

The Star

LEW DOCKSTADER, AND HIS 20th CENTURY MINSTRELS, AT THE HELLIG

BY L. C. B.

THE potent presence of the score-boards, the concern, highly apparent and unapologetic, of all passers-by, coupled with the glad news that the home team could wipe all others off the map, or be wiped out, as the case may be, are proverbial feathers to show us which way the wind is blowing, and remind us that the season of theatricals is soon to begin in earnest and that the show-stops will all too quickly give way to their one big and certain rival in the hearts of the public—the so-called National games. However, fortunate for those who aren't "fans," there remain offerings, present and to come, that are worthy of patronage of the best kind, such offerings, in fact, as the close of a theatrical season rarely shows.

The success of "Madame Sherry" must be put down as one of the remarkable things of the year, not so much on account of any great quality of the production itself, although that was evident, but rather to the presence of crowded houses at every performance and that too during holy week. "The Merchant of Venice" at the Baker proved conclusively in its successful presentation that lovers of classic literature and clean drama are not all people of words rather than action. This evening will witness the last performance of the fine old play, with Theodore Roberts in the role of Shylock.

To the Hellig tonight comes Lew Dockstader and his Twentieth-Century Minstrels, for a stay of three evenings. Mischka Elman, the violinist, under the Streets-Coman management is to be at the Hellig Wednesday evening, and for the week-end this theater will be given over to the Kirmess.

On Sunday, Monday and Tuesday of next week comes Frederick Ward, eminent Shakespearean scholar and actor, who has not appeared professionally for several years, but was heard last season at the Y. M. C. A. in a lecture on Shakespearean roles. Mr. Ward is followed by "The Spendthrift," one of the season's productions sent out by Frederick Thompson.

Later comes Olga Nethersole, followed in turn by Ruth St. Denis, the dancer. With Florence Roberts in the title role "Sapho" opens at the Baker tomorrow evening for the week. This is to be followed by "The Right of Way," with Theodore Roberts playing his great role of Joe Portogale, a character he created, and in which Portlanders saw him when the production with its original cast was here two seasons ago. Guy Standing's role is to be assumed by Thurlow Bergen, and Miss Roberts will be Rosalie.

The Bungalow, long dark, is to house "The Old Homestead," the late Denman Thompson's rural play.

Following "The Old Homestead," at the Bungalow, is an expurgated, or at least said-to-be expurgated version of "The Girl From Rector's." After that the house will be under the direction of Keating & Flood, who will transplant their musical comedy stock from the Lyric. Willis West and Frank Vack were the two new comedians who have joined the company, coming up from San Francisco, where they have been playing for 15 months. The new bill at the Lyric is to be "Weiner and Schnitzel."

The Orpheum headlines Murphy and Nichols in a fantasy called "From Zaza to Uncle Tom."

Pantages offers the great Wilhelm, an impersonator of famous composers, with Vack's orchestra of 14 players.

The Grand & Miller Kent, the big act, in his comedy playlet "Just Dorothy."

There is one thing that Dockstader is recommended for and that is that he is not eternally rating of the "good old-fashioned and palmy days of minstrelsy," but tries to keep his entertainment strictly "up to date" in every respect. He has even been daring enough to make an innovation in the proverbial "first part" and instead of the traditional semicircle with "bones and tambore," he has substituted a sort of musical comedy, which he is pleased to designate as the "Possum Hunt Club Revue."

While this preserves the essence of the dark humor as a minstrel show necessarily must do, it presents the minstrel in an entirely new light, one that shows that even they may progress. Dockstader himself is more modern than ever and this year he has discarded even his famous dirigible balloon ship and has an aeroplane, made, so he asserts, on the plan of a Wright flying machine, although some of the doubters will insist that the brave Lew has himself firmly suspended to the flies by a system of overhead wires.

Dockstader will have a big company

to help in the merrymaking, many of them long prominent in the ranks of burnt cork artists, among them being Carroll Johnson, an old-time minstrel man who has headed companies of his own; Eddie Maizer, an excellent portrayer of dark humor; Happy Naulty, Charles Falk, William Braxton, Frank Farren, Allen Campbell, Charles Haymon, Thomas Hughes, William Smith and some 70 more singers, dancers and comedians. Particular stress is laid upon the quality of the music in the Dockstader entertainment, while there is a big orchestra connected with the company, under the directorship of Edwin V. Cupero, long associated with the organization.

"SAPHO" WILL BE PRESENTED

Nethersole Version of Emotional Play Is Baker's Next Attraction.

Ever since the popular tri-star season of Florence Roberts, Theodore Roberts and Thurlow Bergen opened at the Baker, Manager Baker has been receiving requests from his numerous patrons for certain strong acting plays to be presented, and as "Sapho" has been much more generally demanded than the others to date it will be the offering for the coming week, beginning tomorrow night. The version of the famous play used by Miss Roberts is the original Olga Nethersole version and the one in which Miss Roberts has appeared with great success the past several years. It opens with the grand ball scene, attended by the noted artists, their friends, admirers and models in Paris. Sapho, the most noted model of all, is introduced by everyone, comes while the festivities are at their height, and her coming is the signal for renewed excitement. Here she meets for the first time Jean Rousseau (Thurlow Bergen) and for the first time, also, she truly loves. At the end of this act the famous staircase scene, sometimes omitted, is introduced. Flamant, Sapho's former lover, is arrested the night of the ball and sent to prison for a term of years and later she goes to Jean's apartments, where she has been generally understood in his family that he is to marry Alice, his simple little sweetheart of boyhood days, and beseeches him to let her go. In the third act she shows them comfortably at home in a little home in the country out from Paris, where they have very little to do but to enjoy the existence of her child by Flamant, which brings on a terrible scene and ends in his leaving her.

Eliminating all of the pleasing features of the grand choral effects, with organ accompaniment in the third act, and the other interesting and unusual embellishments, Denman Thompson's famous old New England idyl, "The Old Homestead," would still be one of the most compelling and thoroughly enjoyable, as it has been one of the best enduring plays of the modern American theater. More than 30 years ago, Denman Thompson, himself one of the best character actors known to the stage, roughly but with a marvelous and seemingly intuitive knowledge of the most sincere phases of human emotions, shaped an unpretentious small drama, "Jortna Whitcomb."

"OLD HOMESTEAD" TO RETURN

Popular Rural Drama This Week's Bungalow Attraction.

At the Bungalow all week, opening with today's matinee, one of the most popular plays on the stage, "The Old Homestead," will be the attraction. Unusual interest is felt in the production of this remarkable old drama, child-dren groups, and all being united in their enthusiasm over its return. Matinees will be given tomorrow, Thursday and Saturday.

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DOCKSTADER COMES TONIGHT

Famous Minstrel and Company Begin Engagement at Hellig.

Lew Dockstader and his minstrels will be the attraction at the Hellig Theater, Seventh and Taylor streets, for three nights beginning tonight. Mr. Dockstader has not been seen in Portland for several seasons and while it may be said by some that there has been a decline in this once popular form of amusement, the comedian himself holds such a commanding position in American theatricals that his own popularity and that of the company surging under his direction remains unshaken.

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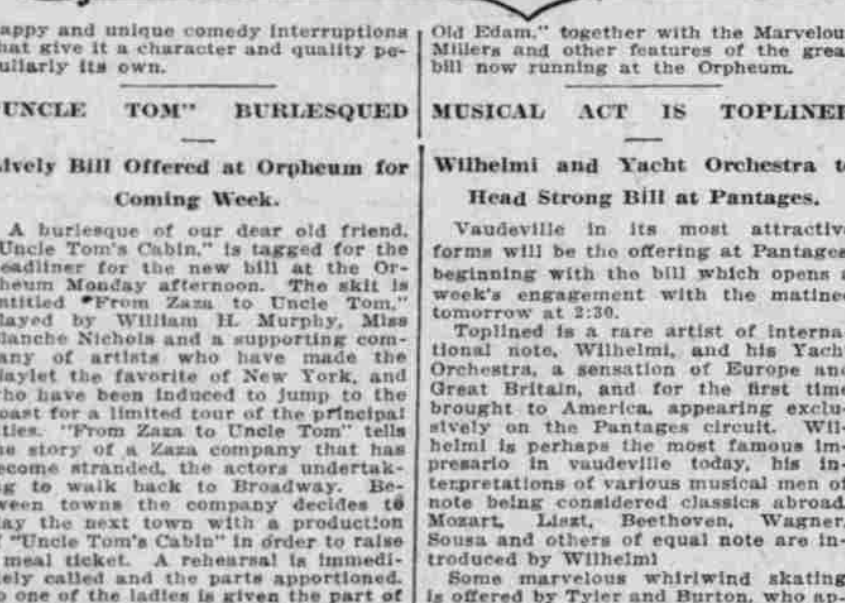
J. MILLER KENT IN "JUST DOROTHY" AT THE GRAND.



CARL McCULLOUGH, IN "FOOTLIGHT IMPRESSIONS" AT THE GRAND.



W. H. MURPHY AND BLANCHE NICHOLS, IN "FROM ZAZA TO UNCLE TOM" AT THE ORPHEUM.



"UNCLE TOM" BURLESQUED

Lively Bill Offered at Orpheum for Coming Week.

A burlesque of our dear old friend, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," is tagged for the headline for the next bill at the Orpheum. The bill which opens a week's engagement with the matinee tomorrow at 2:30.

Toplined is a rare artist of international note, Wilhelm, and his Yacht Orchestra, a sensation of Europe and Great Britain, and for the first time brought to America, appearing exclusively on the Pantages circuit. Wilhelm is perhaps the most famous impersonator in vaudeville today, his interpretations of various musical men of note being considered classics abroad. Mozart, Liszt, Beethoven, Wagner, Sousa and others of equal note are introduced by Wilhelm.

Some marvelous whirlwind skating is offered by Tyler and Burton, who appear in the humorous offering "The Girl and the Professor," with a laugh a line, say Eastern critics. Both players are wearers of superb costumes and their rollerskating is the most daring seen here this season. Many new and fancy figures are executed by them, and the act is not devoid of humorous situations.

MUSICAL ACT IS TOPLINEAR

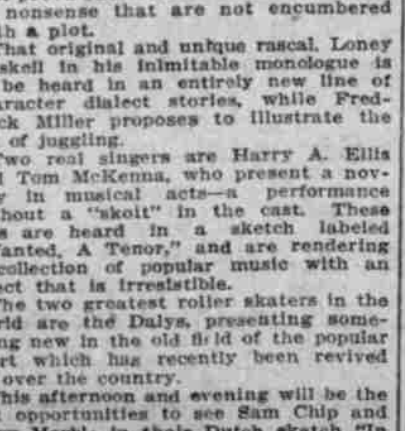
Wilhelmi and Yacht Orchestra to Head Strong Bill at Pantages.

Vaudeville in its most attractive forms will be the offering at Pantages, beginning with the bill which opens a week's engagement with the matinee tomorrow at 2:30.

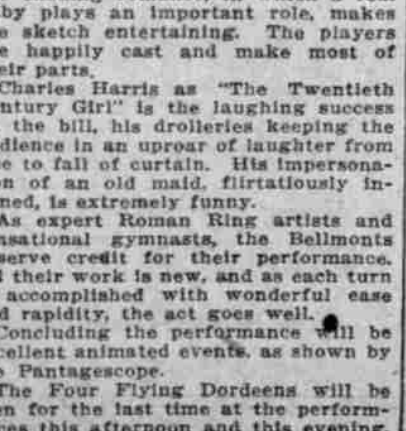
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FRANK H. VACK, GERMAN COMEDIAN AT THE LYRIC.



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SCENE FROM "SAPHO" AT THE BAKER.



SCENE FROM "THE OLD HOMESTEAD" AT THE BUNGALOW.



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CATCHY BILL ON FOR GRAND

Several Stars on Fine Programme for Next Week.

An extra big bill comes to the Grand starting Monday afternoon. It will contain many features and for the headliner Sullivan & Considine are sending S. Miller Kent and company in "Just Dorothy." Mr. Kent is remembered in Portland as the star in "The Cowboy and the Lady" and later as the star in "Raffles." He is supported by Miss Vera Keene, a well-known actress, and by Harold Knapp, for many years with the Frohman productions. Bron Onley wrote "Just Dorothy," which is a dainty little comedy. Special scenery is carried for the act and the playlet will be found a charming entertainment.

For the special added feature, Sullivan & Considine send the originator of ventriloquistic comic acts, Trovello. This man is the acknowledged master of his art and the foremost in present-day ideas. He will bring his newest act, "The Little Chauffeur at the Boston Road Inn." It has a plot telling of the misadventures of an automobile. Manikins are worked by Trovello in an uncanny manner. It is an act full of fun and comedy and the

strongest spotlight does not show a single muscle working in Trovello's throat or lips when he is talking.

Just as though the foregoing acts were not enough to make any show a hummer there will be the Six Imperial Dancers in the cast. A new idea in set of dances do plain and fancy steps and will be one of the many features on this attractive programme. It is the biggest dancing act the Grand has played for months.

Norton and Russell come from the musical comedy field and they bring with them a sprightly protean act in which the changes from one character to another are made with such rapidity that a special assurance is given the audience that there are only two players in the cast. A new idea in protean acting is introduced.

From Australia come Walker and Sturm, racket jugglers and equilibrists. They are fast jugglers and intersperse comedy of a rare kind between their stunts. The balancing of the duo is difficult and unusual.

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LYRIC PROMISES FUN GALORE

Last Week's Performance Will Be "Weiner and Schnitzel in Paris."

Commencing with tomorrow's matinee Keating & Flood will present the Lyric Musical Comedy Company in the latest Eastern German dialect comedy "Weiner and Schnitzel in Paris." This will be the last production to be seen at the Lyric Theater. The final performance will take place a week from tonight. Keating & Flood will donate the entire proceeds of the two performances Wednesday night to the Elks' convention fund of 1912. There will be Elks jokes galore, Elks songs and, in fact, everything will be for the Elks on that night. Friday night the Lyric Chorus will hold the last popular concert at the Lyric and they promise to give Lyric patrons a treat.

"Weiner and Schnitzel in Paris" has been selected for the closing bill because of its laugh-producing qualities. It will serve to introduce new members of the company, notable among them being Frank Vack, Willis West and Miss Helen York.

The comedy shows Mike Weiner, an eccentric German, entertaining his friend Louis Schnitzel at his home in Paris. Vack has a hobby for stunts and buys one that is connected together by wires. In some manner the statue comes to life by a short circuit and the fun hinges upon this incident. The costumes will be new and the songs pleasing. The Lyric Chorus will be to the front with some novel numbers, especially an electric song that has never been seen here before.

There will be two performances nightly at 7:45 and 9:15 o'clock and a matinee daily at 2:45 P. M. The Lyric has had only two "dark" nights in seven years.

PEOPLE'S OFFERINGS VARIED

New Films at First Run Theaters Replete With Interest.

Following the sensation created by the Passion Play, the People's Amusement Company today has to offer in its five first-run theaters 15,000 feet of new films, on a wide variety of interesting subjects.

The feature at the Star will be a scientific microscopic exposition of the dangers of impure water, a picture that has been pronounced of great public benefit by health officials. In addition "The Tribesmen Secretaries" offers the correctest of Judge McGinn's theory of stenography, recently shown at this theater. The dramatic part of the entertainment will be "The Spirit of Light," a picture dealing with incidents of the Mexican revolution. "Helping Him Out" is the comedy here and "The Spirit of Light" is a strong drama.

The Oh Joy's subjects will be four, including "Their Mother," a story of real life; "A New Life," illustrating the correctness of Judge McGinn's theory of how to treat a criminal; "Kwang Tung," concerning interests of China, and the "Servant Problem," a comedy.

At the Odeon "The Haunted Tower," "The Leading Lady," a comedy; "Lost Years," dramatic and "Brest," the fortified harbor of France, scenic, will be shown.

The Tivoli, after its success with the Passion Play, will offer "An Indian Maiden's Lesson," a picture showing the early trials and tribulations of a poetic and romantic squaw; "A Knight of the

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