

# POOR DOCUMENT M C 2 0 3 5

THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1923

## New Notes Gathered From the World of Stage and Screen

### OPERA DAYS OF TWENTY YEARS AGO IN ST. JOHN ARE VIVIDLY RECALLED

Local Theatre Man Discovers Singer Who Amused St. John People.

A visitor to Boston last week had occasion to call upon the theatrical outfitting firm of Wolff Fording & Co., and after making arrangements for his purchases was referred to the head of the firm, Mr. Wolff. Upon completing negotiations the address St. John, N. B., brought a look of surprise to the face of the white-haired theatrical outfitting.

"Are you from St. John, New Brunswick?" Mr. Wolff inquired. "Upon being informed in the affirmative the Boston man said: 'Why I sang several seasons with the Baker Opera Co., and other organizations in that good old city about 20 years ago and still have a number of very dear friends living down there.'"

The St. John man was naturally very much interested and himself recalled the glorious days of the opera companies mentioned and was delighted to find that Mr. Wolff was the irrepressible comedian such a general favorite with St. John people at that time, associated in much of his team-work with one equally funny, Woolly. For more than a half-hour the merchant and his customer chatted merrily over old theatrical times in this city and judging from his speaking voice the St. John man came to the conclusion that Mr. Wolff could still sing a rollicking role with the same resonance and ardor that helped make him so popular a generation ago.

He has prospered greatly since leaving the stage and quite unknown to his interested customer up to the time of his personal visit business dealings had been going on with Mr. Wolff's firm for several years. The customer was glad to identify his customer as coming from this city and at once the business relations took on an intimacy mutually pleasant. Wolff, Fording & Co., occupy a large building in Elliott street, Boston, and is the leading export for theatrical accessories east of New York.

### ROBT. MANTELL IN IMPRESSIVE ROLE

His Richieu in "Under the Red Robe" is Highly Commended.

New York, Nov. 16.—"Under the Red Robe" is the third production in New York's newest and most beautiful picture house, The Cosmopolitan, once the dingy old Park Theatre, which is settling for "Little Old New York" has given place to a Louis XIII investiture which is unequalled in the history of the picture industry. Throughout the picture when the interiors of the palaces of the king and Richieu are what for, Mr. Urban has wrought with unstinted magnificence and historical verities.

The pity is that, for once, Mr. Veiller has let a none too absorbing romance go beyond the proper limits. None of his centrifugal fashioning of close-knit plot has stirred the gentle current of this picture which, with the addition of prologue and intermission, wound its way close to the midnight hour. Maybe, when sufficient tucks and pleats have been taken in its flowing amplitudes, as would cut it to the two-hour requirement of the ordinary picture theatre, it will match its scenic splendors with enlightening tale.

The beginning and the end of the picture are set in old Paris and it is doubtful if a more superb picture has been screened than the great hall and monumental staircase in the cardinal's palace—taken from the well-known painting by Gerome—with its hundreds of courtiers and attendants in the magnificent costumes of the period. Robert Manteau is impressive as Richieu, and the various royalties are effectively interpreted by an all-star cast. John Charles is the leading hero, fighting on horse or on foot as the case may be with signal success. Alma Rubens is content to rely on her gowns and carriage for her share in the acting. Historically the picture affluences as well as such choreographic accumulation of crowds and costumes ever permits.

Charlie Chaplin's first venture into the movies was as a fat man. He did not get far in this guise and tried various other makeups, but they all unsuccessful until he hit on the tramp idea.

### STAR MONDAY—TUESDAY

Gladys Walton

"Crossed Wires"

From "telephone bell" to "society belle" overnight is the whirlwind experience of beautiful Marcel. Madcap girl, she accepts the opportunity that "crossed wires" offers—gets into the most exclusive society event of the season—and goes! Marcel Murphy—the sensation of the evening until you'll say is one of the most enjoyable pictures ever! Don't miss it!

"BUFFALO BILL"

Serial Story.

### PROMISING TALENT AMONG CITY GIRLS

Miss Mooney's Singing Gets Favorable Comment—Olive Rankine to Be Heard.

It is worthy of note that in connection with its twice-week orchestral concerts Imperial Theatre is extending the scope of its vocal offerings to the younger group of singers in St. John and vicinity. The very commendable singing of Bernice Mooney last week showed the general public that there are good performers amongst the 'teen age students who give promise of a high type of artistry as years of experience go by.

Indeed Miss Mooney, daughter of Edward Mooney, contractor, is already a vocalist of satisfying quality, and if one were disposed to express an opinion upon her work as a student one would find little to criticize other than the quite excusable and certainly-to-be-expected stage nervousness and restraint.

Miss Mooney sang prettily and truthfully and was accorded the hearty welcome she deserved.

Another young contralto to be heard at the Imperial during the Christmas vacation is Olive Rankine, daughter of Police Sergeant Rankine, who is still pursuing her musical studies at Mount Allison University.

If the Imperial continues to be, in a humble way, the "Le Senie" of New Brunswick in developing local talent it will be a worthy follower of that famous theatre in Milan which has been the birthplace of so many successful careers amongst Italian singers.

### CISSIE LOFTUS IS AGAIN TRIUMPHING

Twenty Ushers Required to Carry Floral Tributes to Stage.

New York, Nov. 16.—Cecilia Loftus, more affectionately known in several countries as Cissie Loftus, is again in the United States for a vaudeville tour. She is playing in the Palace Theatre, New York, this week, and her work is as wonderful as ever.

To excel as either actress, singer, or dancer, Cissie Loftus is considered enough as one woman's accomplishment, but Miss Loftus has reached the high point in all three fields of endeavor. As leading lady for E. H. Sothern and Sir Henry Irving, she has played in the most famous theatres of the world, and as the head of comic opera companies, she has surprised by her versatility, but it is through her dramatic art that Cissie Loftus has endeared herself to the largest public. Imitations as offered by Cissie Loftus stand the highest test of genuine work of art.

An audience that filled every available space of the large Palace Theatre—and which included Blanche Bates, John Drew, Irene Bordoni, Nora Bayes, Norman Hapgood, Olga Petrova, Sam Bernard, Hassard Short, Eva Le Gallienne, Jeanne Eagels, Helen Mencken, Lynn Fontaine, May Irvin and Alice Delysia—gave Miss Loftus a welcome and, at the finish of her astonishing impersonation of Jeanne Eagels in "Hain", Mrs. Fiske in "Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary", Harry Lauder, Ethel Barrymore, Alice Delysia and Beatrice Perford, an ovation that must have made her realize how Americans feel toward her. Twenty ushers assisted in carrying flowers to the stage.

As a climax to Miss Loftus' brilliant half-hour, Miss Nora Bayes, who sat in a front row seat, was invited to come upon the stage and sing one of her popular songs. Miss Loftus' imitation of Miss Bayes was voted much more like Miss Bayes than Miss Bayes herself, vividly recalling the story that Charles Chaplin, arriving in a western town some years ago, and hearing that a Chieftain contest was to be held that night, decided that it would be amusing to don his make-up and entrance contest unknown to the judges. He was awarded third prize.

### GAIETY MONDAY—TUESDAY

Through Seas of Flame—With the Girl Who Wronged Him!

Through seas of flame, while hundreds held their breath, he had plunged, reeled, fought, fought through to safety with the girl who had wronged him, "framed" him into a hateful marriage! Did he forgive her?

See this gripping love story of the Big North Woods! Thrills! Heart-Interest!

WM. DESMOND IN "McGUIRE OF THE MOUNTED"

"TWO AUCTIONEERS" Comedy.

"UNDER THE BORDER" Western.

Alexandra Chapter, I. O. D. E. AUTUMN TEA and SALE

Temple Building, Main Street, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20th, from 4 to 6.30 p. m. Tickets, 35 cents. 1708-11-20

### Another Movie Romance



Billie Dove, former star of Ziegfeld's Midnight Frolic, and a movie actress for several years, recently married Irvin Willat, motion picture director, making one more romance of the silver screen for fans to talk about.

### VISITING FILM MEN LIKE N. B. WOODS AND PLAN TO RETURN

L. Bache of Toronto, Canadian general manager of First National Pictures, was in town last week visiting his corporation's branch president over by William J. Melody. Mr. Bache had not intended dropping in upon St. John but being as far east as our famous movie haunts in York county, decided to make the visit, his first one this far east. On the hunting trip Mr. Bache was accompanied by H. O. Schwabe, secretary treasurer of the First National Pictures' Corporation of the world, and one of the outstanding figures in the industry.

Nathan Gordon of the important Gordon theatrical interests of Boston, was also in the party as well as Max Schumann, a partner. The quartette had a wonderful time in the woods running down our big game, of which they got plenty.

WILL COME AGAIN. Mr. Bache reports that the other gentlemen were so excited over their exploits that they intend making it an annual affair, if not semi-annual, and the Toronto man has commissioned local parties here to arrange for a salmon duff on the Cain River next May, when the New York and Boston parties will come with other friends. Thus does the fair fame of New Brunswick as a playground for well-to-do and generous tourist spread like wildfire once they get a sniff of our wonderful hunting-ground and capture some of its trophies.

Officials for Tonight. Power and William Donohoe; Judges, Major Edward Mooney, Lawrence McLane; diners, Fred Logan, John at the Armonies; Referee, James Dalry; announcer, William Case.

### QUEEN SQUARE TODAY and TUESDAY

Don't Fail to See Mary Carr

"Loyal Lives"

A Smashing, Crashing Melodrama of the Mail Service.

THRILLS—PATHOS—LAUGHS

All in This Big Film. A Picture You'll Always Remember.

2 REEL COMEDY

### DO YOU REALLY LOVE YOUR WIFE?

SPECIALS "Face to Face" Western Drama. Two Reels.

UNIQUE A Splendid Program for the First Half of the Week.

SPECIALS "Fool Proof" Christie Comedy. Two Reels.

A photodrama of single women who would be married and married women who would be single—a tale of foolish husbands and wise wives.

Edward Dillon's Masterful Photo Drama WOMEN MEN MARRY

E.K. LINCOLN FLORENCE DIXON A Drama of Old Husbands and Young Wives

MATINEES Every Day at 2 and 3.30 10c—15c

EVENINGS At 7 and 8.40 15c—25c

### BEGGARS' OPERA IS STILL RUNNING

Notice of Withdrawal Caused Such a Rush Closing is Postponed.

(From Our Own Correspondent.) London, Nov. 1.—Visitors to London who run down to Hamperstith to see the Beggar's Opera when they were last in London two or three years ago may be astonished to know it is still running merrily. I fancy Nigel Playfair, if he had not made a small fortune out of it, would end up by hating the thing. He has made several attempts to coax it off, and start something new and novel. The last attempt was about a week ago, when it was officially announced that the Beggar's Opera would be withdrawn at last at the end of the week.

The news caused such a box-office rush that it has now been decided the opera must be allowed to run on until Christmas anyway. Apparently the Beggar's Opera has become an incurable habit with lots of London playgoers. Some have attended once or twice a week regularly for years.

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During the four weeks that "Kiki" has been in Boston it has had a total gate of \$86,000. This will give Belasco about \$60,000 for his share. His overhead will not exceed \$20,000 in the four weeks. While "Kiki" doesn't draw as much money as the "Follies," yet it shows a much greater profit because of the small regularity for years.

The Belasco show has played to capacity at every performance and could have been doing it for two months more, but it had to leave to make room for "Little Nellie Kelly."

MARRIAGE AS IT IS. We are very proud to have the privilege of commencing publication in the December issue of the sanest, wisest novel of modern marriage we have yet seen—"Judd & Judd," by Naboo Bartley. Mrs. Bartley is not biased, she is not old-fashioned, she is not a rabid feminist—she is an intelligent woman who sees all the problems of marriage, knows that something must be done about it if it is to be saved. It is only by such treatment as this that progress can be made. We have had enough rambling literature on this subject; enough flippant writings. Here, at last, is a strong, wholesome story of an average marriage, showing the conditions of people of modest income fine decent folk who want to make a beautiful thing of life, and although there are jazz people in it, we shall see how much they count.—From The Designer Magazine for December.

Mr. Murray buys more clothes than anyone else in the movies. They say he has been known to change her gown four times in one evening. No one loves the limelight better than Mae Murray.

### LOCAL BOY CLIMBS IN MUSICAL WORLD

Clarence Causton Now Playing First Violin in Toronto Orchestra.

In a programme of the Toronto Symphony festival of recent date the name of Clarence Causton is found amongst the first violinists. Mr. Causton, son of R. A. Causton, the well-known letter-carrier of this city, was taught his art in this city, and after playing in several local orchestras took up moving-picture orchestral work in Toronto.

The Symphony of that city is largely recruited from the orchestral talent recruited, and it is gratifying to know that another St. John boy has been found worthy of a chair in the "first" section of so big a band.

Mr. Causton, Sr., is a talented fiddler and piccolo player, being a member of one of our local bands.

Use the Want Ad. Way

### IMPERIAL THEATRE TONIGHT--8.15 SEAT SALE FROM 10 A. M.

Stanley M. Vermilyea Presents the Colorful and Irresistibly Tunesful Musical Comedy

THE MAID OF THE MOUNTAINS

Introducing to Eastern Canada the well-known Metropolitan stars—Ethel Walker, Donald McMillan and Walter Greaza.

CHORUSES AND ENSEMBLES OF THIRTY-FIVE

PRICES: Orch. and Boxes, \$2; Balcony, 75c. to \$1.50. Chorus, 50c. to \$1.00. Lower Floor, \$1.00. MAT. TUE. Balcony, 50c. to \$1.00. Chorus, 25c. to 50c. Rear Balcony, 25c. to 50c.

### OPERA HOUSE TEL. M. 1363

The F. JAMES CARROLL PLAYERS

ALL THIS WEEK

The Famous Racing Play of the Age

"In Old Kentucky"

THE BEST YET

With MADGE THE KENTUCKY GIRL Winning the Derby

SEE ONE OF AMERICA'S GREATEST PLAYS

After the matinee tomorrow afternoon Miss Kelton will hold a reception on the stage.

### PALACE MONDAY and TUESDAY

All the tense moments, all the rich romance, all the splendid heart-interest of all the Meghan pictures—in one glorious production.

ADOLPH ZUKOR PRESENTS

Thomas Meighan

"The Ne'er-Do-Well"

BY REX BEACH

"Second Childhood"—Christie Comedy

WED.—"SLANDER THE WOMAN"

### IS MADE FOREMAN AT ROUND HOUSE

It was learned at the C. N. R. round house here last night that James Cummings, who has been an employee of the round house at Point du Chene for a year or more, has been promoted to the position of night foreman in the St. John round house. Mr. Cummings has taken up his new duties.

### CONCERT

ILLUSTRATED LECTURE ON IRELAND

By MR. H. S. CULVER

Mission Church School Room

MONDAY EVENING, NOV. 19 8 P.M. Tickets 25c. 11-20

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### NORTHERN WASTES DEPICTED IN FILMS

Pictures of Hammer's Air Trips From Spitzbergen May Aid Amundsen.

Motion pictures taken over the far northern wastes as far as the eighty-third degree were shown last week for the first time at a projection room in the Intercoast Building in West Forty-second street, New York. The flights were taken under the command of Captain Hakon Hammer, who made Spitzbergen his base. It was explained that the pictures might assist those who accompany Captain Ronald Amundsen when he attempts to fly to the North Pole next year.

It is explained in the subtitles of these pictures that one is looking upon craters, ice cliffs and mountains that have never before been seen by human eyes. Twenty-one flights were made in all, and the longest lasted about seven and one-half hours, covering a distance from Spitzbergen to the return of about 700 miles. Except for one or two sequences nothing living is shown in these pictures, which take up about half an hour. Maps are included on the screen for the purpose of explaining the route taken.

Captain Hammer explained that in the first instance the flights were made with the idea of rescuing Amundsen, then in Alaska, contemplating a flying trip to the pole. Captain Hammer said that Amundsen's machine, which had been able to cover the entire distance from Alaska to Spitzbergen, Captain Hammer added that his flight was in a northeasterly direction and that when he turned back he was about 600 miles from the pole. He said he made flights in April and May last year, there being, of course, no daylight in the temperature hovering about zero. Captain Hammer will accompany Amundsen on his flying polar trip next year, when Dornier machines will be used. These machines are made in Italy and Germany. In the longest flight the altitude averaged more than 4,000 feet, but for certain periods they had to go up to nearly twice that altitude to clear the high peaks.

As might be expected these pictures are only interesting because of the explanations as to where they were taken. The high mountains, and the expanses of water do not differ much from those which might be taken in any other uninhabited northern zone.

Captain Hammer was accompanied by a pilot and a photographer. It was said that the pilot after flying 200 miles wanted to continue on the journey and that Captain Hammer had to make him turn about to lead him to him with a revolver. Captain Hammer said that no matter what success they might have had, he did not wish to attempt the flight to the pole without Captain Amundsen.

### Gossipy Notes of The Screen People

Samuel Goldwyn, in his recent book "Behind the Screen," pays the highest possible tribute to Mary Pickford. He thinks she knows actually more about the moving picture business in all its details than anyone else connected with the industry. She achieved this knowledge through her tremendous capacity for work.

No one picked Mary Pickford as a possible star when she first appeared in the movies. After her first picture, the management was about to discharge her, because they thought she was too chubby.

Mary Pickford has always had a great head for business. She is considered as great a businesswoman as she is an actress. When she made her first success and was getting as high as \$1,000 a week, she and her mother continued to live in a three-room flat in New York. She spent little money for clothes and few people ever saw her in anything but a plain blue serge dress.

Mary Pickford has always succeeded in winning the friendship and admiration of men. But few women know her well. Marshall Neilan, the director, was a great friend of Mary's, and she never parted until she secured Neilan a chance. Now he is near the top of the directors' list. The greater part of Mary Pickford's wealth is invested in Canada, where she was born and brought up. Her mother has controlled many of her investments.

Edna Goodrich, the famous stage beauty, once the wife of Nat Goodwin, was given a contract at a very large figure, with the expectation that her beauty would make an enormous hit on the screen. She failed absolutely because she could not warm up. Her personality was too cold.

### Theatre Inaugurates Novel Word Contest

An interesting little contest is being quietly conducted by Imperial Theatre in connection with a long list of film bookings being mailed to patrons throughout the city. In this list there are about sixty titles of coming pictures. A cash prize has been offered to the person sending in the clearest hundred-word story or scene, using the titles of the photographs for sentence-building. The use of little conjunctive words is being permitted to link up these titles in a smooth-running way and it is anticipated there will be some amusing returns for judges to laugh over. Of course the subtlety of the scheme is to get the people well acquainted with the subject matter of the shows that are to come.