naval ordinary and non-recurrent expenditure shows an increase of $635,500 but the extraordinary expenditure for the navy is decreased by $6,585,000. The army increase is due to the larger peace footing voted in the Reichstag during the last session. The interest on the national debt calls for $8,198,00 less.

SENATE RATIFIES TAFT'S NOTIFICATION TO RUSSIA

Washington, Dec. 20—The senate by a unanimous vote last night formally ratified President Taft's notification to Russia of the termination of the treaty of 1832. The Lodge joint resolution reported by the foreign relations committee as a sub for the Sulzer resolution that passed the house 300 to one was adopted after an all day debate over Russian discrimination against the Jews of America. The house today is expected to agree to the senate measure.

Commercial relations between the United States and Russia will not be affected as a result of the abrogation of the treaty, in the opinion of Senator Wm. Alden Smith of Michigan, because the favored nation clause of that treaty has been swept aside by the operation of the maximum and minimum clause of the Payne tariff law carried into effect by the president's proclamation of July 18, 1910.

The senator's view was discussed widely at the Capitol today as a feature hitherto lost sight of in consideration of the annulment of the pact.

CHRISTMAS CHEER

The officers of the divisional headquarters and the members of the local corps are busily engaged in preparing for the annual distribution of baskets to the deserving poor on Christmas Eve, and judging from the applications for assistance which have been investigated, and others who have not appealed for help but are known to be in need owing to sickness, etc., the demand is going to be quite as great as in former years.

Five pots were placed on the streets on Monday, and the total received in the same being thirty-nine dollars and seventy cents ($39.70). Responses to the appeal by mail are beginning to come; and the following are hereby gratefully acknowledged: G. F. A. Anderson, $3; Dr. T. D. Walker $5; E. M. Shadbolt, $5; E. R. & H. W. Machum, $2; J. N. Rogers, $1; J. T. Driscoll, $1; H. Allison, $1; Frank R. Fairweather, $1; V. H. Miller, $2; Dr. Thos. Walker, $1; A. H. Chipman, $1; J. K. Schofield, $1; E. R. Reid, $1; Helen W. Mahon, $1; Alfred Burley, $1; D. S. Reid, $1; C. F. Brown, $2; D. C. Clark, $5; A friend, $5; J. A. D. Gibbons, $5; Jas. B. Erskine, $5; W. A. Ewing, $5; A friend, $5; Mrs. Jas. E. Dunn, $2; W. J. Simpson, $1; E. M. M., $2; W. Vassie, $3; A friend, $2; American Dye Works, $1; H. N. Stetson, $5; G. F. Fisher, $2; R. M. Boyd, $1; Miss Lawrence, $2; W F Leonard, $2.

THE FOOL THAT DROPS THE MATCH

It has been said, that anywhere,
The biggest fool afloat,
Is he who makes a rocking-chair
Of some one else's boat;
But equal with him in the race,
The eggs of woe to hatch,
Is, in unknown or known disgrace,
The fool that drops the match.

What is't to him, if, in his haste
A fragrant weed to try,
The folds of woman's pride and taste
Hang dangerously nigh?
What if a precious life recede
With flame-enhanced despatch?
He did not do the shameful deed:
He only dropped a match.

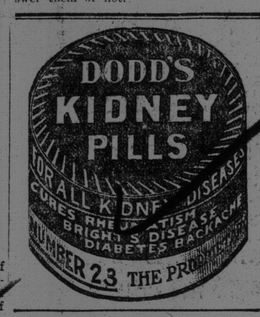
What is't to him, if stores of wealth
In flame may disappear,
Or friends that walked in joy and health,
May nevermore come near?
What if explosions upward spring,
A hundred lives to snatch?
He didn't do much of anything:
He only dropped a match.

Incendiary—guilty one
(As yet not doing time)
You'll learn the lesson, ere you're done,
That carelessness is crime.
But when your future home you view,
And lift its red-hot latch,
No matter then how often you
May drop the lighted match!

—Will Carleton, in Harper's Weekly.

DON'T CARE.

They were discussing the temperance question. "I am in favor of wine and spirits," said the great financier. "I am an overworked man, and every night after dinner I have forty or fifty letters to write. Well, in these circumstances, I find a bottle of champagne, with the evening meal a great help." "Does it help you to answer the letters?" an amateur analyst asked. "Oh, no," said the financier, "but after it I don't care a hang whether I answer them or not."



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Corns, Bunions, Callous Bunches, Tired, Aching, Swollen Feet. It allays pain and takes out soreness and inflammation promptly. Healing and soothing—causes better circulation of the blood to the part, assisting nature in building new, healthy tissue and invigorating the old. Alex Ahl, Tobin Block, Portland, writes Nov. 15, 1903: "No doubt you remember my getting two bottles of your ABSORBINE, JR., for a bunion on my foot. My foot is well." Also valuable for any swelling or painful affliction. Goitre, Varicose Veins, Milk Leg, Strains, Sprains, Heals Cuts, Bruises, Lacerations. Price $1.00 and $2.00 at all druggists, or delivered. Book 4 G Free. W. F. YOUNG, P.D.F., 310 Lymans Bldg., Montreal, Can.

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Toilet Caskets at $2.75, $3.00 and $3.25.

Millitary Brushes, Ebony Goods, Choice Pipes, Cigars in Xmas Boxes of 10 and 25.

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We are inviting you to come and see our Clothing Department Ladies' and Gentlemen's Outfits. There is no use to shiver from the cold when you have a talk with us. We can also show you Furs and Muffs at Low Prices.

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"THE KID FROM THE KLONDYKE" A Blithesome Edison Story About a Young Fellow Who Struck It Rich and Then Fell in Love
VITAGRAPH'S SCHOOLDAYS STORY A Plain Homelike Tale of Life in the Country Among the School Children. Very Amusing.
A COUPLE OF BUBBLING COMEDIES Two of the Funniest Things We Could Scare Up for This Happy Time of Year
HARRY BESSETTE Picture Songs | ORCHESTRA Afternoon and Evening
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IN THREE THINGS:
SINGING—TALKING—DANCING
(Coon Shouting) (Foolish Talk) (Buck and Wing)
Feature KALEM FILM The California Revolution of '46
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WEDNESDAY 20th | UNIQUE | THURSDAY 21st
"The Poison Cup" A Dramatic Theme Told in a Dramatic Way
"The Lover's Ruse" A Comedy Telling How the Girls Play it On Mother
ANOTHER FEATURE BILL
"As Things Used To Be" An Attack on Settlers by Indians and the Reformation of a Gambler
"A Corner in Criminals" A Laughing Comedy in which a Tramp the Chief of Police and a Reporter Figure
GHRISTMAS DAY—2 Reel Extra—"From the Bottom of the Sea".

GEM
EXCITING BIOGRAPH STORY "A MISER'S HEART"
Coming Special Xmas Films
Helen Andrie — Orchestra
FUNNY COMEDY "SHORT MORITZ"
VITAGRAPH MINING DRAMA "THE HALF-BREED'S DAUGHTER"

'STAR'
Another Assortment of great Photo Plays Wednesday and Thursday
"Round Up At Dawn" KALEM DRAMA
"Their Only Son" SELIG DRAMA
"Convenient Burglars"
"Wifie Holds The Purse Strings"
Biograph Comedies
Mr. Walter A. Brown Will Sing "STAR OF LOVE"
Friday and Saturday "TWO ORPHANS" By Kate Caxton
A Beautiful Drama With Wonderful Scenery.

Ladies and Gentlemen
Remember The Reliable Skating Rink
VICTORIA
OPENS
Thursday Night
With Band in Attendance.
Make Sure Your Ticket is a Victoria
---Now On Sale at Rink or Colwell Bros.

MILLIONS OF RATS

Cardiff, in Wales, is Reported Overrun By Them

Cardiff, Wales, Dec. 20—The waterfront district of this city is over run with rats, which are thought to come from the holds of ships. The rodents appeared in millions between night and morning. The authorities seem powerless to exterminate them. They swarm even the busiest thoroughfares at night, getting under foot.

Scores of people have been bitten by them. They have raided stores, cleaning them out. One shopkeeper reported that in the night his place was flooded with water, and a subsequent investigation showed that rats had gnawed through the lead water pipes.

OPERA HOUSE
MERRY CHRISTMAS
The W. S. Harkins Co.
Two Weeks—Commencing Dec. 25
HOLIDAY MATINEES—Christmas and New Year's.
OPENING PLAYS:
Clyde Fitch's Great Comedy
"GIRLS"
One Year at Daly's Theatre, New York.
Rida Johnson Young's
"The Lottery Man"
Take a Chance
1323 Wins a Husband
SECURE YOUR SEATS NOW

A resident of Amesbury on leaving his home one morning last week, noticed that the street in front of his house was very moist, while elsewhere it was dry and dusty. He concluded that there must be a leak in the water main and notified the commissioner's office to that effect. A gang of men was sent to investigate. They dug, and uncovered a long section of the main water pipe, but they could discover no leak in it. So they threw all the dirt back again and returned to the office. A local oil dealer confessed next day that while he was passing the good citizen's house he had spilled a quantity of oil and he, therefore, must have been the cause of all the trouble.