

NEWS NOTES GATHERED FROM THE WORLD OF STAGE AND SCREEN

LISTLESS LARKIN, IDLE FOR 60 YEARS,
TAKES JOB COUNTING THEATREGOERS

Had Narrow Escape in 1897
—Now Feels He Has
Struck His Groove.

Listless Larkin has gone to work. You who get thrills out of the Teapot Dome investigations, the past of Mrs. Beverly Harris, taxes and Babe Ruth's banions may read that Listless Larkin has gone to work and, failing to grasp the significance, ask "What of it?" But when you are told that Mr. Larkin is past 60 and yesterday accepted his first job of work the news value of this statement takes on girth.

Mr. Larkin is now working at the Venice Theatre in Chatham Square. It is his duty to count the patrons as they go in and count them as they go out, that none may request themselves under the seats or in other hiding places after the last showing at night that they might be on deck for the first showing on the morrow and incidentally enjoy dry, warm sleeping free. "You ask me why at my time of life should break the precedent of sixty years," said Mr. Larkin. "There are several reasons. In the first place, I have been thinking that every man ought to contribute something to society. Gosh hang it! a man who doesn't contribute something to society is not on the level. A guy can't go through this life and be too selfish. A guy's conscience won't stand for it.

"In the second place, a guy's got to have something to occupy his mind, especially if he's got a mind. Now I've got a good mind. This job I've taken after looking around and deciding on this career may not look hard to you, but it's that way in life. The guys who don't seem to be doing much are always the guys who are doing the most. You see me sitting here at the door of the Venice Theatre and as the patrons as they go in and as they go out. It's nice, clean work and I can sit down and do it. But it takes a mentality to get away with it. A little slip and the management loses money. If I count 500 going in and see only 492 come out after the last show I know that there are eight guys missing, don't I?"

"I took my time about choosing this as my life work. One of the worst

things a fellow can do is to get into the wrong groove. So often I've seen men plunge into business only to find, at 60, that they ought to have taken up plumbing instead of doctoring. And at that age a guy can't change so easily. It's heart breaking, if you'll ask me. So I took my time. I resolved that when I was 60 I wouldn't have vain regrets about having taken up the wrong profession. A man really doesn't know his mind until he's 60.

"As you may have heard, I almost plunged into business back in 1897. There was a panic on or something and I became infected, but, thank heaven, I remembered in time. I'd have made a hell of a railroad man, wouldn't I? The income I derive from this counting I have adopted is not princely, but the post is comfortable and it fits the incumbent. Here I am at 60 with all my usefulness ahead of me, if you get my meaning. So many men are worn out at 60. I'm not. My father conserved his vitality as I have. It was he who gave me my motto—the words which have comforted me and been my strength in times of trial. This gem of philosophy is:

"Take it easy; you'll last longer." Mr. Larkin is a bachelor.

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Kahn Admitted to Musicians' Union
After Showing Skill on Saxophone

New York, March 1.—Roger Wolfe Kahn, son of Otto H. Kahn, has passed the required examination and became a member in good standing of Local 802 of the American Federation of Musicians. After an exhibition before an examining committee of five union officials, of his ability to play the saxophone, he paid the regular initiation fee of \$50 and the annual dues of \$8, in advance, receiving in return a union card that authorized him to play in bands and orchestras employing other union musicians.

It was said by those who know the young man and his father, that that he approved his son's interest in music, including modern jazz, but that he opposed his appearance in public. The Roger Wolfe Orchestra, of which young Mr. Kahn is a member, and which recently changed its name in his honor, is expected to play at a number of private functions in the coming weeks.

line with the aid of music instructors who are content with seeing their own talent reproduced parrot-like in the susceptible young pupil. He thinks the comparative oblivion into which they sink in after years is the result of their original environment, which in most cases, he says, is diametrically opposed to all artistic perception. Lacking in cultural surroundings, their general personality is not kept at the par of their specific talent, and beyond the learned-by-rote repertoire they do not have the equipment to go. Even if they have the spiritual susceptibility, the lack of true culture of mind and body makes their road difficult, for the artist must appeal to cultured people for success in his career.

"Aside from their music, they are otherwise savages," Dr. Damrosch said. "The teacher's task, if he be a true artist and is guided by the principles of good teaching, is to make a human being of the object. The artist teacher is worthy of an artist pupil and only as a teacher can descend to the pupil's performance. This refinement requires continuous stimulation, which cannot be acquired in intensive musical training alone."

But the arrested prodigy is not the only unfortunate victim of the musical impulse. Nor are parents guided by hope of financial gain the only perpetrators of injustice. Often parents seek the gratification of an acquired taste for music through the innocent fingers of the young folks. Then it is, according to Dr. Damrosch, that the choice of teacher and the analysis of his method are determining factors.

Dr. Damrosch believes that much of the effort devoted to musical instruction of children might be better employed in more useful pursuits to which the child is more naturally adapted. He would disapprove many

ambitious parents who, in their fondness for music, demand evidences of "progress" from the child. He says that actual instruction on an instrument might well be delayed a year or two after training in music is undertaken. The child should first be inspired through song. The parent may have a passion for the cello, but the child should not be badgered to get a conception of time, but should acquire that instinct through familiar rhythmic forms—the march and the dance.

"Even in inapt pupils there is a pos-

WINNERS IN THE
IMPERIAL CONTEST

The winners of the three pairs of best seats for the Dumbells' engagement next Wednesday and Thursday in the Imperial contest, conducted through yesterday's newspapers are: Miss Margaret H. McCloskey, 65 Douglas Ave.; S. H. Arthur, 76 Sydney street, and Master Robert Kelly, 106 Waterloo street. Announcement is made in response to a flood of enquiries. There were close to 1,000 entrants in the brief competition and as usual the early ones did the winning. Those who have been successful had their answers in the hands of Imperial people between seven and eight o'clock in the morning the day the advertisement appeared. The word misspelled was "Jewelled." The printer, innocently trying to help matters along no doubt, injected a "y" into this word and left in both "Is." One or two other mistakes were accidental.

JURY GETS CRASH FILM.
Will Decide \$50,000 Suit Against Pearl White.

New York, Mar. 1.—A film of a moving picture in which Pearl White was the star was given to a jury before Justice Hagarty, which was considering the suit for \$50,000 damages brought by John F. Beatty of 699 Park place, Brooklyn, against Miss White and the Fox Film Corporation. Beatty charged that he received permanent injuries as a result of a heavy fall, caused by the careless manner in which Miss White held her home.

Justice Hagarty would not permit the defense to show the moving picture of the accident in the court, but he gave the film to the jurors. After he charged the jury he directed it to prepare a sealed verdict.

SEARCH NEW SENSATIONS.
Feeling that sex stories are on the wane, many picture men are searching

A thrilling dramatization of the screen in which the strength of human emotions vie with the unlimited fury of the elements in chaotic turmoil!

See the total destruction of a huge mine, the great sacrifice through fire and flood that love called forth from a girl who had trusted no man!

You have admired Priscilla Dean before you'll stand and cheer at this! You'll say you've seen some picture!

CARL LAEMMLE presents

Priscilla Dean
—In The—
"FLAME OF LIFE"

A wonderful screen drama From a wonderful novel —by— Francis Hodgson Burnett

"Leather Pushers" Extra

UNIQUE THEATRE
A SPLENDID RURAL COMEDY DRAMA

"QUINCY ADAMS SAWYER"
"SPEED"
No. 5 Serial

Watch For Monday's Program

VENETIAN GARDENS TONIGHT DANCING

DANCING AT THE STUDIO TONIGHT

And now this young star assumes a romance role; a drama of the days of chivalry; when the courtly Stuarts sat on the English throne; a special among special productions—with young Mr. Barthelmess in a role more vigorous, more dashing, more loveable. The picture of all of his pictures you will find most glorious. And, like the others,

A FIRST NATIONAL ATTRACTION

St. John Pictures:
Tearing Down Old Dufferin.
Miss Oatey Chosen "Miss St. John."
Charlie Gorman Welcomed Home.

USUAL PRICES Eve. 25c, 35c
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the world over for new box office magnets.

Fred Niblo has wired the Prince of Wales an offer to appear in the movies. Fred figures a slow motion film of the Prince falling off his horse would pack them in. Furthermore, he thinks it will have a great value from an economic standpoint, because every time

the Prince falls it can be re-issued as a news picture.

Former Mayor Thompson of Chicago is reported to have made arrangements to enter the moving picture business. The ex-mayor is, judging from the news reports, a keen judge of box office values.

12 Lilliputians Inhabit Basement of New York Hippodrome.

New York, March 1.—A completely laid-out city designed for and inhabited by midgets is something rather out of the ordinary. It is to be found in the basement of the Hippodrome, where, although still constantly fulfilling its original intention as a playground for children and grownup visitors, it has become such an integral part of the theatre's inner life that the occupations of its inhabitants are much like those of a normal-sized community.

Twelve midgets are the citizens of this village in the Hippodrome's Town. Their vocations extend all the way from barbering to selling orange-ade, and their avocations from cutting fire in a semi-professional capacity to reading William James and exhibiting certain new and rather belated enthusiasms for Freudian psychology.

While the performance is on upstairs they gather around the card table or in small groups and discuss every known subject. There is a very unusual small talk about themselves, gossip of the theatre and expressions of opinion on current events, for they are inveterate newspaper readers. Then suddenly the conversation will veer off into a discussion of topics which are often rather vague, philosophical wanderings, meandering theological observations—reared in orthodox German faiths, the midgets are mostly Fundamentalists and look with disfavor upon any prospects of religious changes—sweeping generalizations on past events in their lives.

Many of them have had certain experiences with prominent persons which they treasure. There is Tommy Keenan, for instance, the only man alive who has the distinction of having made Jack Dempsey take the count of ten. Tommy is the fireman in the midget city, and he keeps on exhibition in the firehouse the gloves with which he knocked out Dempsey in a demonstration several years ago. The little fellow is a great friend of the champion, and he never comes to town without looking him up.

Then there is Louis Steffer, the farmer, smiling-faced and a natural chicken raiser. Louis knows almost everything to be known about the care of chickens, and he is the owner of a large farm out in California, where he repairs as often as possible and grows some of the West Coast's blue ribbon poultry.

Two of the Tortown citizens bear regal names, King Clo, the chauffeur, and Prince Clo, the traffic cop. The last is the possessor of the untold wealth, unlimited contentment of a five-year-old boy, and it is decidedly a shock to hear him speak of events which happened twenty years ago. No mention of Tortown would be complete without saying something of Kayo. Kayo is a Japanese midget, a clown, and makes up as a somewhat plausible talker. With a monkey and an organ he parades among the crowds lending a realistic touch for the between-the-acts visitor.

Out of the theatre, the midgets stick together. They seem to prefer one another's society, although they are as friendly and courteous as they can be to outsiders. When they do not eat at the Hippodrome, they foregather across the street at a Sixth Avenue restaurant where they have their own round table.

WILL CLOSE OPERA TILL TAX LOWER

Vienna, Feb. 29.—The managers of all the Vienna opera theatres, whose financial situation for various reasons has been far from rosy, have decided to close the present season as early as possible, and not to reopen their theatres until the municipal amusement tax has been reduced to a reasonable amount. The managers declare that this tax of 30 per cent, together with the other municipal rates introduced by the Socialist majority in the Town Hall, makes it impossible for them to renew contracts with their personnel or conclude new ones.

This decision to close down is a reply to Town Councillor Breitner, who is in charge of the financial affairs of the municipality, and recently declared to a deputation of managers, who asked him to reduce the amusement tax, that they should be glad he desired from a further increase of this tax as he intended.

SEES 2,000 STAGE ACTS.

Vaudeville Scout Visits 14 Countries and 74 Cities in Far East.

New York, Mar. 1.—In order to provide novelty and feature acts for American vaudeville goes, if a phrase may be coined, Harry J. Mondorf, European agent and general scout for the B. F. Keith vaudeville circuit, has viewed and reviewed more than 2,000 acts in practically all parts of the Eastern Hemisphere during the last seven months. Two years ago Mr. Mondorf visited fourteen countries and several cities seeing thousands of acts, but selecting only fifty. Since his departure for the Far East last August Mr. Mondorf has visited Manila, Shanghai, Peking, Vladivostok, various cities of China, Japan, Korea, Siam, Burma, Java, Sumatra, the Straits Settlement, Saigon, Honolulu and the interior portions of Asia.

The South China Morning Post, printed in both English and Chinese, gave an editorial column to the visit of Mr. Mondorf and the meaning of this (to them) strange desire to interweave the mystery and arts of the Orient with those of the Occident.

WEDDING BELLS

Betty Compton and James Cruze planned to be married in Frisco, Utah, some time this fall. Frisco is Betty's old home town and is way out in the wilds, but not far enough from Hollywood to make her waste her sweetness on the desert air. Instead of the wedding march at the Compton-Cruze nuptials, the organist will play "In a Covered Wagon For Two."

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"The Best Soldier Show to Date"
WED. 5th THUR. 6th IMPERIAL THEATRE SEAT SALE MONDAY

"One of the snappiest musical shows ever brought to Portland."
—Portland (Ore.) Journal.
"Hats off to Canada's soldier show-men."
—Tocoma Times.

The Most Phenomenal Hit in the History of All Canadian Soldier Revues

"Every year, in every feature, the Old Dumbells 'Originals' get better and better."
—Calgary Albertan.
"Rapid Fire" is a whirlwind."
—Vancouver Province.

The WORLD'S CHAMPION
FUN MAKERS

OLD DUMBELLS RAPID FIRE
FORMERLY IN THEIR NEW REVUE
WITH RED NEWMAN ARTHUR (JOCK) HOLLAND JIMMIE COODE
and all the old favorites introducing
GENE PEARSON The Male Galli Curci

Offering 27 Brand New Innovations, including the famous jewelled curtain Specially Imported From Paris for The Production. It's Dazzling, Brilliant, Magnificent. Resembling a Color-Changing Mountain of Diamonds.

THE SPRING TONIC YOU NEED! A BIG 2½-HOUR SHOW

PRICES: Eve. Orch. \$2.00 and \$1.50—Balcony \$1.50, \$1.00, 75c.
Mat. Orch. \$1.00—Balcony 50c., 75c.