

"Spring Cleaning"**HARKINS PLAYERS SCORE IN A CLEVER PLAY.**

The manner in which the Harkins Players have won the theatre-going public of the city is sufficient testimony to the artistic skill of the performers, the high standard of the plays produced, and the keen insight of the management in gauging to a nicety the dramatic tastes of a St. John's audience. The latter is not by any means an easy task, but so happily has the selection of plays been made, that they meet with the hearty approval and appreciation of everyone. That this is the case is indicated by the crowd each night in every section of the Casino and the applause which comes from every quarter of the house.

"Spring Cleaning," performed last night was a type of play not often seen here, and seldom if ever has it been excelled in the manner of its presentation or in the way in which it captured the crowd, keeping everyone in eager anticipation by the intricacy of the tangle, the writer gives no hint of the outcome until the very end, full of sensational situations, it is at times startling in its frankness. It is replete with surprises, true to the life it portrays, and throughout, the talented performers live every bit of it as though the parts were made for them and they for the parts.

The wife of a writer, Richard Soames—a very excellent fellow, but somewhat too matter of fact to make her an ideal husband—seeks in the friendship of an easy going lot of friends that warmth of affection which she craves for but of which she believes Richard is incapable. A charming woman, Margaret has not long to seek for her ideal, Ernest Steele, a man whose wide experience with women enables him to assume with perfect ease the role of the devoted lover.

Unaware that her husband knows of her growing intimacy, or believing him indifferent, she plans with her friends for a trip to Paris, eventually he takes her with her intentions and tries to reason with her, but it only strengthens her determination to carry them out. As a last resort Richard decides to expose her friends, and when they are assembled at dinner he appears on the scene with Mona, a girl of questionable character. To Margaret's and the others' protests he pays no attention, and Mona, by no means abashed, uses her tongue with effect in reply to their offensive remarks.

The outcome is that Margaret decides that she will leave her husband and find solace with Ernest Steele. Outraged as she feels, and strongly as she expresses her hatred for Richard, it is evident, however, she is unable to overcome her real love for him or lightly fling aside all regard for virtue and decency. Even her traidour, hardened though he is, realizes her womanly qualities, realizes, too, the excellent character of her husband, and disavowing his intentions, decides to do one decent act and bring them together.

The third act in which the reconciliation takes place is the most powerful part of the whole play, as it portrays scenes which are as surprising as they are dramatic and yet as human and as unexaggerated as anything that happens in real life.

The cast of characters shows Joseph Selman as the honest, well-meaning, but too prosaic Richard Soames, a man who, because he fails to understand the woman, comes near losing a loving wife. The part in the hands of anyone but a master of the dramatic art would render the whole play meaningless, but needless to say Mr. Selman's great talent and personality enabled him to score in it one of his greatest successes.

Miss Violet Deane's charming appearance, her grace of movement and splendid enunciation, not to mention her dainty costumes, captivated the audience, and throughout her long and strenuous part her acting was faultless.

Fred Neilson had already enabled us to appreciate his skill as an actor in previous characterization sketches, but in his performance last night he excelled. It may not be difficult perhaps to assume the role of a gay Lothario, but to impersonate the character with the cool assurance of Ernest Steele, and to make the rogue the popular figure on the stage calls for exceptional talent, and Mr. Neilson proved that to him his art was second nature. James A. Bliss as the butler, and Rex Benware, Joseph Demier and George Rogers as types of the gay set gave splendid renditions of their roles as did also Miss Eugenie Dubois and Miss Doris Hackett in the parts of Lady Jane Walton and Fay Collen respectively. A character which called for delicate handling was that of Mona, Richard Soames' taken by Miss Mary Jepp, but her naive manner and frank remarks gained her hearty applause and never by a single action was the role overdone.

"Spring Cleaning" will be repeated this evening and on Saturday. The opportunity to see really first class dramatic performances occurs but too seldom in St. John's and no one should miss such a chance now that the Harkins Players are presenting such an excellent repertoire.

Ecclesiastical Visit to Channel

The Lord Bishop of Newfoundland lays the Foundation Stone of the new Church of Saint James at Channel.

Thursday, September 24th, will be a day long to be remembered by the members of the Church in Channel. On that day the Lord Bishop of the diocese performed the ceremony of laying the corner stone of the splendid new building which the Rector, the Rev. H. J. Read, R.D., and his congregation are planning to erect.

The service took place at 2.30 in the afternoon and was attended by a vast congregation. The Rector took the opening part of the service, and the Bishop, who was attended by the Rev. G. K. Malmont of Bonaville Bay as Chaplain, then proceeded with the simple yet edifying ceremonies with which the Church surrounds such functions. At the close of these ceremonies the Bishop gave a short and informal address in which he congratulated the Rector and people upon their courage and zeal in attempting to build such a beautiful church. He urged upon them the duty of making the House of God in their midst the most magnificent and attractive, both within and without, of all the buildings in the community.

The weather proved most propitious and a blast of sunshine at the moment of the blessing of the stone seemed to express the gladness in the hearts of the people at the successful beginning of their great undertaking.

In the evening a large congregation assembled in the old church to take part in the evening prayers of the church and to hear their Father in God speak to them again. This time he spoke to them as to the real meaning of a church in a community and showed them how the worship within the walls was to be expressed in their daily life.

The proposed new church at Channel is to be a replica of Saint Mark's Church, Halifax, and when completed will be one of the finest churches in Newfoundland. Mr. Read is to be congratulated upon this crowning monument of 27 years' work in the parish and the splendid backing which his congregation is giving him in the effort.

The Absent Minded**THE MAN WHO WANTED WAKENING UP.**

Three times have I thrown my pipe in the fire and stuck the match between my teeth.

One night when I should have been going to a dance I went upstairs to change, but I got into bed and went to sleep instead. Once, when I came home rather late, I hung my hat on the gas-bracket and burnt the hat-pipe, but my life's companion would not believe that I was pure absent-mindedness.

Even Sir Isaac Newton was guilty of absent-mindedness. In a moment of abstraction he used one of his sweet-heart's fingers instead of his own to ram the tobacco in his pipe. But why the maiden allowed him to do such a thing is one of Cupid's secrets.

Then there was a well-known poet who was preparing for a journey and could not find his watch. He ransacked the room, turned out the drawers and boxes, and swore his wife had moved it.

(Had it happened in America she would have had sufficient grounds for a divorce.)

Finally, and almost in despair, he glanced at the watch safely strapped on his wrist, and exclaimed: "I've just time for another look before the train time." What his wife said afterwards will be given in his next poem—Laurie Women.

The Limit.

Holiday makers are so busy that they frequently fall victims to absent-mindedness. A bathing superintendent recently complained that among the things left in the tents were six sets of false teeth. The unfortunate who had left them would quickly realize it when they attacked the landladies' chops—those on the menu, I mean. Pipes, buttons, powder-puffs, and a pair of braces were other things among his salvage. The man who left his braces must have been unstrung.

Perhaps the palm for absent-mindedness goes to a married man, reputed to be a Yorkshireman. On going to bed one night he turned to his wife, and pursuing his lips blew a well-directed blast in her astonished face. Then he suddenly turned over to kiss the candle good-night.

Hoping His Cold May Last Forever

AGRAM, Croatia—Two murderers, Swidario and Sever, whose execution was set for Monday morning, were taken from their cells to the scaffold. They were standing under the gallows within the shadow of the rope, and apparently resigned to their fate, when the warden of the prison informed them that the husband had just telegraphed that he had caught a cold and would be unable to do the job until Tuesday morning.

His Grace the Archbishop at St. Francis Church

On Sunday, 27th inst., the parish of St. Francis (St. John's East), was en fête in honour of his Grace's visit for the purpose of administering the Sacrament of Confirmation. Several arches had been erected for the occasion, each artistically bedecked with a liberal supply of bunting and kindly words of welcome and loyalty. From the moment the Archbishop came in view till he reached the church, where, accompanied by Rt. Rev. Mgr. McDermott, V.G., he was received by the Pastor, Fr. O'Callaghan, the men of the parish made the surrounding hills resound with volleys of musketry.

As his Grace entered the beautiful church, the splendid organ pealing forth the strains of the Pope's March, the throng (the church being filled to capacity) stood in respectful reverence as the distinguished visitor approached the sanctuary. Within a few minutes of his arrival the Archbishop vested in cope and mitre, addressed the large congregation. As is usual he spoke very beautifully and eloquently, explaining in chaste diction the meaning and effects of the Sacrament of Confirmation. He referred very feelingly to the loyalty and devotion and faith of the people, and tendered kindly words of sympathy in connection with the fishery failures of the past few years in the parish (this year's fishery being the most pronounced failure for more than half a century); at the same time congratulating both pastor and parishioners upon the remarkable amount of work accomplished in so brief a period of time, and with small numbers.

—and the struggle against severe handicaps. Particularly beautiful were his Grace's references to the church itself—its chaste and exquisite interior, as also its imposing and dignified exterior, all bearing eloquent testimony to the generosity and co-operation of the people, and the hard work and sacrifices of both pastor and parishioners. He paid a splendid tribute to the spirit pervading the entire Archdiocese between the church, priests and people—the real and earnestness of the priests, and the loyalty and co-operation of the people.

In concluding his Grace emphasized the importance of education, exhorting all to lend their aid and assistance to the efforts of pastor and teachers at all times by seeing that their children attended school regularly, and also by imparting a thorough home training, as the home is the nursery of Heaven. The Archbishop also commented very favorably upon the intellectual appearance and attitude of the children, and stated that he had now administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to some three thousand children during the summer.

After Confirmation, seventy-three having been confirmed, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was imparted by His Grace, assisted by Rt. Rev. Mgr. McDermott, V.G., and Fr. O'Callaghan. The singing was very pleasing, especially so as the choir is almost wholly new and composed of school children.

The scene was again a very animated and happy one as the Archbishop bade adieu to the pastor and congregation, now assembled in the beautiful church grounds, and he received a most hearty send off and God-speed. Girls and boys vied with each other in paying him splendid homage, and his Grace was assuredly happy in witnessing such whole-souled devotion and loyalty, both to himself and to his exalted office. Ad Multos Annos.

A Giant Mother of Airplanes**DRIFTABLE TO ACT AS A HANGER FOR FLEET OF SMALLER CRAFT.**

One of the most daring ideas in aeronautics recently was proposed in England. It is that a dirigible shall be built—a dirigible far larger than our own Shenandoah—to carry a small fleet of airplanes. At least three-fourths of the great ship is to be used for hangars.

The executive officer of the dirigible receives a radio message, asking for a plane to call at some outlying post or town. A plane is wheeled out into the central runway until it reaches the release chamber, and with a slight pause for adjustment of engine and wings, she hops off. Returning, the plane lands on the broad, flat top deck of the dirigible, is received by the elevator and restored to the hangar deck, where it is entirely overhauled.

PATENT NOTICE.

Four weeks after date hereof application will be made to His Excellency the Governor-in-Council for New and Useful Improvements in "Saves" to be granted to Adrian George deNorthall, Engineer, of Indianapolis, Count of Marston, State of Indiana, United States of America.

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Emperor Cook's Bad Day

BIG STRIKE POLICY SHELVED—MR. J. H. THOMAS'S THREATS.

Scarborough, Sept. 3. — Emperor Cook (the Communist secretary of the Miners' Federation), who with his scheme for a great industrial alliance seeks to dominate the British industrial world, met with a serious reverse to-day when the Trades Union Congress resumed its deliberations under the presidency of Mr. A. B. Swales.

The congress has clearly expressed its dislike of any scheme, no matter in what form it is presented, which has for its object the placing of the destinies of 5,000,000 workers in the hands of an autocrat.

A composite resolution from the National Union of Vehicle Builders and the National Brass and Metal Mechanics proposed that the time is ripe for definite powers to be given to the General Council of the congress to impose a levy on all affiliated members and to call for a stoppage of work by an affiliated organization, or part thereof, to assist a union defending a vital trade union principle.

FOOD SUPPLY IN STRIKES.

The resolution also proposed that the council should have powers to arrange with the Co-operative Wholesale Society to make provision for the distribution of food and other supplies in the event of a strike or action calling for a strike.

Finally the resolution proposed that the congress should call on all organizations to make such alterations to their rules as would regularize the position.

The matter did not even go to the vote, for the sense of the congress was so strong against such a scheme being forced upon them that the General Council was instructed to consult with the executives of all affiliated unions, to discuss the matter in all its bearings and then present its conclusions to a special congress of the executives.

THE EMPEROR REBUTED.

This decision was not arrived at without some heated discussion, during which Emperor Cook, who had tried one or two of his well-known firebrand tactics, was told by Mr. J. H. Thomas, M.P. (political secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen), not to think that he was the only man who knew what was best for the world.

The debate was initiated by Mr. Floyd (Vehicle Builders, Manchester), who asserted that the time was opportune for the council to have greater powers, so that it could repeat the success achieved in connection with the miners' dispute.

Mr. T. E. Naylor (London Society of Compositors), however, pointed out that the council had achieved its success in the miners' dispute under its present organization. Therefore what need was there for anything else?

He protested against any interference with the autonomy of unions such as the resolution suggested.

Mr. Timberlake, also of the London Society of Compositors, urged the congress not to be led away by "these stunts" cries.

Then Emperor Cook spoke. He was very humble at first, thanking the congress for what it had done for the miners. He added that the Trades Union Congress was the Parliament of the future. Then, in his best "I'll-make-your-flesh-crawl" manner, he declared that there was a great conflict coming, and they had to organize and fight scientifically to meet it.

He drew a picture of how the Prime Minister of England had been overawed by the Trades Union Congress in the recent miners' dispute, and then he sketched his plan for providing a commissariat department by linking up with the Co-operative Societies.

He was still fulminating when the president, by the tickle of a bell, cut short his utterances.

Mr. J. H. Thomas, who had earlier protested against the resolution being forced on congress without giving the delegates an opportunity of considering it in its present form, said there was no one in that room who had a chance of staying it.

ANGRY EMPEROR.

"Notwithstanding what Cook says, the miners have not had the opportunity," was a remark by Mr. Thomas which brought forth a number of protests and an angry "Look after yourself!" from the Emperor.

Quite unperturbed, Mr. Thomas added that he agreed that the General Council should be endowed with all necessary power, but common sense was also sometimes necessary.

He feared that the resolution would eventually lead to disintegration among them.

Turning to where Emperor Cook was sitting, he said: "Don't make the mistake of assuming that you are the best judge of what the world requires"—a shaft which delighted the congress.

Mr. C. R. Clynes, M.P., drove home Mr. Thomas's reply. "With great respect for Mr. Cook," he said, "I do not hesitate to tell him that a great deal of what he has said has nothing to do

with the case. I am not afraid of the capitalist class. The only class I am afraid of is our own. It would be a great mistake for this congress, without the authority of its members, to take the precipitate action suggested."

Mr. Ernest Bevin (Transport Workers), opposing the proposal, described much of the debate as dialectical nonsense.

Mr. J. Brownlie (Amaingated Engineers) also opposed the resolution: UNEMPLOYMENT.

The congress agreed to the proposition of Mr. A. Hayday, M.P. (on behalf of the National Union of General and Municipal Workers), that the Government should be asked to initiate legislation to provide, among other things, continuous benefit for the unemployed, and to enable the Ministry of Labour to appoint trade unions as agents to administer the Unemployment Insurance Acts on behalf of their members, to be supplied with details of vacancies, and to act for their members as if they were Labour Exchanges, with proper remuneration for this work.

The trades councils were refused admission to the congress on the ground that the application was out of order. This was another blow to the Reds, for the councils are the link between the extremists and the congress.

During the discussion on unemployment Mr. Harry Pollitt, a militant Red, declared: "Don't leave the unemployed in the lurch. They can be made a social weapon with this movement either to make or break the Labour Party."

The president reminded congress that the Prime Minister had already promised to make arrangements to meet them on the unemployment question.—Daily Mail.

Plain Speaking at Last**ABOUT THE CINEMA CAMERA MENACE.**

"In the old days when the ballad was at its zenith, Fletcher of Saltoun said that he knew of a very wise man who believed it a man were permitted to make all the ballads he need not care who should make the laws of a nation." Apply that saying to the films!

"Let the Government realize the subtle influence of the pictures upon the impulsive receptive minds of those who sit and look at them. If the State ignores the cinema it will only do so at its peril."—The Daily Telegraph.

Public opinion has been keenly alive to the cinema film menace, and we welcome the letter sent to the Premier asking for a Committee of Inquiry. Important as the question is from the point of view of industry, it is even more vital as a moral force. The famous men and women who sign the letter state:—

"Important as is the commercial aspect of this problem, high national and patriotic interest are involved. No one who has followed the development of this new form of popular entertainment can be in any doubt as to the immense importance of films as a subtle means of propaganda, none the less powerful because it is indirect. Films have an atmosphere of their own."

"The bulk of films shown in this country have, to say the least of it, a non-British atmosphere. These films are shown in our Dominions, Colonies, and Dependencies, and in all the countries of the world outside the British Commonwealth of Nations. Many of them are inferior productions, neither heftily nor patriotic in tone, while the psychological influences which they convey may have far-reaching consequences."

"What is the explanation of this state of things, which we venture to describe as deplorable? It is precisely because there is as yet no authoritative reply to this question that we are venturing to address you and to make a public appeal to the Prime Minister to institute an inquiry and, at the same time, permit a judgment to be formed as to the measures which should be taken to establish a film industry in this country on a sound foundation."

"In making this appeal for an authoritative inquiry, we purposely refrain from discussing the many explanations and suggestions which have been canvassed; but, in our judgment, the very variety of these suggestions supplies an unanswerable argument for an impartial examination of the whole of the facts affecting the present state and future of the film industry in this country."

"Seeing how much films matter, socially and commercially, and have been mattering for at least the last fifteen years, this position is certainly serious, and if a Government inquiry will set people thinking seriously about it, we all welcome it. Let us have that inquiry with all speed," says the Manchester Guardian.

"But it is worth pointing out that one of the things which have contributed to the gravity of the position in regard to British film-producing has been for long enough the very slight interest taken in the cinema by intelligent sections of the public. For a good many years it has been our custom to treat the cinema as something which had to be seriously considered and criticised, and this

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