GRAND
MATINEES
25c - 50c
WEDNESDAY - SATURDAY
WHERE THE ATTRACTIONS ARE AYWAYS GOOD AT A NEVER-CHANGING SCALE OF MODERATE PRICES.

FIRST TIME HERE AT LESS THAN DOLLAR-FIFTY PRICES—THE GREATEST OF ALL SOCIETY PLAYS—JAMES K. HACKETT'S FAMOUS PRODUCTION
THE WALLS OF JERICHO
ONE OF THE BIG LONDON and NEW YORK DRAMATIC SUCCESSES
LAURA BURT and HENRY STANFORD
PRINCIPAL PEOPLE WITH THE LATE SIR HENRY IRVING
ONE OF THE REALLY GREAT DRAMAS OF THE TIME

NEXT WEEK
THE INIMITABLE AND UNIQUE COMEDIAN
GEORGE SIDNEY
IN HIS LATEST MUSICAL SUCCESS
BUSY IZZY'S BOODLE

THEATRES

PRINCESS—Lillian Russell in "Wildfire."
Adele Ritchie in "Fascinating Flora."
ROYAL ALEXANDRA—Ida Conquest in "Her Great Match."
GRAND—"The Walls of Jericho."
MAJESTIC—"The Singing Girl From Killarney."
SHEA—Bill of Vaudeville.
STAR—"High School Girls."
GAYETY—Burlesque.

At the Princess.

One of the most interesting of the public questions before the people of New York State to-day is Governor Hughes' recommendation to abolish betting at the racetrack, except by the system in vogue in England, where no record of the wager is passed. The track owners will fight the legislation, as $20,000,000 is involved. Both sides have strong arguments. The words "economic waste," meaning betting by those who cannot afford it, made the deepest impression. Without aiming to parade a sermon the racing comedy "Wildfire," which comes to the Princess Theatre this week, with Lillian Russell in the role of a track owner, does teach a powerful lesson. The comedy shows how the betting, the very object Governor Hughes is aiming to abolish, is manipulated. Every character in the play is more or less inoculated with the fever and is interested in racing only to win money on results.

Messrs. Hobart & Broadhurst, the playwrights, aim only to amuse and entertain, but under the superficial dialog and amusing situations, the auditor catches glimpses of the unhealthy condition of racing in America.

The star of the play, who knows the track better than any woman in America, gives Punch's advice on marrying to racetrack bettors—that is, "Don't."

Lillian Russell is undoubtedly the most conspicuous figure at the Saratoga racetrack every summer, and her devotion to "the sport of kings" is well known. What more fitting than that this new queen of light comedy should appear in a racing play? and for that reason, perhaps, George H. Broadhurst and George V. Hobart have fashioned for Miss Russell a new comedy with the great popular sport as its theme. The new play is named "Wildfire" and its scenes are laid at Hempstead, Long Island, among the smart racing set. Manager Joseph Brooks has provided a handsome scenic equipment for "Wildfire" and the notably strong company supporting Miss Russell includes Boyd Putnam, Herbert Corthell, Will Archie, Morgan Wallace, Gilbert Douglas, Genevieve Cliff, Annie Buckley, Rosalie De Vaux, Owen Westford and Norman Tharp.

At the Alexandra.

At next Saturday evening's performance, Miss Ida Conquest and the Royal Alexandra Players will bid good-bye to Toronto playgoers, as this week closes their engagement. The attraction will be "Her Great Match," a play in four acts, written for Maxine Elliott, by Clyde Fitch. This production should prove, especially to the ladies a raret treat, as it gives Miss Conquest many opportunities to display her beautiful gowns, which are the work of the leading Parisian modistes. The ladies will also be pleased to learn that after two weeks' rest Miss Elfreda Lasche will again be in the cast.

It is claimed by many critics that "Her Great Match" is the best play that Fitch ever wrote. The leading characters are a wealthy brewer, a crown prince, a bright American girl, and a woman who is bound to have money, no matter how she procures it. The wealthy brewer is a Mr. Botes, who is anxious for the social advancement of his son. With that object in view, he goes to England, and rents the house of a country gentleman, where he entertains lavishly. Among the guests are H.R.H. the Countess of Hohenhetstien and her nephew, H.R.H. the Crown Prince Adolph of Eastphalia, which is Botes' native town. Mrs. Sheldon and her stepdaughter, "Jo," from New York. Mrs. Sheldon has become financially involved and secures a large sum of money from a bank by false pretensions, and the improper use of her husband's name. She is forced to leave New York until matters are fixed up. She had for some time been an unscrupulous woman-financier. After she gets settled in the English home of Botes, she begins planning and scheming. She knows that Botes is ambitious to secure a title for his son, and that he would not object to paying a good handsome sum for it, and she enters into an agreement with him by which she is to receive £40,000 if the son is made a baronet. She then sets about to arrange a marriage between the crown prince and her daughter, "Jo." The young couple meet, and proceed at once to fall in love with each other. A masquerade fete is given in the grounds of the manor, and "Jo" disguises herself in the garb of a gypsy fortune teller. Among those whose hand she reads is the crown prince's. After telling him plenty about his future, she winds up by making him believe that he is to marry a girl with dark hair. This is very disappointing to the young chap, as "Jo's" hair is more on the blonde order. After a time they become engaged, but the crown prince, owing to his position in the world, can only offer a morganatic marriage. This she refuses to accept. The crown prince arranges with his father, the king, to give up his claim to the throne in favor of his brother. In the meantime, Mrs. Sheldon has succeeded in obtaining the £40,000 from Botes, sr., in payment of the baronetcy which has been conferred on his son. "Jo" hears of this deal. It is obnoxious to her. She feels that she has been disgraced by her mother, and not worthy to marry the prince. She breaks off the engagment with the prince and assumes the responsibility of the debt. After a time the prince succeeds in overcoming her scruples, and they are happily married.

"Her Great Match" will be given a splendid production, it is promised, and will equal if not excel anything that has yet been given at the Royal Alexandra Theatre. Matinees will be given on Thursday and Saturday only. Following is the cast of "Her Great Match": "Jo" Sheldon .....Miss Conquest
H.R.H. the Duchess of Hohenhetstien .....Miss Morgan
Mrs. Sheldon .....Miss Lamkin
Victoria Botes .....Miss Lasche
Countess Cassavetti .....Miss Grau
H. R. H. the Crown Prince Adolph of Eastphalia .....Mr. Mackay
Mr. Botes .....Mr. MacWade, jr.
Cyril Botes .....Mr. Yost
Mr. Frank Wilton .....Mr. Patterson
Hallen (butler) at the Bootes..Mr. Tooker
Weeks (footman) at the Bootes.....Mr. Sommerville

Adele Ritchie's Stage Career.

Adele Ritchie, the prima donna of "Fascinating Flora," which comes to the Princess Theatre, is often called the "Dresden China" comedienne. She was born in Philadelphia of French-Quaker parents. She was educated at the Villa Marie, West Chester, Pa., and it was upon her graduation from the convent that she made her first stage appearance. It was a little amateur presentation of a French comedy in which she played the principal role and sang several fetching songs. The praise of her tutors and her natural love for theatricals are the only real reasons given by Miss Ritchie for adopting the stage as a profession. She made her professional debut in "The Algerian," singing in the chorus and also acting as the understudy for Marie Tempest, the prima donna. During the season, in Boston, Miss Tempest was taken suddenly ill and Miss Ritchie took the role and so cleverly did she acquit herself in the part that she was permanently retained in it by the management. This was in 1894, and Miss Ritchie had the distinction of being the youngest prima donna on the American stage. Following the Algerian" the most important successes in which Miss Ritchie appeared as prima donna were Reginald de Koven's "Mandarin" and Victor Herbert's "Wizard of the Nile." Then, when musical comedy became an accepted form of theatrical entertainment, she was prominently identified with "The Runaway Girl," making, in that piece, the song "Oh, Listen to the Band" attain its great vogue. Miss Ritchie continued under Augustin Daly's management in musical productions for three years. "Florodora" and "Glittering Gloria" added to her triumphs, and later on vaudeville, at an enormous salary, lured her for the time from comic opera and the musical comedy stage. Miss Ritchie's most recent successes have been scored with shows of the New York Casino. She was prima donna of "The Social Whirl," and in "Fascinating Flora" has the name part of "Flora," which is regarded, both by the public and the young woman herself, as her chief success and triumph.

"The Walls of Jericho."

"The Walls of Jericho" was first produced at the Garrick Theatre, London, where it created no end of discussion and interest because it mirrored in such a powerful light the follies and weaknesses of the so-called smart set. It took all London by storm and caused the same interest and curiosity when it was first given in New York some few months later. There is an atmosphere of sincerity about this play, which gives it a charm that has merited the popular recognition accorded it.

Laura Burt and Henry Stanford, principal people with the late Sir Henry Irving have the leading roles, and are supported by an exceptionally strong company. "The Walls of Jericho," which has been playing at the high-priced houses, will be offered to Toronto theatregoers at the Grand this week at the Grand's scale of moderate prices.

"Fascinating Flora."

On January 30th, under the direction of Burnside and, Comstock the Burnside-Herbert-Kerker musical comedy, "Fascinating Flora," which during the spring and summer was a popular fixture at the Casino Theatre, New York, will come to the Princess Theatre. The piece comes from runs of three weeks each in Boston, Brooklyn and Philadelphia, where it has been playing to capacity business. The patrons of the Princess will have the advantage of viewing the production exactly as it was presented during its Broadway run with Miss Adele Ritchie as the fascinating prima donna of the name part and the same excellent cast of musical comedy favorites in the principal roles. H. H. Burnside, who is general stage director for the Shuberts, collaborated with Joseph W. Herbert on the book. The score of "Fascinating Flora" was done by Gustave Kerker. The story revolves around Alphonse Allegretti, the director of the Parisian Conservatoire of Music, and his wife, Flora Duval, a comic opera prima donna. Their flirtations and jealousies lead them, thru a series of complicated and amusing situations. From Paris the scene passes to New York and thence to Manhattan Beach, each act being mounted in most lavish manner. Miss Ritchie is doing quite the most remarkable work of her career. Her song hits include, "The Subway Express," "I'd Rather Two Step Than Waltz," "Captain Willie Brown," and for months these songs have been the whistling vogue on and about Manhattan Island. In the cast of well-known players who have carried "Fascinating Flora," to success, are many favorites, including George A. Schiller, Ada Lewis, James E. Sullivan, Laura Jaffray, Frank Rushworth, Sam Edwards, Frank Shea, Sadie Jansell and Charles Merritt. Naturally a superbly costumed chorus of stunning girls will be found where the lime light falls. The engagement is for three days and a matinee on Saturday.

At the Princess.

As charming and beautiful as ever, Miss Lillian Russell will appear in her new play, "Wildfire," at the Princess Theatre, Monday, Jan. 27. It is a comedy of a race track, written by George Broadhurst and George V. Hobart, and they have given the erstwhile "queen of comic opera" about the best vehicle that she has ever had. Miss Russell has shown she can certainly succeed in straight comedy. Not only has she a finely developed vein of humor and an artistic method, but she also reveals an ability to touch the emotions and sound a note of pathos that stamp her as a thoro artist and assure the attainment of new triumphs in the new field of endeavor she has chosen.

Miss Russell not only has a really splendid little comedy, but she is supported by a company of unusual excellence thruout. "Wildfire" is the name of a racehorse owned secretly by Mrs. Henrietta Barrington. Her husband died, leaving her nothing but a racing stable. For various reasons, important among which is the engagement of her sister to the son of a rival former, she must not let it be known that she is the real owner of "Wildfire," and from this ensues the complications. Being a racing comedy, it is notural that the love affair which comes to the charming Mrs. Barrington should resolve itself into a contest between the auto and the horse. One of her admirers is an automobile enthusiast; the other is a lover of horses. Both seek her hand, but they do it in a manly, straightforward way. Each knows of the other's affections and it is agreed between them the lady's heart shall be won fairly and honestly. Of course, the lover of horses wins, altho not until after the autoist has apparently won. A disreputable bookmaker conspires with the jockey to throw the big race in which Wildfire is entered, and on which the widow has staked all she possesses. She learns of it thru a stable boy and also learns that the jockey is to get a handkerchief signal from the stable window.

Meeting Duffy in the trainer's quarters, the widow permits him to make love to her during the race that she may wave her handkerchief over his shoulder as a signal to the jockey to win. Before Duffy gets the kiss for which he has striven, the race is won, and the widow boxes his ears for his presumption. Thinking the horse-owner was a party to the plot, the widow accepts the hand of the wooer who is devoted to automobiles. Then she learns from him that the western admirer had nothing to do with the attempt to throw the race. He frees her from her promise and the curtain falls with the widow telephoning to his rival to call and accept her answer to his proposal of marriage. The wooer of the sister has learned his lesson, pays off his debts to Duffy and gains the hand of the sister.

Mr. Joseph Brooks, under whose direction Miss Russell is starring, has engaged for the play, Boyd Putnam, Herbert Corthell, Will Archie, Hugo Toland, Harry Stafford, Genevieve Cliff, Annie Buckley and Rosalie De Vaux.

Miss Russell will appear at the Princess three nights and a matinee, beginning Jan. 27.

Suggestive.

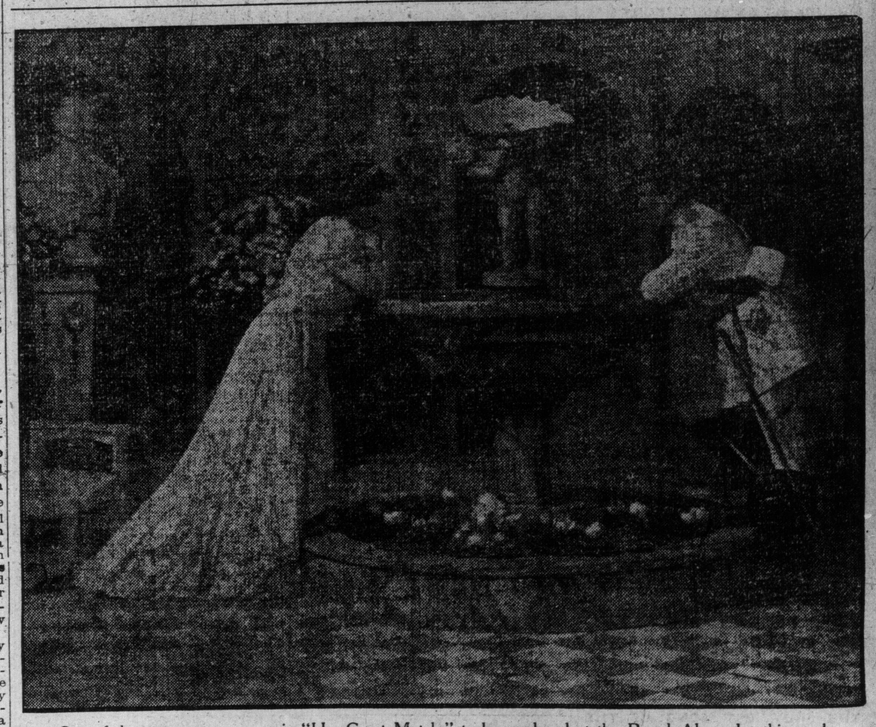
Blobbs: Doing society now?

Slobbs: Rather, I went to three balls last night.

Blobbs: Who's your pawnbroker?—Philadelphia Record.

The bridge whist scene in James K. Hackett's big success, "The Walls of Jericho," with Laura Burt as Lady Alethea, at the Grand this week.

A scene from Maxine Elliott's success, "Her Great Match," to be produced at the Royal Alexandra this week by Ida Conquest.



One of the many pretty scenes in "Her Great Match," to be produced at the Royal Alexandra this week.

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