

In the World of Amusement

General Gossip

Stories of the ups and downs of Eugene Walter, the young playwright, before he succeeded in getting his play, "Paid in Full," on the boards, has been told in these columns. The London Advertiser now adds something to the Canadian interest attaching to the tales. A Londoner, it seems, was among the many theatrical men who turned down the now famous play when young Walter, penniless, and driven to park-bench accommodation at night, was busy, literally for dear life, peddling his drama from manager to manager in New York. The Advertiser says:

It is not generally known that the manuscript was in the hands of Mr. C. W. Bennett, of London, head of Bennett's Theatrical Enterprises, and that that gentleman, after investigation, "turned it down." Mr. Bennett was in New York when, at his hotel, one night, he was approached by Walter, and was offered the play for \$500. It didn't look good to Mr. Bennett and the critics he showed it to, and was refused. Now the play could not be purchased for \$100,000. Walters draws a royalty of \$2,000 a week for it.

Actor Murnane reports that he recently saw an old toper, evidently "broke," walk up to the proprietor of a Chicago buffet and ask for a drink on credit. "You know I won't give credit," said the proprietor, "but here's a dime," and he handed the coin. "Now, what do you want?" "Nothing here," replied the tippler. "The man who won't give me credit can't get my cash," and he marched out.

Augustus Thomas declares that one cold day in New York it was reported at the Laus Club that Harry Woodruff was ailing. Thomas and his friends went to see him, discovered him in a raging fever, and prepared to take him to a hospital. Woodruff demurred, but finally agreed to go. Then he proceeded to dress in all the furbelows he could find in his wardrobe. He scouted woolsens and demanded silks. His thinnest and finest shirts, his silk socks, and his newest gloves were carefully donned. Thomas protested that warm clothing and a big coat would be more sensible. "I don't know how I am coming out of this place," answered the sick man, positively, "but I do know how I am going into it."

May Simon is the latest Yiddish actress to be referred to as the "Bernhardt of the Bowery." She writes most of her own plays and is said to have a huge following. "Forgive me if I tell you that your Broadway audience does not appeal to me," she told an Evening Mail man the other day. "I know I am a conglom in that atmosphere, but I respond quickly to the enthusiasm of my own people. Broadway people would think it funny to toss chocolates to a tragedienne, but to-night I have had many boxes thrown at me." And did any of them hit? We wonder.

This is a new version of the Hamlet soliloquy which Eddie Foy is using in "Mr. Hamlet on Broadway":

"To flee or not to flee, that is the question."

Whether 'tis nobler in the "shine" to suffer

The slings and arrows of outrageous scorings,

Or to fling his claims against a sea of critics,

And, I suppose, offend them.

To fly, to speak, to "blow," and by that snail

To say I end the headshakes and the thousand

Natural wrongs the profess is heir to.

To fly, to speak, and when that snail I make

What news may come? For where's the grub?

Oh, who could bear the tramps to one-night stands,

The press' wrongs, the crowd's damned contumely,

The trains' delay, the pangs of despised hotels,

The insolency of managers and the spurn of waiting sheriff.

When your trunk he takes with a bare suitcase?

This makes me rather play the part I have

Than fly to authors that I know not of.

What, ho! Some music!

The announcement that Hamilton is at last to have the pleasure and privilege of hearing the greatest pianist of all time, the famous Paderewski, has been received with the utmost delight. While he has appeared on several occasions in Toronto and a special train has frequently been necessary to convey all the music-lovers from this city, so far he has not come to this city. It is therefore an indication of the progress of Greater Hamilton and the advance in musical taste that the highest priced artist of the day, with the single possible exception of Caruso, will be heard here. As a matter of fact Paderewski's earnings are probably equal to those of Caruso, but there are not the same number of operatic contracts or middlemen between him and the public. Paderewski is a Pole by birth, and when not on tour lives on a beautiful estate in Poland. He is a man of great intellectual force, but his magnetism is one of those distinctive qualities which, added to the great gift and talent of the musician, have made his name a household word in every civilized country.

His recital here will be given on the evening of February 24th, in the Grand Opera House.

The Dramatic Mirror announces that Nat C. Goodwin has placed all his property, real estate and securities in the hands of a trustee, under an agreement by which his wife, Edna Goodrich, will receive one-half of the income. The schedule shows the property to be worth \$251,500.

"Hatzoff," An American Tone-Poem, is suggested by a Boston music critic as an appropriate title for a new symphonic composition to be dedicated to "The Merry Widow" hat and be performed in the churches. Optimistic folk who believed the reign of the "Merry Widow" lid had expired, were brought up with a jolt recently when Dr. Parkhurst protested against women wearing them

in his church, and when Bishop Williams, of Omaha, followed suit. The Boston critic has a real sense of humor and is philosophic also. He believes the ministers will lose out in their campaign and that the hats made famous by "The Merry Widow" girls are here to stay. Why not immortalize them fittingly in a "tone-poem?"

As a suggestion the critic outlines a scenario for the "Hatzoff" symphony. Begin it, he says, with a "request-motif," followed by deep mutterings in the woodwind. A waltz movement would typify a "Merry Widow" hat. The waltz should close with a "theme of defiance" on the trombones. The approach of the usher might then be depicted ("timorous a tremolando"), and the defiance theme might respond to it ("allegro ferce").

A final apotheosis of the hat theme smothering a feeble flute theme in minor might indicate the retreat of the usher.

"And the trombone's loud blast, And the trumpet's fierce air, Gave proof, at the end, that the hat was still there."

A few fragments of the request-motif are then suggested to portray an unfortunate, prayerful communicant sitting next to a "Merry Widow" hat and being gently tickled on the nose by the waving feathers that thus disturb his usual Sunday morning slumbers in the pew.

At the Grand

Wm. A. Brady's superb production of "Way Down East," written by Lottie Blair Parker and elaborated by Jos. R. Grismer, is the excellent offering at the Grand this afternoon and evening. Since the first presentation of this grand



LAWRENCE BARBOUR, Who played in the original production of "The Land of the Midnight Sun," and has directed rehearsals of that play for the Selman Stock Co.

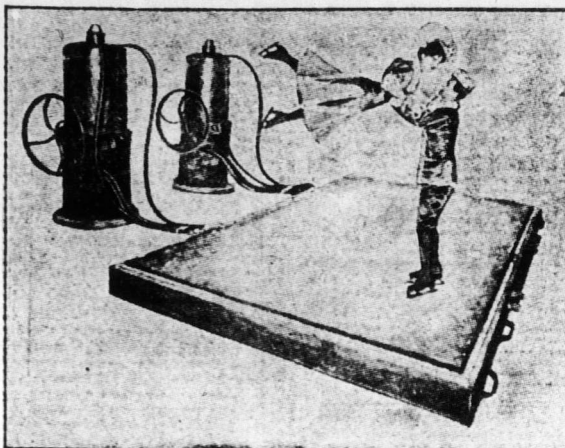
old play, there have been many rural dramas, or so-called dramas, produced, which, after a short life, fell by the wayside, and managers began to wonder if the public had begun to tire of plays dealing with New England life. Their minds were soon set at rest, however, for the continued increasing business of "Way Down East" soon denoted that the public had not tired of the New England drama, but only wanted a good play, well staged and well acted. The story of the present era want naturalness, not only in the scenic pictures of a play, but in the play itself. They want to see a character that is not over-drawn or burlesqued. They do not want to see their friends, perhaps relatives, ridiculed. In staging "Way Down East" Mr. Grismer, master in stage craft that he is, was fully equal to the task before him, and the consequence was, he gave the public an exact reproduction of the characters seen in every little hamlet in New Hampshire, true to nature in every respect.

The cast and production is practically the same as was seen here last season.

The Partello Stock Company, headed by that clever little comedienne, Miss Alice Kennedy, is the attraction at the Grand for one week, commencing next Monday night, presenting as their open



MISS ALICE KENNEDY, Leading lady with the Partello Stock Co. at the Grand all next week.



BUTLER AND BASSETT, Who will skate on real ice at Bennett's Theatre next week.

ing play, "The College Girl," with Miss Kennedy in the title role. Other plays to be presented during the company's engagement include "A Human Slave" Tuesday evening, "Tempest and Sunshine" Wednesday matinee, "Lena Rivers" Wednesday evening, "When the Harvest Days Are Over" Thursday evening, "Under Two Flags" Friday evening, "The Girl of Eagle Ranch" Saturday evening. The Saturday matinee bill will be announced later. Ladies' 15-cent tickets are being issued for Monday night, limited to 200. Seats are now on sale for the entire week.

That charming English actress, Miss Hilda Spang, is announced to visit Hamilton very soon, in her new play by H. R. Durant, entitled, "A Man and His Mate." Although Miss Spang is a native Londoner, she got her first stage experience in Australia, under the direction of Dion Boucicault, son of the original, real and only Dion. For a few seasons she was the most beloved and attractive artist in the antipodes, and when she returned to England she carried many tokens of the substantial esteem in which she was held by the warm-hearted Australians.

Kathryn Osterman, with her handsome features, pretty teeth, dimpled cheeks, and her beautiful jewels, will be here in her new and original comedy, "The Night of the Play." In this new offering Miss Osterman has a splendid opportunity to display her abilities as a comedienne. The clever artist has a stage presence which puts one at ease and at ease with all things theatrical for the time. She has a jollity which is infectious, and a laugh that is contagious.

"The Merry Widow," which Mr. Henry W. Savage will present here at the Grand shortly, it is said stands by itself as a present-day light opera classic that will enjoy the long, healthy life of "Pinafore," "The Mikado," "The Gypsy Baron," and others of similar ilk. When present-day theatre patrons have passed into another generation it is more than likely that "The Merry Widow" will be touring the country to the infinite delight of the youngsters who, with their parents, are nowadays crowding the theatre where the charming Viennese operetta is on view.

Grace Van Studdford, who has achieved the greatest triumph of her career in the new D-Koven and Smith comic opera, "The Golden Butterfly," will be presented by the Selman Stock Company at the Grand on Thursday evening, Feb. 11. Miss Van Studdford has some beautiful numbers in the new opera, notably "Do Not Forget Me" and "The Butterfly." The authors have written a light opera which returns to the style of Strauss, and which has a real heart story with a plot. The musical numbers throughout are not merely interpolated, to give an opportunity for soprano or tenor solo, but in better form than the pieces. Miss Van Studdford is surrounded with a company of eighty-five people and the chorus is on a grand opera scale. Among the principals are William S. Gray, Gene Lunsdale, Louis Cassavant, W. J. McCarthy, Walter Perival, Lenora Novasio, Charles W. Butler, and Alice Hills.

No, Maude, dear; just because a man has been a clockmaker, it doesn't necessarily follow that he would make a good watchman.

Elgar Choir

The greatest interest is being manifested in the concerts to be given by the Elgar Choir on Feb. 17 and 18; the lists are being well filled and the patrons are looking forward with keen delight to the two evenings of charming music, vocal and instrumental. Past programmes indicate the tendency of the choir, and to say that the programmes of the forthcoming concerts are in line with the Elgars' forward policy is to but emphasize the quality and importance of the works now in rehearsal. While some of the greatest of the old world masters are laid under contribution, Canadian composers have not been neglected. On the programmes are three compositions by Canadians, two of them Hamiltonians, and the singing of them



MISS CLAUDIA LUCAS, A valued member of the Selman Stock Co. at the Savoy.

will, undoubtedly, give great pleasure to their hearers. Mr. R. S. Ambrose, who passed away last April, will be represented by his widely-known "One Sweetly Solenn Thought," which will be sung in remembrance of the much-respected composer. Paul Ambrose, his son, who has also won fame as a composer, will have on the programme a work for ladies' voices, "Sweetheart, Sigh No More," with a wistful melody and exquisite harmonies. For ladies' voices also will be the "Indian Lullaby," by Dr. A. S. Vogt, the conductor of the famous Mendelssohn Choir, whose work is in the repertoire of the Sheffield Chorus and other important organizations. It has a charm all its own. Reports concerning the Pittsburgh Orchestra are to the effect that it is in better form than ever, and its playing is everywhere received with enthusiasm. The members of the choir are under instructions to return the city lists to the secretary next Tuesday evening, and intending subscribers who have not their names down, are advised to do so without delay, so as to be among those receiving the first allotments of seats.

At the Savoy

"The Bondman," the most absorbing romance from the pen of Hal Caine, and called in the dramatization "The Land of the Midnight Sun," will be offered at the Savoy all next week, with matinee Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. The Selman Company should appear to excellent advantage in this play, which is cast as follows: Jorgen Jergensen, Governor of Iceland; Albert Tavernier, Col. Maitland, a rebel, but a soldier; Stephen Gory, an Icelandic cut-throat; Albert Tavernier; Jason, first son of Gory, an Icelandic Thaddeus Gray; Orin Sunlocks, the second son of Gory, an American; Joseph Selman; Captain Jolly Weather, an ex-pirate and smuggler, but always gentle; Lawrence Barbour; Danny Dixon, soldier, sailor and doctor, a staunch friend of Sunlocks; Campbell Stratton; Sir Sigfus, Lutheran priest in charge of the prison at Isle of Grimsey; Stuart Beebe; Eric Tolson, an Icelandic, loyal to the People's Governor; Mr. Beebe; Olaf, the conspirator; Mr. Sagerson; Gus, the colored boy on the Maitland plantation; Douglas Dumbrell; Mada Maitland, the idol of two noble hearts; Miss Elfreda Lasche; Kitty, her sister, a substantial bit of sunshine; Miss Kathryn Shay; Gena, Jollyweather's better half; Miss Eugenie Du Bois; Christine; Miss Claudia Lucas; Olga; Miss Mildred Herman; sailors, convicts and soldiers; by extra people engaged to add color and atmosphere to the various scenes. The first act shows the plantation of Col. Maitland at Fort Caswell, North Carolina, where Sunlocks has spent his boyhood days and has also learned to love Mada Maitland. The second act is the interior of the Maitland home, where Jason,

the elder brother, vows vengeance on his father and Sunlocks, and goes forth to find his mother's grave under the Midnight Sun. The governor's house in Iceland where Sunlocks has been elected Governor, by the people, and where Jergensen plots to kill him, is shown up in the third act. The fourth act takes place in the sulphur mines at Krisuvik, where the brothers meet and Jason—the great savior Sunlocks—from the explosion. The last act takes place on the Isle of Grimsey, where Sunlocks has been rescued by his tender wife Mada. Their trial and tribulations are brought to an end by the kindly and heroic Jason.

The copy of Shakespeare's immortal love story "Romeo and Juliet," that will be used by the Selman Stock Company when they present this famous tragedy, week after next, is the one arranged and remodelled by David Garrick, and which has been from his time to the present day, the preferred acting edition. In this, all allusion to Romeo's first love is omitted, and the tale is altered to conform more closely to the traditional account given by Bantelmo, Miss Elfreda Lasche has been a Shakespearean devotee, and as Juliet—should please. The costumes have arrived from New York city and are correct in every detail. This should prove the dramatic event of the stock season.

Photographs of Thaddeus Gray will be given every lady who attends next Tuesday's matinee. In this play Mr. Gray will have the best acting role since he opened his engagement in the city.

David Belasco's great success "Men and Women," has been secured by the management of the Selman Company, and will soon be presented at the Savoy. Much interest has been manifested in the announcement of the presentation of the famous Scotch story "Jessie Brown, or The Relief of Lucknow," by A. B. Brouncault's masterpiece.

At Bennett's

The vaudeville market has been drained of some of its most important novelties in making up the Bennett bill for the coming week, and if all the acts measure up to what is claimed for them a show that will stand the most exacting test of approval is bound to be the result. The three Blins, European artists, in their vagabond comedy and musical offering, which contains many clever conceits, both in make up and stage craft, will be one of the chief attractions. The act has been in America before, but never in Hamilton. The trio have just completed a long European engagement and their musical audacity is said to be funnier than ever. They utilize every move for a laugh, and the comedy is a solid succession of laughs. Most of the evening is packed into the early part of the performance, and when they get down to straight musical work it comes as a welcome change, not because one tires of the fun making, but on the merits of the music itself.

A real corker on a theatre stage in full view of the audience is something entirely new to vaudeville. This is the unique offering presented by Isabel Butler, the original "Dip of Death" girl from Barnum's circus, who afterwards made a big hit with Anne Hild in the skating scene of "The Parisian Model," and Edward Bassett, the international figure-skating champion. The act is elaborately staged, representing a winter scene, and the performers wear elegant costumes. They give an exhibition which is amazing, when it is considered the small surface on which they perform. Their programme includes artistic grapevines, waltzing, spins and other difficult work, singly and together. One of the notable things Bassett does is a human top spin, in which he makes several hundred revolutions a minute, whirling faster than the eye can follow.

Alcide Capitaine, programmed as "the perfect woman gymnast," performs feats on the trapeze with astonishing ease and grace, besides displaying a figure that attracts admiration. She is known as the leading female exponent of physical culture, and was a big feature in continental theatres and music halls.

The Morrissey Sisters and Fred Watson are among the best known entertainers in vaudeville, and although this

GOOD OPENING FOR NEW IRISH PLAY.

In speaking of "Peggy Macree," a new Irish play which has made a pronounced hit in New York, the New York Press says:

"Peggy Macree" bears out the belief of several astute managers that there is a wide and profitable field for genuine Irish plays in this country. It would not be surprising, in fact, if the near future brought a series of comedies fresh from Irish soil. One manager has called an Irish scribbler from his native hills and has him at a desk in an office overlooking Broadway, hard at work on a play to smelt or poet. There is nothing unusual in this development. In reality, it is in line with the whole history of the modern stage. Even the casual observer of things theatrical will tell you that the theatre moves in cycles, and it seems we are at the point where Irish plays are due for a period of popularity. We had the period of the French farce and of the French dramas of the stamp of "Du Barry." We had the period of the out-and-out English comedy on the order of Jones. Japan centred attention for a time. China had its day, and it was only yesterday that the Western play began to wear out its welcome. The Canadian Northwest was invaded by the roving playwright, and now the question is where will this ubiquitous mortal turn?

There are those who will scoff at the

clever trio have never appeared here before on the variety stage, their offering is sure to be appreciated. They have a dainty little dancing and singing specialty.

Cook and Stevens, the only performers on the bill who have appeared here before, are old favorites. Their funny

shortly are Claire Romaine, "London's Pot Boy," who took New York by storm; Mr. and Mrs. Gardner Crane in their big comedy sketch, and Ryan and Rittell, presenting "Mag Haggerty's Reception."

The boothblack quartette, a well-known singing organization, will be seen the week after next.

The Mizkoss-Saunders' acrobatic troupe, Jennings and Renfrew, singing and dancing comedians, and Hickman Brothers, in their successful comedy sketch, "A Detective Detected," are booked for the week beginning January 31.

The Olivetti troubadours, in an artistic musical offering, is another pleasing feature Manager Appleton has booked for the week after next.

In addition to the evening to be given on Thursday next at Bennett's by the Hamilton Flowering Club, St. Cecilia's Chapter, Daughters of the Empire, will give an evening on February 4. The performance on February 18 will be under the auspices of the Veteran Firemen.

Other Dramatic Matter on Page 5

MAY BUY TELEPHONES.

Saskatchewan Negotiating With Bell Company.

Regina, Sask., Jan. 22.—The Legislature began morning sessions today in the effort to make business and adjourn next week. The Opposition resisted the new loan of half a million dollars, which will be procured, but did not divide the House on the question.

The announcement was made on behalf of the Government by Hon. Mr. Calder that those who admit that had been entered into with the Bell Telephone Company looking towards the purchase of their system in Saskatchewan. Nothing definite had as yet been done and the negotiations will be renewed shortly.

FOR SMALL INVESTOR.

Canada's Issue of £10 Bonds Appreciated in England.

London, Jan. 22.—Applications are now invited for the Canadian loan. In order to show his appreciation of the loans being issued in £10 bonds to encourage the small investor, Mr. Lloyd-George, Chancellor of the Exchequer, was one of the applicants for bonds. The issue of £10 bonds is favorably commented on, and it is pointed out that the small holder is generally a firm holder. The Chronicle editorially expresses the hope that the home Government will extend this practice, and suggests that Mr. Lloyd-George himself means some day to follow Canada's lead.

MITCHELL FOUND GUILTY.

The Ottawa Usurer Let Off With Suspended Sentence.

Ottawa, Jan. 22.—The trial of C. W. Mitchell, ex-news-paper proprietor of Ottawa, on the charge of lending money at an illegal rate of interest, was concluded this afternoon. The accused was found guilty and let off on suspended sentence. An appeal from the Magistrate's judgment has been entered.

Notice to Housekeepers.

When buying house supplies do not forget to order Gerrie's Perfection Baking Powder. It is the strongest, purest and highest grade powder sold. 2,500 of Hamilton's best housekeepers use it. Try it and you will use no other. Price, 30c per lb.—Gerrie's Drug Store, 32 James street north.

Laxa-Food.

Many strong points have been brought out on this food, nothing too strong to be said. Improve your health by using it. Give it a fair trial and note the difference in your general health.—A. W. Maguire.

Gait After Stray Dogs.

Gait, Ont., Jan. 22.—In pursuance of a campaign to rid the town of dogs running at large a number of dogs owners have been fined within the past few days, and to-day it was announced that dog catchers are to be employed to finish the work. The by-law has been a desideratum for years.

HILDA SPONG, Who will be seen at the Grand shortly in "A Man and His Mate."