AT THE Theaters

MORE than ordinary interest is manifested in the Neill stock company, whose opening performance in "A Social Highwayman" takes place today at the Baker Theater. Promise of high-class drama for the entire season is held out, and Portland theater-goers have their expectations at a high pitch. If these shall be realized, there can be no question as to the financial result. Worthy dramatic performances have ever received generous support here.

At Cordray's, beginning tonight, the Belasco-George juvenile specialty company are booked for the week. Sixteen clever youngsters make up the company, and a varied programme of specialties is offered.

The Pollard juvenile opera company, who need no introduction, return to the Marquam Grand this week, presenting planquette's nautical opera, "Paul Jones," and "A Gaiety Girl." Entertainment by juveniles at two theaters is not a common occurrence, but as Uncle Nat Berry, in "Shore Acres," says: "You can't have too many children around a house."

NEILL STOCK COMPANY.

Opening Performance This Afternoon at the Baker.

When the Baker Theater opens this afternoon it will present a new appearance. Everything has been overhauled and many improvements made. Manager Baker has spared no expense to make his theater cozy, convenient and comfortable in every respect. It has new decorations, new carpets, new draperies and new furnishings, involving considerable expenditure of money. Mr. Baker has not only confined his attentions to the front of the house, but has made many improvements on the stage, and he has not forgotten to take good care of the company. Large mirrors, new carpets, etc., have been placed in all the dressing-rooms, and everything has been done to make the ladies and gentlemen of the Neill Stock Company comfortable.

The improvements made are only a small part of what will be seen at this popular playhouse. They are only incidental comforts. The company, the plays, and the manner in which they are produced will be the leading features. The Neill Stock Company has been carefully selected; each member has made what they call in theatrical parlance a hit. They come to Portland with good reputations and all expect to win new laurels. Almost every play of any importance is at the disposal of the management, and it will be an easy matter to select such as will please Portland.

One of the main things in a theatrical venture is a good stage manager, and judging from the reputation of Mr. Morris, who directs all the plays, there is nothing lacking in this quarter. He is ably assisted by W. H. Dills, who held the same position for two years with the Dearborn Stock Company in Chicago, which is one of the recognized companies of the United States. Scenery is a strong factor in a first-class production, and with this in mind, the services of Frank King, recognized as one of the best artists in the country, have been engaged. He has taken charge of this department, and each week entirely new scenery will be painted. No expense has been spared in any way by the management of the Baker Theater.

"A Social Highwayman" will be presented this afternoon, and will run all this week, with matinee Saturday.

JUVENILE SPECIALTY COMPANY.

Cordray's Theater Offers a Novel Programme This Week.

Commencing tonight, the bill at Cordray's Theater this week will be high-class vaudeville by the Belasco-George juvenile specialty company, a talented and versatile aggregation of youngsters, who come with warm indorsement. There are 14 little ones in the cast, and mothers and managers make 20 people. Among the diminutive stars are Marion George, the celebrated young violinist; La Petite Agnes, the girl from Paris; Carrie Dolliver, Chinese impersonator; Katherine, the wonderful child contortionist, scarcely 12 years old, who astonishes everybody who sees her in the act of tying herself in knots; Lillian Dolliver, in character sketches; Master Montague Barton, the most artistic toe dancer before the public, and who does an Irish jig dancing on his toes. He is also the drum-major of the little uniformed band made up from the little ones. There are also Harold Kavanaugh, a sweet-voiced baritone; Mignon Earle, only 12 years old, who will astonish everybody by producing classic music from the piano; the tiny Adams sisters, in their champion cakewalk and song and dance. "The Hottentots"; Master Ellis, who does whatever he is called upon to do—in other words, the little comedian.

One of the features is the Florodora octette, with the girls arrayed in bright red gowns and the large black hats with waving plumes, while the boys have gray suits and silk hats. They sing "Pretty Maiden" so well that it is a common occurrence to win half a dozen or more encores, and the children must stop from sheer exhaustion.

The little band, all uniformed, will give concerts in front of the theater each evening at 7:30 while this engagement lasts.

"PAUL JONES" BY THE POLLARDS.

Clever Juvenile Opera Company at the Marquam Grand.

Planquette's beautiful and tuneful nautical comic opera, "Paul Jones," will be the offering of the clever Pollard Juvenile Opera Company, on its return engagement in this city at the Marquam Grand Theater, beginning tomorrow night. The piece opens at the noted smuggling port of St. Malo, on the northern coast of France, where Paul Jones and Ruffino de Martinez are shipping clerks for a wealthy merchant named Bicoquet. Jones falls in love with his employer's ward, Yvonne, but is opposed in his suit by Bicoquet on account of his poverty. It is agreed between Paul and the guardian that he go away for three years, and at the end of that period, if he returns with 1,000,000 francs, Bicoquet would consent to his marriage with Yvonne.

He thereupon induces his old friends, Bouillabaise, an old fisherman, who picked him up some time before in an open boat on the coast of Scotland, and Petit Pierre, his apprentice, commonly called the "Insect," to join him in a cruise on the American privateer Flying Cloud.

Bouillabaise is glad of the opportunity of escaping the temper of his wife, Choplnette, landlady of the Cod's Head Inn, and as he says, "prefers the sea to home." On their return at the end of the allotted time they find a grand fete in progress at the garden of Bicoquet's house, in honor of the signing of the marriage contract between Ruffino and Yvonne, who has since become the Captain of a Spanish frigate. Of course Paul asserts his claim, and is promptly challenged by Ruffino to a duel; and Malguena, who was Yvonne's nurse, but since has married Bicoquet, bribes the soldiers at the fort to capture Jones and his faithful followers, Bouillabaise and the "Insect." The two latter manage to escape in a small boat and rejoin their ship, but Jones is seized and put aboard Ruffino's frigate and taken to the Island of Estrella, in the Caribbean Sea, which is ruled over by one Don Trocadero, an uncle of Malaguena. Here he escapes from his captors and is at large on the island. Trocadero has arranged with a neighboring chief, the "Mosquito King," for Paul's capture, but Bouillabaise, arriving with Paul's ship, hears of this plot, and by disguising himself as the "Mosquito King," gains admittance to Trocadero's palace, and, with the aid of Paul's own men, is able to prevent his arrest and recapture. Seeing that he has been outwitted, Ruffino releases his claim for the hand of Yvonne, and Bicoquet, tired of the ill treatment of Trocadero, willingly consents to the immediate union of Paul and Yvonne, and all ends happily.

Alice Pollard makes an ideal Yvonne, and Willie Pollard and Little Daphne, in their respective roles of Bouillabaise and the "Insect," have opportunities for their comedy work not given them in any of the pieces seen here on previous visits.

Popular prices will prevail during the engagement. "Paul Jones" will also be given at the Saturday matinee. Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, their former success, "A Gaiety Girl," will be the bill. Seats are now selling for the entire week.

SHIELDS' PARK.

Famous Japanese Acrobats Return—Eight Other Acts.

Edward Shields will close his popular Summer park two weeks from tonight. It is the first venture of its kind in Portland, and it proved a bonanza. Satisfactory programmes have been given each week and the prices were within the reach of all. The place has been conducted in uniform, orderly manner, and it has been the Summer amusement Mecca of all classes.

Mr. Shields says that to the enforcement of the motto at the entrance: "No Liquors Sold in This Park," is due much of the success and popularity of the place. He intends making the last two programmes his best, and to that end he brings back the Japs, who are now under his control.

No act has appeared in Portland this season that has caused such universal and favorable discussion as Matsuda's Royal Japanese acrobats. They have added several sensational feats since they left here, and the new work will be introduced during their engagement.

John and Nilsina Thompson are a clever sketch team new to this coast. They have a decided novelty in the way of a Chinese musical act in which they introduce a fully equipped Chinese theater.

The sterling Irish comedian, W. H. McBride, will sing a bit, talk a bit and dance a bit. McBride has a national reputation as a delineator of Irish comedy, and has appeared with Hoyt's combinations and leading vaudeville shows.

Another star feature is the noted Swiss duo, Seppel and Franz. They will appear in their native costume and render Tyrolean songs. Both are great yodlers.

Atlantis, the pretty serpentine dancer, is retained for a second week in a new terpsichorean act, including poses plastique.

The polyscope has a new supply of comic and interesting subjects and Joseph Thompson will sing two new illustrated songs.

GROWN-UP CHILD ACTRESSES.

Many Stars Who Began Their Careers in Juvenile Parts.

Joe Mount, business manager of the Belasco-George Juvenile Specialty Company, who open tonight at Cordray's, was speaking the other day of actresses of distinction whom he could remember as stage children. "I can't recall all of them," he said, "perhaps not half of them; still I have known at least 20 stars who began successful careers in juvenile parts. Some of the noteworthy are: Ellen Terry, Julia Marlowe, Cecilia Loftus, Madge Robertson Kendall, Effie Shannon, Bijou Heron, Fay Templeton, Elsie Leslie and Grace Hopkins. Besides these Ethel Barrymore, Maude Adams and Annie Russell might be included, so young were they when they made their stage debuts. Miss Russell was a girl with her hair in a long braid when she swept the country in 'Esmeralda' in 1881, and she had been on the stage in small parts for several years. Maude Adams made her first appearance with the late Jim Hearne at the old Maguire Opera-House, San Francisco, in the early '80s, when she was a baby, and was not fully grown when she appeared in 'A Midnight Bell.' Ethel Barrymore was a mere girl when she charmed playgoers as the maid servant in 'Rosemary' in her uncle's company, and is now one of the successful stars in the theatrical world, and yet a young lady. Miss Marlowe was in juvenile companies, and yet the famous Juliet played boys' parts. For a season she was Sir Joseph Porter in 'Pinafore.' Miss Shannon has also acted in the Gilbert and Sullivan opera which was played by many companies of juveniles. In one of the same organizations, Fritz Williams, then a mere boy, was the Sir Joseph, and was also the idol of his company, and the beau-ideal of all the little girls. Bijou Heron, who later married and retired from the stage, was more famous as a child than as a grown actress. Fay Templeton's stage career dates back to the time when she was about 3 years old at Maguire's Theater, San Francisco, and although she and Maude Adams were carried on as babies, no girl ever played parts and sang and danced so young as the 'Weberfield' mimic. When she grew a little older she was a comic opera star in a company managed by her father, John Templeton. At 9 years of age she sang the leading roles in the light operas of that time. Lotta Crabtree was only between 5 and 6 years old when the miners at Laporte, Plumas County, Cal., started her on the road to fortune by showering her every night with gold nuggets. Under the care of the old-time minstrels Ben Cotton and Joe Murphy, she became famous as an actress and one of the wealthiest women in the theatrical world. Today there are many children on the mimic stage who will develop into stars."

Cordray's Next Week.

The Richards and Pringle's Georgia Minstrels will present a mammoth bill of merry minstrelsy at Cordray's three nights next week, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, September 7, 8, and 9. The organization numbers 40 people and presents a choice collection of mirth-provoking and novel acts never seen here before. A special feature of the performance is the troupe of Morocco acrobats with Simon Bonomor at their head.

Notes of the Stage.

A new melodrama is called "The Girl Who Dared."

W. J. Lemoyne is to retire permanently from the stage on account of ill health.

It is stated that William A. Brady contemplates the building of a theater at Atlantic City.

Margaret Anglin made a hit in San Frahcisco as Camille, with Henry Miller as Armand.

S. Miller Kent's second season in "The Cowboy and the Lady" begins at Providence, R. I., tomorrow.

Minnie Dupree will be the star in "A Rose of Plymouth Town" this season, and started rehearsal in New York last week.

Grace George's new play has 63 "speaking parts," and will require an auxiliary corps of over 200. The name of the play has not yet been divulged.

When Ezra Kendall starts his starring tour in "The Vinegar Buyer" he will have those two sterling funmakers with him, Charles Bowser and Ed Chapman.

John Gilbert, the well-known eccentric comedian, who has been in vaudeville for the past two years, will play Eddie Foy's part in "The Strollers" next season.

Charles Frohman has finally decided upon Edwin Stevens for the chief role in "The Telephone," the great French playlet, when it is produced in this country.

Edward Milton Royle and Mrs. Royle have been induced to leave vaudeville, and will be starred next season in a new comedy under the management of Ben Stern.

Bobby Gaylor, the funny little Irish comedian, will have the chief role in "The Wizard of Oz." He replaces John Slavin, who joins the Lederer forces in New York.

Kirk La Shelle has great confidence in the drawing powers of "Arizona." During the past week he bought out Fred Hamlin's interest in the piece, paying $35,000.

Dorothy Hammond will be Richard Mansfield's leading lady next season. She comes from Terry's Theater, London, and is reported to be very beautiful and talented.

Eleanora Duse is to supplement her American tour with one through Australia. This will permit her to give performances in the larger cities of the Pacific Coast.

Professor Albin Stauss, who last season conducted the orchestra at Chase's Theater, has been engaged by Manager Schlesinger for a like capacity at the Empire Theater.

"Eureka" is the name of the musical comedy about completed by Hugh P. McNally. H. L. Heartz, the composer of the music for "Miss Simplicity" and "The Show Girl," furnished the score.

Joseph Hart has written three new songs for "Foxy Grandpa." They are entitled "Polly, Pretty Polly," "Different Ways of Proposing" and "I Wonder If He Knew the Reason Why." The season of "Foxy Grandpa" began August 11 at Atlantic City.

As Petit Pierre, commonly called the "Insect," in the three-act nautical comic opera, "Paul Jones," Little Daphne Pollard, of the Pollard Juvenile Opera Company, has a part in which she excels the work she does as "Shrimp" in "In Town." In "Paul Jones" the children are cast for parts to which they are aptly fitted.

Marie Tempest opened a new play from the French last Monday night at the Duke of York's Theater, London, and created a big success. It was a comedy called "The Marriage of Kitty." Miss Tempest will be seen in the piece in this country the coming season under the management of Charles Frohman.

The Bostonians began their regular season at Manhattan Beach last Monday night, presenting their old standby, "Robin Hood." H. Clay Barnabee, W. H. McDonald, George Frothingham and Grace von Studdiford were in the cast, and an excellent performance was given. The Bostonians are booked for the Marquam next December.

A Spectacle for London.

Indianapolis News.

It is fortunate, indeed, for the country that the new Army uniform is first to be displayed abroad by such a specimen of American pulchritude as Adjutant-General Corbin. If he and Crowninshield should manage to meet in London and go walking down Piccadilly together London would be treated to such a display of beauty as it has not witnessed in many a year.

Miss Lois Steers' Concerts

DE LUSSAN AND DIPPEL SHORTLY TO SING IN PORTLAND — OTHER NOTES

One of the important musical events of the approaching season in Portland will be the series of concerts to be given here under the direction of Miss Lois Steers. Musicians and the general public remember with pleasure the excellent and well-managed concerts given last season under Miss Steers' direction, and are gratified to know that they were such an artistic success. Miss Steers' arrangements and engagements are not yet all completed this season, but she was in a position to announce yesterday to an Oregonian man that she has engaged Herr Andreas Dippel, the great German tenor, and Mlle. Zelie de Lussan, the famous dramatic soprano, to give concerts in Portland this season. The dates of their appearance have not yet been settled.

Herr Andreas Dippel stands easily in the front rank of German tenors, and is one of the world's great singers. There is only one Jean de Reszke, and Dippel is probably the only living tenor competent to replace him. His voice blends the picturesqueness of Alvary with the fervor of Ernst Kraus and the art of Jean de Reszke. Dippel was born in Cassel, Germany, in 1866, and began his musical education at an early age under Rese, in Vienna, Hey in Berlin and Alberto Leoni in Milan, fitting himself for his debut at Bremen in 1887 in "The Flying Dutchman." He has filled important engagements in less than 15 years in Bremen, Breslau, Vienna and Bayreuth, with the Royal Opera at Covent Garden, London, for four seasons, and in the Imperial Opera at St. Petersburg, at the special request of the Emperor. Dippel has been six times in the United States, four times as the leading tenor with the Metropolitan Opera Company, where he has sung the Wagnerian roles, which he studied with the great Richter in Vienna. Curiously enough, his voice lends itself to lyric as well as dramatic music, and he sings 97 different roles in 75 different operas. He is familiar with Mozart, Flotow, Rossini, Verdi, Cornelius, Meyerbeer, Lortzing, Weber, Beethoven, Wagner, Auber, Suppe, Strauss, Donizetti, Bellini, Leoncavallo, Mascagni, Gounod and Thomas. He speaks and sings in four languages. For concerts he commands a list of over 100 lieder, 50 arias and the tenor part in 58 oratorios, cantatas and choral work. One competent critic states that not only since the days of Wechtel have we had a German tenor in this country who produces his tones with the exquisite ease of Dippel. It is very unlikely that we shall ever hear Jean de Reszke in this city, but there is one comfort in knowing that we shall hear a tenor nearly as good when we listen to Dippel.

Mlle. Zelie de Lussan represents a type of singer that is at once remarkable and irresistible—a combination of Spanish subtlety, French piquancy and American vivacity. She has a soprano voice equally effective in dramatic and coloratura music. She is a singer who has notable personal attractions—beauty of face and figure, grace and dignity, and magnetic charm. Those who have heard De Lussan sing state that she is a handsomer Carmen than Calve could ever hope to be, and that De Lussan has as fine a voice as Calve had when she was at her best. De Lussan as Carmen is the fickle, gay, irresistible coquette, unconscious of the fate awaiting her, while Calve, from her very heartlessness, courts death from the beginning.

Although the descendant of one of the oldest families in the French nobility and the representative of the fourth generation of famous singers, Mlle. de Lussan was born in New York City. In 1886 she made her debut in English opera in this country as Arline in the "Bohemian Girl." Three years later she went to London to fill an engagement at Covent Garden, where she has sung every Summer since—a rare record. She received an honor never before given to an American—three "commands" to sing before Queen Victoria in "The Daughter of the Regiment," "Fra Diavola" and "Carmen." She sang each Winter with the Carl Rosa Company until 1894, when she came to America with the Metropolitan Opera forces under Maurice Grau, when she created the role of Nanette in "Falstaff." In 1895-96 she sang with marked success in Spain, Portugal and France. In 1897 she returned to this country with Melba and a picked company of stars. She has also created the roles of Juliette in English, Desdemona in Verdi's "Othello," and Marguerette in Berlioz's "Damnation of Faust." Both De Lussan and Dippel are to appear in this country under the management of Loudon G. Charlton, of New York.

ABOUT SINGERS AND PLAYERS

The new opera-house building at Stuttgart is to cost $200,000.

Miss Minetti Carson has returned for the season, after an enjoyable vacation at Long Beach.

Gounod's "Faust" will open the English grand opera season at the Tremont, Boston, September 22.

Paderewski will tour the principal cities and towns of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales, this Fall.

Daniel Frohman will bring back Jan Kubelik, the young Bohemian violinist, to this country in 1903.

Margaret Crawford, a young American contralto, has sailed for Germany to fill her second season's engagement in opera at the Halle Stadt Theater.

Miss Edith M. McGinn, organist at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, is expected to arrive in a few days from Los Angeles, Cal., where she has been visiting her parents.

Lillian Lehmann will shortly publish in Berlin "My Singing Art," a book which will give her experiences as a singer for a good many years, and also her personal reminiscences of musicians.

Four distinct offers were made during the last three months to Patti to sing in this country, but no agreement could be reached, as she asked in the first place that a deposit of $50,000 be made at Rothchilds.

Miss Eula Bennett will be the sole soprano in Taylor-Street Methodist Episcopal Church chorus choir, during the ensuing season. W. H. Boyer will be the musical director, and Mrs. W. E. Thomas organist.

One musical critic recently described the use of the tremolo by singers as "a fever and ague attachment." He says that the singers using it make one imagine that they are gargling their throats with Cayenne pepper.

Miss Gertrude Quinlan, the well-known singer, has arrived at Boston from her visit to Europe, and is now busily engaged rehearsing with the company that is to present the musical satire, "The Sultan of Sulu."

New York music lovers are now being asked to aid an enterprise of proven success, the People's Symphony Concerts, at Cooper Union, where Louis X. Arens has been conducting good music at prices of admission ranging from 5 cents upward.

The personnel of the First Presbyterian Church quartet for the ensuing year will be: Mrs. Fletcher Linn, soprano; Mrs. C. E. Farnsworth, contralto; H. W. Hogue, tenor; and Dom J. Zan, bass. Edgar E. Coursen will continue as organist and director.

Madame Sembrich, soprano, will arrive in this country October 15, as she will start on a tour of short recitals before the regular season. She will open the tour at Scranton, October 20, and will sing in New York about the middle of November.

The First Congregational Church quartet will consist of the following: Mrs. Rose Bloch Bauer, soprano; Mrs. Robert T. Platt, contralto; Lauren Pease, tenor; and W. A. Montgomery, bass. Miss Sawyer, a sister of Mrs. Fletcher Linn, is the new organist.

Lillian Blauvelt, the prima donna soprano, recently earned thousands of dollars for charity at a concert she gave at Bar Harbor, Me. She sails for Europe in three weeks' time, to sing in several festivals and expects to return to this country after New Year's.

Madame Suzanne Adams will not be heard in opera in New York this year, but instead will take a long concert tour, opening her season as leading soprano at the Worcester, Mass., festival, where her husband, Leo Stern, the 'cellist, will also be heard in concert during the coming season.

The Bayreuth festival ended August 20. Its expenses this year will include $25,000 for the principal singers and $15,000 for chorus and band, including rehearsals. The season has consisted of 20 performances.