

THE STAGE



MR. CHARLES B. HANFORD IN REPERTOIRE AT THE HELIG.

MISS ALICE WILSON LEADING WOMAN, WITH CHARLES B. HANFORD AT THE HELIG.

SCENE FROM "THE THREE OF US" AT THE BAKER.



MISS KATHLEEN TAYLOR AS ANITA THE SINGING GIRL AT THE STAR.



F. G. BAKER, ILLUSTRATED SINGS AT THE MARQUAM GRAND.



ELTON DUEBEE AS ALGULIA IN 'A ROYAL SLAVE' AT THE EMPIRE.



MISS VERNA FELTON IN 'OUR NEW GIRL' ALLEN STOCK CO. AT THE LYRIC.

A COMMENDABLE array of offerings was made by the playhouses last week, commencing with Herbert Keiley and Edna Shannon in "The Walls of Jericho" at the Helig and extending all along down the line to the lowest-priced place of amusement in town. The latter half of the week witnessed the return of "The Virginian" for its third annual engagement, which splendid play was thoroughly well acted. Paul Gilmore, always welcome and always well worth cultivating gave us "The Wheel of Love" at the Marquam and the Baker forces, with Isotta Jewel elevated to starring honors, turned people away every night with "Zaza," notwithstanding the fact that the sensational Blasco play has been seen here time and again. At the Empire, Lyric and Star the bills presented were: "No Mother to Guide Her," "By Right of Sword" and "Way Out West" in the order named. These were unusually meritorious, particularly the last two named. The Grand and Pantages did themselves proud in the way of fresh and interesting vaudeville.

The coming attractions are: Charles B. Hanford at the Helig, commencing tonight in "The Taming of the Shrew," followed by "Antony and Cleopatra" on Monday and Wednesday nights, while Tuesday night and Wednesday matinee "The Merchant of Venice" will be offered. Friday night the Helig will present Mrs. Lillian Blauvelt in concert, assisted by Albert Rosenthal, the cellist, and Edith Kellogg, pianist. The following Sunday "The Black Crook" comes for two nights and underequipped for still later dates are Mary Manning in "Glorious Betsey" and "Comin' Thro the Rye," a musical comedy. The April musical festival continues to attract the attention of musiclovers. With the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and a number of famous soloists the affair should surpass all similar affairs ever held in the Northwest and it is to be hoped that it will become a regular annual feature.

The Marquam will be devoted to moving pictures during the week commencing this afternoon, and the management makes some flattering promises of what the entertainment will be. The particular feature is to be the "Merry Widow" pictures. The show will be continuous. Later attractions booked for the Marquam are, commencing next Sunday for a week, Joe Weber's success "Dream City" with a cast that includes Mary Marble and a number of others well known. Still later, Creston Clarke will bring his new play "The Power That Govern."

Something of unusual interest will be "The Three of Us," which begins the Baker week this afternoon with Blanche Stoddard, the new leading woman, making her first Portland appearance in the role of Rhy McChesney. Next week George Allen will be here to assume leads and will open in "Way Out West" and "Our New Girl" and a number of other important plays are in prospect for the future.

The Empire will give us "A Royal Slave" this afternoon and all week while the Star will proffer "Anita, the Singing Girl." The Lyric continues with "By Right of Sword" this afternoon and tonight, changing to "Our New Girl" tomorrow night. Grand and Pantages change bills tomorrow afternoon.

Manager George L. Baker is negotiating with the owners of "Zaza" to see if he can give two extra performances of this popular play this week. If the arrangements can be made, there will be special matinees Wednesday and Thursday. Owing to the unprecedented success of Miss Isotta Jewel in the title role and the inability of hundreds of people to see her in this production, it is desired to give the two extra matinees, providing the owners of the drama grant permission. Should Manager Baker be successful, announcement will be made in the daily press later.

acted by Miss Alice Wilson, who, during her American experience, for she is an English woman, has been prominent in the support of Charles Hawtry, Otis Skinner, Vic Allen and Nat Goodwin. Seats are now selling at the theater for the engagement.

"MERRY WIDOW" REPRODUCED

World Craze to Be Seen in Moving Pictures at Marquam.

Moving pictures are no longer a novelty in Portland, but such remarkable films as will be shown at the Marquam for a week, beginning this afternoon, have never heretofore been offered the local public.

The feature film will be a series showing "The Merry Widow," that wonderful European comic opera which has become a veritable craze all over the world.

For over a year the "Merry Widow" played in Vienna, then in London, Berlin, Paris and Hamburg, and the tremendous reputation of the piece seemed to gather strength daily. Finally when it became known that it would be played in America, so great was the enthusiasm aroused and so great were the expectations of the public that it was feared by the managers of the company that no production could live up to its heralded merits. Just the same the "Merry Widow" has taken New York captive, like every other city in which she has danced and sung.

The famous waltz to which the widow and the Prince dance with such languorous grace is full of sensuous melody. The song of the widow, the rattling ensemble of the many choruses, the awing love song of the Frenchman and half a dozen other parts of the operetta are the kind of music which can be expected only once in a decade, and as shown by moving pictures, is very pleasing and enjoyable.

Another film will show the beautiful Japanese dance, "The Butterfly." Feature music will be introduced to accompany both "The Merry Widow" and "The Butterfly." A third great film will picture the famous old drama, "The Two Orphans," which is too well known to need comment. The show will be continuous from 2 to 10 P. M. every day during the week. In addition to the attractions named, there will be a number of tumbling illustrated songs. In view of the low price of admission charged, the Marquam offering will be remarkable and should command a heavy patronage.

"THE THREE OF US."

Blanche Stoddard, New Leading Woman, Opens at Baker Today.

This week is an event of double interest and importance at the Baker, as it introduces to patrons of that popular place of amusement, Miss Blanche Stoddard, the new leading woman, and also gives them the first opportunity to see Rachel Crother's splendid play, "The Three of Us," at popular prices. The high standard set by the Baker Company this year has attracted a whole lot of attention not before in evidence, and crowded houses to be seen there at every performance in the subject of general comment everywhere. In securing "The Three of Us" to present for stock is another triumph, for it was but recently that it was produced for the first time here and at high prices. The impression made on the minds of all those fortunate enough to see it at that time was a most delightful one. The leading character of Rhy McChesney is a thoroughly lovable one and this beautiful girl is the central figure all through the play. She, together with her two younger brothers, is holding a mining claim in Nevada—their only hope of better fortune, and in and around their home all the scenes of this intensely interesting and romantic play are laid. One of the brothers is a young lad of 12 and the other, Clem, a restless, dissatisfied youth of about 20, to whom Rhy has been sister and mother in one and for whom her loving indulgence has been irresistible. Two men have come into her life, one, Stephen Townley, who, like herself, is holding a mining claim, while the other, Louis Beresford, is a wealthy and polished man of the world and represents rich Eastern syndicates in constant search for good paying mines to be bought at bargain. Stephen discovers a rich vein of ore and tells Rhy of it. Clem, overhearing the secret, sells it to Beresford, who promptly makes a coup and buys it. Suspicion of having betrayed it falls upon her, but she will not defend herself at the cost of disgrace to her brother. The third act scene between Rhy and these two lovers, which takes place in Beresford's room, is one of the greatest emotional and dramatic climaxes ever seen in a modern play. "The Three of Us" is a Western play, but it is different from any other and has one of the greatest successes in New York and in fact every place where it has been presented by a capable company. There will be the usual Saturday matinee.

STORY OF "A ROYAL SLAVE"

Beautiful Drama by Author of "The Holy City" Opens at Empire.

Clarence Bennett's "A Royal Slave" will be the Empire's attraction for the week, starting with today's matinee. There will be the usual matinee Wednesday and Saturday.

It may be of interest to know that an actual incident furnished the author of "A Royal Slave" with the initial idea out of which this great play was evolved. The little item of news appeared in the daily papers at that time. It is as follows:

"A wealthy Mexican gentleman who was known to possess a vast hidden estate, suddenly disappeared and was finally given up by his family. Several years

later a gang of celebrated bandits was surprised and captured in their stronghold and a poor, insane man rescued. He was taken to a hospital in the City of Mexico, where an operation of trepanning the skull was performed on him, his reason returning. He proved to be the long-lost gentleman who had been captured by the bandits, who, in trying to force him to tell the hiding place of his fortune, had struck him a severe blow on the head, which dented the skull and rendered him insane. He had been a captive for years, the bandits hoping that he might remember, in his half-lucid moments, the much-coveted secret hiding-place, and reveal it.

Knowing this actual incident, it will be all the more interesting to the public to follow the play itself, and to observe how much of this charmingly dramatic story is due also to the splendid imaginative and creative powers of the author.

"OUR NEW GIRL" MONDAY

Allen Stock Company in Hilarious Farce at the Lyric.

"Variety's the very spice of life." The Lyric management believes this maxim and that is the reason the style of bills offered by the Allen company week after week are varied as widely as possible. The change from thrilling, romantic drama, as in the case of "By Right of Sword," to the funniest farce of the season will be very agreeable to Lyric patrons beyond a doubt. There is no plot to the piece; it's just a string of laughs from start to finish, which are caused by domestic complications in the home of a newly married couple and the blunders of a stupid German maid, Katrina. In this character Verna Pelton will demonstrate her unusual ability as a comedienne and will be sure to please. Forrest Seabury has a typical Seabury comedy part, and you know what that means. The following cast will give an idea of what the company will do:

Benjamin Brown, doctor and husband.
 Robert Dugan, very jealous.
 Ernest Dupont, very jealous.
 J. D. Kennedy, doctor.
 Josephine Perkins, factious.
 G. L. Walling, Willie West, a gullible youth.
 Michael, a servant.
 Ben Eckler, Daily Paper, very fat.
 Marie Thompson, Edna Brown, sweet and trusting.

"By Right of Sword," Today.

This afternoon and tonight the beautiful Ralph Stuart romantic comedy-drama, "By Right of Sword," will be repeated, the engagement closing tonight. It has been the hit of the week.

"ANITA THE SINGING GIRL"

New Attraction at the Star Theater Begins Today.

"Anita, the Singing Girl," is the new attraction for the Star Theater, which the French Stock Company will present. It will be seen for the first time in the West this afternoon at the matinee and will continue all week. This is only one of the many new plays which Manager Richard E. French has been securing for his patrons at the Star Theater and it will be one of the best.

In presenting "Anita, the Singing Girl," the French Stock Company will appear in a direct departure from the class of plays which have been holding the boards for so long. "Anita, the Singing Girl" is a comedy, with a strain of drama, and it has musical interludes. This, as the thousands of people who regularly attend the Star, will recognize, is something out of the ordinary, but it is the novel and new that the theater-goers want, and the French Stock Company is in the busi-

DELIGHTFUL COMEDY TONIGHT

Charles B. Hanford Begins Engagement at Helig Theater.

The eminent actor, Charles B. Hanford, comes to the Helig Theater, Fourteenth and Washington streets, tonight for an engagement of four nights, including a special matinee Wednesday afternoon. "The Taming of the Shrew," "Antony and Cleopatra" and "The Merchant of Venice" constitutes the list of plays he will offer. "The Taming of the Shrew" will be his play tonight. "Antony and Cleopatra" on Monday and Wednesday nights, and "The Merchant of Venice" Tuesday night and the Wednesday matinee. Miss Alice Wilson will be seen as Katherine, Cleopatra and Portia. The scenic equipment is said to be the most elaborate ever seen on a Hanford tour. Mr. Hanford and his manager, P. Lawrence Walker, devoted many months to the preparation of his spectacular production of "Antony and Cleopatra," which will be seen on Monday and Wednesday nights of his forthcoming engagement at the Helig Theater. The play has been the admiration of players, public and critics alike. Cleopatra, a supreme figure in the historic events of her day, has remained through centuries the inspiration of genius. The library, the picture gallery and the stage continue to reflect her marvelous personality. In order to give an adequate representation of this play it is necessary to greatly expand even the large equipment Mr. Hanford has been accustomed to carry. A special corps de ballet, accompanied by a premier danseuse of rare grace and accomplishments, will add picturesqueness and at the same time realism to the revelries with which the Egyptian Queen was brought to entertain the mighty Roman conqueror who became her willing captive. It is confidently asserted that this production will surpass anything with which Mr. Hanford, in all his splendid experience as a star and a producer of plays, has been acquainted. "The Role of Cleopatra" is inter-

is more in keeping with his character of the "Rube" chief of the suburban fire-fighting corps. His rendition of the song is one of the most amusing features of the performance. Notwithstanding that it is all uttered in the jesting spirit of the play, there were a few volunteer firemen in some localities where "Dream City" has been produced who wrote serious letters of objection to Mr. Johnson and begged him to cut out the song, saying it was a serious reflection upon the courage and abilities of volunteer firemen in general. "Dream City" will be the attraction at the Marquam Grand next week.

"THE BLACK CROOK" COMING

Famous Spectacular Musical Extravaganza at Helig Next Sunday.

At the Helig Theater next Sunday and Monday nights, March 15 and 16, Messrs. Miller and Polin will present a new version of "The Black Crook," one of the greatest successes ever known to America.

In reviewing this notable spectacle, the management, while they have to some extent followed tradition, have not hesitated to introduce much that is modern, but not so much that "The Black Crook" will lose its identity. The version of the play, for it is unlike the new style of "extravaganza" and can lay claim to the title "play," inasmuch as it possesses a definite plot, is an entirely new and modernized one. It is divided into three acts and 15 scenes, and the story of Herzog, the "Crook," Rudolph and Amin, the youthful hero and heroine, and the wicked Count Wolfenstein, is carried out to its logical conclusion. While the old idea of a ballet has been discarded in the present production, there will be no lack of femininity, as instead of ballet dancers, a

ness of pleasing the public and giving the class of entertainment desired.

There is a line of magnificent and attractive "paper" for "Anita, the Singing Girl," and this has given the public an idea of what the play is like. It is rich in coloring and well executed. Anita is of Italian parentage, supposedly, and makes her living and supports her Italian master by singing in the streets, collecting coins from bystanders who are generous enough to show their appreciation in this substantial manner. Anita is the sort of character which is common in the large cities of the East and in Europe, but unknown on the Pacific Coast.

The idea of the plot is novel and it is worked out in an intelligent, interest-

"Dream City" Next Week.

Although he has a good singing voice, Johnny Johnson, of the "Dream City" company, prefers to recite his song, "The Volunteer Fireman," because he says it