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Head Office: 106 King Street West, - - TORONTO.

GEORGE F. DAVIS, MANAGING DIRECTOR.

CHIEF OF CZAR'S CABINET NEW POST FOR PEACEMAKER

Witte Will Be Decorated by Grateful Sovereign and Made First Subject of Realm.

St. Petersburg, Sept. 29.—M. Witte left St. Petersburg at noon by boat to meet Emperor Nicholas, who, with his family, is prolonging his yachting trip in the Finnish Gulf. The meeting will occur at Bjorko, where the interview between Emperor Nicholas and Emperor William took place just before the peace conference, and where the imperial yacht Polar Star is now lying.

M. Witte had not expected when he arrived here to be received in audience until the emperor's return to Peterhof, but yesterday evening he received the imperial command to come

to-day to Bjorko on board a vessel which was sent for him, his majesty desiring to hear immediately from his envoy's lips an account of his important and successful mission.

It has been reported that M. Witte will be made a count and receive the Order of St. Andrew, with which Presidents Faure and Loubet were decorated, but a more substantial honor may be his nomination to the post of chief of the cabinet of ministers, the details of which are now being elaborated, and which would make him the first subject in the realm, with the right of naming all the ministers except the court and war ministers.

WHAT KAISER SAID.

Berlin, Sept. 29.—The National Zeitung's St. Petersburg correspondent has telegraphed to his paper as follows: "M. Witte told me to-day that Emperor William said to him: 'I accord you the same honor as I would to a crowned head. You have accomplished extraordinary things, and I co-operate in the possession of such a man. If monarchs had many such true servants then one would think better of monarchs.'

The 'cloth' is an effective insulator between men and the ministry.

LACK OF CARS TO BLAME IF WHEAT BLOCKADE OCCURS

Trouble Will Be at Lower Ports and Not Thru Freight Rates—The Situation.

Local grain men do not believe the yarns from Fort William that there is a probability of a blockade thru rates at the northern lake ports. Several boats are loading now, and as far as can be learned the bulk of the Canadian tonnage has been chartered by shippers for the month of October at rates which insure the grain shippers concerned to have very reasonable and open shippers are voluntarily now bidding over them. There is some discussion as to whether all round, but it will be caused by slowness of loading the boats at Lake Superior ports, and the inability of the railways and elevators at lower lake ports to keep the grain clear from the boats.

There are seven Georgian Bay ports at which the grain can be received: Depot Harbor (Barry Sound), Midland, Sault Ste. Marie, Port Huron, Point Edward and Owen Sound. Present indications are that conditions are generally favorable for shipping in good time from Fort William, but the danger of a blockade is at this end, and will be entirely owing to inability to get cars. There is 100,000,000 bushels to be handled, and 20,000,000 bushels of it must come this way this fall, so far only about a million bushels have been received. Some of this went on down to Kingston. The shortage of cars has commenced already and yesterday at the Union Station the district freight agents had a meeting to combine to get a hold on the situation. If the cars can't be got for handling the trade here it will be a great thing for Buffalo. There is a good demand for Canadian wheat for export. It looks like a big shortage in Russia, and European demands will be excessive.

As far as getting the wheat down here from the north is concerned there is any quantity of time and apparently enough boats. The big trouble is the insufficiency of cars, which has been felt before and will be again.

MAN WHO STOLE SECURITIES MAKES NO ATTEMPT TO SELL

New York, Sept. 29.—So far as could be ascertained to-day, no attempt has yet been made by the thief who got possession of \$20,000 worth of securities by presenting a forged cheque for them at the National City Bank yesterday to dispose of them. Detectives are every effort to prevent the negotiation of the securities, and to find the young man who presented the forged cheque.

It was said that the young man for whom the detectives are searching was probably an office-boy, and he may have been acting in behalf of some more experienced operators.

W. B. RANKINE ILL.

Niagara Falls, N.Y., Sept. 29.—W. B. Rankine of the Niagara Falls Power Company is greatly improved in health to-day. Advice from his physicians at Franconia, N.H., where he has been staying, state that there is no need of alarm.

He contracted a severe cold and later congestion of the lungs set in.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

The bill next week at Shea's will be full of novelties. Old favorites and new ones will be seen. Hal Davis, Inez Macaulay and Company are the headliners in Edmund Day's playlet, "Pais." This sketch is the sensation of vaudeville. A big act that Manager Shea has also secured is Helens Gerard, with her magnificent horse, Miss Gerard has the most picturesque horse act ever put on any stage, and doing some wonderful riding and trick driving. As a special extra attraction Mr. and Mrs. Mark Murphy have been secured in their sketch, "The Coal Strike." This is the first appearance in Toronto of this clever pair, and they will be the laughing hit of every bill on which they have appeared elsewhere. Louise Dresser, always dainty



KELLAR, THE MAGICIAN, at the Grand.

and charming, and with new songs; Jack Norworth, with his stories and songs; the Three Sensational Zoellers, in a presentation in a novel aerial act, the Chamberlains, ladies experts, and a Wolf Hopper. There is a full line of new pictures are others.

Miss Nella Bergen will make her vaudeville debut shortly as the star feature at Shea's. Miss Bergen has recently signed a five years' contract with Henry B. Harris, manager of the Hudson Theatre, and of Robert Edison. It is the intention to present her next spring in a comic opera, the book of which is to be furnished by Stanislaus Stange. Negotiations are now in progress with John Philip Sousa to furnish the score. Until the opera is ready for presentation Miss Bergen will remain in vaudeville. The prima donna in private life, the wife of Mr. De Wolf Hopper. She will be heard in a repertoire, the feature of which is the egyptian song from "The Bride Elect."

The analytical program for the Boston Symphony Orchestra concert on Tuesday evening next have been mailed.

In addition to the Schumann Symphony, which will be a great delight to all music lovers, the less cultivated ear will be greatly pleased with Weber's "Invitation to the Dance," orchestrated by Berlioz, Tchaikovsky's Italian Caprice, and the famous Tannhauser Overture. The Tannhauser Overture is so very intimately associated with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and their rendition so perfect that Mr. Gericke likes to play it as an object lesson. The other great number will be the concerto for violin and orchestra in D minor by Spohr. In the Allegretto of the entrance of the solo violin is preceded by an effective tutti, in which the principal subjects of the movement are, as usual, partly utilized and partly foreshadowed. The solo violin enters by means of a quick chromatic scale into its principal subject. The second subject leads off with a melody in F major. This is succeeded by some very brilliant Spohr's bravura passages for the violin, with which the first portion of the movement comes to a full close in F. After an interesting short tutti the solo violin begins the usual development movement with the subject, No. 1, transferred to the key of A flat. The course of the modulations in this section, by means of frequent enharmonic changes, is very natural to Spohr's genius, is very interesting. The usual repetitions of the first and second subjects, transferred to closely related keys, form the chief items in the remainder of this movement.

With almost a complete change as to character of the entertainment, a week of magic and mystery will be inaugurated at the Grand Opera House on Monday, when The Great Kellar, the world's marvelous prestidigitator, opens an engagement. One of the new, and also the most wonderful illusion presented by him this season, is entitled "The Sailor, The Witch and The Enchanted Monkey," a mystical deception, which borders on the supernatural. It surpasses anything of the kind ever seen in this or any other country, being done on a brightly lighted stage.

S. H. DUDLEY, in "The Smart Set" at the Majestic.

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and telling the simple little story of a sailor boy's romance in an English village, one hundred years ago. The music is eagerly awaited his return from foreign shores; but like all tales of love, especially those of the stage and fiction, she is doomed to disappointment. For at the moment of their joyful reunion the provincial green-eyed monster makes his appearance and shatters their hopeful anticipations. The opera's arrest at that moment, on the charge of resisting the watchman, his rival for the hand of Dolly; his being placed in the village lockup, in full view of the audience, and the kind offices of the "witch" in her efforts to assist Dolly in freeing her sweetheart, and his marvelous escape from the village lockup, and other wonderful feats; the "butcher boy's" frantic efforts to capture the "gorilla," all furnish entertainment thru the phenomenal magical powers of Kellar.

In all probability it is the unremitting qualities that belong to "The Smart Set" that have made this musical comedy a more than potent factor in the broad realm of this character of stage entertainments, of which the vast majority of amusement-seekers of stage never grow weary. Yet the high and novel principles upon which the musical numbers introduced are founded have had a great deal to do in stimulating interest in its behalf. In how far "The Smart Set" has undergone further transformation from the usually accepted ideas of general musical comedy construction will be demonstrated at the Majestic Theatre next week when it is promised that a revelation in originality covering even the funniest object will confront the most fastidious, as well as the most thoroughly acquainted theatre-goer.

"The Jolly Girls" will be the offering next week at the Star. They appear in the two burlesques, "An Honorable Politician," which opens the show, and in the afterpiece, "A Tempest in a Tea House," with which the performance ends. In both of these they will appear in their costumes which cost the management over \$5000, and which are modeled after the latest Parisian concepts. The organization includes a coterie of comedians, headed by Sam Sidman, and as an extra feature the management have secured the Nelson Britz fight in moving pictures, to be shown at every performance.

Over 600 seats have already been marked off for Miss Irene Weaver's recital in Association Hall Monday next. The program includes solos by Harold Jarvis, Arthur Blight and Miss Weaver herself will present a varied selection of poems, recitations and humorous sketches.

One of the most distinguished of the European artists who will be heard here this season is Joseph Hollman, the celebrated Dutch "cellist," who will be heard in the concert that is to be given by Madame Emma Eames, the famous soprano of the Metropolitan Opera House. In addition to Hollman, she is to have the assistance of Emilio de Gogorza and Amherst Webber, baritone and pianist, respectively.

With to-day's performances, afternoon and evening, the "Isle of Bong Bong" will close at the Prince, where it has delighted large audiences.

To-night, in the Conservatory of Music Hall, Charles Edward Clarke will give an evening of song, assisted by Frank Blachford, violinist, and Miss Jessie Perry, accompanist.

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