

THEATER SEASON UNUSUALLY EARLY

Five Playhouses Already Open, and All Are Expected to Be Running by Labor Day—Henrietta Crossman Appears in New Play—Harrison Gray Fiske to Present New Comedy for His Wife This Season.



SCENE FROM THE TRAVESTY ON SINGAPORE IN ZIEGFELD FOLIES JARDIN DE PARIS



LILLIAN LORRAINE, IN ZIEGFELD FOLIES JARDIN DE PARIS

KATHLEEN CLIFFORD, IN FOLIES BERGERE

CARRIE REYNOLDS, IN FOLIES BERGERE

NEW YORK, Aug. 12.—(Special.)—Apparently theatrical managers believe that summer is over already, for no less than five theaters reopened their doors this week, and others will follow within a short time. In fact, virtually every playhouse in town will be running at full blast by Labor day, which is an unusual situation.

Of the plays presented three simply interrupted successful runs when the weather became so sultry that it was folly to expect that paying audiences could be secured. These attractions are Gertrude Hoffman in "La Saison des Ballets Russes," at the Winter Garden; Lew Fields in the extremely funny musical comedy "The Hen-Pecks," at the Broadway, and the "Folies Bergeres," where one can eat and see a good show at the same time.

The dramatic newcomers are "The Girl of My Dreams," at the Criterion, and Henrietta Crossman at Maxine Elliott's Theater.

"The Girl of My Dreams" is a new musical play in which Joseph M. Gaites is presenting John Hyman and Lydia McIntyre as joint stars. This piece, quite new to Broadway, is in two acts. Its music has been written by Karl Hoschna, composer of "Madame Sherry" and "The Three Twins," and the book is by Wilbur D. Nesbit and Otto Hauerbach.

George Tyler, the active director in Leiber & Company, arrived from Europe this week with a bundle of signed contracts. The most important of the lot probably is that with Mme. Simona, daughter-in-law of Casimir Perier, late President of France. She was the original Hen Pheasant in the French production of "Chanticleer," and will make her bow to an American audience at the Century (formerly the New Theater) on October 20 in another of Restand's plays, "My Lady of

Dreams." This has been adapted by Louis N. Parker.

Mrs. Fiske Has New Comedy.

Other plans of Mr. Tyler include the appearance of Margaret Anglin in Ziegfeld's new play, "The Next Religion," Gertrude Elliott in "Rebellion," Viola Allen in "Lady Godiva," and the Irish players from the Abbey Theater, Dublin.

Harrison Gray Fiske is another manager who has just returned from the other side. He declares that his plans are held up because of the failure to get the right man to play the leading role in "Kismet," which he intends to produce in New York in the autumn. The man he hopes to secure is Wilton Lackaye, but nothing has been settled. The play is an Oriental one, and the opportunities for artistic presentation are great. The costumes and scenery are being imported and the production, it is promised, will rival in grandeur the London one.

For his wife Mr. Fiske has a new comedy by Langdon Mitchell, entitled "The New Marriage," which will be a companion piece to her former "The New York Idea," which treated of the divorcee.

Mr. Fiske will also produce soon Gertrude Atherton's first dramatic work, "Julia France," which is said to be a treat of a modern woman who is not a suffragette.

Lillian Graham and Ethel Conrad, "The Shooting Show Girls," who achieved notoriety by puncturing W. E. D. Stokes with bullets, have retired from the drama. Their engagement at Hammerstein's roof garden lasted precisely two weeks, and no other manager seemed eager to engage their services. Even when Miss Graham was "abducted" no remarkable public interest was manifested. The girls have absolutely no talent, they are not particularly pretty and even in hot weather

they struck a pronounced frost. It would seem to be a sign that the theater is not so bad as some people claim, when an attempt to exploit a couple of criminals fails as flat as did this attempt. Seemingly the public demands entertainment, rather than mawkish sensationalism.

George M. Cohan is proudly displaying the most unique theatrical pass on record. And it is good for something like 300 houses, too.

The other night Cohan and a party of friends applied at the box office of the American Theater for the customary courtesies. Marcus Loew could not be found and his employees all declared they had no right to give passes under any circumstances.

When Loew heard of the incident the following day, he was deeply grieved, for he is a great admirer of the actor-author-manager. So he dashed to a Fifth-avenue jeweler and ordered a gold-headed cane, on the handle of which was engraved: "Pass George M. Cohan and party at any time. Marcus Loew." The signature was engraved in fac simile.

When the cane was completed, Loew and William Morris called at the Cohan & Harris office and formally presented it. Cohan was naturally overwhelmed, for in the future he can witness all the vaudeville and moving-picture exhibitions he craves by merely thrusting his new cane into the doorkeeper's face.

William A. Brady's Playhouse, New York's youngest theater, will reopen next Wednesday, when Douglas Fairbanks will appear with his new play, "A Gentleman of Leisure." It was tried on the dog last Spring, and from all accounts the dog wagged his tail, and did not bark once. Wherefore Mr. Brady looks for a great big success.

John Cort Makes Plans.

"A Gentleman of Leisure" is not expected to remain long at the Playhouse. If it is a failure it will be

withdrawn. If it succeeds, the chances are that it will be transferred to one of the Shubert houses, to be succeeded by Grace George (Mrs. Brady). She will first present "Sauce for the Goose," in which she was seen for a couple of performances last Spring, and later will present a round of plays which may include her "Lady Teazle."

At the offices of John Cort it is announced that his first new production this season will be "Sadie," a comedy-drama by Rupert Hughes, dramatized from Karl Harriman's novel of the same name. The play is engaged by Mr. Cort for the premier in October. Frank Campau, Ernest Wards, Franklin Roberts and Fernanda Eilstein.

About the same time "Jingaboo," a musical farce, will be presented by Mr. Cort, who also has contracted for three new operas which he expects to produce before the Christmas holidays.

Atlantic City will again be the scene of a Charles Frohman premiere when August 21, prior to its presentation in New York City for a run. This will be the first Frohman play to be seen this year.

"The Siren" was composed by Leo Fall, composer of "The Dollar Princess," and Donald Brian, who has been elevated to stardom by Mr. Frohman. Cohan played the leading role in that musical comedy. With Mr. Brian in that attraction were Will West, F. Pope Stammer, Jane Hall and Ethel Kelly, who will be seen in "The Siren," while from the cast of "The Arcadians" have been taken Mr. Brian's support Julia Sanderson, Frank Moulin and other favorites.

Moya Mannering, who had a prominent role in the Western "Arcadians" company; Elizabeth Firth, a clever and beautiful English singer; Florence Morrison, Gilbert Childs and 50 others will make up the company.

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We are showing a full line of Carpets, Rugs and Linoleums. All the latest creations in design and colors in the best of fabrics. The stock is large and you are sure to find the design, color and material you are looking for. All reduced during midsummer sale.

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The Mystic Stewart Steel Range

for wood or coal. Made with the high-leg base, giving an improved appearance, better protection to the floor from overheating and easier cleanliness. Made of Wellsville polished steel, natural finish, requiring no blacking. Can be changed instantly to use either wood or coal. Oven construction the specialty. Demonstrated after severe tests. The shelf is as valuable as the oven bottom for baking. Guaranteed. Prices range from... \$27.50 to \$85.00

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"SOB SQUAD" STIRS SYMPATHY FOR GIRL WIFE WHO SLEW HER HUSBAND

Mrs. Anna Gaffney Langley, Who Tells Her Story Like Actress, Almost Sure to Be Freed, Though Some Murmur at Precedent—Business Men Want Fair to Be Free.

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 12.—(Special.)—San Francisco has had an interesting study this past week in the case of Mrs. Anna Gaffney Langley, the 19-year-old girl, who killed her husband, Public sentiment, at the outset, cleverly engineered by the "sob brigade" of the newspapers, was all in favor of the girl, and while the chances are that she will eventually be freed, there is a murmuring that she should not be permitted to go scot free because of the influence that it might have in similar cases.

The facts of the murder are, of course, well known. Briefly, Mrs. Langley, after waiting a long time for her husband to come home, set out to search for him. She discovered him in a saloon and pleaded with him to go to their apartments. He refused and she drew a gun and shot him dead.

Investigation revealed a condition of affairs that was appalling. The husband was a dissipated chap, who refused to work and permitted his wife, who was acting as a stenographer, to support him. She had met him first of all when she was 14 years old, and fell in love with him. Her parents were against the marriage, but she persisted. For two weeks all went well. Then the girl discovered that her husband was addicted to late hours and that he preferred to drink rather than keep her company.

ly to be adopted, but he wants to have a free fair and is for letting everybody enter the grounds without charging a cent.

At first it looked like a wild idea. But there is nothing wild about Fortmann. He is a thoroughly practical and singularly solid business man, managing one of the greatest business enterprises of the country, including the greatest fleet of ships under the American flag. He has arguments, of course.

In the first place, we should lose no money by a free gate," says Fortmann, and when people protest in astonishment, he simply adds: "We can sell our concessions for enough money on a free gate to make up the difference."

And then, what an advertisement for San Francisco and California hospitality," he says, as he warms up to his argument and grows enthusiastic. "Why, they'd be talking about the free fair, the green earth over and the wide world round. That's where we should make the thing pay in straight-out advertising."

Now there may be a lot of hard common sense to what Fortmann says, but he probably forgets that when you give things away, you cheapen our attraction in the face of the world.

The politicians of high degree still are marking time and awaiting orders for a forward movement in the National campaign. There is talk that after the adjournment of Congress President Taft will go to Alaska to investigate personally the coal situation in that territory. This is accompanied by a suggestion that the President visit San Francisco to view the Panama-Pacific Exposition grounds on his return trip.

lines, satirizing his great wealth. The figure is shown at a piano. The piano stool is the Tite-street building in which Whistler had his studio.

The frame was made by Whistler himself, and covered with his famous butterfly, the canvas being in gorgeous peacock blue to harmonize with the other panels in the room.

Whistler took possession of the Leyland residence while he was making the decorations. The artist invited several friends to the house for a party while the family was absent.

Leyland, hearing that his home had been used for an entertainment, told Whistler that he had not received any invitation.

"Oh, no," said Whistler. "This was a party for my friends and you and I have only purely commercial relations. You know I am making you immortal. If it were not for me you might be remembered in shipping circles, but I am making you famous."

So Leyland was insulted when he saw the panel and would not take it.

The daughter of J. Pitt Wilson, Socialistic Master of Berkeley, has just completed a strenuous engagement with a theatrical company engaged in making moving-picture films in the Yosemite. She is known in the theatrical profession as Miss Barry and her face and her acting will soon be flashed on the moving-picture screens in hundreds of cities.

Miss Barry this Summer has enacted the roles of Evangeline and Minnehaha, as well as several others of similar character. In the last two months, the Yosemite Valley has had some Indian fighting which amazed the few survivors of the Yosemite tribe and provided entertainment for tourists and campers.

California for Taft.

California's National committeeman, George A. Knight, was in San Francisco last week. He, too, is awaiting orders. It seems to be understood that Frank H. Hitchcock, chairman of the Republican National committee, will visit California at an early date and possibly the National campaign in this state will date from his visit. There is no doubt but that Taft will secure California's delegation, the only question being as to the manner of electing this delegation.

It has been the practice of the Republican National committee to use the Congressional District as the unit of apportionment. Should the same policy obtain in the approaching election, the Lincoln-Roosevelt League, whom they had intended to make their standard-bearer, overboard.

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Braves Dance for Films.

Scores of braves in war paint, chiefs in gorgeous head dresses, medicine men and beautiful Indian maidens, have hunted and slain white men and women, burned venturesome trappers at the stake and held their councils and war dances. While all this has been going on, the cavalrymen stationed in the valley have done nothing except watch the wild scenes and make remarks about the show.

The scenes were laid in the trails and rivers of the valley with the great cliffs and beautiful waterfalls for "backdrops" outdoing even David Belasco.

When Henry Miller produced "The End of the Bridge" at the Columbia Theater last Monday night, the role added by that play to his repertory, was the 67th in which he has appeared in San Francisco in the last 20 years. No other actor on the stage today is more intimately associated with the theatrical history of San Francisco than Henry Miller. From the days of the old California Theater and the Baldwin, through the Van Ness of the days of the fire and rebuilding, down to the Columbia, Henry Miller's annual seasons have been among the valuable factors in the theatrical life of the city.

His appearance in Florence Lincoln's play may possibly be his last for several years. Mr. Miller has an ambition to establish a repertory company in New York, which he hopes to make a permanent feature in the Eastern city. Fifteen years ago Henry Miller was famous as a player of Shakespearean roles. Then he took up romantic sentimental comedies and finally drifted into farce.