

# Stroller's Column.

In the majority of the southern states there are laws providing for the employment of convict labor and in many cases labor is furnished by the states. But in such states as have no manufacturing industries, or where the employment of convict labor is sufficient to warrant the utilization of convict labor, the convicts are hired out by such state to the highest bidder, the employer or lessee of the convict, in a stipulated sum per month for the safe return of all hired convicts to the penitentiary warden. The state is fortunate when it can employ convicts at from \$4 to \$6 per month each, and that is a good price considering the fact that for every convict a guard must be employed. But in spite of the vigilance of the guards, escapes are not infrequent, and, as the employer is under the obligation to return all convicts a small number of detectives is constantly stationed around on the trail of recidivists. In the Gulf coast states convicts are usually employed at saw-mills, in turpentine camps or in phosphate mines, and notices of rewards offered for the return of escaped convicts are very frequent in the papers



"They done tried to raise me once, but the rope bruk."

that section of the country. In Florida while the Stroller was in the employ of a newspaper, he was engaged in moulding, public through the medium of his family journal, The Weekly Starter, that a number of notices of escaped convicts were being sent to the office. The description of such a man wanted was accurately given and as Zion had only been employed the previous week and as he had nearly answered to the description given of one of the refugees the Stroller called him into his sanctum and propounded to him a few questions as follows: "Stroller—Zion, where were you raised?" "Zion—I wuh done born in Georgia." "Stroller—Were you raised in Georgia?" "Zion—Dey done tried to raise me once, but 'o' dey hois' me 'o' feet rope bruk. I hit de groun' a-run' an' a skeddaddled outen de kentry." "Stroller—Salvation Army converts are too scarce for it to have happened in Dawson, so it happened outside some place, say in Seattle or in Butte." "Zion—A dancin' girl and a big Swede and each been convicted and each was anxious to tell how tough their previous lives had been. Said the Stroller—'I know I have lived a wild life; I have beguiled men to drink and when I knew they could afford it; when I knew the money they were spending was not their own; and when I knew they would be sorry next day. I am also ashamed to say that I ran a lunch counter at the fall of '97 and that I fledded a poor Klondike-bound pilgrim their four bits I would bag for coffee like your mother made, that old Alaska gag.' "Zion—'Now I see with sorrow the evil of my past life and from now on I want to make amends for the wrongs I have done.' "The new sister sat down amid a shower of angels and Mr. Square-dance arose and said: 'Before Ae been as tough as da dancin' man muzzer with a red-hot poker and for ten years Ae been in the Skagway trail, but Ae tank yous Ae never rustled boxes in a dancehall.' "Toronto, June 12. "Stroller—many young ladies from this

in the looking glass. The Stroller hopes that you are not of this class. And yet, Mary, the lady school teacher who is untidy in her dress is an abomination—in the sight of the Lord. Don't try to get along without a glass but do not stay before it more than two hours every morning. Get through and give the others a chance.

If you find anything in the foregoing that you interpret as encouragement to come to the Klondike to teach it is not intended as such.

Really, it seems that this country is pretty well supplied with teachers already but probably another one or two would not overstock the market.

The Stroller is opposed to any lady teaching school after she passes her 30th year for then she begins to be needlessly severe with the children of men who passed her up ten years before. How the Stroller's children would suffer if they were going to school.

Where the wild flowers bloom Amid the soft dews of the night; Where the orange distills its perfume And the rose speaks of love and of light. La me!

These days when a man is seen backing down stairs or crossing a jog in the sidewalk sideways it is not a sign of either a cork leg or of inflammatory rheumatism. But it is an unfailing indication that he climbed to the dome Saturday night to gaze on the midnight sun.

## THEATRE MELANGE

### Another Melodrama at the Auditorium

#### "The Girl in Pink," Sensational Dancer, Makes Her Debut at the Orpheum.

The initial performance of "Queenie" at the Auditorium last night was greeted with a small house, though very appreciative and equally as demonstrative. Two curtain calls were taken, one in the first act and the other in the third, but the entire credit for the generous reception given a very ordinary melo-drama belongs to Miss Lovell. The play is essentially a one-person piece and the exceptionally clever work of the talented star is all that saves it from falling even below the mark of mediocrity. Without Miss Lovell, "Queenie" would be worse than "Hamlet" with the melancholy Dane left out. Her support at times when it should have been most vigorous was wretchedly poor, notably in the climax at the close of the third act which is the one strong scene in the play. Left almost alone in a really good situation Miss Lovell simply by her magnetism and force of determination worked up the scene until it was raised out of the ordinary and became splendid. Several incongruities appear in the play which are painful. For instance, to see two gentlemen in afternoon dress at the ball and reception given in Paris at the residence of the American embassy, where of all places matters in the way of dress are most punctilious, is a sight incompatible with one's ideas of the eternal fitness of things. Of the characters portrayed, some are true to life while others are but travesties. From the playwright's conception of an American girl such as Florence Nightingale Fletcher is made to appear, one can easily perceive that the author was either an Englishman or some other person who acquired his idea from

als which form a part of many Europeans' belief of America and Americans. Miss Fletcher is an impossible character outside of a burlesque. The plot of "Queenie" can be told in a few words. Lord Walter Huntington wooed and wins Queenie Montrose, an American girl, to whom he is secretly married. A letter apprises him of the serious illness of his father and he bids his wife a tearful farewell promising to return in a few weeks at most. Months pass and no news is heard of him, the wife becomes desperate believing herself to have been deserted; her marriage never having been made public, the certificate being lost, she has no means of proving her assertions and fearing her word would be doubted and the disgrace of such would be unendurable, she runs away accompanied only by her friend Florence. A struggle with poverty is experienced and Queenie, who is the possessor of a marvelous voice, finally adopts the stage, becoming an operatic singer. Shortly after her departure from her home a cousin by the same name arrives, sickens and dies and it is given out that Queenie Montrose is dead. When that is discovered by Queenie she becomes Mlle. Renee, the lyric queen. Her husband in the meantime has suffered a severe illness which has left him blind. His aristocratic father makes his believe Queenie is dead. They take a trip to Paris to consult an oculist and husband and wife meet for the first time since their separation at a ball given at the American embassy, though the former being blind is unaware of the identity of the great singer to whom he has been introduced. The husband believing his wife dead is about to be married to an heiress though he has never ceased to love her for whom he mourns. Unable to endure the sight of another making love to her husband Mlle. Renee hurriedly leaves the ball when just at the point of announcing her identity and demanding the recognition due her. She with her child returns to her old home. Eventually Lord Huntington learns all, his sight is restored, he again comes to America and claims his own and the curtain falls upon a happy reunion.

Miss Lovell plays Queenie and Mlle. Renee, plays it as only Miss Lovell could, and while the part is not equal to the abilities of the actress, yet much is made of it. There are some strong emotional lines which are read with a perfect conception. In the third act Mlle. Renee at the embassy ball is beautiful to look at and the climax at the conclusion of the act is quite the best scene in the play. Mrs. Bittner appears as Florence Fletcher, the impossible American girl, and Miss Howard as Alice St. Clair, Lord Walter's fiancée. Little Miss Pauline Lane, a very pretty and sweet child, made her debut in a child's part, doing it nobly. Hans Sedley does Lord Walter. During the entrance Mr. Southard sings a couple of songs. Dawson never seems to tire of his excellent voice and he is as popular today as he was nearly a year ago. Miss Vera Chandon made her first appearance as a violinist. Miss Chandon made a pretty picture on the stage but her playing was something fierce. Her violin was a half tone flat, which made matters worse than they otherwise would have been. Miss Chandon is not a violinist; she is scarcely a promising pupil. The cast of "Queenie" is as follows: Queenie Montrose... Miss Lovell; Mlle. Renee... Miss Lovell; Florence Nightingale Fletcher... Mrs. Bittner; Alice St. Clair... Miss Howard; Mrs. Montrose... Miss Winchell; Little Queenie... Pauline Lane; Lord Chandon... Mr. Thorne; Lord Walter Huntington... Mr. Sedley; John Henry Wilkins... Mr. Bittner; Frank Horton... Mr. Southard; Clarence St. Clair... Mr. Lewis.

#### THE ORPHEUM.

A rollicking comedy opens the evening's fun at the Orpheum this week, "A Dress Rehearsal," from the facile pen of and put on under the personal supervision of Eddie Dolan. Dennis Goggan is a true son of the

could not. His son Darby leaves the parental roof and a number of years later turns up as the manager of a fly by night show. It is a scratch to pay salaries and the encouragement is held out that eventually all will come out right. Darby represents to the company that his father is a millionaire, a retired banker, the proper caper in every respect. While the company one day is at the theater rehearsing the old man unexpectedly blows in, but instead of Goggan Sr. being the picture of opulence that his son had represented him to be he looks more like a hodcarrier. From his first entrance the fun is fast and furious from start to finish. Eight of the coryphees in stunning costumes do a very pretty gavotte followed by a quintette of stags in a burlesque of the dance. The piece ends with a rousing medley.

The olio opens with petite Paula Cordero in the Spanish dances which she executes so well. Beatrice Lorne and Annie Merrill are heard in new duets of which one never tires. Miss Edwina Dolan and Miss Johanna Mulligan are new stars just off the ice. Their sketch is a one-act curtain raiser which is also a hair raiser. Never before has "Larboard Watch" been sung with such fearful effect. The Sisters Glue are artists and no mistake. Vivian is heard in new songs, Lorraine & Howell with their exceptionally well trained dogs open their third week's engagement and "The Original Girl in Pink" makes her debut before a Dawson audience. Her specialty is dancing, but such dancing as has never before been seen here. It is bewildering, dazzling, beautiful, and indescribable. Exquisite light effects are produced by means of two calciums, each a 625 candle power and so arranged that the colors are kaleidoscopic in their character. "The Girl in Pink" was a howling success in New York and Chicago and has only taken the trip into the Klondike as a sort of summer jaunt. Her engagement here is limited as she opens at Keith's theater in Boston the first week in September. The little danseuse is a singer of Mlle. Alinee, the fire 'nigger, who is equally as famous as a component of the terpsichorean art.

Postage Books One of the most popular ideas ever adopted by the postoffice department was the selling of twelve 2-cent stamps in a little book for 25 cents. They are put up between sheets of waxed paper, so that there is no danger of spoiling them by the heat or moisture of the body when they are carried in the pocket. For the little books and the extra trouble the government charges 1 cent on twelve stamps, and there is no compulsion about taking them, for the stamps can be bought at regular rates at any postoffice without the covers. The popularity of this plan is shown by the statement that comes from Washington that out of this transaction the government will make by the end of this year almost \$80,000. Last year it made something like \$29,000, and in the first ten months of the current year the profits have been over \$26,000, and it is expected that for the current year they will amount to close to \$45,000. This, we think, is a legitimate profit for the government to take. It furnishes people with stamps in a convenient form for the pocket, and it is evident from the large profit made that the general public is very willing to pay Uncle Sam his extra cent for the handy little booklets.—Boston Herald.

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7:15	Butte	4:15
7:30	Clifton	4:30
7:45	Steele	4:45
8:00	Tussock	5:00
8:15	Swishback	5:15
8:30	WHITE PASS	5:30
8:45	Madaw	5:45
9:00	Prospect	6:00
9:15	Log Cabin	6:15
9:30	JERRETT	6:30
9:45	Perry	6:45
10:00	Franklin	7:00 p. m.
10:15	Waters	7:15
10:30	CARIBOO	7:30
10:45	Lawson	7:45
11:00	Lorne	8:00
11:15	Stice	8:15
11:30	Lawson	8:30
11:45	Wagon	8:45
12:00	Wagon	9:00
12:15	WHITE PASS	9:15
12:30	Wagon	9:30
12:45	Wagon	9:45
1:00	Wagon	10:00
1:15	Wagon	10:15
1:30	Wagon	10:30
1:45	Wagon	10:45
2:00	Wagon	11:00
2:15	Wagon	11:15
2:30	Wagon	11:30
2:45	Wagon	11:45
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