

NATIONAL THEATER

Magnificent New Moving Picture House Opened Informally for Inspection.

COLOR SCHEME BEAUTIFUL

Playhouse Is Crowded to Doors, Two Shows Being Required to Accommodate All—Spectacle "America" Is Presented.

The National Theater was crowded to capacity Wednesday night when it was opened informally to the friends of the management. Fully 4,000 persons saw the programme, a second show being required to accommodate the throngs.

From the standpoint of equipment the theater is unsurpassed by any motion picture house in Portland, and the result is a harmonious line most restful to the eyes. Over the arch is a wonderful painting representing peace and liberty, comfortable chairs and carpets are all a soft, dull blue and the chairs have the same shade. The willow seats in the boxes are of ivory white.

Promenade Is Popular.
The promenade on the balcony is a new idea and was made the most of last night when the guests rested in the big, soft, comfortable chairs and davenport between the performances.

The balcony, too, is in blue and buff. The women's dressing-room and the men's smoking-room in the balcony are provided with every modern equipment. A maid is in attendance in the women's room.

A feature of the new theater is its ventilating system. There are three separate ventilating systems in the theater, all of which are in use constantly, keeping the air fresh and the screen to the highest point in the balcony.

Another feature of the National is the "kiddies' playground" in the basement. There are dolls, teddy bears and dogs, toy dishes, sandpiles with shovels and rakes and shovels, swings, chutes, hobby horses and countless other playground essentials in place for the youngsters.

Kids Enjoy Themselves.
Two maids are in attendance here, so that mothers may enjoy the show and know that their babies are safe. Dozens of children, who attended the show last night with their parents, were scampering toward the basement as soon as they were turned loose.

Shrieks of joy issued from the "lower regions" and smiles spread over the faces of the elders, who heard and saw. In five minutes safety reigned supreme. Sand was scattered to the four corners and wheels, chutes and everything else in the playground were tried out by the youngsters.

The theater throughout was decorated with big baskets of chrysanthemums, yellow and lavender and white. They were artistically caught up with butterfly bows of tulle that poised like butterflies against the shaggy blossoms.

Great Picture Presented.
The programme began at 8 o'clock. It opened with a picture, "The General Manager Melvin G. Winstock, who expressed his appreciation of Portlanders' response to the invitation to inspect the theater.

Dr. R. M. Emerson followed with a vocal selection which was received heartily. The picture offering, "America," came. This film, offering in the big New York Hippodrome and represents the largest extravaganza ever staged. Fully 1,000 persons were employed in the making of the picture. It is in 15 episodes, each separate in plot and action from the others.

Hundreds of cleverly selected dancing girls appear in the picture. Farm scenes are so real that the spectators forgot they were in a picture playhouse, hearing cows and sheep appearing like "regular" actors in the marvelous photodrama.

Swimming Girls Amaze.
The world-famous Hippodrome swimming girls went down under water right before the eyes of the astonished spectators and stayed there for what seemed to be hours when they popped up dripping and singing.

A comedy drama in one reel, "The Peacekeeper," with Vitaphone's prettiest girls featured, was shown.

Miss Eva De Varna, an attractive soprano, sang two selections and won an ovation.

The "National Trio" sang with great unity and ease. They were applauded vociferously. "In the Candle Light" was especially well sung.

The theater will be open to the Portland public formally tonight.

ROBBERS IN PAIRS BEAT 2

South Portland and Fourteenth and Irving Are Holdup Scenes.

Two men were beaten and robbed Wednesday night, each by two "strong-arm" men, who used the same methods, but whose descriptions are not the same.

C. A. Abramson, second mate on the Norwegian bark Urania, was set upon by two men who held him at last night, badly beaten, kicked about the head and robbed of \$27. He was taken to the police emergency hospital.

Joseph Xocum reported to the police that two men attacked him at Fourteenth and Irving streets, knocked him down, choked him and robbed him of \$5. Both pairs of robbers were reported to be young men and unmasked.

MOTHER AND GIRL HELD UP

Two Highwaymen Force Woman to Hand Over Her Purse.

Two young highwaymen held up Mrs. C. H. Lasey and her daughter, Maude, Wednesday night at the corner of Twenty-sixth and Tibbels streets, ordering Mrs. Lasey to turn over to them a silver mesh bag containing about \$12. The highwaymen were armed.

Mrs. Lasey lives at 245 West Holman street, and with her daughter, was returning home when accosted by the highwaymen. Mrs. Lasey's purse was searched and the highwaymen, but found no trace of the robbers.

ELEPHANT SPOILS TRIP

Animal Torments Trainer and Passengers With Unceasing Hubbub.

NEW YORK, Oct. 24.—Charles Morry, animal trainer, slipped ashore from the steamship Minnewaska, which arrived from Liverpool recently, just as quickly as though he had been caught without a passport. The causes of the war. He was howled from want of sleep and when he stepped from the gangplank ran to the office of the nearest truckman and made arrangements to have a crate which he had on the deck transferred ashore at once. In the crate was a baby elephant 15 months old.

Morry had a most unhappy trip. The baby would not permit him to leave his side for a moment without making trouble. If he did slip away to bolt some food there came from the crate a plaintive howl of protest. The elephant found him a really ostracized because the elephant insisted upon sobbing in the upper register of the howl. He was so noisy at night, it was shivering cold in one's pajamas on deck after midnight, so Morry decided to remain in his berth after the night—much to the passengers' discomfort.

The climax came on Sunday. Morry had found himself no frowner upon that he decided to leave the service. He thought it might soften the hearts of his fellow travelers when he went to church. Things progressed all right until the Rev. E. Seton Paterson started to preach. The elephant started to sob. Then the elephant also started. No one could hear what the preacher said, and finally the trainer left the church, and the services were suspended until the baby had been quieted.

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The women were not in the background any minute. The lighting was beautiful, especially when moonlight dances were given. Even the music entered into the spirit of the evening and played out of tune and in discord when some dances imported by memory from old days on the farm were attempted.

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Profiting by a thick fog, the advancing Prussians had actually come into the village which the African sentries before their presence became known. The villages lay in an open plain, void of all natural defenses, the Prussians looked forward to a quick victory.

They were quite unaware that for three days the occupying troops had been so hard at work that the place was fairly bristling with barbed wire entanglements and other obstacles to an enemy's approach.

The absolute silence of the defenders, who lay in their trenches, their fingers itching on the triggers of their rifles, the Prussians came on early. Their sentries were just about to cut the first line of wire when the Africans opened a hot fusillade. The foremost rank of the enemy dropped as men, the second and third the entire body were badly shaken by the suddenness and unexpectedness of the fire that greeted them.

According to the story, the Prussians were shot down as they came, until first only a company and then only a section of that company remained. Finally, there came the time when one man was left—a sub-lieutenant, revolver in hand, monocular in eye. Presumably he also fell. The last man had fallen; those who had essayed it had been sacrificed to a man.

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Colton Office's Parcel Post Forces Store Out for Mail.

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Munding was 50 years old and had been caretaker of the building where he was found. Heiberger says Munding was deeply despondent because his oath to Uncle Sam prevented him fighting for his native land. He did not appear angry, but very sad. He found Munding hanging from a step of

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