AT THE THEATRES

Royal Alexandra

Charles Richman in "One of the Family."

At the Royal Alexandra last night a play was given which, without any pretension to skilful stagecraft, yet held the close attention of the audience. The southern atmosphere which pervaded it is always attractive, but the author has interwoven with the main story other features which are of strong human interest and create and sustain close public attention.

In a democratic community nothing appeals more closely to the ordinary citizen than the struggle of a man handicapped by the uncertainty of his birth against opponents who use that to his disadvantage. So, when the real truth comes out and he can make the most of his information, his self-sacrifice for the sake of his father and the girl he loves, become all the more heroic, and the lesson which it reads could not be more aptly illustrated.

Charles Richman, as James Marshall, from the Hills, plays the part with an admirable and pathetic quality which in the supreme moments never exaggerates. This creates the strong situations of the play, which are fully sustained by the general excellence of the company. Judging from the warm reception accorded the play last night, "One of the Family" is well adapted to create and sustain popular interest.

Princess

"A Gentleman From Mississippi."

Burr McIntosh had a rousing reception at the Princess last night. So vociferous indeed was the applause at the close of the third act that Mr. McIntosh, or rather Senator Langdon, was compelled to make a speech, which he did in character, and convulsed the house with the aid of his secretary, whose characterization by Will Deming rivaled that of the senator in the affections of the big audience.

"A Gentleman from Mississippi" is a picture of people and politics in Washington with a southern atmosphere washed in for background, and the great large-hearted sentiment of the southern latitudes of every good man's nature sweeping over the scene continually like jolly sunshine chasing sordid clouds across a landscape. There are no sex problems, but there is feminine weakness, and there are the usual tricks of the political trade as it is played in certain circles. And against it there is the sterling honesty of some of the people, and with it the hearty laughter that accompanies clean humor and smart wit. It is the kind of play you can take your sister or your sweetheart to without apologizing for the modern tendency, or feeling ashamed of the taste imputed to the public.

Harrison Rhodes and Thomas A. Wise are the authors, and they have constructed a very clever plot out of what are always called "slender materials" because the other authors and critics overlooked the possibilities. It is worth going to see the meeting between the senator and Colonel Beverley Stoneman of Illinois, who is not in the plot except to bring out the senator's character. They had fought in the same engagement on opposite sides in the war and met for the first time since. The oath that precedes their embrace goes deeper than music. Bud Haines, the "Star" reporter, who becomes the senator's secretary, and falls in love with both his daughters, is one of the best newspaper men that ever took an assignment. He could get a job on any local paper any day. Between them, the senator and his secretary unravel a little plot which some of the Standard Steel Trust senators have put up against the peace of the republic and the sovereign people. The curtain goes down on the third act with a challenge from the senator to his antagonists to meet him in his committee room next day to accept his terms or meet the consequences. Senator Stephens tells Langdon he is crazy. "I reckon anybody that's honest looks crazy to you, Stephens," is the reply. "What are you going to do at 12.30?" asks Bud Haines of the senator. "Damned if I know," is the answer, and the audience yells. Bluff began in Mississippi, Langdon reminds his brother senator, and a magnificent bluff it is.

The company is really excellent. Mrs. Spangler by Miss Genevieve Kane was a model chapron. Caroline Landgon made the most of her part and wore a succession of dazzling gowns. Her sister, played by Miss Beverly West, was not a whit behind in costume and a most demure little puss in her part. A clever sketch was given by Miss Beulah Watson of a typist in the 1.58½ class. Joseph Weber, Hery W. Pemberton, F. A. Laduke, William Walcott, Harry Stubbs, and a lot of others contributed to the success of the performance, and the staging was thoroly done.

Grand

"The Newlyweds."

It is safe to say that nine out of every ten people who read that Geo. McManus' "Newlyweds and Their Baby" was coming to the city wondered how on earth even a fair musical comedy could be written around a baby whose total vocabulary was "dada." But it has been done and the result is a screamingly funny production. The man who wouldn't laugh the tears into his eyes at the antics of two of the people who are presenting the play at the Grand this week must be either a misanthrope, or to-morrow is his last day of grace on a big note.

The two humoresque artists are little "Napoleon Newlywed" himself, as played by James E. Rosen, and "Adolphe Nichol," a German waiter, by George Murphy. The evolution of the Newlyweds' baby from a McManus pen-and-ink sketch into a gale of laughter is made possible by little Mr. Rosen's delightful and versatile humor. He plays "Napoleon Newlywed" and then "Major Knott Much," an abbreviation, who is substituted for "Napoleon" when the latter is stolen.

The Newlywed pair are impersonated by Leo Hayes and Countess Olga Von Hatzfeldt. Mr. Hayes has succeeded beyond all expectations in making up a face to resemble the McManus heir. His song and dance, "Jig Along, Mr. Jigger," in which the pony ballet assist, is one of the most novel song numbers seen in many a day. Miss Von Hatzfeldt has a splendid stage presence and sings admirably. The nurse, in the person of Dorothy Rogers, and the sister, impersonated by Leona Stephens, furnish most of the feminine fun.

The music of the piece is of all sorts and patterns and certainly jingly and catchy. As to the play itself, it utilizes with amusing effects the propensity of fond young parents in regard to their firstborn as miracles of infantile beauty, intelligence and goodness. The costuming is a marvel in dress girls—frills, flounces, feathers, bows, buckles, tucks and furbelows.

"The Newlyweds" is a highly amusing entertainment and made a decided hit last night. It should play to capacity every night and at the matinees on Wednesday and Saturday.

Majestic

Franklyn Ardell & Co.

Full of quips, jests and up-to-date wheezes is "His Opponent the Suffragette," the political comedy presented by Franklyn Ardell and Co. at the Majestic Music Hall this week. Franklyn Ardell, as the aspirant for mayoralty honors, who finds an eleventh hour opponent in his wife, handed out some hot roasts for those of the fair sex who dispute man's supremacy in the industrial field. Miss Ann Walters as the suffragette candidate gave an excellent interpretation of the strong-minded woman intent upon threshing out political reforms. Altogether the play is a scream from start to finish.

George R. Raymond and Elizabeth Hess in their comedy conceptions were really humorous. George as the up-to-date villain in his melodrama stunt made a great hit.

Musical Irving got several pleasing melodies out of a variety of instruments in which a 'cello, trombone and a one-stringed violin figured, and Seney, Vincent and Seney brought off some clever work in the acrobatic line.

Albert Spencer has a nice voice and pleased his hearers mightily with his illustrated songs, both of which possess good catchy choruses. Yesterday the Majestic inaugurated the summer schedule of reduced prices and the large audiences showed appreciation. At the same time the bill is up to the usual standard.

Shea's

Mirth and Muddy Water.

Dan Burke and his "Wonder Girls" provide a wealth of song and mirth at Shea's this week. The act is elaborate, the light and scenic effects being carefully and well worked out. A number of novelty stunts are also introduced. In one instance the girls manipulate musical bells with their feet a deal better than most folks could do with their hands. Dan himself, does some pretty smooth dancing, the girls are drilled to the last word of smoothness and the act shows all thru the work that has been put into it.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Esmonde have a dainty little sketch called "The Soldier of Propville," which gives the man a chance to do some very excellent character work as the aged and somewhat "queer" old veteran who "was born twenty-five years ago in the insane asylum." He walks well into the realm of pathos without falling into the lamentable pitfall known as the "slop-over."

Maud and Gladys Finney have a swimming act which is exceedingly clever and would have been highly entertaining save for the fact that owing to the use of Toronto's opaque drinking fluid, the audience could see the performers dimly as thru a double-ply London fog. The water is to be filtered for the rest of the week, so that those who go will be able to see this attractive act.

Frank Taylor, Blanche Davenport and Tom Carter have an act called "That Minstrel Man." It is a winner by reason of the comedy stunts of the two men, particularly Thomas as a blackface slavey. Blanche, however, is a white frost.

The three Du Ball Bros. certainly can dance, and Ramond and Caverly are honestly funny in a Dutch dialog.

A certain number of folk applauded the efforts of Harry Breen, "rapid fire song writer." To others his act appeared stupid and cheeky. Some people like to be guyed from the stage and others do not.

The moving pictures were good.

Gayety

"The Merry Whirl" a Bright Show.

A very flitty musical comedy in two acts entitled, "The Merry Whirl," is this week's offering at the Gayety. The show on the whole is very good light comedy, and has one of the best pony choruses that have been seen at any of the theatres this season.

Eleanor Le Estella, altho not carded as the leading lady, is an easily first, having it decidedly on Marie Beaugarde in figure and action. The costumes are Parisienne in type with the sheath gown predominating. The animated clock and the snowman are also among the various hits with which the show is spiced. The two most popular song hits are "The Parish Push" and "I Want to Hear a Bagpipe Tune."

Star

Big Extra Feature.

The famous Nelson-Wolgast fight pictures are the extra special attraction at the Star, and they should not be missed by any lover of ring sports. Every detail of the spectacular battle is given by the pictures. These pictures are explained by Temple C. Grady, the Frisco lightweight fighter, who was scheduled to fight one of the preliminary rounds. He was at the ringside during the fight, and gives many interesting sidelights on the characters of the fighters.

The production which they have shown in conjunction with, is also a real winner. It is staged under the title of the "Jolly Girls," and presents two big burlesques, while the olio is far ahead of the usual. The chorus is also exceptionally large and the girls are all pretty and good dancers and singers.

UNIVERSITIES FOR CALGARY

Wealthy Men to Syndicate for Educational Greatness.

CALGARY, Alta., April 18.—A movement has been started by a number of Calgary's millionaires and near millionaires to make this a university city.

It is probable that if present plans are carried out, Western Canada College will be absorbed. An effort will be made to secure 160 acres for a site, with a view to allowing theological colleges, schools of practical science and like institutions to affiliate.

The project will be financed by a joint stock organization, and tuition fees will be adjusted so that students will pay entire cost of their individual education.

IMPERIAL BANK'S PURCHASE

Takes Over Private Banking Firm in Qu'Appelle.

REGINA, Sask., April 18.—The Imperial Bank of Canada has purchased the private bank of D. H. McDonald & Co., at Fort Qu'Appelle, and takes over that institution on Wednesday. The private bank of McDonald & Co. has been established for 22 years, and it is one of the strongest in western Canada.

Quiet at Port Arthur.

PORT ARTHUR, Ont., April 18.—The Pellatt was the first boat to arrive with package freight this season, and is unloading now. The Huronic arrived with freight for the C.N.R. Everything is quiet at the C.N.R. docks here, and no trouble is anticipated. Men are being hired irrespective of nationality.

The blowing out of a high pressure cylinder on the Wahcondah has delayed her departure, and she has 103,000 bushels of grain.

Murder Trial at Bracebridge.

BRACEBRIDGE, April 18.—The trial of Eva Sutter, charged with the murder of her illegitimate baby, will commence to-morrow or Wednesday. T. E. Godson will defend her and O. M. Arnold is crown counsel. Justice Magee will preside.

Water is Muddy.

Storms on the lake have stirred up the sediment and the water is consequently in a muddy state and totally unfit to drink. Dr. Sheard advises resorting to boiling again until improvement is shown.

CREATORE'S BAND

It was a delighted if not a very large audience which geeted the celebrated Creatore and his band at Massey Hall last night. The attraction was not quite so much the excellence of the instrumentalism as the inimitable,—and eccentric—conducting of Creatore himself. Whether he affects his mannerisms or has acquired them in wielding the baton, certainly he surpasses John Philip Sousa in this matter; and so entertaining was he himself, by mere oddities, seemingly; and next by obtaining from his band unexpected effects that he was vociferously encored after each number, and was at fault in responding to each encore, for thus he made his program run out to too great a length.

As Creatore himself is too vigorous in wielding the baton, it was only natural to expect that his band would

respond to the call of "the thin white wand" in too forcible style. Some would say that the band is noisy, but the right epithet for their playing is "tempestuous." Creatore, in fact, strives too much after overwhelming climaxes in wood-wind and brass-wind effects, and neglects those nice gradations of tone which express shades of emotion. However, in precision of attack and general musicianship, the band ranks well.

The best numbers on the program were the transcription of the familiar Chopin Valse, Op. 64, and, pleasant to say, a composition by Creatore himself, namely, a Caprice on the most melodious Irish airs. A very popular number was the sextette from Donizetti's "Lucia." Of the heavier numbers, the better played were Wagner's "Tannhaeuser" March and Taschalkowsky's Overture, "1812." On the whole Creatore's concert last night was a thoroly enjoyable popular entertainment. He and his band offer a new program this evening at Massey Hall. J. D. Logan.

The 400 rush seats at 25 cents, for the Creatore concert will be on sale again for this evening's entertainment. To-night's program includes the great William Tell overture and also comprises: March, "The Leader," Creatore; Ronde d'Amour, Von Westerhout; Caprice Italien, Tschaikowsky; Quartet, from "Rigoletto," Verdi; Alla Turca, Mozart; Bombardino solo, "Evening Star," Wagner; grand selection, Carmen, Bizet. There are still many excellent positions in various parts of the hall available at the box office.

Thrown From Car.

While boarding a moving car on East Queen street yesterday afternoon, Vincent Moffatt, 242 Rhodes-avenue, slipped and was thrown to the ground. He was taken to the General Hospital, where it was found that he had only sustained a few slight cuts about the head and face.

Fire-Hall in Deer Park.

The civic fire and light committee will visit Deer Park this morning in quest of a suitable site for a fire hall, the protest of residents against sites chosen by Chief Thompson having created a knotty problem. The chief still holds to his idea of a site on the south side of St. Clair-avenue, about 200 feet west of Yonge-street.

Doctor Wilson May Die.

LONDON, April 18.—Dr. John D. Wilson, ex-mayor, is close to death's door this evening.

He is suffering from blood poisoning, resulting from an injury received while removing tonsils from a child.

C.N.R. Buying Ottawa River Line?

OTTAWA, April 18.—It is rumored that the Canadian Northern Railway Co. has purchased the franchise of the Ottawa River Navigation Co.

Pioneer Barley Farmers

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Today this fertile region furnishes mankind the finest barley ever grown. The cream of these crops for many years has formed the basis of

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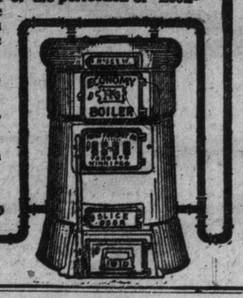

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N. Y., Plymouth, Cherbourg, Southamp'n
New York...April 23, Philadelphia..May 7
St. Paul ...Apr. 30 St. Louis....May 14

ATLANTIC TRANSPORT LINE
New York—London Direct.
Minneapolis ..Apr. 23 | Minnehaha ..May 7
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LEYLAND LINE
Boston—Liverpool.
Devonian ... May 4 | Winifredian June 18
Devonian ... June 8 | Cestrian ....May 25

RED STAR LINE
WHITE STAR LINE
N. Y.—Queenstown Holyhead—Liverpool
Celtic.....April 23 | Arabic ..... May 7
Cedric.....April 30 | Baltic ..... May 14
N. Y.—Plym'th—Cherb'g—Southampton.
Majestic ... Apr. 27 | Teutonic.... May 11
Adriatic .... May 4 | Oceanic .... May 18

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Mogantic ..April 26 Cymric .... May 17
Zeeland .... May 3 Zeeland .... May 31
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Canada .... Apr. 23 | Southwark ..April 30
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Bluecher .. Apr. 21, 9 a.m. | a Pres. Grant .... May 4
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b Amerika ..... Apr. 30 | b Kais'n Aug. Vic. May 25
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Careful handling and despatch guaranteed freight shippers.
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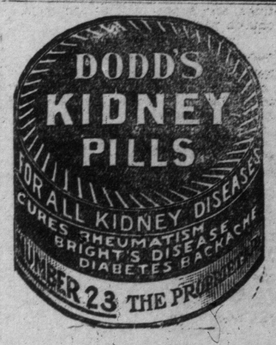
FARM LABOR IN THE WEST.

WINNIPEG, April 18.—As a result of the big inrush of newcomers, the demand for farm laborers is now being filled to a large extent, but at least 4000 are wanted at the present time for work in all parts of the west.

Military Drill at Methodist Conference.

OTTAWA, April 18.—Early in June a squad of boys from Merrickville, affiliated with the Baden Powell Scouts, will put on a special drill during the sessions of the Montreal Methodist Conference at Brockbille, Ont. The drill will be unique in many ways and it will be the first occasion on which there has been such a departure at a Methodist conference.



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