SARA BERNHARDT BEHIND THE SCENES

Great Actress Commanded Whole Stage During Play

Would Direct Electrician in the Wings During Her Performance -the Audience None the Wiser.

"Camille" 'Always Died With Due Consideration of the Time at Which the Train Left Town.

By ALFRED MAYER. For Eight Years Stage Manager to Sara Bernhardt. Special to The London Advertiser. Copyright by Alfred Mayer in America.
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and my father her manager for a something like this would go on: number of years, afforded me an ex- Bernhardt: "What time does the and also press representative in the French or not. then coming tours of 1903-1905.

I had met Madame Bernhardt on frequent occasions, either at her Camille: "Then I have plenty of home in Paris or in my grandship for my parents and myself pened to leave early. would stand me in good stead if ever I displeased her. I quickly was disillusioned on that score, however, as the moment I met madame ism, was shown me.

"Mal De Mer."

It was my first trans-Atlantic trip

I heard that madame was suffering terribly from zeal de mer, and as I wished to pay my respects and and out whether I could do anything performance. for her. I proceeded to her cabin de

all sorts of people. Most of ma- We had not eaten for more than dame's servants who toured the twenty-four hours, as we were dame's servants who toured the twenty-four hours, as we were world with her I had met before and brought into St. Joseph on a goods dous money received by Sarah Bern-ordered a hundred dozens. The pho-I therefore, knew most of those who train. Nevertheless, Bernhardt in- hardt is shown when in Kansas City, tographer very much regretted that the station?" I asked him. board if I insisted. I do not doubt audience. that he would have done so if De Max, who came from her cabin, had not come to my rescue. De Max

pliment to her, but when these ing: ered enough (and the stakes were the was exceedingly tired and must was to shout "Stop thief." etire at once. That meant the

called a rehearsal on board ship and the dining saloon with no stage fixtwenty plays during the voyage cross, and by memory was able to supposed to be. When learning a learn the entire play, including stage the play. In this way it was im-

be severely reprimanded. For in stance in "La Dame aux Camelias' the length of the death scene in the last act would depend upon the time All Rights Reserved. the train left that particular to in the morning. If we had to catch

Bernhardt for more than eight years train at 1 a.m. it would mean that enables me to present a true sketch the show must be over in good time of the little known side of the great so that the trunks and stage fixtures Tragedienne's life. My grandfather, could be taken over to the station who was Madame Bernhardt's im- in time to catch the train. Hence presario for more than thirty years, when Camille is dying a dialogue

ceptional opportunity to become a train leave?" this would be said in cog in the tragedienne's little world. the plaintive dying voice of Camille Thus, at seventeen, I found myself without the audience knowing any assistant stage manager for madame thing about it whether they spoke Armand would reply: "At 2:30 a.m.

madame.

time."

father's home in London, but I never- A few minutes later Bernhardt theless felt somewhat elated to hold would say: "What time is it?" This came the obstacles that were in the go on. It had suffered while the world with Bernhardt without know. a real position with Madame Bern- happens to be a line in the play, but way. hardt although it was with mixed it was supposed to be answered corfeelings that I arrived at Havre one rectly, and the answer would deterdreary February afternoon, where I mine when Camille died, when the was to meet madame and the rest of audience could go home and when the ec. any preparatory to sailing the actors could get something to positively refused to play under a tent for New York. I say "mixed feel- eat before the train left. Thus I declaring that she was not a freak ings" because I feared I might make have seen audiences who cried for from Barnum & Bailey. some fateful blunder and be shipped twenty minutes while Camille died I have no doubt that she would first performance under the tent back home. On the other hand, I and others who could only cry for never have consented to play under Bernhardt decided that it would be also felt that madame's great friend- five minutes because our train hap- a tent if the managers had not point- just the thing to be photographed

In a Train Wreck.

Bernhardt would never disappoint aboard La Touraine I was an official During the 1904 North American gross receipts. This salary, by the way, a proof was sent to Bernhardt she member of the "Compagnie Sarah tour, our train was wrecked between is the largest that has ever been paid was so pleased with it that she or-Bernhardt" and as such no favorit- Chicago and St. Joseph. We were any artist in the world. No one includ- dered fifty dozen. The photographer, and with "mal de mer" everything the audience, who had heard about the wreck, were very anxious to know twenty-eight performances, . This As the photographer departed,

pretty badly shaken up from the lasted for more than two years. I found her quarters guarded by wreck as well as from want of food:

Another instance of the tragedienne's dislike of disappointing her molaying for two days and he had performance in that city, but some money with Bernhardt was a very

"Oh petit, do you play domin- personal loss of more than a \$1,000 go to Barnum & Bailey and borrow pes?" I professed ignorance of the In order to straighten out the diffi- the chief tent pitcher, together with 150 rame and should have continued to culty he decided to decamp with maintain this attitude as far as what money there was and was carry- carried these negroes, the tent, the tent games of chance were concerned. I ing out his intention, when Madame pitcher and a wagon to take the money Bernhardt was very fond of gamb- picious of his movements and en- stage, footlights, border lights and ling provided she won. This, of deavored to stop him. We were everything that a fully equipped theatre course, applies to all gamblers, but I playing the third set of "La Tosca," should have, for more than six months. never found one to whom it applied when suddenly all the lights went It was wonderful, as Ladly as Bernhardt. She would out. There was much excitement. play poker which was generally due but the real excitement started when to the fact that the people she played Bernhardt's excitable manager with would let her win out of com- rushed through the audience shout-

"Stop thief. Stop thief."

to play real poker in order to re- being caught he rushed down to the ways was too late. Madame would lights. Bernhardt's manager lost his notice their earnestness and declare head completely and all he could do

After we had been three days at demanded that the curtain be raised But "Le Dame aux Camelias" as played execrable English, in which she called the manager a damned thief. but declared that the performance would go on just the same. While our own electrician was repairing the cut wire. Bernhardt demanded that candles be brought and the performdisappointed than about receiving her

compelled to play in skating rinks,



THE DIVINE SARAH AS "CAMILLE."

Here is Sarah Bernhardt as "inside" anecdotes in the first of his time the night train left, and the "Camille" in her famous death scene, of which Alfred Mayer, formerly her stage manager, tells some amusing to Mr. Mayer, often depended on the of the company's departure.

ed out to her the enormous receipts outside of the tent. It would be a we would take. This naturally in- nice picture to send back to Paris. terested her greatly because, besides So accordingly we all gathered outher guarantee of a \$1,000 a perform. side the tent and were photographed. her audience if she could help it. ance she received 15 per cent of the It was a novel picture and later when supposed to play in St. Joseph one ing Caruso, Patti or even our modern who was delighted to received such night, but owing to the accident we day pugilists ever received such money. an order, said the photos would be did not arrive there until 11 p.m. For instance, we played two weeks in ready within a week and that he The audience, who had heard about Chicago, during which time we gave would send them after us. whether the great Sarah was hurt meant Bernhardt received \$28,000 plus Bernhardt's secretary, Pitou, rushed and they remained in the theatre her 15 per cent on the gross receipts, after him and told him that one more to learn about the health of the which amounted to more than \$40,000. dozen photographs would be enough. actress, than in the hope of seeing a Thus Bernhardt received \$68,000 for two He explained that Bernhardt always When we arrived we were all after week during tours that sometimes and that she had ordered fifty dozens

Another instance of the tremenwere guarding her cabin door. But sisted that we perform at once. By on Ash Wednesday, 1904, we gave a she had not. He refused, however. she had added to her collection of the time the stage was set and the single matinee in the Convention to cancel the fifty dozens order and when I found you had left the hotel servants before leaving Paris, a play started it was past midnight. Hall. The play, of course, was "La in due course the photographs were I dressed and went out. I saw a man Moor of great size and strength. We had to leave St. Joseph for an- Dame aux Camelias." Our gross re- delivered to us. If my memory serves with a bag and judged that a man diction. hether to amuse herself, or really other city at 3 a.m. We were all ceipts for this matines was \$10,000, who wished to call upon her, this assure you Camille died rapidly that ceipts ever taken at a single mat-Moor positively refused to admit me night. But Bernhardt was satis- ince of a play that was not a charity and threatened to throw me over- fied. She had not disappointed her performance. Bernhardt in addition to receiving a \$1,000 a performance and 15 per cent on the gross receipts received a bonus of a \$1,000 every

It will, therefore, be seen that tent. I must say our managers did The manager was faced with a not do things by halves. They did in place of the box office, as well as a

He Likes a Tent.

When playing under a tent the duties that all stage managers, I know, must always high) they would commence manager saw he was in danger of the world. The first night we played cellar of the theatre and cut off the Camelias." As a matter of fact that was the one and only play we played

of Camille, the second at her country The curtain was lowered, and the home, the third in a gambling house situation explained to Bernhardt. She and the fourth in her home in Paris by the divine Sarah, under a Barnun & Bailey tent in the state of Texas, th entire four acts were played without

The process of changing a dining and a country home scene into a gamb the simple process of removing certain and chairs. Yet people paid \$5 a seat

The audience. I believe, came to see us in a spirit of dare devilness. loosened and began to swing from never been in Berlin. This was an to hold an audience. It so happens one end of the tent to the other. The ed that while touring Texas there play went on. Nothing but sudden as well as good business to play in wind tore down the back of the a young fellow who had been disapstage. By this time the audience

swinging pole was loose and it cer- ing the names of the towns we played tainly was not going to permit the in and frequently did not even know actors of the Bernhardt company to what country we were in. His sole shirk any of the responsibilities of delight in life was acting, which he

Fifty Dozen Photographs. In the afternoon previous to our

weeks work. And this went on week gave similar orders without thinking merely because that happened to be the first figure she thought of. Pitou further explained that he wouldn't

The entire company consisted of 76

Take Piron, for instance. He was an old actor who had been with her for more than thirty years. He was a born gambler. During round-theand gamble everything he had saved on his return to Paris, sometimes in

His chief duty with Bernhardt, be sides playing small parts, was to call to her dressing room and say: "Madame, it is 7:30." Fifteen minutes later he would announce that it was 7:45, and so on until it was time for Bernhardt to go on. Piron always stage, and nobody else was permitted to do this. Piron's salary was about \$80 a week. He would live in the cheapest and dirtiest places imaginable, he would eat the plainest of meals and never went anywhere, had no friends or relations in the world, and had not written for so long that he had forgotten how to do so. Piron and I were great friends. He explained to me his mania for gambling and told me of the small fortunes he had lost during his lifetime. During this particular tour Piron saved something like \$6,000, a sufficient sum to retire on in Paris. Shortly after we returned to Paris I met him on the boulevards and he told me he had lost every cent of his baccarat. 'The Bernhardt Theatre was closed at the time and wasn't due to reopen for some weeks. Piron was looking for a small loan to enable him to live until the theatre reopened and his, salary resumed.

with Bernhardt and again lost everything he had saved.

his death he completed another tour

"Berlin or Bust."

loved. Abbey used to rely on his fellow actors to tell him when the train left; he would stay at a hotel where several other members of the company stayed, and he would ask them to wake him up in the morning so as to be able to go to the station with them. Once we were playing in Cologne, and Abbey was staying He asked me to be sure to wake him up in the morning as he wanted to go to the station with me. I woke up late and felt sure Abbey had gone ahead and did not bother about waking me. To my surprise, when arrived at the station there was no Abbey. I realized he must still be sleeping, but as there was no time to go to the hotel we decided to leave him behind and let him catch us up. We were much worried, however, as we felt sure he did not even know the name of the next town we were playing at. Imagine our surprise when just a few moments before the train was due to depart Abbey arrived.

Followed the Bag

"How did you know the name of "I did not," replied Abbey, "but

They were mostly Moors. There was Dominga and Remitga, her personal dressers. Dominga had been with Bernhardt for so many years that her daughter Remilga was her chief assistant. These women dressed Bernhardt: they showed remarkable devotion, patience and good temper They were always with her, at the themselves; they adored Bernhardt, while she treated them according to how she felt. She might take a notion in her head that Remilga had murmur apologies and declare she would be more careful in future; all the time knowing perfectly well that she had not pulled the hair of the would receive from Bernhardt, she probably would also receive a beating from her mother.

RESENTS POLISH MOVE

Sends Sharp Note To Poland Condemning Her In-

Associated Press Despatch. Moscow, April 3 .- The Russian note for transmission to the Polish ustice," an unfriendly act. The note categorically denies that epresentatives of the Russian government told the Polish representa-

tives in Moscow or anybody else that this trial had only a formal signifi-cance, and would have no serious consequences. The Russian govern-ment, it is added, declines to enter ed against the Russian court and the responsibility for the consequence

REPORT LENINE IN CHARGE

OF RUSSIA'S WAR MINISTER

STATES PENSIONS BARRIERS SHOULD BE BROKEN DOWN IN SOVIET RUSSIA

G. Lindala of Toronto Invited Col. A. T. Hunter Condemns To Siberia To Improve Agriculture.

WILL AID SETTLERS

Take Up Land In Bolshevik Nation.

Special to The Advertiser by a Staff Reporter. Guelph, April 3.-Wild-eyed, bearded gentlemen, groping incoherently for they know not what. That is the popular conception of

Soviet government in Russia.

It seems wrong. In contradiction, The Advertiser found-evidence here today of an effi-cient, intelligent administration, whose enterprise has reached all the way from Moscow to Ontario to find what it wants for the development

of its country. American farmers are emigrating to Russia. They are being invited.

And a Canadian agricultural expert is going along to help them. He, too, has been invited.

too, has been invited.

His name is George J. Chindala, a graduate of the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph, and his home is at 23 Alcorn avenue, Toronto.

A clean, healthy-looking chap of 25, he has no desire to grow a beard or spend his time unsettling a greatly unsettled country. He is going to Siberia to assist in the improvement of agriculture for the betterment of Russia.

Is Life In Danger?

Asked if he thought his life was in danger by going to Russia, Mr. Lindala replied: "No, I am going into the heart of a great agricultural district, and I understand that the only aim of the people there is to improve their liv-

Instead of the vicious type of Sov-

iet, Mr. Lindala visualizes the neat peasant cottage with the inmates ins, bright, fond of music, and, above all, striving for peace in that Mr. Lindala went on to explain:
"I have been employed by the Autonomous Industrial Colony, Kusbas, which has an agent, Alfred Pearson,

at New York, and my work is to build up a model dairy farm at Kenerobo, a town of 4,000 people, and instruct the farmers and new settlers in proper dairying methods. "Settlers?" queried The Advertiser.
"Yet, settlers," replied Mr. Lindala. "There are 500 of them at

Kenerobo. "Where did they come from?" he was asked. "From the United States, Canada. England, Sweden, and Finland, and in fact from all parts of the globe," he answered. "From reports, they like the country, and that is why chaps like myself are being sent out

to help them.' "What is the Autonomous Indus-trial Colony?" The Advertiser inquired.

"Well, it is a group of the Soviet regime operating in the Kuzbas area, and its work is to improve living conditions in the area under its juris-

headquarters, is situated on the Trans-Siberian Railway, a few hundred miles east of the Ural Moun-

dairy buildings first," continued Mr. Lindala, "and then I shall have to study the newly-imported cattle and endeavor to determine which is best "Imported cattle?" interrupted The

Advertiser.
"Oh, yes," continued Mr. Lindaia. "The Russians have secured a num pigs and bees from England in an fort to improve farm stock.
"I am taking several samples of O.

A. C. grains of the hardier varieties with me," he continued, "to ex-"Why in a year or so Trotzky may remarked smilingly.
"But it would take a quart of

roubles to buy a quart of milk, wouldn't it?" questioned The Adver-"Oh, no," he replied, "I understand that the farmers in the central areas of Russia pay little attention to the that they may desire by bartering."

Taking Equipment. Mr. Lindala is taking with him complete equipment as used on a modern dairy farm in Ontario, and equipment in New York before leav-He sails from New York on Thurs

day with a grain expert from St. John, N. B., and a mining engineer The party will go to England, from there to Petrograd and travel inland

SAVES BOYS FROM DEATH ON ICE IN DETROIT RIVER HER HEART SKIPPED

Special to The Advertiser.
Windsor, April 3.—Two boys were rescued from almost certain death by drowning when Constables Samuel Royan and H. W. Neal of Windson police department took them from an ice-cake in the Detroit River on Friday night. The boys, who refused large cake became detached and floated several hundred yards down the river. They were seen by the policemen, who brought the cake to the shore with long sticks and took the boys off.

PRESBYTERIANS TO OPEN BIG DRIVE FOR FUNDS

special request made by the execu-tive of the general board of the Presbyterian Church in Canada parts of the Dominion will hear the service" discussed from the pulpits

These special services, it is announced, will be part of the campaign planned under direction of the the budget givings of the church for the year 1923 will reach the objective of \$1,415,000 specifically authorized.

The Present Medical Procedure.

TOO CUMBERSOME

American Farmers Emigrate To American Official Gives Evidence Before Royal Commission.

Canadian Press Despatch.

Toronto, April 3 - Outlining the claims and grievances of returned veterans and their dependents at the opening session of the royal commission investigating soldiers' pensions, etc., yesterday at Osgoode Hall, Col. A. T. Hunter of the Provincial Veterans' Committee for Ontarlo, declared the pension of a soldier in Canada was not a whim or even a bounty as in the United States, but a legal right, earned as no other right has been earned by the present gen-

Colonel Hunter scored the present medical procedure, and stressed that veterans seeking pensions and edical attention were treated as they had been treated in the army from a disciplinarian point of view. "The present system of admission to treat. cumbersome and vexatious," empha-sized Colonel Hunter. "There is a formidable as a 'stall' to the sick and irritable veteran. This form should be abolished. The application by letter of the veteran backed by a certificate should be sufficient.'

Veteran associations were liberally represented at today's sitting. Captain Milne, assistant secretary to the Imperial minister of pensions, who came from Washington to enlighten the commission as to pension gave some interesting information relative to the various courts and tion for a pension must pass before final judgment is handed down. Captain Milne explained the alternative pension scheme to which grants are

nade by special statute.

MUSICAL ART SINGERS

Richard Crooks, New York Tenor of Note. Will Assist Choir.

be directed on Thursday evening in the Patricia by Mr. H. K. Jordan, the brilliant conductor of the Schubert choir of Brantford, who has been directing the chorus during the illness of Mr. A. D. Jordan. A program of much interest will be presented by the carefully-selected choir.

Crooks of New York City, a young tenor with a marvellous voice of the John McCormack type, who has created a sensation wherever he has appeared in this his first season. Many out-of-town musicians are exhas resulted in inquiries from distant

PETER M'EOWN, LYRSELL. DIES AFTER LONG ILLNESS

Simcoe, April 2.—Peter R. McEown, only son of Walter McEown, died at the family residence in Lyrsell Sun-day night after a long illness.

Born and raised in Lyndoch, young McEown left home in his teens to it and draw this through your hair fight in the South African War, and though he returned unscathed, health had been undermined and he neral will be held Tuesday afternoon Rev Mr. Shaw conducting the ser-

HIGHGATE PEOPLE HONOR MR. AND MRS. BEATON

Special to The Advertiser evening the members of the I. O. F met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Beaton and presented then with a jardiniere stand and a hand-Mr. Beaton has purchased a farm

n Howard Township, to which place ne will move shortly. On Friday evening next an Easter ageant, entitled "The Dawning," will be presented by the young people

of the Highgate Methodist Church.

Mrs. James Burleigh, 248 King St. E., Chatham, Ont., writes: "I think it my duty to let you know what Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills have

I suffered for years with palpitanon of the heart, my nerves were very bad, and I could not be left alone at any time. I doctored for over a year, and the doctor said my cart was very bad as it slapped

I gave up, just at this time, and then my mother advised me to try Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills, saying my eldest brother had been relieved by using them when he was very bad with his heart and nerves. and when I had used it I felt a lo stronger. I continued taking them for about three months, and felt better than I had for years.

suffering I went through before I started Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills, I feel like letting everyone

Price 50c a box, at all dealers, or mailed direct on receipt of price by the T. Milburn Co., Limited, Toronto,

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Health and Happiness Came With "Fruit-a-tives"

Made from fruit juices and tonics

"Fruit-a-tives," the wonderful medicine made from the juices of apples, oranges, figs and prunes, is one of the greatest means of doing good that this country of ours has ever known.

"Fruit-a-tives" is bringing health to hundreds and hundreds of people who suffer with chronic Constipation

Biliousness and Dyspepsia.

Mr. Frank Hall of Wyevale, Ont. says: "I purchased a box of 'Fruita-tives,' and began the treatment My condition improved immediately, The dyspepsia ceased to be the bur-den of my life, as it had been, and

At dealers, or sent by Fruit-a-tives

Lift Off with Fingers



Doesn't hurt a bit! Drop a little "Freezone" on an aching corn, instantly that corn stops hurting, then shortly you lift it right off with

fingers. Truly!
Your druggists sells a tiny bottle
of "Freezone" for a few cents, sufficient to remove every hard corn, soft corn, or corn between the toes, and the calluses, without soreness or irri-

The Musical Art Society choir will FEW FOLKS HAVE GRAY HAIR NOW

Druggists Say Ladies Are Using Recipe of Sage and

Hair that loses its color and lustre, or when it fades, turns gray, dull and lifeless, is caused by a lack of sulphur tiful dark shade of hair which is so attractive, use only this old-time

ture improved by the addition of ingredients by asking at any Sage and Sulphur Compound," which evenly, that nobody can possibly tell dampen a sponge or soft brush with taking one small strand at a time By morning the gray hair disappears ut what delights Wyeth's Sage and Sulphur Com darkening the hair after a few applications it also brings back the pearance of abundance.-Advt.

STOPS Acute Indigestion

KOLOK is particularly effective the treatment of acute indigestion Two teaspoonfuls of KOLOK, taken without dilution, usually banishe pain in a few min utes, but in extreme cases the



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