

SEASON OPENED

Splendid Production of "The Christian"

Miss Gale and Mr. Fanning in the Leading Roles Carry Off the Honors.

Those who fail to witness the production of "The Christian," Hall's masterpiece, at the Auditorium this week will miss the best theatrical effort yet presented to the people of Dawson. It was a happy day on the part of the management of the Hall stock company to select so strong a play with which to introduce the new company, particularly so as they are capable of giving it as it should be given and do not make a burlesque out of it. Plays of the nature of "The Christian" are either very good or very poor, there can be no mediocre. In the hands of persons of indifferent talents things which to the average man or woman are sacred become caricatures and instead of holding the attention of the audience and of stirring every emotion that the human heart is capable of, they cause nothing but disgust. How well Mr. Fanning and his fellow players impressed the audience last night could have been seen on several occasions when the use of kerchiefs was most conspicuous.

The dramatization of "The Christian" is slightly different from the novel of the same name, though the characters and general mise en scene are identical. When O'Case wrote, the book he did not have John Storm and Henry marry in the end, which made the finale rather gloomy, anything satisfactory to an audience, which was altered when the book passed through the hands of the dramatist for the benefit of Viola Allen, the original Glory. The theme is not a new one, in fact, it is as old as time itself, but there are new conditions interwoven which make it so powerful, new situations presented which so enthral the auditor that the role would indeed be past re-creation who could sit and watch the noble struggles, the self sacrifice and heroic efforts of John Storm without experiencing an emotion of repentance.

In the matter of little details it is highly creditable to the manager of the stage that such are not slighted or passed over as a matter of light consequence. The character of the book shows that. Three or four stage hands can not make a play as has sometimes been attempted from a matter of economy. At such time the mob becomes ridiculous. Last night it was of generous proportions and was properly handled, showing the ginger one expects from such a horde. The scenic effects and the placing of the calcium were excellent, depicting a knowledge of stagecraft refreshing to see.

Of the characters portrayed and the personnel of the new company. Not all the members are stars though some shine as stellar attractions of the first magnitude. Mr. Fanning is undoubtedly far the superior of any leading man yet to play an engagement in the city. He possesses the physique necessary for heroic parts, graceful, has a well modulated voice and reads his lines with exceptional distinctness. Another very striking feature is that he does not cultivate an English accent so common to the stage nor does he laugh the third person personation by saying "Do you love me?"

Mr. Fanning's conception of John Storm, the man whose noble and intense love nothing on earth can thwart, leaves little to be desired and especially is such true of the second and third acts. His dramatization of the pursuers of Glory would buy his little church property in order to increase her fame, driving them from his apartments with a thrilling and well deserved cry of certain calls received. Such is really true of the third act when she succumbs to the charm of love.

Miss Gale in the character of Henry made many friends for her work in the interpretation of the difficult role. From the hoydenish girl in the prologue to the artist in the first act is a long step, yet in triumphs one can detect the same ambition, the desire to become famous which in the end is sacrificed for the man she loves. In the serious parts that call for magnetic power and real talent in order to carry her audience with her. To many fanatics who love art for art's sake it may seem a sacrifice to speak of beauty and grace in the same breath with that of histrionic ability, but it remains the same that Miss Gale made a beautiful Glory and is the possessor of a handsome wardrobe. Another personage who quite sur-

passed himself was Mr. Montgomery. Never before has he been seen to a better advantage or never did he acquit himself with greater credit than in the character of young Drake. The part suited him exactly and he molded it in such a manner that he became in reality the part himself. Mr. McDonald in the character of Lord Ure was also excellent. He dressed the part and looked it in every particular, that of an asinine young sprig of nobility, a thorough degenerate in every respect. His accent favored of Pall Mall and the Row, though he did have some difficulty in handling his monologue. Mr. Moran, the favorite comedian of Dawson, seemed so incongruous garbed as a priest that every entrance and exit caused a smile. It reminded one of Hamlet doing a song and dance. The same thing is true of Mr. Wilson, also a comedian, and it would have required no very vivid stretch of the imagination to have conjured up thoughts of "Now, Bill, remember, no one takes a walk today."

Among the ladies in addition to Miss Gale were several who played their small parts acceptably. Miss Jocelyn does some very good character work in Mrs. Callender, and Miss Condon, the ingenue, enacts Polly Love. Miss Chandon plays Bettie and Miss Newman, Liza. According to an announcement made the company will be here until just before the close of navigation, changing the bill weekly. "The Christian" will be on all of this week and next week a turn at comedy will be taken in the presentation of Nat Goodwin's effort, "Turned Up." The harshest comment that could be offered on the production last night were the interminable waits between acts which really should be cut in two and then halved again. The following is the complete cast:

- The Hon. John Storm
- Mr. Frank B. Fanning
- Lord Storm
- Mr. William H. Morgan
- Horatio Drake
- Mr. Frank Montgomery
- Lord Robert Ure
- Mr. J. F. McDonald
- Archdeacon Wealthy
- Mr. Richard Clarke
- Father Lampligh
- Mr. Hilary K. Wilson
- Parson Quayle
- Mr. William Douglas
- The Faro King .. Mr. W. H. Morgan
- The Manager .. Mr. Walter Patton
- Brother Paul .. Mr. Chris Moran
- Mrs. Callender
- Miss Harriet Jocelyn
- Polly Love .. Miss Alice Condon
- Bettie .. Miss Bessie Chandon
- Liza .. Miss Marjorie Newman
- Glory Quayle .. Miss Franklyn Gale

Long Chase Ahead
 Havre, Mont., June 8.—Later advices from Glasgow show the escaped prisoners to be William Hardee, condemned murderer to have been hanged June 26; George Pierce, accused of murder; Hardy Brown, gambler, doing time for assisting in Hardee's previous escape, and Fred McKenny, a short-term prisoner. The bend in the river where the men were thought to be hiding was raided by the posse early this morning, only to find that the desperadoes had made good their escape. Two horses were stolen from the Patton ranch, and it is supposed that the outlaws are riding double and making for the Bad Lands, where armed as they are then can stand off many men. Once there, their capture is almost an impossibility, as the country is filled with men who are avoiding justice.

The posse of twenty-five men is hot on the trail, and fifty more left Glasgow this morning. At daylight two of the men, thought to be Brown and Hardee, were seen near Milk river, going east and riding hard on their jaded horses. Another day must elapse before the bloodhounds can be put on the trail, owing to the delayed train service. Conditions have thus far been in favor of the outlaws, and it looks as if a long chase may be expected.

Many of the posse are liable to go down before the deadly rifles of the desperadoes before they can be taken or killed. Sheriff Buckley, of Fort Benton, and George Hall, United States inspector, have joined the posse, equipped with field glasses and heavy rifles. The manner in which the men slipped through the fingers of the patrol in the bend of the river shows them to be both cunning and daring. There is strong talk of lynching should any of them be taken alive, which, however, is hardly probable.

Late this afternoon two of the escaped prisoners, one of them Hardee, abandoned their horses near Nashua, on the Great Northern. Hardee had a rifle. His head is bandaged. The posse is close behind. The appearance of the men showed they had traveled hard. Night being in their favor they may reach the bad lands, where they have friends.

Wants an Increase
 Paris, June 3.—Senator Elkins, of West Virginia, and Mrs. Elkins arrived here today from New York and will stay in Paris for some time. The senator says he intends to reintroduce next session a bill reducing by 10 per cent. the duties on goods brought to the United States in American ships, or increasing by 10 per cent. the duties on goods brought in foreign steamers.

Mr. Elkins claims the proposed measure is not open to the same objections as the shipping bill, as it will develop American shipping without the expenditure of a cent, large or small ships receiving the same benefit.

DISCUSSING THE SCANDAL

President is Taking Decisive Action

All Matters Pertaining to Crooked Work Will Soon be Investigated.

Washington, June 6.—The postal scandals were discussed at a special meeting of the cabinet this morning, and President Roosevelt was made acquainted with the details of the investigation in the post office department which has been going on during his absence from Washington.

Postmaster-General Payne explained very fully the ground covered in the inquiry, and in substance said that while the results had so far been surprising, he expected even more startling disclosures and would not be surprised if other arrests followed.

One phase of the post office matter which was discussed at the cabinet meeting was the necessity, as the president sees it, of carrying forward the present investigation with all possible speed, as well as thoroughness. It is desired to have the whole business wound up before congress assembles early next winter. It may be said that the president is confident, from what he has heard, that this can be done.

All the prosecutions of federal officers may not have been completed in the courts by the time indicated, but it is believed that matters in the post office department itself will have been pretty thoroughly sifted.

President Roosevelt has taken hold of this matter with rather more than his customary vigor, and there is no doubt that his arrival in Washington has been a source of inspiration to Postmaster-General Payne, who has naturally been much worried by the recent turn of events in his department. It is certain that Mr. Roosevelt will from this time on keep as close tab on the postal investigation in all its details as the postmaster-general himself.

Following a conference with the president this afternoon, Postmaster-General Payne told a reporter that the post office scandals had been thoroughly discussed and that he and Mr. Roosevelt were in perfect harmony.

Mr. Payne said: "I have been in conference with the president practically all day and the post office scandals received the greater share of our attention. They were discussed in detail and I made

the president acquainted with all the developments of the last two months, with which he was familiar only through the medium of the newspapers. The president and myself are in perfect harmony. He has expressed himself as pleased with my conduct in the inquiry and has seconded my expressed intention to go to the bottom of things and give the postal service a thorough cleaning. He is with me in this matter, and there is absolutely no friction between us."

Mr. Payne said he had knowledge of the indictment now before the grand jury under the title of "The United States vs. John Doe," but would not throw any light on the subject. He denied, however, that the indictment refers to George E. Lorenz, postmaster at Toledo during the Cleveland administration, who has been mentioned as the go-between who transferred the money bribe from the Groff brothers of this city, manufacturers of the patent fastener in general use on street letter boxes, to former Supt. Machen, as payment for securing contracts for the firm.

"It is my impression that the John Doe indictment does not refer to Lorenz," said Mr. Payne. "Whom it does refer to I cannot say."

It is understood that Machen in his defence on the bribery charge will name Lorenz, his former chief in the Toledo post office, as a business partner, and will explain that the checks now in the hands of the post office department, which it is alleged, represent the money Machen received in bribes, were received from Lorenz in the ordinary course of business. It is also understood that Machen will point to the fact that Lorenz is a director in the National Capital Mining Company, of which Machen is president and E. S. Rand, the postmaster-general's confidential secretary, the vice-president.

Mr. Payne will not discuss this feature of the case, save to express the opinion that Mr. Rand is innocent of any wrongdoing, and that an acquaintance of thirty years has made him confident of his absolute integrity and honesty.

Fourth Assistant Postmaster-General Bristow is making a complete examination of all contracts made by the post office department, and it is said that he already has information supporting the theory that the government has been swindled out of large sums of money by arrangements between contractors and persons connected with the postal service. The purchase of an alleged "emergency order" of about 20,000 leather pouches for 90 cents each when they could have been bought for 50 cents is an indication of the methods pursued by those who have been buying some of the supplies for the post office department.

While President Roosevelt has kept in touch with the investigation of the post office department, he was not prepared, it is said, for the startling information given him by Postmaster-General Payne, and had thought that

the worst had been discovered when Machen was arrested.

Postmaster-General Payne this morning issued the formal order dismissing from the government service Thomas W. McGregor and C. Ellsworth Upton, the two employees of the rural free delivery service who were arrested yesterday on warrants charging them with having received \$8,000 in bribes from Charles E. Smith, a leather manufacturer of Baltimore. The order dates the discharge of the two clerks from the time of their arrest, yesterday.

It is understood on high authority that Machen is implicated in the purchase of the rural mail pouches from the Baltimore firm, and that he participated in the 10 cents on the dollar which the leather manufacturer turned back to McGregor and Upton in pursuance of the collusive understanding.

Cut flowers, cabbage plants, seeds, plants, candies and fruits. — Cook's Auditorium. Draught beer Rochester Bar.

OLDTIMER RETURNS

Founder of Town of Gold Bottom is Back.

Early in the spring of '98 Mr. A. H. Hilliard built the first cabin on the site where now stands the thrifty little town of Gold Bottom. For three years he conducted a roadhouse there as a village grew up around him. He made a fortune and two years ago he sold out and left for the

outside to pass his remaining days in ease. He remained away until ten days ago when he arrived in the town started by himself. It looked good to him and the result was that he purchased from Jimmie Gordon the Athol hotel and is once more installed in business at the scene of former triumphs. The old-timers welcome him back to Gold Bottom.

A musical treat, the new grand piano at New Dominion Hotel — Cliff Bollong, proprietor.

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