AT THE THEATRES

At the Royal Alexandra.

"Bunty Pulls the Strings."

As unusual public interest had been aroused in the Scottish comedy that has captured the theatre-goers of London and New York, and promises to repeat these metropolitan successes wherever it may be played on either side the Atlantic, it is not surprising that a capacity audience filled the Royal Alexandra last night. "Bunty Pulls the Strings" is the rather quaint title of this remarkable transcript from common life, as it was to be found in the towns and villages of Scotland half a century or so ago. Its author, Graham Moffat, is the son of a favorite Scottish entertainer, who in his day was known from one end of the country to the other. Naturally Mr. Moffat, his brothers and sisters continued in the same profession, and before achieving "Bunty" had written several dramatic sketches based on different phases of national character. One of them contained in germ the part of Tammas Biggar, round whose unattractive personality the story revolves. With this apprenticeship to the different dramatic art, his inherited aptitude for characterization, his intimate knowledge of Scottish customs, command of the vernacular and gift of pawky humor, Mr. Moffat was admirably equipped to write a comedy that is not so much a play as an episode from lives that might easily have been actually lived.

The comedy opens in the sitting-room of Tammas Biggar's modest home at Lintlehaugh—really Edenhill, in Strathblane, among the undulating uplands of Dumbartonshire. It is a Sunday morning; the blinds are drawn, for Tammas is an elder of the auld kirk, and, in sentiment and belief, typical of the narrowness, bigotry and harshness prevalent in his day and generation. "It wouldn'a do to be happy on Sunday," so Rab and Bunty, his children, are conning their catechism, not without inward rebellion. Tammas is a widower with a past, for in earlier life, under the name of Tam Small, he had been engaged to Eelen Dunlop, and, unable to face the responsibilities of married life, had jilted her on their wedding day. He has a ne'er-do-weel son, too, and to save him from prison has used a hundred and twenty pounds belonging to Susie Simpson, an elderly and sharp-tempered spinster, who is determined to be his second wife. Bunty manages his house wisely and well, and everybody else, including Weelum Sprunt, a joiner, and her betrothed, and a newly-elected elder, with whose savings she is entrusted against their marriage.

Matters go wrong with Tammas that Sunday. First Susie Simpson arrives and openly hints that unless he comes up to the scratch she will be obliged to get back the money he had invested for her. Then Eelen Dunlop appears, and Tammas actually faints. In the course of their talk over his conduct, Tammas tells her about his many troubles, and finds, when it is too late, that Susie has been listening at the window. Susie intercepts him with a few serious words, which add nothing to his peace of mind.

The second act shows the kirk, modeled on that of Baldernock, in the Blane Valley, with something added of the old ivy-covered Kirk of Traguair. It is Weelum's first appearance at the plate. He is awkward and nervous, and his "tie's squint," but Bunty looks after him, and, when Jeems, the beadle, retires into the kirk, runs back and kisses him. The minister hasn't arrived, and Bunty sends Weelum to enquire, meantime watching the plate. He comes back with the news that the minister is ill, and all is confusion, when Susie Simpson arrives, denounces Tammas as an embezzler and calls for his arrest. Eelen comes to his defence, and a violent squabble ensues between the two women. Then Bunty comes to the rescue, and informs Miss Simpson that the money is "in the hoose" and will be handed over next morning. The scene then shifts back to the cottage, where Rab, who has attempted to run away and is threatened with a "threshin'" finally rebels, and is backed up by Bunty, who puts in her ultimatum by throwing down the household keys. The clever lass also finds out that the money is not Susie's, but Weelum's, approves of her father's marriage to Eelen, his old sweetheart, and sorts out Rab's love affair with Teenie, Eelen's niece. So having "pulled the strings for everyone," the curtain falls on happiness for all except the disappointed Susie.

This is the story of "Bunty," as written by Mr. Moffat, but the bare telling gives no indication of the delicious humor with which it is developed in the comedy. With all the dourness and gloominess of the atmosphere that surrounded the home of a grim and unsympathetic type of religious belief, it is all very human, and Bunty herself, with her good heart and sharp head, is a gem of a girl more than sufficient to redeem a play far less excellently imagined than this. But so deft is the craftsmanship that the artlessness which is its supreme characteristic is the highest art, and this is carried into each detail of the stage presentation. To some extent a satire, it is relieved by the vein of humor that is all pervasive, and removes the sting even at the moment when it is felt. As for the constant succession of amusing incidents, they keep the audience in a constant ripple of laughter of a genuinely gripping kind. Nothing could be more delicious than the scene between Bunty and Weelum at the kirk plate, and the contrast between her pride in her lover and her impulsive affection and his mingled apprehension and satisfaction. Another exquisite passage is that where Bunty assumes the role of inquisitor to satisfy herself that Eelen will be an efficient and thrifty wife for her father, and conveys the result to him in a brief but comprehensive aside.

The company that presented the comedy last night is a very capable one, and sufficiently maintained the Scottish atmosphere. Mr. Moffat designedly did not write in that Doric which is almost unintelligible in these days, but in that spoken English with the Scottish accent, and the occasional introduction of a word which no one can misunderstand, he found a vehicle that carried sufficient stage illusion. This was well carried out by the company, and enabled the large and enthusiastic audience to enjoy every line of the comedy. Miss Mollie McIntyre presented the part of the managing Bunty in a delightfully simple but telling manner, and brought out all her managing ways without exaggeration, but all the more effectiveness. Susie Simpson lost nothing of her individuality as portrayed by Miss Jean Burnett, and the thoroly gentle part of Eelen Dunlop had a most sympathetic exponent in Miss Mabel Stanton. Her niece, Teenie, had a lively exponent in Miss Leonore Phelps.

Ethelbert Hales made an instant impression in his portrayal of Tammas Biggar and carried out the character with fine emphasis. Equally convincing was Neil McNeil's interpretation of the part of Rab, which was thoroly natural and wholly in keeping with the dominant note of the comedy. Another interpretation consistently conceived and presented was that of Weelum Sprunt by William Lennox, and the minor characters were all adequately and sympathetically filled.

"Bunty Pulls the Strings" had an enthusiastic reception, and will be played during the week, with the usual Thursday and Saturday matinees. It is undoubtedly the brightest and smartest comedy seen in Toronto for many a long day.

At the Princess

Ziegfeld Follies.

All the wise guys will be going to the Princess this week to see the "Ziegfeld Follies." What is it, or what are they? When the report goes around, there won't be any room to see or hear. You may think it crazy or silly, but if you go you will laugh as the full of the house did last night, the full of the time. It is just fun. It is for the most part simple, innocent fun, tho no doubt a keen-eyed clerical censor could pick out some beauty spots in it. But even the clerical censor would have to shut up when he came to "Every Wife," and neither he nor anyone else could resist the charm of dear, delightful Mayme Gehrue, who appears on the play bill as Mamie Carue, but as long as she appears she is all right. The rose by any other name would smell as sweet. So would the primrose or the buttercup, and Little Buttercup does actually appear as Rosenstein, "Cute Rachel Rosenstein," in a fragment of "Pinafore," which is funnier than the original. Then there are girls and girls and more girls, and then some more, and they have the gayest, giddiest garments, and the most gossamer dance steps that ever entertained a fairy king. It is variety all right, and all thru. The funniest bit of it, which kept everybody in a roar while it lasted, happens on the top of the new Grand Central Station in New York, up among the girders, when a cockney English traveler and a New York colored railway porter have a dialog and a little misunderstanding. There has rarely been anything better done in the way of stolid humor than Bert Williams' Rufus Redcap. Leon Errol has a ridiculously funny toper in a waiter act. Then there is a glimpse of "The Pink Lady" and half a dozen special dancing numbers, and by the time 11 o'clock arrives you have forgotten the customs officer you began to laugh at when the curtain rose. Is this an advertisement? asks the city editor. No; it is merely an attempt to indicate that Ziegfeld has a whizzing funny show.

At the Grand.

"With Edged Tools."

Henry Seton Merriman's great play, "With Edged Tools," was presented at the Grand last night by the all-star English company that was seen in Toronto early in the season, and was given a splendid reception. The company in their work are so far superior to the average United States company that a comparison is out of the question. Not half a dozen examples of finer acting have been seen in this city in recent years than that submitted by these old country players. By the sheer force of their artistry the actors wove their own spell, drove home situation after situation and flung a big scene in the faces of their audience like a red scar across the fabric of the appealing love story. It was acting that made one feel an evening at the theatre was not wasted. If you enjoy perfect ensemble and polished playing and are not particular about the twinklings of a single star in a constellation of mediocrities see the remarkable work of this company. It is easy to fall into the vice of superlatives, and easier than usual in this case, but it is a solemn fact that for team work, for dignified, expressive, intensely alive and yet duly proportioned playing, this company takes honors. The individual work is of a high order. Clarity of diction, good character touches and easy carriage are features that stand out prominently. All that is best in the novel has been incorporated in the play, and it makes a breezy, sterling play of love and adventure. Merriman brings out with the utmost force of his vitriolic pen the different phases of the character of "Millicent" and draws in strong relief the characters of the forces that are opposed to her. The characterization of Sir John Meredith is a bit of work worthy of record. Durnovo is another remarkable instance of study. Miss Leonhard's delicate traceries are beautiful for softness—the quiet strength, the silken voice. Hamilton Deane and Stanley Bedwell invest their parts with striking personalities.

"With Edged Tools" should attract large audiences to the Grand all this week, for the company give a treat that is rare in theatrical productions.

At Shea's

Comedy Holds the Boards.

Horseplay, with enough humor, altho of the uproarious kind, to make it one of the screams of vaudeville is "A Night in an English Music Hall." With Billie Reeves as the inebriated swell, the act brought tears avolling down the cheeks of the audience at Shea's and the small boys who saw it will talk about it for two weeks. The cast is a big one, and all are funny, tho Reeves' rough and tumble work is the big joy.

Shea goers have a great liking for quartet singing, especially if it's excellent. The Big City Four sang a half-dozen or more songs that, each and everyone, got all the applause they deserved, and they deserved much. Gus Reed, bass, drops very deep, greatly to the admiration of the audience.

Eddie Leonard and Mabel Russell, minstrels, are good. And Bud and Nellie Heim are kid comedians who are really funny. The lad brought down the house with his brass band escapade.

The Berrens, in what is billed as a delightful musical offering, fill the bill. Lolo, a pretty Sioux Indian maid, mystifies with a wonderful series of mental feats. The Rexos present a sensational skating novelty, and the Schenk Brothers equally sensational exhibitions of the maintenance of equilibrium under trying circumstances.

The program is mostly comedy, and as such is very good.

At the Gayety.

The Winning Widow.

The "Winning Widow" again graces the stage at the Gayety. Hardeen, the Handcuff King, was another thriller with his wonderful exploits. An extra fine burlesque and vaudeville program was put on by the company, with Joe Fields and George B. Scanlon as chief funmakers.

The "Winning Widow" Company is exceptionally clever throughout. Miss Florence Mills, who plays the title role of the Winning Widow, is a beautiful blonde, a Chicago girl and Vassar graduate, with a fine soprano voice. The show is full of rollicking, unadulterated fun and humor and sparkling musical specialties.

At the Star.

Ideal Burlesquers.

No wonder the Star was crowded at both the matinee and night show yesterday with the Ideal Burlesquers on the boards. Helen Van Buren, Joe Rose and Sam Micals, Pearl Turner and the Four McNallys kept the crowd alive and jolly with overflowing merriment. The bill was O. K. thruout. The production is a record-breaking extravaganza company, and conceded to be one of the most beautiful scenic productions on the road. Joe Rose and Sam Micals are artistic delineators of Hebrew character. The European novelty act of the Four McNallys is one of the most effective acrobatic turns ever seen on a vaudeville stage.

The Great McEwen.

The Great McEwen unloosed some dazzling sleight-of-hand tricks before a fairly large audience in Association Hall last night. He also put on a stunt showing his wonderful hypnotic power. His program was pleasing. Miss O'Neill, Toronto's prima donna, sang in her usual superb style, and Miss Watson's musical rendition was delightful.

ELGAR CHOIR.

of Hamilton, Bruce A. Carey, conductor, at Massey Hall on Thursday, the 21st, assisted by Toronto Symphony Orchestra. Seats now selling—50c, 75c, $1.

WILL GO GERMANY ONE BETTER CHURCHILL SPEAKS CANDIDLY

A Sixty Per Cent. Superiority in Navy Should Do For the Next Five Years, He Thinks—Germans Will Not Be Offended by "Plain, Blunt Facts."

LONDON, March 18.—(Can. Press.)—Winston Churchill, first lord of the admiralty, to-day introduced the naval estimates for the coming year in the house of commons. The appropriations called for amount to $220,427,000, a decrease of $1,535,000 from the amount spent last year.

The first lord accompanied the introduction with a straight talk to Germany, promising an augmentation or a retardation of British naval construction to correspond with Germany's naval program.

He said he regretted the necessity of referring specifically to Germany, but continued:

"The Germans are a people of robust minds, whose strong masculine good sense and high courage do not recoil from, and are not offended by plain, blunt statements of fact, if they are expressed with courtesy and sincerity."

Mr. Churchill then went on to tell of the conditions under which naval competition would be carried on during the next few years.

He prefaced his remarks by the statement that the "two to one" standard was not necessary at present, altho it would possibly become so.

"The 'two-power standard' has been extended by some of its supporters," continued Mr. Churchill, "to include the United States and by this means it has lost both good sense and reality."

A Sixty p.c. Superiority.

The first lord laid down a 60 per cent. superiority in battleships and battle cruisers of the Dreadnought type, as compared with the German navy, as a convenient basis for the next four or five years. He pointed out that Great Britain at present possessed an enormous superiority in pre-Dreadnought vessels, but as these declined in fighting value, the British ratio of new construction would have to rise above the 60 per cent. standards.

Mr. Churchill said that it would be necessary for Great Britain to construct four and three Dreadnoughts every year alternately for the next six years.

The first lord continued: "This is our position, that the Germans will not be gainers in naval power by any increases they may make and will not be losers from the basis I have laid down by any diminutions.

"Here is a perfectly plain plan and arrangement by which, without diplomatic negotiations, without bargaining, without the slightest restriction of the sovereign freedom of either power, this keen and costly naval rivalry can at any time be abated."

Smaller War Vessels.

Referring to the building program, which includes four large armored ships, eight light armored cruisers, 20 destroyers and a number of submarines, Mr. Churchill said that $3,500,000 was to be expended on the construction of submarines this year, and as regards the light armored cruisers, the admiralty had decided to return to a smaller type of vessel, as being more useful that the recently built vessels of the Chatham class of 5400 tons.

"These light armored cruisers will be the smallest, cheapest and fastest vessels protected with vertical armor ever projected for the British navy. They will be strong enough and fast enough to overhaul and cut down any destroyer," he said.

Lord Charles Beresford said that the program did not make sufficient provision for the protection of trade routes. He regarded the mention of Germany as unnecessary and sure to provoke that country.

Uncle Sam Has Good Year.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—The balance of trade in favor of the United States for the year ending on Feb. 29 was $562,158,067.

The imports and exports of February exceeded those for the same month of any previous year. The totals for the eight months ending Feb. 29 and the year ended in the same month were higher than had ever been recorded by the bureau of statistics of the department of commerce and labor.

NO HUMILIATING TREATMENT FOR HIM

Continued From Page 1.

the other. We have not the authority to do it, but it would be wicked even if we did have that authority."

Mr. Bourassa remarked with jocularity that the attention of some Toronto papers should be drawn to the fact that Sir John, in his references to this matter, used four French words.

"But Sir John's idea was that there was now no conquered race in Canada—that by the treaty of Paris the French people had equal rights with the English."

"We are all British subjects in Canada and those who are not English, are none the less British." (Applause.)

Where He Stands.

"By those words, by those sentiments of Sir John Macdonald I stand," he declared with emphasis, "and those who differ from that are the worst enemies of British institutions." (Applause.)

References to the Keewatin school question and the action of the Borden government roused Mr. Bourassa to enthusiasm, and his voice was husky with emotion as he described how the educational systems of the provinces were to be conducted by the provinces, after the solemn pledge of the crown had been given and ratified by an act of parliament that the rights of the minority were to be preserved in every province of the Dominion.

"Gentlemen of Toronto," he pleaded, "I appeal to your straightforwardness and manliness to say that a solemn compact made by the parliament of Canada should be preserved. (Applause)

"Would you call those schools 'national' in which the minority are imposed upon by the majority—when those so-called schools deprive your children of what may be called their birthright?"

From Mr. Bourassa's description of it, the so-called alarming reference of a leading Toronto daily to the effect that there are 175 schools in Ontario in which the French language alone is used on the playgrounds, was worthy of ridicule.

"Why, in that obscure, barbarous and mediaeval Province of Quebec," said he, "we learn to speak in both languages. We are very antiquated, I know, but I tell you frankly we are going to remain that way." At this stage of his discourse, Mr. Bourassa waxed particularly eloquent.

"I like to speak,' said he, "in the language of the majority of the people of this country. I like to imbibe the great literature of the English language and read what the great British statesmen have said, but I also want to tell the majority of the people of Canada in their own language that neither I nor my race will stand for any humiliating treatment in the Dominion of Canada." (Applause).

"I know too much about the sentiments of the people of Ontario," he continued, "to do them the injustice of judging them by the utterances of some of your politicians or your journalists. In this connection he mentioned The Globe and Telegram."

Tribute to Blake.

Mr. Bourassa paid a tribute to the memory of Edward Blake, and quoted him as saying that the right of denominational schools, whether Protestant or Catholic, should be assured in this country forever.

In conclusion he maintained that the existence of the French language in Canada helped to preserve the individuality of the Canadian people and prevented the British institutions for which the French-speaking people had fought for and defended in 1812 just as loyally as the English-speaking Canadians had done, from becoming more and more identified with the republic to the south.

"Neither Canadian patriotism or British loyalty," he assured his audience, "has been impaired in Quebec by the people knowing both the French and English languages."

Favors Home Rule.

Mr. Bourassa got the heartiest applause of all when he declared in favor of self-government for Ireland, and he added that England, Scotland and Wales should also follow suit and obtain the advantages and blessings that self-government had brought to the people of Canada.

Germania Hotel, John and Mainstreets, first-class table and rooming accommodation. 246

Wireless Telegraphy From a Bicycle.

A young inventor of Cambridge, Mass., has been experimenting recently with a wireless telegraph system which may be used by bicyclists. The Scientific American reports that this young man has so far succeeded in maintaining communication between his own wheel and that of a companion three and a quarter miles away.

This communication was obtained without a ground, for the rubber tires insulated the apparatus completely from the earth. For an aerial, he uses three double spreads of phosphor bronze wire, each 12.5 feet long, joined in one loop at the top of a ten-foot mast, which is tied to the back of the bicycle.

The sending apparatus comprises an induction coil giving a three-inch spark, a series of Leyden jar condensers connected in multiple, a battery secured under the instrument board and a sending key.

The receiving set comprises a tuning coil of variable inductance, a silicon detector and a receiver wound to 2000 ohms resistance.

For the aerial a three-wire single spread of phosphor bronze is used. Experiments with this apparatus were conducted at night in order to avoid too much publicity.

The greatest distance was obtained at the hour of 2 a.m. The assistant with the sending instrument rode ahead, sending messages as he went, while the receiver managed to keep in constant touch with him.

TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY
Take LAXATIVE BROMO Quinine Tablets. Druggists refund money if it fails to cure. E. W. GROVE'S signature is on each box, 25c.

He—"I know how this catastrophe has crippled you, and as one of your oldest friends I should like to help you. I will buy your furniture for 300 francs."

She—"You're very kind, but I have just sold it for 325 francs."

He—"What? You allowed yourself to be robbed like that?"—Pele Mele.

It is said that the Hebrew population of New York is 806,000, half the total number of Hebrews in the United States. The entire world population of the Hebrews is estimated to be 10,186,000.

There are 1115 women enrolled at Berlin University, of whom 659 are classified as students of philosophy. There are 172 studying medicine, thirteen law, and one theology. No fewer than sixty are from the United States.

HAMILTON HOTELS.
HOTEL ROYAL
Largest, best-appointed and most centrally located. $3 and up per day. American plan. ed7

THE WORLD PRESENTS YOU

With the LAST Which is the Best.
Absolutely the Last Word Is In

OUR $4.00 Webster's NEW ILLUSTRATED

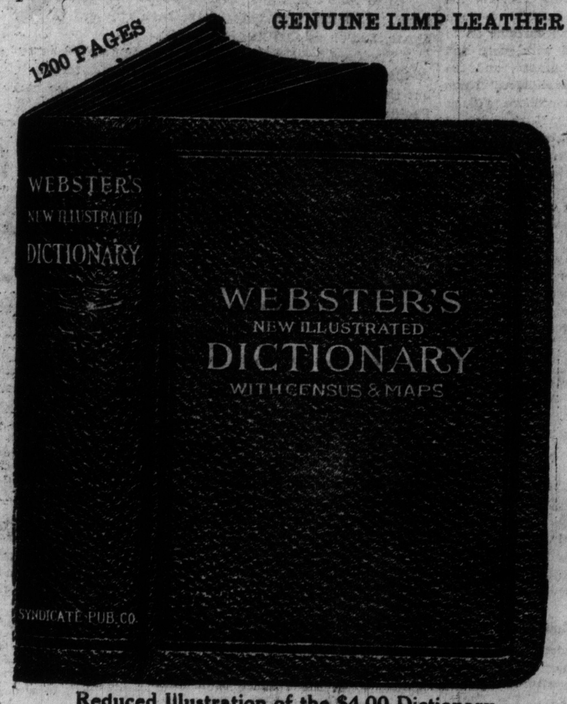
DICTIONARY

Containing Latest Canadian Census

OUR PUBLISHER submits positive proof that The Toronto World's Dictionary is the LATEST—up to the very day—filled to the full 1200 pages with needful information — ILLUSTRATIONS IN COLORS AND MONOTONE—and is complete, accurate and authentic from cover to cover.

GENUINE LIMP LEATHER

1200 PAGES



Reduced Illustration of the $4.00 Dictionary.

This Dictionary has been revised and brought up to the PRESENT DATE in accordance with the best authorities, and is NOT published by the original publishers of Webster's Dictionary, or by their successors, but by the well-known SYNDICATE PUBLISHING COMPANY of NEW YORK CITY.

CAUTION

When a Dictionary is offered you which is any way similar to this one, observe the exact wording shown herewith.

You want the latest. Do not be deceived. This IS the latest.

Webster's New Illustrated Dictionary With Canadian Census and Maps

Readers of The Toronto World Can Receive This Wonderful Volume by Presenting Six Coupons

Printed elsewhere (Daily), clipped on consecutive days, and the expense bonus amount herein set opposite the style selected (which covers the items of the cost of packing, express from factory, checking, clerk hire and other necessary EXPENSE items).

Partial Table of Contents

Dictionary of the English Language.
Simplified Spelling.
Key to Pronunciation.
Abbreviations of the Parts of Speech.
Origin, Composition and Derivation of the English Language.
Principles of Grammar.
Synonyms and Antonyms.
Christian Names of Men.
Christian Names of Women.
Foreign Words, Phrases, Proverbs, Quotations, etc.
Facts About the Earth.
Declaration of Independence.
Metric System of Weights and Measures.
Time Difference.
Weather Forecasts.
Language of the Flowers.
Language of Gems.
States, Names of: Origin and Meaning.
Dictionary of Commercial and Legal Terms.
Familiar Allusions.
Famous Characters in Poetry and Prose.
Decisive Battles.
The New Canadian and United States Census.

Your Own Choice of These Three Styles of Binding

The $4.00 WEBSTER'S New Illustrated DICTIONARY (like illustration) is bound in full limp leather, flexible, stamped in gold on back and sides, printed on Bible paper, with red edges and corners rounded; beautiful, strong, durable. Besides the general contents as described elsewhere, there are over 600 subjects beautifully illustrated by three-color plates, nearly 50 subjects by monotone, and 16 pages of valuable charts in two colors, and the new Census. Six consecutive Coupons and the ..... Expense Bonus of 98c

The $3.00 WEBSTER'S New Illustrated DICTIONARY is exactly the same as the $4.00 book, except in style of binding which is in half leather, with olive edges, and square corners. Six consecutive Dictionary Coupons and the ..... Expense Bonus of 81c

The $2.00 WEBSTER'S New Illustrated DICTIONARY is in plain cloth binding, stamped in gold and black; same paper, same illustrations, but has all colored plates and charts omitted. Six consecutive Dictionary Coupons and the ..... Expense Bonus of 48c

ANY BOOK BY MAIL 22c EXTRA FOR POSTAGE

Address All Mail Orders to The World, Toronto, Canada.