# Music and Drama

## NEXT WEEK'S ATTRACTIONS AT LOCAL THEATRES

**Sherman Grand.**

First three nights, with special matinees Dominion Day and Wednesday, "The Red Widow," a musical comedy with Raymond Hitchcock and Flora Zabelle as the stars.

Last three nights, with matinees daily. Orpheum Vaudeville, offering as a special feature Milton Pollock and company in a new playlet by George Ade, "Speaking to Father."

**Lyric.**

Two performances every night, with matinees daily. Musical comedy shows of the Allardt-Woolfolk circuit; next week's offering, "The Girl Question."

**Empire.**

Every night, including two performances Saturday night. Matinees daily. Pantages Vaudeville. New bill opens Monday night.

**Local Musical Gossip of the Week.**

The announcement made through the press last week that the work of reorganizing the Apollo Choir was to be undertaken immediately, met with a hearty response during the week and a good proportion of the chorus is already enrolled. It is very important that any singers who desire to identify themselves with the choir make personal application at once to the conductor, Mr. P. L. Newcombe, as he will be leaving shortly for a vacation and desires to have the enrollment of the chorus completed at once in order that there may be no unnecessary delay in commencing the season's work early in September.

The month of July, from a musical standpoint, will be important in the fact that the two largest pipe organs in the city will be installed in Knox and Grace Presbyterian churches, respectively. The Knox organ, which has been built by Cassavant Freres, will be one of the largest and most complete instruments in western Canada while the Grace church organ, built by the Canadian Pipe Organ Co., will also be very complete. Both instruments are now on the way from St. Hyacinthe, Que., where both factories are located, and the work of installing them will be commenced shortly.

The audience which turned out to hear Dorothy Toye on Wednesday night was very disappointing in numbers, especially in view of the fact that the singer is a Canadian girl and has returned to her native soil with the endorsement of prominent teachers and critics in Europe, as well as across the line. It seems unfortunate that there should be such indifference to musical events of this nature and one can only be charitable enough to attribute it to the season of the year. It is understood that Miss Toye will give another recital here later in the season, in which event she will undoubtedly attract a much larger audience.

**Raymond Paine Coming!**

Raymond Paine in the "Girl Question," which Mae Taylor and Boyle Woolfolk's "Chicklets" as added features, will be the attraction at Lyric theatre next week. Mr. Paine made his first success as a star in the "Candy Kid" which he duplicated the following season in the "Millionaire Kid." Mr. Paine has graduated from melodrama however, and now plays the part of Con. Ryan in the "Girl Question." Mr. Paine is surrounded by an extraordinary company for tabloid musical comedy, which with the catchy songs and numerous specialties makes the "Girl Question" the gem of all miniature musical comedies.

Among the song hits are, "Oh! Gee, Be Sweet to Me Kid," which is considered by the composer, Joseph Howard, the catchiest melody he ever wrote "Alabam," (new song interpolation recently written by Boyle Woolfolk), "Waltz Me Until I am Dreamy," "Dramatic Rag," etc.

**Playwright in Pulpit.**

Charles Rann Kennedy filled the pulpit of St. Christopher's Episcopal church at Oak Park, Chicago, one recent Sunday morning, and all its parishioners turned out to hear him discourse on "Stained Glass Religion and Real Religion." Among other things the impressive dramatist of "The Servant in the House" said was this: "We look at the stained glass windows of our churches and too often we come to the conclusion that the figures represented thereon are typical of the Christians of the time of our Saviour. Let me tell you that Bible people were not of the stained glass variety; they were just common, every-day folk like you and me. They laughed and ate and maybe gossiped a bit and were happy in the small things just as we are today."

Mr. Kennedy is perhaps best known to Calgary as the husband of Edith Wynne Matthison. He once played in Ben Greet's company.

BILLIE SEATON,
In Orpheum Vaudeville at the Sherman-Grand Next Week.

**Local Stage Gossip.**

After the engagement of "The Red Widow" next week, there will be only two attractions of importance at the Sherman Grand during the month of July, but at least one of them is one of the most notable engagements of the season. "Fine Feathers," with one of the strongest dramatic casts assembled in recent years, comes to the Sherman Grand for three nights beginning July 1, and when it is stated that such stage celebrities as Robert Edeson, Wilton Lackaye, Max Figman, Rose Coghlan and Lolita Robertson constitute the cast, it can be appreciated what a dramatic treat is in store for local theatregoers.

Later in the month, we will have a Lew Fields's musical production, "Hanky Panky," and, as in the case of "Fine Feathers," we will have the privilege of seeing the original New York cast.

Theatrical stars have long since formed the habit of assuming fictitious names when adopting a stage career—some by reason of family pride and others from a desire to flourish under a more romantic name than nature had bestowed on them. In the case of Flora Zabelle, who is here next week as leading lady in "The Red Widow," it was a cold, practical turn of mind which prompted her to cast aside her real name of Zaselle Mangasarian for the more euphonious nom de theatre she adopted. She sat down one day and counted up the letters in her real name, struck a total of the cost of the same in electric lights in front of a theatre, and in a spirit of pure economy decided on the name by which she is now known. In private life, Miss Zabelle is proud to be known as Mrs. Raymond Hitchcock.

All local theatregoers, especially those who have come from the old land, will be glad to learn that the famous English actor, Cyril Maude will come to America next season with his London company for a tour of twenty weeks which will include a three night engagement in Calgary. His repertoire will include some of the best known plays, such as "The Second in Command," "The Beauty and the Barge," by W. W. Jacobs and Louis N. Parker, "Toodles," "The Headmaster," and "The Flag Lieutenant." He may also appear as Sir Peter Teal in "The School for Scandal."

Lewis Waller, whose local engagement at the Sherman Grand was one of the real treats of the season, opens a tour of Australia next week which will likely extend over three months. While there he intends to try a new play, "The Fair Highwayman," and if it proves successful he will likely return to offer it in America. Madge Titheradge is still a member of his company, as is also her husband, Charles Quartermain.

When the new season rolls around it will find a number of new foreign plays listed for production in New York. Most of these will be operattas which have already been accepted by American producers. Klaw and Erlanger have secured the rights to "Envious Butterfly," a new Chinese operetta, which will be produced simultaneously in New York and Vienna. The piece is by Mr. Granichstaedten, who wrote "The Rose Maid." Another production will be "The Ideal Wife," by Franz Lehar, author of "The Merry Widow." The Shuberts have the three-act operetta "Lieutenant Caploion," of French origin, which may be brought out before next fall. It is now running in Brussels. Werba and Luescher have accepted "The Vagabond Princess," by Mr. Granichstaedten, but no arrangements have been made for its production. Charles Frohman plans an early fall production of "The Doll Girl," by Leo Fall, who wrote "The Dollar princess." The first and one of the most important productions which Mr. Savage will offer next season is a new Lehar operetta, "The King of the Mountains," "The Gypsy Chief," an operetta by Emerich Kahlmann, composer of "The Gay Hussars," has also been acquired by Mr. Savage, and will be given an early production next season. Mr. Savage has also bought the rights to a new comedy with music, which is scheduled for production here in the fall, and he has purchased two pieces by American authors, one of them a musical comedy.

## *Theatrical Event of the Season*

The most important theatrical event of the year has been left for the fair dates. The occasion being the appearance of the popular comedian, Raymond Hitchcock and a company of eighty people in the sensational musical comedy "The Red Widow," which will be the attraction at the Sherman Grand for five performances starting Monday night, and include special matinees Dominion Day and Wednesday. The company will also bring its own special orchestra. "The Red Widow" is a work by Channing Pollock, Rennold Wolf and Charles J. Gabest. Flora Zabella, the famous Armenian prima donna, will be seen as "The Red Widow."

The story concerns Cicero Hannibal Butts, a corset manufacturer (Mr. Hitchcock), who is at the Alacazar Music Hall in London with Mrs. Butts (Marie Richmond) and Oswald Butts (George White). He is going to Russia and at the last minute his wife's desire to travel is squelched by the announcement that she is to present a suffrage petition to parliament. So the passport for Butts and wife is used for Butts and a very beautiful lady (Flora Zabelle who desires to return to Russia. Butts doesn't kiook until it is too late that the beautiful lady is a Russian nihilist. Once in Russia at a fashionable hotel in St. Petersburg, and at a levee at the Czar's winter palace, one may see at a glance the opportunity for "action." This comes thick and lively, until the real Mrs. Butts finally turns up and saves Raymond Hitchcock fro mhaving his eyes burned out with red hot pokers and a life of slavery in the mines of Siberia. Hitchcock has never had a better chance to display his particular brand of characterization.

The play is in three scenes. The first takes place in the foyer of the Alacazar Music Hall, London, the second occurs in the reception room of a hotel in St Petersburg, and the third act vcets to the gardens of the Czar's winter palace. Mr. Hitchcock has a large company, including Flora Zabelle, Minerva Coverdale, Marie Richmond, Gloria Gray, Nan Brown, Theodore Martin, George White, George E. Mack, Edward Metcalfe, George Romain, Charles Prince, Stanley Fields and a large chorus. The orchestra will be under the direction of Karl Wexelbaum.

**Blanche Bates' Chickens.**

Several mysterious boxes have been received at the Empire theatre, New York, from Miss Blanche Bates, one of the Charles Frohman stars, now on tour in the far west in "The Witness for the Defence." The boxes were very carefully packed and there was nothing at all on the outside to indicate the contents. With them also came a note from Miss Bates requesting that they be forwarded as quickly as possible to her farm at Ossining. Naturally there has been considerable speculation about the Frohman offices as to what the boxes contained and the other morning the mystery was solved.

When the mail man arrived that morning he handed Peter, who looks after the mail, a box from which sounds issued—sounds like "Peep! Peep!"

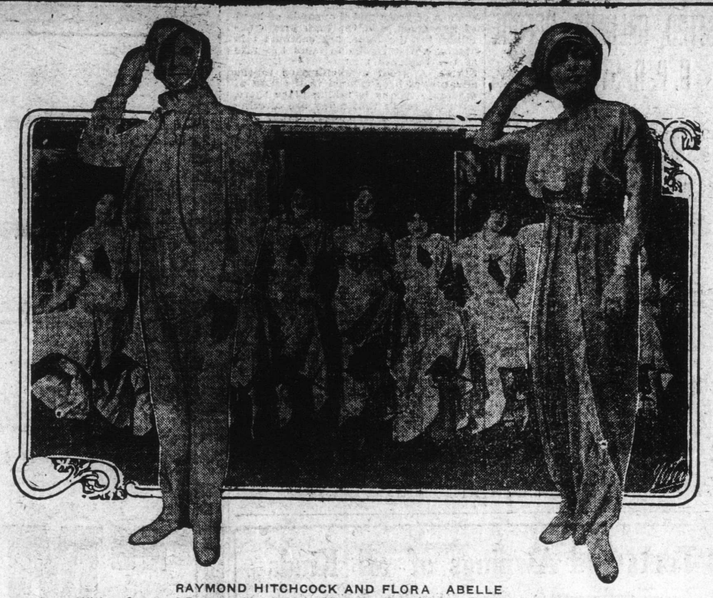
Peter decided to see what was inside and a small puncture showed him that it was—chickens.

Miss Bates has been sending "setings" of particularly fine eggs that she has found along her line of march to her farm where she makes a specialty of raising chickens. This particular "setting" had hatched out. That was all.

Peter got a small crate and put the chicks in it nd let them continue their journey to the farm by express, as Uncle Sam refuses to transport live stock by parcels post.

**Scarlet Fever in Saskatoon.**

Saskatoon, Sask., June 27.—An outbreak of scarlet fever in the Saskatoon Collegiate Institute is reported by the health department and every pupil has been cleared out of the entire building while it is disinfected and fumigated from one end to the other. Seven cases were discovered this morning, the majority of whim were just about to take their examinations for entrance to the university.



RAYMOND HITCHCOCK AND FLORA ABELLE
With a Group of Dancers Appearing in the Famous Musical Comedy, "The Red Widow."

**Strong Orpheum Bill for Fair Week.**

Next week Manager Baker promises a bill of exceptional merit for Exhibition week, many of the features being national headliners in their respective classes and each and every one of them will be certain to be awarded the "blue ribbon," and what is more, the enjoyment of the different shows will not be marred by the heat, should any hot weather come, as the Sherman Grand is equipped with the best that there is in ventilation systems.

The first of the features will be Milton Pollock and his company in "Speaking to Father," one of George Ade's inimitable creations, which the author wrote at the special request of Mr. Pollock, the two having been lifelong friends. Mr. Pollock is one of the veterans of the stage, having been an actor and stage director so long that he cannot remember when he started in.

Next there will come a little bit of mystifying tha twill send you away from the theatre wondering how the man did does the apparently impossible stunts that he pulls off. This is Rameses, the Oriental Wonder Worker, many of whose feats are so wonderful a nature that they defy description, let alone explanation.

Then comes Phina and her dressy assistants, who are just about the neatest dancers that have ever appeared at the Sherman Grand. Phina is the only nme that this comely miss will be known by, but that does not matter so long as she is a good entertainer, and she is just the one to fill the bill and fill it acceptably.

"The Ex-Justice of the Peace" is the caption that has been attacher to Walter S. Dickinson, whose eccentric political speech has earned for him a national reputation and the nickname of "Truly" Mr. Dickinson manages to get every bit of comedy imaginable out of the characterization.

Miss Billee Seaton is one of the most dashing and winning personalities on the stage today and can be counted upon to laugh and sing her way to success in Calgary in the same manner that she has in all the other cities along the Orpheum circuit.

Signorita Arenera and Signor Victor will be seen in a number of the best dances of old Spain. Signorita Arenera has for some time been the most popular dancer of all Spain while Sig. Victor is a retired bull fighter.

Walsh and Bentley are certain to be returned winners with their combination of comedy and acrobatic which they have called "The Bell Boy and the Athlete."

Then there will be the usual fresh installment of the "talkies," which, with the orchestra's help, round out the program.

Edward Sheldon, author of "The High Road" in which Mrs. Fiske will tour from September next until February when she will appear in a new production in New York, is one playwright who has no complaints to offer for the season of 1912-13, which generally speaking, was no more rosy for playwrights than for producers. The failures of the former resulted in many heavy losses for the latter, but Mr. Sheldon with a complete season for "The High Road" and a New York run of nearly six months for "Romance," is spending the summer in Europe, as care free as to the future as he is to the present, since both plays are certain to be consistent breadwinners for him next season. The rewards to the playwright are generous indeed—when he writes good

**Billie Burke Finds a Way to "Reduce"**

Every woman—that is, almost every woman—at some time or other in her career, wants to know how to "reduce." Well, Miss Billie Burke has discovered an easy way of doing it. She learned the secret while playing "Tommy" Belturbet, the girl who grew up as a boy, in "The Amazons" at the Empire theatre, New York, the piece in which she is to be seen on the road in the autumn.

When Miss Burke began her engagements in "The Amazons" at the Empire, she weighed exactly [illegible] pounds. At the end of two weeks she tipped the beam at just 118 pounds. Seven pounds off in fourteen days or half a pound a day—that isn't bad at all. And how did she do it? Miss Burke will give the recipe herself.

"Those little gymnastic exercises that I take at every performance in the third act of 'The Amazons' is what did it," says the actress, "You'd hardly believe it—I know I wouldn't myself—but it is really the truth. You know that scene in 'The Amazons' represents a gymnasium and in the course of the act I go through a few very simple exercises with a light bar bell. I jump about too, with the other members of the cast in quite a lively dance, but the whole thing doesn't last more than five minutes at the outside and the exercises with the bar bell are such as any woman, no matter how weak she may be when she starts, can take very easily. The only thing is—and this is the real secret, it seems to me—that she must do it regularly at the same time each day.

"A physical culture teacher once told me that that was the chief thing in taking exercise—the taking it regularly at the same time each day. He said that a very little exercise taken in that way did far more good than a great deal of exercise taken irregularly or at different times during the day. And my experience in 'The Amazons' has proved to me conclusively that this is true. You know, of course, that when one attempts to take calisthenic exercise, after a day or two it becomes real drudgery and one is very apt to put it off or let it go until one has more leisure or something of that sort. But in 'The Amazons,' of course, I have to do the exercise just at that point in the play and it always comes just about the same time every night. Hence the result.

"And I know that it is that little exercise with the bar bell, added maybe to the dancing, that has taken off those seven pounds, because while I do some walking in the country and some riding, I have always been accustomed to do that and it has never had any such effect as this. The reason is, of course, that I walk and ride when I feel like it and some days I don't do it at all. And I have no set hour for doing it at any time.

"So if any woman thinks she is putting on weight my advice to her is to get a bar bell and go through some such simple exercises as I do in 'The Amazons.' But if she wants to get any real good out of it she must make up her mind to do it every day, no matter how it may interfere with any other engagements she may have. I am positive that any woman by following this simple rule—and certainly nothing could be easier or simpler—can keep in the very pink of condition and not put a pound more flesh than she really ought to have."

**Canada in the Drama.**

"A vivid picture of Canadian life," is the description given by a critic n the United States of "The Royal Mounted," a four-act drama by Cecil B. de Mille. The story of the play concerns Victor O'Brien, Irish sergeant of the Canadian Mounted Police, who is ordered to Russell's lumber camp in the Great Elk in search of a fugitive. He meets Rosa Larabee, the sister of a guide and trapper, falls in love with her and learns that the accused man is her brother. Partly for love of Rosa, and partly because Sam Larabee shot for a just cause, O'Brien lets Sam escape. Before leaving the vicinity as a prisoner for his breach of duty, O'Brien makes the discovery that the murdered man was a fugitive from justice, and that Larabee is entitled to a reward instead of punishment. Thus is the happy ending achieved.

It may be admitted at once that this sounds like a rather effective story for a Wild West melodrama, but the play cannot be taken as a vivid picture of Canadian life. It is just about time that a Canadian could be recognized on the stage without wearing a rugged suit, usually khaki, and a red handkerchief round his neck. As a matter of fact, the majority of people born and brought up in this country have never seen the phase of life supposed to be typically Canadian depicted on the stage. We even have our doubts whether the stage cowboy bears a very close relation to the real thing. Without arguing this point, one might add that there are a very large number of men and women to be found in the country wearing the dress and manners of civilization.

It might be said by some that a Canadian play could not be made about civilized people because such a drama might just as well be located in New England or Washington or some other typically American centre. It is when some writer recognizes that this is very far from being true that we shall see a play which gives us Canada. We have national modes of thought, national manners and national traits of character, by which any discerning Englishman or American can readily tell a Canadian in a very few minutes, even though we all speak the same language—with variations. Perhaps a dramatist will come along in the dim future with the power to put our national atmosphere on the stage. Then, and not till then, will we have a "vivid picture" of Canada.

**New Brunswick's Subsidy.**

Ottawa, June 27.—An order-in-council has passed ratifying an agreement with the government of New Brunswick in respect to agricultural aid. The amount of the subsidy is $64,117.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