

# AT THE SHOW HOUSES



EDNA WALLACE HOPPER IN "A COUNTRY MOUSE" AND "CAPT. JANUARY" AT THE MARQUAM GRAND

LUCKY PORTLAND to get a whole week of "The Darling of the Gods" and Blanche Bates. It was a rare theatrical event, and the local public may well congratulate itself.

It is significant of the theatrical importance of this city that a great production such as only the genius and money of David Belasco can provide should attempt a week stand here, and a more significant fact that at \$2 a seat the theater should be filled at each performance. The happiest manager in town should be John F. Cordray, who handled the great attraction so successfully. "The Darling of the Gods" and "Madame Butterfly" were worth the money in the fullest measure, and we should be much beholden to Miss Bates and all concerned.

The Marquam was confronted with a tremendous counter attraction, but in spite of that made a good showing with our old friend Lewis Morrison in "Faust" and "The Silver Slipper." Of course there was Melba on Monday night, but she was something extraordinary, and not to be taken into consideration in this review. They did well up to the "Columbia in Moths," the company giving a generally commendable performance of the old play.

Empire patrons rejoiced in a repertoire at the hands of a traveling stock company which is at home in the smaller towns. The three bills presented, however, seem to have given satisfaction.

The lesser stock companies at the Bijou and Lyric pleased their audiences, and the vaudeville houses kept to the mean tenor of their way with comfortable box-office results.

The gaily of nations received considerable contributions through the newspaper columns, thanks to signed communications from a most estimable managing gentleman and an evocative and estatic young soubrette. It was all over an innocent little error as to a matter of a job, and was an amusing little tempest in a teapot. It also disclosed the keen teeth of ingratitude.

A. A. G.

## "SWEET LAVENDER."

Pinero's Famous Play Opens at the Columbia Today.

The week opening today with the regular matinee will be a delicious one when at the Columbia Theater A. W. Pinero's famous play, "Sweet Lavender," will be the bill. It was originally produced by Daniel Frohman at the Lyceum Theater, New York, and lastly captured the hearts of the whole metropolis. There is not a more touching or more beautiful and humanizing play on the stage today.

The plot of "Sweet Lavender" is simple. A prosperous banker had in his youth, 17 years before the play commences, won the affections of, and then from worldly motives, abandoned a young girl, his inferior in society. He could not, however, forget his early attachment, and on that account had remained a bachelor. He had adopted as his heir the son of a dead friend, and by a coincidence of fate his adopted son falls in love with the daughter of the woman whom he had wronged—his own child—though he is not aware of it. The course of their true love run for some time with the proverbial want of smoothness, disparity of position in society, the woman being the mistress of the prosperous banker and his faithful lover, being the chief disturbing elements. The failure of the bank and the intervention of a philanthropic doctor, however, entirely restores the smoothness, not only for the hero and the heroine, but for all parties in the play. The bank is set on its feet again and all ends happily. Manager Ballard has selected "Sweet Lavender" especially for the opening of his new ingenue, Fay Wallace, in which she will play the title role, Lavender.

Catharine Counties will play Minnie Gilligan, a light-comedy role made famous by Georgia Cayvan. Howard Gould will be Dick Phenyl, a second Sydney Carton in Dickens' "Tale of Two Cities." Donald Bowles will play the hero, Clement Hale. William Bernard will be seen in a light-comedy role (a good man), playing opposite to Miss Counties. William Dills will be the banker and the full strength of the Columbia company will be employed in other roles. Frank King is painting new scenery and the production, as usual, will be under the able direction of Stage Director William Bernard.

## "OVER NIAGARA FALLS."

Thrilling Melodrama Sumptuously Staged at the Empire This Week.

"Over Niagara Falls" Howard and Clifford's thrilling melodrama, a big hit in New York, Chicago, San Francisco and elsewhere, comes to the Empire Theater for one full week, beginning with the matinee today. Nothing standing that the country, theatrically speaking, is in a deplorable condition,



FAY WALLACE, NEW INGENUE COLUMBIA STOCK CO. IN "SWEET LAVENDER."

"Over Niagara Falls" continues to draw. It has the thrill of pathos and the high light of comedy cleverly intermingled. Rowland and Clifford desire a life of longevity for their production, and believing firmly in their motto, "poor plays make poor business, good plays make good business," they have given their productions sumptuous dressings. Scenically speaking, "Over Niagara Falls" is the most thoroughly equipped popular price offering on tour.

The principal characters in these dramas are original with Mr. Murphy, suggested possibly by the lines of the play, yet developed in their details by the actor's knowledge of Irish characteristics and actual acquaintance with the topography, geography and history of Ireland. The advance sale of seats will open tomorrow (Monday) morning, at 10 o'clock.

Edna Wallace Hopper. Charming Actress to Present Two Delightful Comedies at Marquam.

Edna Wallace Hopper, the dainty and delightful comedienne, now a star, at the head of her own company, under the direction of Frank McKee, comes to the Marquam Grand Theater tomorrow (Monday) and Tuesday nights, February 6 and 7, appearing in a double bill, consisting of a curtain-raiser called "Capt. January," dramatized from the book of that same name for Miss Hopper by Augustus Barrett and a three-act comedy called "A Country Mouse," written by Arthur Law. This comedy won well-merited success in London where it was originally produced, for over three years. In "A Country Mouse" Miss Hopper portrays a little country girl, Angela Muir, nibbling at the cheese of city society, and seeming not to know one grade from another, while really aware of the flavors between mild, new dairy and strong old Stilton.

Those familiar with Miss Hopper's charming comedy methods will readily comprehend how the demure Angela without saying a word, convinces one that she can find her way about London, with safety, and how she fools a small coterie into mistaking her decalogue, that of a dunce, is all very amusing. In fact Miss Hopper is said to be the loveliest of little rogues. Miss Hopper's manager, Frank McKee, has provided a strong company for her support, the principal members of which are Edgar Norton, Geoffrey C. Stein, Paul McAllister, Herbert Rudd, Kathleen Browne, Emma Javlen, Mahel Norton and others. Seats are now selling.

JOSEPH MURPHY. Famous Irish Comedian to Present "Kerry Gow" and "Shaun Rhue."

The eminent Irish comedian, Joseph Murphy, will present "Kerry Gow" at the Marquam Grand Theater next Wednesday and Thursday nights, February 8 and 9. "Shaun Rhue" on Friday evening. In a brief thought as to the Irish drama, so-called, there are few, very few, Irish plays that have lived, prospered and remained in favor more than two or three



LOUISE BARRETT, JUVENILE IN "OVER NIAGARA FALLS" AT THE EMPIRE

seasons, while those that have rolled up a record where the counting of their lives carry us into the teens, may be told on our hands. True, the famous "Paddy Miles" and "On His Last Legs" and the dramas of "Inshavogue" and "The Colleen Bawn" were popular for many years, but that was during the old stock days. They never had the test of "combination" rivalry, so that they may be used in comparison with "Kerry Gow" and "Shaun Rhue." For longevity of life and continuous popularity and prosperity, these two plays are without rivals.

The management, realizing the importance of making a favorable impression with the opening bill, has striven to give the theatergoers a production well suited to Miss Brandt and Mr. Baume, and the excellent company which will support these clever players, and the management takes pleasure in announcing the production of the beautiful play, "Lovers' Lane," by Clyde Fitch. There are some 22 characters in the cast, and the management promises a thoroughly enjoyable entertainment; and one that will be remembered as the most important dramatic event in the history of Portland stock companies in many a day.

Charles B. Hanford. There are certain characters of romance which the stage will never outgrow. One of these is "Don Caesar" as Bazan, whose fortunes Charles B. Hanford will portray at the Marquam Grand Theater in the near future. He is a hero of the old school; a hero such as the modern writers of romantic fiction are still struggling to imitate. Quick to fight, uncompromising in his chivalry, generous in every impulse, it is small wonder that "Don Caesar" has stood through all these years as a beau ideal of gallantry and courage. The role is one that appears especially adapted to Charles B. Hanford. He may be depended upon to endow it with a graceful personality and to give splendid rendering to the striking lines in

which the dialogue abounds. The many admirers of Miss Marie Drofna will rejoice in the exceptional opportunities afforded her by the leading feminine role of "Maritana," "Othello" will also be presented.

"The Bonnie Brier Bush." Among the early bookings at the Marquam Grand Theater is "The Bonnie Brier Bush," with America's oldest starring player, J. H. Stoddard, in the leading character. This picture of Scotch life, as taken from Ian MacLaren's stories of similar title, is considered one of the leading book plays now on tour. The company continues under the management of Kirke La Shelle, who also controls "The Earl of Pavlovsky," "The Virginian" and "Cuckers."

THE BIJOU. "Dearer Than Life" Will Be Presented This Week.

The play at the Bijou Theater this week beginning at the matinee tomorrow, will be "Dearer Than Life." The plot follows: Michael Garner, a hard-working and honest tradesman, is about to celebrate the 25th anniversary of his wedding. His family consists of his wife, his son, his niece, betrothed to the young man. The son has been covertly leading a dissipated life, at the instigation of Gassitt, who is accused by his wife, his employer of fraud and forgery, and Michael, to keep it from his wife, takes the crime upon himself.

The third act shows the Garner family in great poverty, and Gassitt persecuting Lucy with his attentions. The Garners are on the point of being turned out because they cannot pay the rent, when Charles, who has been abroad, turns up just in the nick of time.

THE STAR. Robert's Talking Bears the Headliner This Week.

The enterprising Star Theater may always be counted on to give the public vaudeville surprises. This week one of the greatest vaudeville novelties ever presented by this theater will be Robert's trained bears, which is the headline act of the all-star programme which begins Monday, at 3 P. M. These bears have been carefully trained by Professor Robert, and they not only perform feats of surprising difficulty, manifesting almost human intelligence, but they actually talk under his careful direction.



LOUISE BRANDT OF THE BRANDT-BRUELL STOCK CO. IN "THE VIRGINIAN" AT THE EMPIRE

novel. She calls it "Mercy Merrick" after the heroine. Frank Campana, the excellent villain, Trampas, in "The Virginian" will go with Belasco next season. He would make an excellent villain-star. Mrs. Patrick Campbell is so far recovered from her accident that she expects to return to New York in three weeks and begin rehearsal in other parts than "The Sorcerer."

Charles Klein has signed a contract with Daniel Frohman. He is to write a comedy-drama on an American subject, for presentation at the Lyceum Theater early next season. "In Newport," which was expected to run with Fay Templeton and Pete Dalley for the rest of the season in New York, has been withdrawn. The excuse is Miss Templeton's illness.

C. P. Walker, of Wimpole, the Calvin K. Lewis, the Canadian North, was in Portland last week. Mr. Walker owns or controls a string of half a dozen first-class theaters.

Maude Adams has won New York with her acting in "The Little Minister," familiar as it is there, that her engagements ahead have been canceled, and she will stay there indefinitely.

Sir Henry Irving states that the story that a theatrical dinner in Manchester, he received an offer of £350 a week to appear at a music hall in "A Story of Waterloo" is absolutely unfounded.

"Paradise" is to be produced next June in America, the Canadian North, was in Portland last week. Mr. Wagner is throwing the usual bit, but that's all the good it does. The best German singers will be engaged.

Grace George will resume her place at the head of her own company soon, in a new play called "Abigail," in which she will play a prima New England spinster, employed in a New York City as a bookkeeper.

J. M. Barrie's "Peter Pan" is to be advertised by the theater, and a two-act play, Mr. Barrie happened to see this drawing, and was vastly struck with it. The boy is a son of William Nicholson, the English artist.

Two New York papers announced the engagement of Edna May on the same day. And each had a different fiance for her. And another said she wouldn't wed at all. It is said a guessing contest will be entered on the result.

The report that David Warfield and Blanche Bates would appear in a joint production of "Hamlet" is denied by Belasco. Why should they? Both are doing wonders as they are now situated, and many a good actor is a bad Hamlet, j'know.

Henry W. Savage is preparing for the production of the new musical comedy by Ludes and Pleyer, entitled "The Lippin Maid." This new musical offering, which will be one of the early attractions at a Broadway theater next season, is being prepared for a Spring production in Boston.

"The Queen of Friends, Finches" is the name of the thriller founded on the Chadwick case, which looks like a mean steal of Lawrence's thunder. The leading character is called Miss Carole Harwick, and Louise Handford is playing it. She has the general sympathy of the public.

Fisher & Byler will revive "Florodora," that best of musical plays, very shortly. As many of the "original cast" will be engaged as there is room for on the largest stage to be found, but even at that, a regiment will be excluded. There is talk of a drawing to see which six shall be selected.

Maggie Cline walked out of an Eastern theater the other night because her name on the program wasn't in letters black enough to suit her. The performer, it is stated, went right off just the same. Maggie used to sing "I'm Down, McCluskey," and maybe she thought she would, but it didn't go, it seems.

"The Snake Consul" is to do the most wonderful stunt in theatricals: it will attempt to parody and burlesque itself. All the men and women will change parts, but the original lines of the play will not be disturbed. It will be funny to imagine Raymond Hitchcock as a woman, but not half so funny as to see

Edna Davenport, weight 250, playing the part of a man—and in pajamas, too! The many Portland friends of Carlyle Moore, who will be remembered for his connection with the Baker Stock Company, as stage manager, are looking forward with much pleasure to his appearance here soon with J. H. Stoddard in "Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush." Mr. Moore is playing the role of Lord Hay.

The Theater Managers' Association of New York City, which barred James S. Metcalfe, critic of Life, from its 47 theaters, is now up against a suit for damages. Not only is he to sue for the insult of being turned out of the theaters—which has happened, by the way, in one or two—but Metcalfe will sue for damages to his business career. He says he has been training to be a critic for 40 years, and the managers are plotting to ruin his business.

Channing Pollock, author of "The Pit," in which Wilton Kockayne has been successful, will be unable to complete his new play for Grace George (Mrs. William A. Brady), in consequence of a previous contract to supply a new play of the Napoleonic epoch for Thomas E. Shea. The new play will be completed early this Spring, and the Grace George play in time for a full presentation. After this season, Mr. Pollock will devote his time exclusively to playwriting.

Edna Wallace Hopper, who will appear here soon, made her stage debut with Roland Reed in "The Woman Hater," about 15 years ago. Mr. Thomas is betrothed to the widow, Mrs. Rose Fay Thomas, who has about completed preparations for a tour in it when he died. His widow, who, by the way, appeared with the Columbia Company last week, then went to London with it and sold the comedy to Fred Terry. Reed in turn got it from Terry and used it successfully in this country. It was in this place that Edna Wallace Hopper made her first professional appearance.

The estate of the late Theodore Thomas is valued at \$50,000, according to his will, which was filed in Chicago on January 19 in Chicago. The collection of programmes of concert given by Mr. Thomas is bequeathed to the widow, Mrs. Rose Fay Thomas, who also is given the income from all property save that in Fair Haven, Conn., which is given to the children, Hector W. Herman, Mrs. D. R. Sturgis and Mrs. G. H. Carter. His musical scores, as to be divided equally among his children. Some of the property is to be held in trust until the death of the widow, when it shall be distributed among the children.

BEAUTY BAND'S CHAPEL. London Society Women Maintain Odd Devotional Institution. Chicago Tribune. "Manicurists' Chapel, Saintry Band of Beauty Doctors," a London morning paper prints a remarkable story of a manufactory establishment maintained by society women, which has been opened in a fashionable street off Piccadilly. Outwardly the shop doesn't differ from the ordinary establishment of its kind, but inside is to be found a private chapel, where the fair manicurists are encouraged to perform their daily devotions. The clientele includes many women of title. The manicurist's assistants and select band of beauty doctors may not even beautify the hands of their own brothers. A forfeiture of \$200 is mentioned as one of the penalties for the disobedience to this 11th commandment of the manicurists.

ROBERTI AND TRAINED BEARS AT THE STAR