

CITY NEWS IN BRIEF

THE OREGONIAN'S TELEPHONES.
Counting-Room Main 667
Advertising Editor Main 635

AMUSEMENTS

MARQUAM GRAND THEATRE (Marion St.)
Between 8 and 10 o'clock tonight in "The Barnstormer."

themselves that they had made what seemed a very important and valuable discovery.
The deposit was, so they report, a blanket mine, spreading over a wide extent of country, and not very far below the surface.

DEVLIN HAS COMPROMISE

OFFERS SUBSTITUTE FOR PROPOSED BOX ORDINANCE.
License Committee Seemed Divided on the Two Measures Submitted for Its Consideration.

Peace rumors are afloat concerning the box ordinance situation, and, if appearances are any criterion, there are prospects of a compromise between the better element of the liquor interests and the Municipal Association.

At the meeting of the liquor license committee of the City Council yesterday afternoon, called specially to consider the Bennett and Masters ordinances, there were also present President Jameson and Secretary Bain of the Municipal Association, besides Secretary Stone, of the Y. M. C. A., and Al Crofton, of the Liquor Dealers' Association, together with Adam Miller, general manager of the Star brewery, and Harry Schlenk, of the Quaker cafe.

John Wilkes is home—John Wilkes, the farmer living near Russellville, who disappeared several weeks ago, is now at home. He was found at work on a farm near Gervais, Or., by his wife, who persuaded him to return to his home.

WILL SPEAK AT TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL.—At the services this evening, which will be held at 8 o'clock at Temple Beth Israel, addresses will be given by Hugo Asher, and Otto Irving Wise, pastor, respectively, of District Grand Lodge, No. 4, of the Order of B'nai B'rith.

CAR SERVICE IMPROVED.—The car service on the Mount Scott line has been greatly improved the past week. Large trailers and cars with powerful motors have been put on the line.

WILL PERFECT CLUB ORGANIZATION.—The members of the Arleta Push Club, on the Mount Scott railway, will meet this evening in the public hall to complete the club organization, by adoption of constitution and election of officers.

ENFORCE ANTI-EXPECTORATION LAW.—After his attention was called to general violation of the anti-spitting law by an indignant woman, who telephoned to the Oregonian about having two towns ruined at Third and Washington streets, Chief of Police Griffith issued an order to patrolmen to enforce the ordinance.

OIL TANK CATCHES FIRE.—While workers were filling down the Irvington tank, a fire broke out in the tank, yesterday afternoon, the tank caught fire and burned up the entire contents. The flames for a time endangered buildings in the vicinity, but workers managed to prevent a spread by using garden hose.

AT THE THEATERS

"The Barnstormer."
John Chesterfield Brown (Ezra Kendall), known as "Comical Brown," a strolling player, in point of fact a "Barnstormer," who arrives at a little village in New York State, where he encounters, in front of the schoolhouse

Zeb Lipmer (John D. Garrick), the schoolmaster, postmaster, etc., a man of great local importance, who is the father of Hetty (Elizabeth King), an impulsive young girl, known as the Village Gospel. The village school is kept by Geoffrey (Thurlov Bergen), a young man, only just out of the schoolmaster's house, whose family name, for good reasons, is not revealed for some time. On the trail of the aforementioned Brown comes Ode Carpers (Philip Bishop), a sheriff, with an insistent claim that con-

fronts Brown's various complaints, and opportunistic times during his career. Brown also encounters among other rustic specimens Hiram (Clem Langdon), a village yaker. When things look darkest for the Barnstormer a new road in his life leads him to the schoolhouse, where he encounters under the leadership of John Nesbitt (Frederick Malcolm), the founder of the Nesbitt Colony, where each works for the other and the "happiness of one is the happiness of all." Brown is connected to the colony by Ruth (Kathryn Brown), a sweet sympathetic girl, whose benign influence brings comfort into the lives of all who surround her. She has found a home in this colony, where she divides the responsibility of the household with Farmer Nesbitt's sister, Caroline Nesbitt (Rita O'Neill), a spinster with many grievances. Among these grievances is a very precocious child, Umbria (Edith Tallaferra), aged 10, who becomes the daily companion of Brown. Into this colony there comes Herbert Ashforth (Harold Russell), once betrothed to Ruth. Among other members of the colony is one called Father William (H. T. Kennedy), the auxiliary, deaf as a post.

BY A. A. G.
The combination of Sydney Rosenfeld, who wrote it and was present to see its premiere, and Ezra Kendall produced a play at the Marquam last night that bears all the earmarks of lasting success. It was the first performance of "The Barnstormer" ever given anywhere, and Kendall was fortunate in being in attendance at the "premiere."

It runs in three acts, a homely comedy constructed mainly away from conventionality. Last night being in a manner experimental, some things developed that might wisely be pruned, but the structure of the play will stand. It is the best vehicle Kendall has ever had, and its possibilities are large and fine. Mr. Rosenfeld has teamed up with a man with profit and has conceived a splendid character. He has used material which hitherto has been overlooked, strangely, too, for it is a pay streak.

Two things new under the stage-writers' sun are brought into most effective use, the elderly barnstorming actor, who was and still is a picturesque figure in our National life, and the co-operative farm colony. "Comical Brown" is a splendidly likable sort of person, and the eccentric Kendall makes the idealized vagabond that the author wrote into his play. Last night there seemed to be a slight tendency on Kendall's part to underrate him, and a few situations were sacrificed. For instance, the bell-ringing incident in the first act would have been more effective had Brown's momentary breakdown been in greater contrast with his former attitude toward the village public. Mr. Kendall evidently strove so hard to get away from the "burlesque" idea of a broken-down actor that he almost forgot the audience.

Assurance is the barnstormer's stock in trade, and while Brown appears in that capacity he should have just a trace, at least, of the pose which must have become his second nature. The first and second acts are decided innovations, particularly the first. They disclose a positive genius for originality. The "entertainment" in the village schoolhouse, "Brown's" failure to amuse the natives with drolleries and the method of securing the drolics and the loss of them one by one as the auditors in disgust take their lanterns and leave the "show" are great situations.

The second act which takes place in a colony is almost startling in the suggestion of Gilbert Hubbard and his co-producers. The actor of the "flock" is reproduced with considerable fidelity. The third and last act is more nearly in the beaten path and will need considerable trimming. It is too long and "talky." It is a pastoral comedy without a snow storm, a husking bee or a quartet. It is for this reason a great relief after the many imitations of "Rogue Acres" and "Way Down East," as the latter is obviously a star's play, yet there are several secondary parts that will live.

The first performance was decidedly a triumph both for Mr. Rosenfeld and Mr. Kendall, and after repeated demands they acknowledged the cordial reception accorded their efforts. The members of the company were happily cast, excepting in the instance of John Garrick, as Lipmer. Mr. Garrick has evidently done "rube" turns in the vaudevilles. Miss Browne atoned for her offending in some past instances and gave a splendid performance as Ruth. Philip Bergen, as the Sheriff, Miss O'Neill as the crabbed spinster, Edith Tallaferra in the child role, Thurlov Bergen as the under-graduate and Frederick Malcolm as the counterfeiter's presentation of "Fra Eibertus" were severally and collectively effective.

The stage settings for the first two acts were excellent but the scenic painters are backward in their work and it was necessary to use "house" scenery in the last act. I almost omitted recording that the pure lofty tone of the piece is one of its greatest charms. It is a delightful, helpful play and deserves the success which it promises. It will be repeated tonight, tomorrow night and at a Saturday matinee.

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Russian ship Lena, now interned at Mare Island, near San Francisco.

Mrs. Smith denied absolutely last night having any knowledge of anything upon which such a story could have been built by the press of California. She stated that she and her friend had been entertained upon the Lena by the officers of the ship, as she had been entertained by many other friends while in San Francisco. Upon the time of her visit to the ship she had returned to her hotel at 11 o'clock and there had been no trouble of any character.

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FIGURED IN DISPATCHES

Mrs. Samuel Smith and Miss Allyn Are in Portland.
Mrs. Samuel Smith, of Moscow, Russia, wife of United States Consul Samuel Smith, of that place, accompanied by Miss Allyn of Omaha, reached the city yesterday morning from San Francisco and will spend today visiting the Fair before resuming her trip to the East.

Take O. W. P. & Ry. Co. cars, First and Alder streets. All cars transfer to The Oaks. Reserved seats and boxes on sale at Skidmore's Drugstore, 151 Third street, and O. W. P. & Ry. Co.'s ticket office, First and Alder.

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