

The World of Amusement

General Gossip

The preparation of the programme for the Elgar Choir concerts early next year entails a great amount of work. Already most of the members are devoting two nights a week to rehearsals, which shows that in the cause of vocal art, especially choral work, there can be no time of ease until the concerts are over. It is the choir's motto to strive for better things. The audiences at last season's concerts had opportunity for noting the choir's progressiveness, and next year there will be a striving to reach a higher standard. Verdi's noble "Requiem" in its entirety and a selection of choice part songs and chorals, numbers, with the assistance of two high-class orchestras and several of New York's best soloists, will be the Elgars' offering. Owing to a much earlier Lenten season, it has been found necessary to fix the concerts for Feb. 1 and 2, which is, at least, three weeks sooner than last year.

The following soloists have been engaged by the Harmonic Society for the concert on the 3rd of February: Mrs. Bruce Wikstrom, soprano, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Theodore Martin, tenor, New York, and Arthur Blight, baritone, Toronto. It was thought better to secure singers of reputation rather than those known only by their press notices. The chorus of the organization is doing excellent work, and the attendance at rehearsals has been most gratifying. It now consists of 72 sopranos, 38 altos, 36 basses and 30 tenors. The children's chorus, under James Johnson, is rehearsing every week, and is over strength.

Among the numbers to be played here by Fannie Bloomfield Zeisler, the celebrated piano virtuoso, on the evening of Tuesday, November 30, will be heard the chorus of the Dancing Dervishes from "The Ruins of Athens," by Beethoven; a transcription for the piano by Liszt of Schubert's "Hark! Hark! the Lark," and variations, "Scherzo," op. 54, of Mendelssohn. Several numbers from the works of the immortal Chopin also appear on the programme, among the Sonata op. 35 and the "Funeral March." Mrs. Zeisler will be assisted by Fannie Bloomfield Zeisler, the celebrated baritone, who has elicited such storms of applause by his wonderful interpretative work on similar occasions in Hamilton. Mrs. Zeisler has made a request that the audience be seated and ready for the recital at 8 o'clock sharp.

Miss Nellie M. Hamm, Mus. Bac., assisted by Geo. A. Zeisler, will give an organ recital in Centenary Church on the afternoon of Saturday next, November 27, at 4 o'clock.

The headliner at Bennett's the week after next will be Jane Courthope and company in an elaborate production entitled "Lucky King," an episode of the Sierra Nevada. The sketch will be presented by a capable company and is said to be the most elaborately mounted offering of that type in vaudeville this season.

Other attractions booked for that week include Hugh Lloyd, bounding rope marvel; Hilda Hewthorne, a clever ventriloquist; Seebach, expert bag puncher; Warren and Blanchard, blackface comedians, and Dale and Boyle, a clever singing and dancing duo.

Vaudeville friends of Lew N. Wood are informed of his present whereabouts by a characteristic letter, written from his special domain, the box office of Teller's Broadway (Brooklyn) Theatre. "Dear Readers, Friends and Brother Treasurers," he writes, "Well, here I am again, back to the old stand, 'Teller's Min.' Had a good rest and twenty weeks in vaudeville. In case my agent didn't make your town, or in the event that I wasn't properly billed, I wish to state that I appeared under the team name of Kohl and Wood, in 'A Burning Shame'—and it was. Treasurefully yours, Nap."

This erstwhile vaudeville, with a quick, keen sense of humor and the ridiculous, gathers a few specimens of box office interrogations. Here are a few: "Got three seats in a cluster to-night?" was a recent query.

"Are these seats in front of a stick?" asked a patron who evidently had at one time sat behind one of them. "Can you give me a seat on the gangway?" asked the man who preferred people to climb over him rather than to climb himself.

"Have you a seat so I can put my feet in the aisle?" was asked by a man who liked comfort.

"What's the tax?" asked a long-whiskered country-folk individual, pausing before the box office window of a theatre at which Robert Mantell was playing an engagement. "What do you have to pay?"

"A dollar and a half downstairs, a dollar upstairs," replied the treasurer. "What's a doin'?" was the next question that was delaying a long line of would-be ticket buyers.

"Robert Mantell," was the laconic reply. "Downstairs?" asked the rustic, to which came the impatient reply, "Yes."

"And what's goin' on upstairs?"

"Robert Mantell," curtly repeated the treasurer. "What priced seat do you want?"

The man put down his dollar, received his ticket, then turned to the man back he couldn't see why they had two different prices to hear the same man say the same things at the same time.

At the Grand

Miss Clara Blandick, Wilton Lackaye's new leading lady, who will be seen with the famous character actor at the Grand shortly in the much-discussed Cleveland Moffett play, "The Battle," is chiefly remembered as having served in the same capacity for Kyle Bellew, throughout the two seasons when the English actor was starring in his best role, that of "Raffles." Previous to her engagement with Mr. Bellew, Miss Blandick had spent several seasons as Glory Quayle in "The Christian," being adjudged the best of Viola Allen's many successors in the part. Miss Blandick assumed the role, during the last noteworthy revival of the Hall Caine play, when the late Edward Morgan appeared for the last time as John Storm.

Miss Blandick also played Marianne



"THE NEW PIANOPHIENDS," A LASKEY PRODUCTION WHICH WILL BE A FEATURE AT BENNETT'S NEXT WEEK.

the poor outcast in the big revival of "The Two Orphans" at the New Amsterdam Theatre, New York, some years ago, in which Grace George, Clara Morris, Kyle Bellew, James O'Neill, the late Charles Warner, Margaret Hillington, E. N. Holland, Elton S. Proctor, O. S. Annie Irish, Jameson Lee Finney, and Frederick Perry also were seen. In addition she created the leading female role in the de Mille brothers' play, "The Royal Mounted," has played with much success in vaudeville, and visited some of the better class stock companies as a star.

A real live donkey has a capital part in the new three-act musical comedy entitled "His Honor the Barber," which, in conjunction with the popular "Smart Set" company, will be one of the attractions at the Grand shortly. S. H. Dudley still heads this famous organization, and his well-known capabilities as a comedian are so familiar that he does not need further introduction. He is said to have a role that allows his talents to have full sway, and if you fail to laugh at his actions and monkey-shines as Raspberry Snow, a negro who wants to shave the President of the United States, it is because you lack the sense of humor. Messrs. Barton and Wiswell, who are directing Mr. Dudley's tour, have not overlooked the slightest detail, with the result that one of the best entertain-



MISS LA VIERGE, At the Colonial.

ments witnessed in years is provided. There are sixty people in the cast, all selected for her or his respective ability. Edwin Hanford is the author of the book and the music and lyrics were furnished by Messrs. Brim, Smith and Burris.

"Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch" comes to the Grand next Friday and Saturday. So logically true to human nature is this play, so genuinely good and lovable is Mrs. Wiggs, and so stirring do pathos and comedy succeed each other, that there is little wonder that English audiences have taken so kindly to the dear, optimistic lady who has created no end of fun for the past five seasons from one of the United States to the other. "We are glad to know 'Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch,' and all the little Wiggses. They are a family of which Americans may well be proud," says the London Tribune. In fact, all of the London and Australian dramatic critics took kindly to "Mrs. Wiggs." With one accord reviewing critics treated the piece, not as a play, but as a picture of life, and all are unanimous in declaring that "it is a clean and wholesome, and presents in a most convincing manner the joys, sorrows and romances of close-to-nature people."

"The Lily and the Prince," which comes to the Grand on Monday, is a romance of Italy. It tells a very interesting love story of Angela di Savelli, a girl in the prime of life, whose father has been arrested on a false claim of treachery. The play is said to be well staged and acted, and as it is to be seen here at popular prices, should meet with liberal patronage.

Those who have not read the book "Graustark," by Geo. Barr McCuecheon, which was one of the successes of the past season, will be gratified at the prospect of having another opportunity of witnessing the dramatization of same, which is coming to the Grand. The play is of a romantic character, dealing with a subject ever new, yet old, that

of love. There is plenty of action throughout the five acts of the play, intermingling in which there is an abundant amount of high class and infectious comedy scenes.

The talented young French actress, Countess Venturini, who is making her first American tour, is to appear at the Grand in a few weeks in a play called "Jenny." It is said to be a play that will appeal particularly to the social side. The countess is said to be a remarkably clever woman. She is the wife of Mario Venturini, an attaché of the Italian diplomatic corps.

At the Grand shortly America's greatest character actress will be seen in the new American comedy, "The Rejuvenation of Aunt Mary," by Anna Warner. L. S. Sire, under whose management Miss Robson is starring, has surrounded her with a strong company. Many well known and prominent people will be found in the cast. Miss Robson has long been known as a character actress, and the role of Aunt Mary in this comedy is one of the best she has ever had. It was while reading the book that Miss Robson saw in Aunt Mary the character of herself, and asked Miss Warner to dramatize the novel for her. In doing so, Miss Warner has added even more comedy into the dramatization than was in the book. "The Rejuvenation of Aunt Mary" is one of the most popular books on the market to-day, and has made many thousands of people laugh, and made Miss Warner famous as an author.

Grace Van Studdford, in the role of Ilma in "The Golden Butterfly," is coming to the Grand again this season, and will be here for two performances in a few weeks. It is the same big production that delighted such a large audience last season, and should prove one of the musical treats of the season.

At Bennett's

The appearance of "The New Pianophiends" next week as the chief attraction on the Bennett bill is sure to attract much interest among music-loving Hamiltonians. This is another Laskey production, and one of the best that well-known contributor to the vaudeville stage has presented yet. The Pianophiends made their first appearance last season, and since then have been featured at nearly all the big vaudeville theatres in America. The act has undergone a number of changes and been vastly improved, until now the critics insist it is one of the most pretentious musical hits of the season. It is truthfully described as a swagger musical novelty. There are nine people in the company, and women as well as the men are clever pianists, singers and dancers. The stage setting shows the interior of a piano salesroom, with four uprights and one grand piano. Several selections are played by eighteen hands, and the programme includes singing by a capable quartette, "Con," Conrad, Nettie Lyon and Marie Fenton are

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T. Nelson Downs, an expert card and coin manipulator, is in addition a com-

among the best known members of the company.

The principal comedy offering will be a brand new sketch, entitled "The Girl From Yonkers." It will be presented by John Devlin and Miss Mae Ellwood. They made their first appearance in it at New York recently, and scored a solid hit. Miss Ellwood, as the girl with decidedly kleptomaniac tendencies, and Mr. Devlin have the outline of a clever skit that is sure to win favor.

Work and Over, the tumbling Toms, have an act modelled on the lines of Rice and Prevost, who made such a sen-



MRS. HAZY, In "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch," at the Grand next week.

sational hit the first week the Savoy opened with vaudeville. They only occupy the stage for about seven minutes, but during that time manage to cram in more sensational work than many acts in triple the time.

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Inquisition scene in "The Lily and the Prince," at the Grand next week.

dian of marked ability, and provides fifteen minutes of thoroughly enjoyable entertainment.

Paul Le Croix, the well-known juggler, has improved his act since he appeared here two seasons ago, until he has practically a new offering now.

The Hildebrands, a man and a woman, perform many feats, which attest to their remarkable strength. New motion pictures will be shown.

At the Colonial

The show at the Colonial for to-day will appeal to all lovers of moving pictures in the city. The principal film to-day tells the story of a man and a woman cast up on a lonely island, shows the way they build a house and live, and winds up with a pretty romance. The other pictures deal with laughable and dramatic subjects, while new songs are being introduced by Miss La Vierge, Geo. Drennan and Baby Gamble. Leader Levy has selected a programme of appropriate music as a setting to the pictures. This afternoon the various scores in the Tiger-Ottawa game will be announced. On Monday and Tuesday another strong bill will be put on, which should yet further enhance the excellent reputation this popular house has earned.

FIRE INQUEST.

Barrie Picture Show Insured Before Fire Occurred.

Evidence as to Trunks Belonging to a Miss Meek.

Barrie, Nov. 19.—Great interest was evinced in the fire inquest which was opened this morning by Coroner Dr. Wills, to inquire into the mysterious circumstances surrounding the fires which destroyed the Music Hall block and gutted the house of S. J. Guthrie last Wednesday night.

Mrs. Guthrie, wife of S. J. Guthrie, manager of the Crystal Moving Picture Show, was the first witness. She said she called at the insurance office of Joseph Robinson at 3 p. m. on Wednesday to take out a policy for \$800 on the contents of the Music Hall. Mr. Robinson being out, she went from there to A. W. Laidman, insurance agent, with whom she made an appointment for 3 o'clock that afternoon to take an inventory of the goods. Apparently this appointment was kept, as Mr. Laidman did accept \$800 risk on the goods, including the moving picture machine. A Miss Meek had been boarding with Mrs. Guthrie off and on for the past three weeks, and on the afternoon of the fire she and Mrs. Guthrie went over to Allandale. Mrs. Guthrie called at the livery of J. C. Hiron, and asked him to send a dray over to her house in Thompson street for two trunks, which were to be taken to the baggage-room at Allandale station.

When questioned by Mr. A. E. H. Creswick, counsel for the Misses King, owners of the Music Hall, as to what hour she and Miss Meek were in Allandale, Mrs. Guthrie refused to answer, and became quite defiant. Up to this point she had given her evidence well. Presided by Mr. Creswick to say when she saw Miss Meek on Wednesday afternoon, she again became obdurate, declaring that she was endeavoring to implicate Miss Meek.

At one juncture she left the box and took a seat in the audience, but was escorted back again. She also admitted that she was the last person who left her home that night. She locked the doors and no matches were strewn around or anything left that would cause a fire.

When she returned home with her family, about 10:30 o'clock on Wednesday night, she found the house in flames. She at once had an alarm given.

J. C. Hiron deposed that he met the boy and got the trunks. On the way back he asked the boy his name, and he said it was Jones, son of Charles Jones, the painter.

In his evidence the boy, who was Mrs. Guthrie's 14-year-old son, denied that he had given any other name than Guthrie.

Outside members of the Guthrie family, no one seems to have seen or known anything about Miss Meek.

S. J. Guthrie, who was in Peterboro at the time of the fire, enroute for the Northwest, stated that a week previous to the fire he took out a policy of \$800 on the contents of the Music Hall from F. T. Grafton, but that last Friday or Saturday Mr. Grafton returned him his premium money, saying that the company would not take the risk. Mr. Grafton did accept an \$800 risk on the household furniture, however.

"Where did you leave Miss Meek that night?" asked Mr. Creswick. "I refuse to answer."

"You haven't seen her since?"

"No."

The trunks have been detained by the authorities. The fact that trunks containing silverware which passed through the fire in the basement of the G. N. W. office had no vestige of silver in them when afterwards opened tends to strengthen the suspicion that the person who set fire to the building stole this silver.

The inquest was adjourned till Monday morning.

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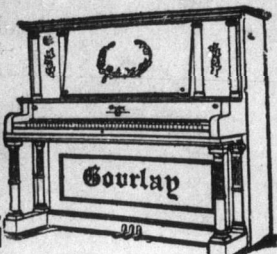
Conference was held at Sweet Home Church No. 1 on the 9th inst., and the only business of interest transacted was to exclude Brother R. I. Batten from the church. It will be remembered that the Holy Jumpers, who took possession of the church about a year ago, never could get ginger enough into Brother Batten to make him "Jump Jim Crow." I will write some more next week—R. I. Batten.

From the Whiteville News-Reporter.

A prize fight isn't so apt to be a walk-over as a talk-over.

THE CHRISTMAS

PIANO



Many homes are to welcome new pianos this Christmas. To some it will be a delightful surprise. To many more it will be the fulfillment of long expectations, but in order to realize the fullest satisfaction and pleasure that will endure, the piano should be a

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M. P. DEAD.

udden Call to Dr. Barr, of Dufferin County.

ound Dead in Bed—Words of Sympathy.

Ottawa, Nov. 19.—Members of the House of Commons were greatly shocked this afternoon to hear of the sudden death of Dr. John Barr, M. P. for Dufferin, who was found dead in bed in his room at the Hotel Cecil about 2 o'clock by three of his fellow-members, Dr. Roche, Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Marshall.

He did not come down to breakfast as usual this morning, but his non-appearance occasioned no alarm, as he had retired last night in good health after spending the evening conversing with a number of members of the Parliament buildings. In fact, just before retiring he had remarked to some friends on his continued good health. When he did not appear for dinner, and the door of his room was still locked, Dr. Roche, Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Marshall broke open the door, and found him stretched out on his bed, with life extinct. He had evidently been dead since early morning. During the night he was heard coughing, and it is presumed that death was due to the rupture of a blood vessel in the brain.

Dr. Barr had been a member of the Commons since 1904, his majority at the last general election being 1,443. He was sixty-six years of age, and had been in public life since 1875, when he was elected to represent Dufferin in the Legislature, where he sat for four terms, resigning in 1904 to accept the Conservative nomination for the Commons. He had on the order paper of the Commons for introduction this afternoon a bill to amend the criminal code, with a view to suppressing the evil of gambling, and yesterday morning he accompanied the deputation of Social and Moral Reformers to the Government to urge anti-gambling legislation and other social reforms. Dr. Barr leaves a widow, formerly Miss E. E. Palmer. He was a Conservative and a member of the Methodist Church.

When the Commons met at 3 o'clock, feeling reference was made to Dr. Barr's death by the Premier and the leader of the Opposition.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier said the news must have come to the members of the House like a shock. It was another illustration of what a slight thread hung their tenure of life. Yesterday he had conversed with Dr. Barr in one of the corridors, and there had been nothing to indicate that death was near.

Dr. Borden thanked Sir Wilfrid for his expression of sympathy, in which the Opposition joined, and added a few words of appreciation of Dr. Barr's services as a public man.

The remains were taken on the C. P. R. train this evening to Shelburne, where interment will take place.

How Earthquakes Destroy Buildings.

A building in the throes of an earthquake tends to vibrate like an inverted pendulum, or more frequently like a series of inverted pendulums, each having its own natural period of vibration. Not only do the different materials correspond to different vibration periods, but if there are wings or extensions to the main portion of the building, these parts vibrate in so far as they vibrate as units, will further have different periods from the main portion. It is this difference of vibration period which gives rise to differential internal or "racking" stresses tending to destroy the integrity of the structure. If all parts can be firmly joined together so that the building moves essentially as a unit, it may be said to be "earthquake-proof." The building might still be overturned bodily, but except over very near a main fault line, experience indicates that this is not likely to occur. Again, it might be sunk into loose deposits, but this can probably be largely prevented by providing suitable artificial foundations.—Engineering Magazine.

"When a fellow is stuck to a girl," says the Cynical Bachelor, "he never realizes how badly he is stuck till he marries her."

THE FARM

TUBERCULOSIS IN CATTLE.

In view of the recent appointment of an international commission to consider the control of bovine tuberculosis in the United States and Canada, the following extract from a late issue of the Veterinary Record of London, Eng., is of considerable interest to Canadian stock owners:

"Tuberculosis. "Sir John McFadyen, addressing an audience of agriculturists in Cheshire, avoided the question of legislation, and confined himself to explaining the disease itself, and advising the individual owner how best to combat it. It is needless to say that this task was admirably performed; but some who heard the address, and many more who read the report of it, must have wondered how many of those receiving such advice—even from so high an authority—are likely to seriously attempt its adoption. An answer to that query is likely to be found in the paper by Dr. J. G. Rutherford, the veterinary director-general of Canada, read at the International Congress on Tuberculosis at Washington. Two points stand out clearly, and will be endorsed by all practical men. A national campaign against bovine tuberculosis, aided by compulsory legislation whatever its provisions—will be a much more difficult undertaking than many theorists even yet suppose. But no effective control of the disease is possible to the present generation, without compulsory legislation.

"Undoubtedly such lectures as that just delivered by Sir John McFadyen do much good by enlightening the really sensible and honest stock owners. They stimulate a few men to more or less earnest voluntary effort; but, for a long time to come, they can only influence the minority of agriculturists. Their effect upon the ignorance and indifference of the majority is very slow, and they cannot influence the enormous considerable section capable of wilfully concealing contagious disease. Compulsion is necessary for the two latter classes. When compulsion is adopted, the ignorant and careless owner will learn something of the disease, and the law regarding it, for his own protection, while the unscrupulous one can be dealt with as he deserves.

"Legislation against tuberculosis, when it does commence, is not likely to be very drastic at first, but we now know so much about the disease that our first steps, if slow, should be sure. When notification of clinical tuberculosis is made compulsory, the first real advance will have been made. That step would enable the most dangerous animals to be dealt with at once, while giving the veterinary inspector a footing upon farms where such animals had existed. Its actual effect upon the spread of the disease would be great; its educational effect upon farmers would be still greater. And the legal powers for the step exist already—the advance could be made at once, by the simple scheduling of clinical tuberculosis by the Board of Agriculture.

"Of course, the opposition to scheduling etc., is from the owners of pedigree stock, and it is noteworthy that these men form the chief obstacle to progress in Canada also. Dr. Rutherford's outspoken references to breeders of pure stock in his own country should carry great weight with these gentlemen. In any way, we hope, be not without effect here. Pure bred herds are the principal agents in disseminating disease in Canada. Probably the same truth applies here. In Canada, also the owners of pure stock, far from assisting the campaign against tuberculosis, generally do their best to thwart it. Legislation against tuberculosis involves a greater immediate financial loss to the pedigree owner than to the average farmer, and the selfish opposition of a few influential agriculturists has hitherto prevented effective legislation in this country.

Foreign buyers are rapidly realizing the condition of our English herds, and before long the pedigree breeders, their market for diseased cattle gone, will cry for legislation. But in the meantime the disease continues its ravages among cattle, practically unchecked, annually causing an enormous waste, and the loss of not a few human lives. Surely the Government will look a little ahead, and take action before pedigree breeders join in asking for it."—From the Office of the Veterinary Director-General.