....The Stage of Today....

One of the greatest human arts is the art of the actor. It should be one of the noblest.

The privilege of the self-respecting actor and actress is to interpret for the people the thought of great minds.

From one point of view the lot of the actor and actress is a sad one. They devote their powers to developing the ideas of others, and to entertaining their fellowmen. They cannot hope for having renown, since actual knowledge of their merits must die with those who have actually seen them.

The actor's career is like that of a flower which blooms for a while, fades and is forgotten.

Nothing is left of the Rachels, Garricks, Booths or the other splendid geniuses that have made and glorified the history of the stage — nothing save chance words of approval by the able writers of their day, and a good example to their successors.

But if the actor's work dies with him and condemns him to shine but a brief instant among the successful, it also brings immediate applause as its reward, and it gives him the opportunity through his good influence upon others of making the world better long after it has forgotten him.

All of the world's great actors, and all of the world's great writers of plays, have made their reputations and earned their fame by doing good to others, by inspiring noble thoughts, by arousing contempt for what is base and admiration for what is good in human nature.

But consider the stage of today as we see it in America.

The talent of writers and the ability of the men and women of the stage are devoted to exploiting what is base, and to attracting the public by appealing to the morbid, the vicious, depraved elements in human nature.

Let us take a glance at the plays disgracing at this moment, or until very recently, the theatres of New York city—the city which boasts that it establishes a tone for the rest of the country.

In one play—called "At the Telephone"—the public watches a performance compared with which the worst dime novel is admirable. In one act you see the mother and child expecting burglars to come and murder them. The mother talks on the telephone to the father, who is at a great distance.

The next act shows the father, listening to his wife's voice. In order that the splendid influence of the modern drama may lose nothing of its force, the preliminary conversation informs you that the mother and the father are expecting the advent of another child.

The father listens, explains to the audience that burglars are breaking in, that his child and wife are screaming and being murdered. He drops the telephone, tears his hair, pulls at his collar, screams, staggers off the stage, and the curtain drops.

That is all there is of it—a play in which men and women try to make other men and women feel as though they had witnessed the murder of a woman and her child, and the child unborn. Those who enjoy such a play would enjoy still more a visit to the surgical clinic of some hospital.

This style of play, in which an appeal is frankly made to brutal, morbid instincts, is sufficiently stupid and offensive. But it is the least harmful of the vicious plays through which unscrupulous actors and managers now seek to enrich themselves.

The vilest and most disgraceful feature of the modern stage is the constant struggling to arouse interest in the degradation of women; to weaken the moral feeling of the community by presenting as admirable, or sympathetic, the lowest types of womanhood.

Such plays as "Zaza," "Sappho" "Du Barry," "Iris," are simply shameless attacks on the decency of the community, low pandering to the degraded side of human nature. It is not necessary, and it is not intended, to enter into details concerning these productions. The police should suppress them, since lack of public decency makes them profitable, and promises, for the time being at least a steadily increasing stream of immorality.

It is amazing to note how thoroughly and comprehensively the modern stage contrives to belittle all of those things which should be respected. The Theatre Francais, embodying the traditions of self-respecting artists and authors, forbids on its stage even the slightest caress of a woman by a man. It credits its spectators with self-respect.

On our American stage, in a play called "Hearts Aflame," a man strikes a woman in the face, a hard, brutal blow, with a clenched fist — quite a step there, from the old-fashioned traditions of the Theatre Francais.

In another play, "Queen Fiammetta," there is presented an interior view of a convent in which the nuns comport themselves with lack of dignity — a representation as insulting to the feelings of millions of good men and women as it is untruthful.

On the stage of today, old age is made ridiculous, religion is made contemptible, virtue is thought humorous, and no part is thought worthy of the "star" actress unless it be that of a character utterly degraded.

This country is in sore need of playwrights with honest convictions, and of actors and actresses unwilling to degrade themselves for profit.

Compare the work of the modern playwrights with the work and the purposes of those two giants of the stage, Moliere and Shakespeare.

The "Bourgeois Gentilhomme," "Les Precieuses Ridicules," "Le Malade Imaginaire," and all the other works of the great Moliere were not only masterpieces of literature and of humor, but masterpieces of moral teaching. The earnest purpose which sought to make hypocrisy despicable in "Tartuffe" shone through all of his work.

As for Shakespeare, the supreme, inspired genius of the human race, all of his work had a purpose, and all of his purposes were good.

"King Lear" inspires in youth sympathy for the aged. "Julius Caesar" is a lesson in ambition. "Macbeth" teaches men and women that whatever else they may do, they cannot escape one law—the law of conscience.

Looking back over the great plays made by great men, how contemptible and puny must those feel who present the "Zaza," "Iris," and "Sappho" of today.

To what can be attributed the degradation of the modern stage? To lay all the blame on the actor and manager would certainly be unfair. The chief blame rests with the public, whose stupid, degrading applause and whose money encourage the flood of stage immorality.

Part of the blame, undoubtedly, belongs to the present system of theatrical ownership, which puts in the hands of a few men the control of nearly all the theatres, and nearly all the best actors.

It cannot be doubted that the actor or actress would prefer, if consulted, to appear before the public representing a decent man or woman.

But no matter how great his ability, the actor no longer selects his part. It is selected for him by the manager, who owns his work and controls his careers. The manager does not act, the applause is not for him. His approval comes through the box office window.

Undoubtedly, the work of capable managers has done good work in many directions. It has developed stars who could not have made opportunities for themselves, and who would have been kept back by jealousy.

The able manager enables the good actor to stage his plays properly, and to find adequate support, despite his lack of financial ability. The good actor need no longer be a good financier in order to be heard.

But we are inclined to think that the good which the modern manager does is offset by the fact that his methods do not consult the wishes or aspirations of the good actor.

If a good man or woman on the stage desires to present work noble and uplifting, he or she is told very often that it does not pay, and that the manager knows best how to fill the seats and money drawer.

Yet good, moral plays are profitable. The greatest success in modern times was won by Miss Maude Adams in "The Little Minister."

We conclude that the responsibility for stage degradation is divided between the public, the manager and the playwright. The actor we hold blameless, he does not control his work.

The manager, a business man, looks at the stage from a business standpoint. He finds that there are very few men able to write a play, both moral and interesting. He finds many men able and willing to write immoral plays that will draw.

He finds that the public taste and the public conscience have been going down hill together—hence the present American stage.—Examiner.

Luck in Thirteen

Like the ocean tar, there are many Great Lake sailors who are in awe of that hoodoo number 13. To such the part these figures played in the shipwreck of the Lockwood off Ashtabula in which ten lives were lost, will be of interest.

It has developed that the crew had been on this trip just thirteen days. The accident occurred on the 13th of October. The vessel went down in thirteen fathoms of water. One of nine survivors of the wreck declares that as long as the 13th day of October lasted there was no hope apparent for those who later reached port safely in a life boat. But a few minutes before the midnight hour he says a passenger steamer bound for Buffalo passed within a half mile of them, but all efforts to construct a distress signal to attract the attention of the Buffalo boat failed. However, this sailor continually warned those in the lifeboat that if they could but successfully battle with the seas until the passing of the midnight hour that the hoodoo would be lifted and resuce would be but a question of time. The prophecy came true.

"Great Scott, waiter!" exclaimed the diner in astonishment, "look here; I've found a nithy piece of cotton rag in my soup."

"Begging your parding, sir, but you can't expect silks and satins with a heighteenpenny hordinary," said the imperturbable attendant.

DAWSON MARKETS

Improvement in Trade Anticipated

Prices Remain Unchanged Generally Speaking, But Little Advance is Looked for.

The change in prices and market conditions since last week have been so slight as to be scarcely worth mentioning. Trade has not been as good as usual, and in fact the same might be said of the past month, a condition which can be largely ascribed to the roads. Until night before last the fall of snow this year had not been sufficient to take any account of and the jobbers and heavy consumers from the creeks naturally deferred placing their orders until such time as the goods could be delivered at the minimum of expense. From now until immediately after the holidays a marked improvement should be noted.

Quite a number of jobbers and curbstone brokers have of recent been predicting shortages in this and that commodity with an evident desire to stampede small dealers and speculators into loading up with certain lines, but those familiar with the available stocks and the probable demand ridicule the idea of prices going any higher than they would as a natural sequence with the approach of the end of the season. A number of lines will doubtless be well cleaned up before the opening of navigation but the consumer will be effected only in the slightest degree. Good butter in bricks is one of the best properties, especially the Ellensburg or Yakima brand. Where they sold all summer for 50 cents per pound brick they are now at and have been for some time 62½, two for $1.25, and the probabilities of it reaching 75 before very long.

Fresh vegetables are at a standstill as far as prices are concerned. The stock of potatoes this year generally speaking is excellent in quality, fully matured and should be in just as good condition late in the spring as they are now. Vegetables other than potatoes and onions are held wholly by the growers who deliver only upon order.

Meat, particularly ham and bacon, has an upward tendency, the cured meats retailing at 50 cents a pound when sliced. Pork loins are becoming scarce. Of poultry of all kinds there is an abundance.

Cream, cheese and eggs remain the same, though it is reasonably certain that the latter will be retailing at $1 a dozen before the holidays. Hay and oats are unchanged with a stiff market and a strong liability of and advance of at least a cent within a few weeks. General quotations for the week are as follows:

STAPLES.		
Flour	$ 3.00	$ 3.25
Sugar, per 100	6.50	7.00
Beans, per 100	5.00	7.00
Beans, Lima	9.00	10.00
Rolled Oats, per 100	8.00	9.00
MEATS.		
Beef, pound	25	25@65
Veal, pound	35	35@75
Pork, pound	35	35@60
Ham, pound	30	50
Bacon, fancy	32	50
Mutton, pound	35	35@60
BUTTER, EGGS, CHEESE.		
Agen's butter, 60-lb.	$30.00	$ 1.00can
Elgin butter, 60-lb.	25.00	1.00can
S. & W., 48-lb.	30.00	1.50can
Hills Bros.	26.50	1.25can
Victor	26.50	1.25can
Eggs, fresh	18.00	.75
MILK AND CREAM.		
Eagle, case	$10.00	$11.00
Highland, case	9.25	9.50
Carnation Cream	9.75	10.00
St. Charles	8.00	9.00
CHICKENS, FISH AND GAME.		
Broilers, pound	45	60
Chickens	40	60
Turkeys	50	60
Ducks	40	50
Geese	40	50
Halibut	27½	40
Salmon	25	40
CANNED GOODS.		
Roast beef,		3 for 1.00
Mutton	5.50	2 for 1.00
Ox tongue	13.00@15.00	1 for 1.25
Sausage meat	4.50	2 for 1.00
Lunch tongue, case	9.00@11.00	1 for .50
Sliced bacon	5.00	2 for 1.00
Roast turkey	10.00	1 for .50
Corned beef	2.50	3 for 1.00
Sliced ham	4.50	2 for 1.00
Salmon, case	11.00	3 for 1.00
Clams, case	9.00	3 for 1.00
Tomatoes	5.00	4 for 1.00
Corn	4.00	4 for 1.00
String beans	4.50	4 for 1.00
Green peas	4.50	4 for 1.00
Cabbage	5.50	2 for 1.00
S. & W. fruits	14.00	2 for 1.50
Simcoe fruit	6.00	4 for 1.00
Choice California Mission Fruits	7.50@10.00	1 for .50
Silver Seal	11.50	2 for 1.25
Succotash	7.00	3 for 1.00
Lubeck's potatoes per tin	9.00	
Beets	5.50	4 for 1.00
Asparagus	9.50	1 for .50
Asparagus tips	7.50	3 for 1.00
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Potatoes	9	10
Onions	10	12½
Turnips	6	7
Lemons, case	12.00	15.00
Oranges, case	12.00	15.00
Apples	7.00	9.00
Oats	5	5½
Hay	4½	5
Tobacco, Star	1.10	

WATER SUPPLY.

I shall secure all data, surveys and opinions upon the question of adequate water supply for mining purposes and lay the whole matter before the government and parliament with a view of having some practical method of supplying the same to those engaged in the mining industry at the least possible cost, adopted at as early a date as possible. — James Hamilton Ross.

Carried Unanimously

According to a gentleman who has spent many years in the goldfields, the average digger would bear comparison with some of our best debaters.

Some time ago the "boys" of Nugget creek were in council assembled. It was generally admitted that the size of the colony—consisting as it did of something just over a dozen shanties—entitled it to be considered a city, and Mecca City sprang into existence.

Then one "Roaring Dick" arose and wanted to know what the "citizens" intended to do in the matter of lighting the "streets" by night.

"You know me, boys," he said, twirling a formidable looking six-shooter. "I ain't afraid o' nothing, naythur in daylight nor dark. But it's this way—other cities 'as got gas, and Mecca's got ter 'ave it."

"It can't be did!" said one.

"It's got ter be did!" roared the speaker. "Wot other cities does, we does! 'Sides, gas lamps is a hornament an' lamp posts a habsolute necessity. Why, ther ain't a decent spot ter lynch a man within twenty miles. We're goin' ter 'ave lamp posts."

The argument was conclusive, and it was decided unanimously to have gas.—Tit-Bits.

Dewey Honored

Philadelphia, Oct. 18.—At a meeting today of the Board of Governors of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Association of the United States, held in Independence hall, Admiral Dewey was elected president. The board consists of one member from each of the thirteen original states, the District of Columbia and the Territories. The Territories are represented by Hon. Mark A. Smith of Arizona.

"Men and Women"—Auditorium.

THE ROSS PLATFORM

Whereas, in the opinion of this convention, the continued prosperity of the Yukon territory depends chiefly on the efforts of individual miners and prospectors, whose work is conducted under most difficult conditions, and the stability of the business of the country will be insured by furnishing regular employment to workmen; therefore, be it

Resolved, That every effort should be made by the government to secure, and such changes adopted as would secure, the ends desired. That this convention most strongly recommends:

1. Reduction of fees for miners' licenses and for recording and renewing claims.

2. The abolition of payment of commutation for assessment work, and compelling the performance of assessment work upon the claim itself, or upon the claims as grouped.

3. The adoption of such regulations as will encourage the working of low grade ground and the development of quartz mining.

4. The amendment of the mining regulations in such way as to provide a mode by which, upon satisfying reasonable conditions holders of mining claims may obtain crown grants of the same.

GOVERNMENT AID FOR SMELTER.

Whereas, Large copper deposits are proven to exist in the vicinity of Whitehorse, and the work already done on the same has demonstrated their immense value; and

Whereas, In order to secure the working of such property, the establishment of a smelter is necessary, and the establishment of such smelter would create large employment for workingmen, and create a market for the coal known to exist in the territory, and lead to the large development of the southern portion of the district; therefore,

Resolved, That this convention recommend the encouragement by the Dominion government of the establishment of such smelter, by such aid in the way of bonus, or otherwise, as may be deemed best.

TEST MILL AND ASSAY OFFICE.

Resolved, That the interests of this territory demand the establishment of a quartz test mill by the government for the free testing of ore in order to encourage and develop quartz mining and the establishment of an assay office, to be conducted by the government in connection with the government mint.

CANCEL TREADGOLD CONCESSION.

Whereas, The supply of water and power to the mines on the creeks is one of the most serious questions of the day in the Yukon territory; and

Whereas, In the opinion of the convention, the matter of such supply on fair and reasonable terms should best be dealt with by the government itself, and should not be left to private individuals; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the government be reqiested immediately to make careful examination and obtain reports upon the subject with a view of cancelling forthwith the Treadgold concession, and undertaking such supply as a national enterprise.

OTHERS HELD BY FRAUD.

Resolved, That in the opinion of this convention many of the concessions now held were obtained by fraud and imposition; that it is in the interest of this territory that such concessions should be annulled, and to that end that inquiry should be set on foot to ascertain the circumstances of such fraud and imposition, and action taken by the attorney general of Canada in the premises.

MINING MACHINERY DUTY FREE.

Resolved, That in the opinion of this convention it would greatly tend to assist in the working and development of mines in the territory, to permit the importation of mining machinery of a class not manufactured in Canada, free from all customs duty.

WHOLLY ELECTIVE COUNCIL.

That the convention views with satisfaction the increase of the number of elective members of the Yukon council, and urgently recommends that the membership of the council be made wholly elective, without delay; and further, that all matters of a purely local character be committed to the council for deliberation and determination.

AGAINST UNNECESSARY CONCESSIONS.

Resolved, That a policy should be adopted which would prevent the obtaining of concessions for hydraulicing, except in places where the dirt is of such low grade that it could not profitably be worked by other methods; and that before any hydraulic lease should issue, notice should be given by the applicant by publication in the newspapers of his intention of applying for such lease, so as to enable protests to be entered against the granting of the same; and that the owners of hydraulic concessions already granted should be compelled to carry out the strict terms of their leases, and that in default of their so doing, their leases should be cancelled.

News editor (sternly)—"What do you mean by heading this item, 'A Slight Mishap on a Tram Line'?"

Assistant—"Why, the man wasn't hurt; the car merely ran over his wooden leg."

News editor—"Never mind, sir, head it, 'Under the Wheels of Juggernaut.' I'm afraid you'll never do for the newspaper business."

In the province of Padua the price of wine is unprecedently low owing to the enormous overproduction. In some districts the guests in the osterias, or inns, pay by the hour for the wine consumed. Wine is rarely sold for money, but usually bartered for milk, maize and fowls.

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MUST BE WORKED.

I shall advocate the adoption of regulations compelling the actual working of claims. — James Hamilton Ross.

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