

ON THE STAGE



EDGAR BAUME, LEADING MAN BAKER THEATER CO. IN 'PRINCE KARL' AT THE BAKER

WHEN GEORGE H. COHAN, seated at his box-office table, one day recently he remarked: "Am I crazy, or is the public crazy?"

The vogue of his productions, like "Little Johnny Jones," "George Washington, Jr.," "The Governor's Son," etc., illustrates the suddenly developed avidity of acceptance displayed by the public when you least expect it. The most difficult thing in the world for a manager to predict is the way any play, any "attraction," is going to strike the public. Mr. Cohan received an order the other day to write a play of his peculiar kind for a well-known star (no man would be paralyzed if he were requested to prepare a medium for Richard Mansfield), and Mr. Cohan said, no doubt sincerely and confidently, that the star would win out with the new Cohan piece if the present fad for Cohan stuff held out. Cohan stuff is essentially the champagne-like effervescent spirit of American fun, carrying with it in the dramatic structure a semblance of a story, abundant musical comedy tunefulness and rollicking, bringing the one's intelligence dry and tickling wittoisisms, and never losing a certain indescribable wholesomeness and touch of sentiment that keeps the heart warm. There is lots of hoah in it. But the music, the action, the frivol, the good fellowship of it, make one think that it will not pall on the public taste for a long while. It represents the spirit of the day, and while the day lasts it will last. It is very Broadway.

SPEAKING of theatrical vogue, I was talking with George L. Baker this week about the wise and auspicious way in which he is starting his new stock company at the Baker Theater. Three years ago he conducted the most conspicuously successful stock company at the Baker Theater that has ever been in Portland. That season was characterized by a sort of fantastic furore. The people seemed to idolize the stage folk, and the theater was often not large enough to hold the enthusiastic audiences that besieged the doors. Mr. Baker has been extremely enterprising in introducing new lines of activity in the local theatrical world, and the public has manifested appreciation according to conditions prevailing from time to time. The idea of getting back as many of the stage folk as possible who have become known and liked in Portland stock productions, seems to me a good idea. The Baker Theater's location is convenient for the city at large, and stock seasons are supported by the masses. The theater-going public is widely distributed. The scarcity with which the people have come forward and engaged seats for the Baker stock season causes me to believe that Mr. Baker is right in supposing that the public that is now ready to patronize stock wants as many of the well-known stage folks who have played in town as they can get. I believe that the Baker season that opens today is the most important item of theatrical news and discussion that we have to consider this week. "Give Portland what it wants," and Portland is the best show town in the world," said Mr. Baker, and I think he well epitomized the situation.

ASKED John R. Constidine what he thought of Portland as a show town, and he declared that it was second to none. Sometimes, he thought, Seattle showed a little more appreciation of good shows than did Portland, but Portland was running along about even with anything on the map. The usual falling off in vaudeville business that generally oc-



LILLIAN LAWRENCE, LEADING WOMAN BAKER THEATER CO. IN 'PRINCE KARL'



CHAS EDWIN INSLIE IN 'THE WORLD AT THE EMPIRE'

CALVIN HELLIG, when the question was propounded to him what he thought of Portland now as a show town, was quite inclined to believe that Portland is ready for a limited season of comic opera at the Hellig. He is busy at present arranging for a company including several of the old Tivoli forces, of San Francisco, to come here and give a series of light opera at the Hellig. George H. Davis, who managed the Central Theater in San Francisco, before it burned down, is connected with Mr. Hellig in the enterprise. It will probably be at least a month or so before such a company can be brought here. One of the chief difficulties will be the obtaining of costumes, as the biggest supply of that sort of apparel was housed in San Francisco and was totally destroyed by the late fire.

THE brilliant factor in the week's theatrical firmament was Bernhardt. No one who cares for dramatic art could afford to miss the chance of seeing and studying this wonderful actress. But the conditions that forced her to play in the Armory instead of providing her the best theater in town were universally deplored. Naturally many were indignant. Yet the fact remains that very few people of the audience understood the French language and did not expect to comprehend the utterances of the great stage genius. They wanted to see her and gain an idea of the scope and power of her mimic art. In this they were satisfied.

"A MESSAGE FROM MARS"
Famous Comedy-Drama Coming to Hellig Monday Night, May 21.

"A Message From Mars," Richard Ganthony's comedy, in which David Proctor is a leading player, and star is not only said to be exceedingly rich in comedy, but there is a most delightful love romance permeating the comedy from the beginning to the end. The play is reputed to have quite a number of important and interesting characteristics.

"PRINCE KARL"
Baker Stock Company Opening This Afternoon.

The Baker Theater comes back into its own today and every theatergoer in town is happy about it. The stock company opens there this afternoon in Archibald Clavering Gantner's vivacious comedy, "Prince Karl," in which Edgar Baume assumes the title role.

People all the week have rejoiced that splendid stock productions, just like the memorable first year of the Baker stock company, would be resumed at the old stand. And many of the old favorites have come back to us again. It will be a glorious reception that the actors and actresses will receive today. Nearly all the old patrons will be in their accustomed seats.

None but the highest-class plays will be produced this season. Popular prices will be maintained. The patrons get what they want in the playhouses that is convenient to everybody. Mr. Baker has been at work for a year past to get together the company he has secured. He believed the people want the old favorites who have made themselves beloved in town, and if you come to the Baker today you will begin to see them. Mr. Sainpola directs the stage, and the public knows of his unexcelled ability. A season of stock can be expected that will satisfy the most critical.

"THE WORLD"
Powerful Scenic Melodrama to Be Produced All Week at Empire.

Starting with the matinee this afternoon, patrons of the Empire will have their first opportunity to witness the great scenic melodrama, "The World," which will be presented all week at this popular theater. There will be a matinee Saturday.

ocean docks at Liverpool on the eve of the departure of a trans-Atlantic greyhound. A young girl is being forced to leave England against her will by a human devil whom fate has made her guardian, and from whose cruelty her only brother has long since fled.

To remove her, the sole barrier to his succession to her father's estate, from his path, the wretch blows up the steamer in midocean and it is by the merest chance that she is saved from death by the intervention of the mate, who is subsequently discovered to be her brother. After painful vicissitudes they are at last rescued by the same hands that have already saved her inhuman guardian and his co-conspirator.

"THE LITTLE MINISTER"
Baker Stock Company to Produce the Barrie Masterpiece.

The ever welcome play, "The Little Minister," is to be the second week's bill at the Baker Theater, presented by the incomparable stock company that has just begun a brilliant season. Miss Lawrence as Lady Babble and Mr. Baume as the "Little Minister" will have chances to capture again and again the hearts of their audiences. There is a wide variety of telling roles in the case of "The Little Minister," as everybody in town knows. The sweet and touching story will be given with especial magnificence at an early date. This will give an idea of the scale of perfection that the present stock season will keep up.

"EAST LYNNE"
Wonderful Old Emotional Drama Announced at Empire Next Week.

No theatrical season would be complete without a production of "East Lynne." This wonderful old play, it seems will live forever, and some people see it time and time again, never tiring of its familiar scenes and heart-rending story. "East Lynne" will be given at the Empire all week, starting next Sunday matinee, May 20. A strong production of the play, both from a scenic and artistic standpoint, is promised.

LAST TIME TONIGHT.
Famous Pillsbury Pictures of San Francisco Ruins at the Hellig.

The famous Pillsbury Pictures of the San Francisco Earthquake and Fire will be placed on exhibition at the Hellig Theater tonight at 8:20 o'clock for the last time. Many of these views were taken of the same district both before and after the fire, thus giving an idea of both the damage of the earthquake and the intensity of the flames. A full explanation of each and every picture will be given by Maxey Prescott, a resident of the Bay City, who is thoroughly acquainted with this terrible calamity. Tickets are on sale at the box office of The Hellig Theater, Fourteenth and Washington streets.

Sincerely Yours
Joseph Callahan

David Proctor, an accomplished young actor, is the star of the company and he comes well recommended. The last time he made a tour through this section of the United States he was playing an important role in support of Miss Amelia Bingham. Mr. Proctor is by no means unknown. He has a long list of triumphs to his credit. The advance sale of seats for the entire engagement will open at the box office of The Hellig Theater next Friday morning, May 13, at 10 o'clock.

"THE BASKET"
"In the Basket" Today—Monday "A Night Off" Begins.

"In the Basket" will be presented by the Star Stock Company for the last time. The performances will be from 3 to 5 in the afternoon and from 7:30 to 10:45 in the evening. "In the Basket" is a rousing farce, with an olio of vaudeville. The Star Stock Company has been an experimenting one, and thus far the experiment has been perfectly satisfactory to the public and the management. The signs thus far show that Portland is willing to accept a bunch of clever comedians in a lively hodge-podge of fun and nonsense, especially during the warm weather. The Star Theater is artificially cooled and is always comfortable, no matter how hot the weather may be on the streets.

For this week, beginning with the matinee tomorrow, the stock company will give a musical playlet entitled "A Night Off." This should not be confused with the farce of the same name which was so popular a few years ago. "A Night Off" at the Star is new and it contains just enough plot to keep everybody laughing throughout its presentation. The little company headed by those vaudeville stars, Willis and Collins, will be reinforced for this production by Dick Mack, a comedian who has made people laugh in every section of the United States. Miss Manolita, a young and pretty dancer, is another new member of the company. Besides these people in "A Night Off" there will be a vaudeville olio of three or four acts. Among these will be Gus and Marion Kohl, "The Juggler and the Soubrette"; Lisette Shackleford, a refined vocalist; an illustrated song entitled, "When the Sunset Turns the Green Leaves to Gold." This will be rendered by Miss Mildred Eddy. An Edison film of moving pictures will close the entertainment. The musical playlet and the vaudeville auxiliary should prove a strong combination for those who seek a light and airy entertainment when the thermometer is working overtime.

FAMOUS SINGERS AT PANTAGES
Techau Tavern Quartette is Secured to Head Week's New Bill.

One of the greatest features ever offered by a local vaudeville house will be put before the Portland public this coming week at the Pantages management. The act is nothing less than the famous Techau Tavern Quartet, the hit of the season in San Francisco. This favorite quartet singing operatic selections, held San Francisco's favor for one solid year prior to the earthquake. They were the feature at the popular Techau Tavern and thousands of people went again and again to hear their concert of fine melody. At a heavy expense Pantages will put them on for the week beginning tomorrow afternoon. It is by odds the highest-priced musical act offered by a Portland vaudeville house, and that it will prove a big drawing card, there can be no doubt. This past week in Mr. Pantages' Seattle house the quartet has taken the theater-going public by storm and has packed the spacious theater to the doors at every performance. The famous quartet is composed of Miss Sidonie Dixon, soprano; F. Irwin, tenor; Olga De Wolf, contralto, and W. C. Lansing, baritone. Supplementing this big act will be a number of other distinct features. The "Hot 3 Mollie" trio are fun-makers with a second, and they are excellent vehicle in their original, side-splitting farce, "Smith's Visit." The Weavers are a team of excellent singing and dancing sketch artists; Bunt Brothers are premier clowns; Will Brown is one of the leading blackface monologists; Arthur Elwell, the popular baritone, will sing "Faces on the Firelight"; and the biograph will bring an animated moving picture comedy, "The Moonlighters Comedy."

How the Error was Made.
Cleveland Leader.
"My brother made a ugly faces at your brother yesterday, and he didn't darest fight. He pretended he didn't notice 'em."
"He didn't, neither. He thought they was natural."

How to Borrow Money.
Boston Globe.
First Russia said she wanted to borrow \$400,000,000; then it was \$600,000,000, and now it is \$800,000,000. After all, the experience of the world has shown that it is easier to borrow \$50 than it is to borrow \$5 cents.

The healing household remedy, Retin skin cream, should always be handy. 25c.