

Oscar Hammerstein, Operatic Impresario, Will Begin Invasion of Foreign Cities Next Year

Returns From Europe With Statement That He Has Rounded Up Every Opera-House of Any Importance—Discussion of Prominent Artists He Has Engaged, and Operas They Will Be Heard In.



OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN WHO IS TO INVAD... FIELD IN EUROPE...

VICTOR HERBERT WHO'S FIRST GRAND OPERA IS CALLED 'NATOMA'



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MME. LINA CAVALIERI SOPRANO

OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN, the man whose enthusiasm and energy have made him the first operatic impresario of the entire world, arrived in New York last week, bringing with him all his enthusiasm and a new hat. This last fact was the cause of great sorrow to the operatic director, as many are under the belief that he regarded his beloved tie as his mascot, and when he landed with a soft gray creation the consternation among the newspaper men who were present to greet him and to record his doings and his wanderings was unexampled.

However, when Mr. Hammerstein began to tell of what he had heard, been and arranged for, confidence was restored and the belief strengthened that even the loss of the hat could not interfere with a successful season. His activities will extend not only through the East, but as far as Paris, where next year he has arranged to give "Salome" and another opera by Richard Strauss entitled "Feuersnot" at the Chatelet Theatre, with Mary Garden, Dalmores, Dufranne and the entire New York company and equipment. There is little doubt that this is but the beginning of a definite foothold in Europe for the American impresario, and while some people are wondering what his conferences with Dippel in Paris may have meant, others think that they are discussing Paris and its possibilities.

Has Many New Houses. Mr. Hammerstein said that he has never worked so hard as this because he has rounded up every opera-house of importance on the entire European Continent even going to Constantinople to look over the opera there. Not only has he been in search of new works for the great season, but he engaged a complete company which will open August 30 in good opera at cheaper prices. He also engaged a complete company for a season of light opera, operetta and comic opera which will be given on nights devoted to grand opera in the regular season. In the "dark house" and meet the competition which he will have in the new theater, performances under the auspices of the Metropolitan.

MARY GARDEN ONE OF HAMMERSTEIN'S SOPRANOS

MME. TERAZZINA SOPRANO

MME. LINA CAVALIERI SOPRANO

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London for two years and it is not unlikely that he will be heard in America next year. R. E. Johnston is to bring him, and Mr. Johnston, who has just returned from Europe, includes in his announcements Jacques Thibaud, who made one successful tour of this country; Mme. Lina Lehmann, the composer of the "Persian Garden"; Gertrude Peppercorn, an English pianist; Kusnezowsky, the contrabass soloist; Elsie Playfair, the Australian violinist; Kathleen Parlow, another young violinist who studied under Leopold Auer, the great Russian teacher known as the instructor of Elson. Mr. Johnston has also engaged Beecham's London Symphony Orchestra, and it is with this orchestra that he will present many of the new soloists. Mr. Johnston has entered into an agreement with the Metropolitan Company by which he will have charge of 12 of the Sunday night concerts with the Opera-House Orchestra and his own soloists. While in Europe the hustling impresario engaged Maud Allen for the season after next. This season he will manage a tour of Isadora Duncan in conjunction with the New York Symphony Orchestra and Walter Damrosch. This tour will begin October 4.

throws a gruesome light on an almost forgotten mystery. In the year 1878 a gendarme named Guette, belonging to the Neuve Brigade, suddenly disappeared, as did a sum of \$300, representing the dot which he had just received from his future mother-in-law. The authorities held an inquiry, as a result of which Guette was condemned by default for desertion and fraud. No more was ever heard of the gendarme. Three years later, that is in 1881, a butcher of Neuve, Claude Badel, was sentenced to penal servitude for life for the murder of a woman named Marieson, in which crime the victim's own son had been the accomplice of the murderer. Badel died a few years later in prison. Now the house in which Badel lived had just been demolished, and the workmen have found a skeleton on the bones of which were the shoulder-knots, spurs and buttons of a gendarme. There seems little doubt that this discovery explains the sudden disappearance of Guette, who was entrapped and murdered by the butcher Badel.

decided to train dogs in order to assist the police, there were those who declared that the scheme would not work—that the animals would never justify the expenditure on their purchase and training. Those who argued in this way will have to change their views, for the dogs are giving a good account of themselves. Their intelligence is remarkable. They know what is expected of them, and perform their duties with a promptitude and precision which many human beings might well envy. The other day two of the dogs, Dax and Capitaine, maintained a service of order while a fire was raging in the Avenue de Cligny. Yesterday another dog, Lenon, arrested a burglar whom a policeman vainly tried to catch. A widow, who occupies rooms in the Rue de Lourmel, found herself confronted by a burglar. She had received a visit from a burglar a few months ago, and rushed downstairs, shouting "Thief." A policeman in plain clothes was passing at the time, and he had disposed of the burglar a few months ago, and would have escaped but for the policeman's dog. The dog pounced upon the man, and he held him by the arm until the policeman arrived. The policeman attempted to arrest him, but the burglar dealt him a violent blow in the face. While he had disposed of the policeman, however, he could not get rid of the dog, who stuck to him until

another man in blue came up. He was overpowered and taken to the lockup.

FRANCE RECEIVES NO NEWS

Report From Mauritania of Disaster, but Government Knows Nothing. PARIS, July 10.—(Special.)—There is bad news from Mauritania. The last courier from Senegal states that 50 soldiers of the Adrar column, under Captain Bontemps, have died of thirst near Bou-Timilit, owing to the wells having been filled up by the Moors. No news has been received from Captain Bontemps. The Colonial Office has cable to M. Merlaud Ponty, the Governor-General of French Western Africa, for confirmation of this bad news. The same courier tells of a siege of Timbuctoo four months ago by natives. The siege lasted two days. All the residents were under arms, and with the assistance of the soldiers, succeeded in putting the besiegers to flight. In the case of the affair of the wells of Bou-Timilit, so with the siege of Timbuctoo—the Colonial Office is without news. It is estimated that there are 8,000,000 telephones in use throughout the world.

Fitch Runs Foreign Plays Through Cleansing Machine

Eminent Playwright Explains How It Is Possible to Revamp Impossible Productions and Make Them Clean and Inviting.

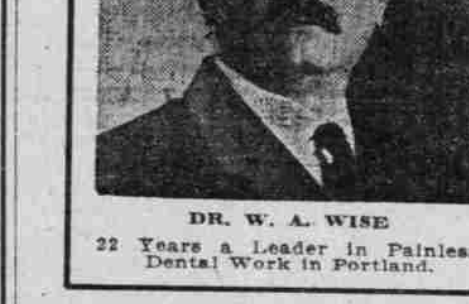
CLYDE FITCH, as a "cleanser" of French and German comedies, is unlike Fitch the playwright, the chief point of comparison, however, being his aim to follow his belief that Americans like anything that is good. He has written 30 original plays, while he has adapted, for the American stage, about 25 foreign pieces. His latest effort, or rather his master-stroke in this direction, is the "cleansing" of the German farce, "The Blue Mouse," which the Shuberts will present at the Lyric next week. "I don't believe in taking a French or German play and merely 'cleansing it,'" said Mr. Fitch, recently. "The cleansing process is, as a rule, deadly in its effect. It has killed no end of plays that have been brought to this country; left them lifeless, colorless and meaningless. You can't take the spirit out of a play and expect it to live. I realized this when I took 'The Blue Mouse' in hand, so, instead of 'cleansing' the characters—and they were sadly in need of a good scrubbing—I invented a new set of characters with a decent motif. I made the lady in the case—if I may call her a lady—a happy-go-lucky Salome dancer, whose only purpose is to help the author. She is as harmless as a mouse. In other words, she means no harm."

The same is true of the jolly old railroad president. His only weakness is to take lively girls out to supper. His wife was a waitress when he married her, which fact may account for his tendency in later years. He is still fond of her and his only reason for not taking her to a restaurant is to spare her feelings. He doesn't want the people at the other tables to smile at her expense and ask, "Who's the bunch?" He's been going forward while his wife has stood still. And so throughout the whole piece I've given every character a decent motif. "I have tried to introduce some new characters, characters you seldom meet,

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PARIS, July 10.—(Special.)—When it was



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OLD MYSTERY EXPLAINED

Skeleton Found in Old House Clears Name of French Soldier.

PARIS, July 10.—(Special.)—A skeleton just discovered at Neuve-sur-Ardegon

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