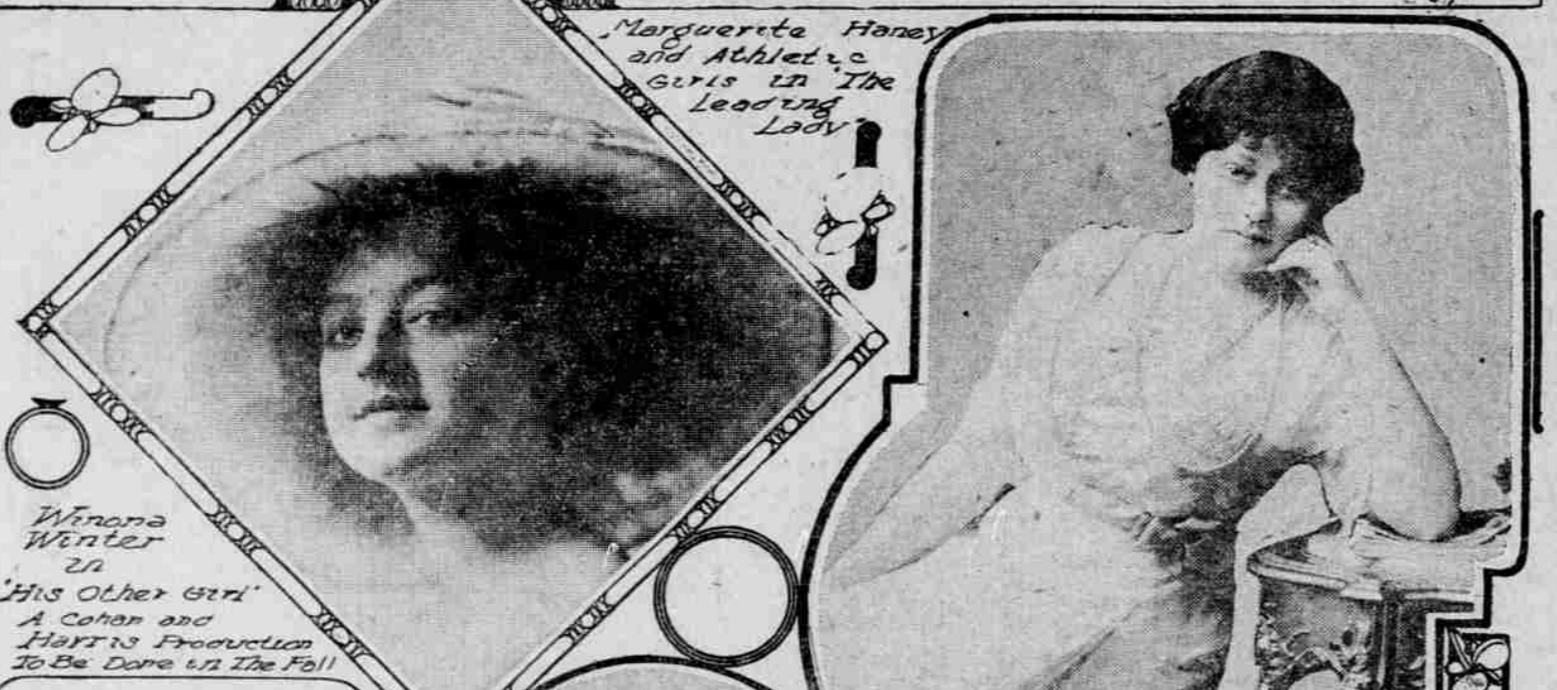


NEW YORK MANAGERS NOW SEEM TO STRIVE TO SEE WHO CAN BUILD SMALLEST THEATER

Latest Is That "Annie Russell Old Comedy Company" Will Erect Playhouse Opposite Maxine Elliott Theater, Which Will Seat Less Than 300 Persons—House Probably Will Be Called Princess.



BY LLOYD F. LONGERAN.
NEW YORK, July 20.—(Special.)—Managers seemingly are interested nowadays in seeing who can build the smallest theater. The Comedy, Maxine Elliott and Fulton were types of tiny playhouses before the Little Theater entered the field last Spring. Now the "Annie Russell Old Comedy Company" comes along with plans for a playhouse that will throw the others into the shade.

The new showhouse, which is to be directly opposite the Maxine Elliott Theater, will seat less than 300 persons. This accommodation including the capacity of 12 boxes. The name of the house as at present agreed upon is the Princess, but it may be changed to the Annie Russell before the time of opening, which is set for November.

Miss Russell in Repertoire.
Miss Russell will present a repertoire which includes, so far as is presently settled, "She Stoops to Conquer," "Much Ado About Nothing" and "The Rivals," Associated with Miss Russell will be Oswald Yorke, who has had a long experience with E. R. Benson's productions of the classical drama in England, and Beatrice Herford, who has heretofore been known only as a monologist. Miss Herford will make her first appearance as a regular actress, playing Mrs. Malaprop in "The Rivals," and Mrs. Harcourt in "She Stoops to Conquer."

The idea of the company originated at a luncheon where a discussion arose as to the difficulty of finding plays suitable to children, and the impossibility of making them acquainted with the classical English comedies. Miss Russell, who was among the presenters, was requested by the other women to form a company which might produce some of the dramas now so rarely seen on the New York stage.

As an evidence of their enthusiasm they all agreed to take tickets for such an engagement, on condition that the company really came into existence. Her ideas were put into pamphlet form, passed around, and met with such approval that it is said that enough subscribers have already been secured to make the venture a success.

Carle Hard at Work.
With Richard Carle and Hattie Williams as joint stars, "The Girl From Montmartre" company is passing the hot July days in energetic rehearsals. There will be a week's road trip to straighten out some of the kinks, and early in August the production will move into the Criterion Theater for what is hoped will be a long run. Miss Williams is the girl, of course, while Carle has the part of an eccentric adventurist doctor and is said to be very funny.

Added interest is attached to the principals of "The Girl From Mont-

marie," as they form the nucleus of Charles Frohman's international musical comedy company. It is his intention that it will appear alternate seasons in London and America.

The first of the shut-down Shubert theaters to be reopened will be the Casino, where on or about August 1 "The Night Birds" will be presented. This production will be the version by Gladys Unger which ran last season at the Lyric Theater, London. It will be presented by a company of American and European artists, including Maurice Faroka, a light-opera tenor who will be heard in New York for the first time. The Americans include Jose Collins, Martin Brown, Forrest Huff and Fritz von Busling.

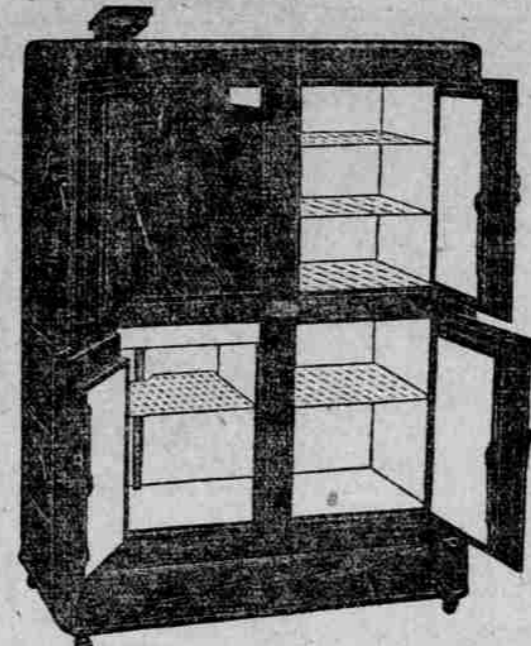
Mistake is Realized.
Local theatrical managers are not worrying in the slightest over their troubles with the Musical Union, and the men are gradually awakening to a realization of the fact that they have made a grave mistake. It would not be surprising if the present demands were greatly modified within a very short time.

The present union scale is \$24 a week, but the musicians demand a raise to \$30, with extra allowances for rehearsals, etc. According to the managers the men are overpaid now, and, with theatrical business in its present critical condition, they should be happy to retain their present income.

"It is one of the most arrogant unions of the whole lot," said one manager today, referring to the musicians. "They have absolutely no consideration for us, and the time has come when we think we can get along without them."

"One thing that has annoyed us extremely has been the system our best men have followed of leaving us in the lurch whenever they could pick up an extra dollar outside. In such cases, of course, they would send substitutes, in many cases absolutely unfit for the work that they were supposed to do. Under the union rules we had to take them, however, and our regular men made no bones of admitting that they had been making extra remuneration at some ball or party. The fact that they affected the efficiency of our orchestra did not affect them at all or even interest them. Naturally, we have lit-

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RATE REDUCTION ORDERED WHEN PRIZE DIVIDEND-PAYING ROAD IS DISCOVERED

Sunset Line to Oil Fields of California Pays 160 Per Cent in Two Years—Schwerin Declines Presidency of Newport News Shipyards—Expert Champagne Maker Wants to Try His Trade on Pacific Coast.

BY HARRY B. SMITH.
SAN FRANCISCO, July 20.—(Special.)—The prize railroad of the country as a dividend-payer has been discovered in California. It is known as the Sunset Railroad, and according to the State Railway Commission, is without a parallel among railroads for its earning capacity. While capitalized at \$500,000 it paid \$300,000 in dividends in 1910, and followed it up with another dividend of \$500,000 for the next year. What might have been the profits in 1912 can only be surmised, for the commission has ordered a cut in rates of from 19 per cent to 25 per cent.

The Sunset Railroad operates out of Bakersfield through the West Side Oil fields to Shale. It is owned jointly by the Southern Pacific and the Santa Fe. Because of the vast size to which the oil industry has attained, points on the Sunset and McKittrick branch have become the most important shipping points in California, the amount of freight moving to Taft being equal to that which goes and comes from an ordinary city.

The rates and dividends were not the only points, however, that the commission found to criticize. The right-of-way of the railroad was apparently its most valuable asset. Out of the \$500,000 capital stock, \$470,000 was issued for the right-of-way, which witnesses testified cost the railroad but \$4000.

What with declaring dividends of 160 per cent in two years and evidence that there was \$470,000 of water in its capitalization of \$500,000, the commission held that it had sufficient reasons for declaring these reductions.

H. P. Schwerin, vice-president of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, was recently offered, but declined, the presidency of the Newport News shipyards. The latter is the joint property of Henry H. Huntington, of Los Angeles, and Mrs. Arabella Huntington, of New York, the widow of Collis P. Huntington.

It was a part of the latter's estate which was willed to them in equal shares. It is the largest shipbuilding plant in the United States, and is said to represent an investment of \$20,000,000. Schwerin has always been high in the favor of the Huntingtons, and Collis P. Huntington who first gave him his position here in 1893 on his resignation from the United States Navy, Schwerin was in the good graces of Edward H. Harriman, and is said to stand equally well with Judge Robert S. Lovett and the bankers who own the Pacific Mail as an asset of the Southern Pacific Company.

LONDON HAS "DEAF" CLUB

Bells Replaced by Lights to Summon Waiters and Signals.

LONDON, July 20.—(Special.)—A novel club was opened this week in Euston road. The new resort is for the benefit of the deaf. Conversation is carried on by oral or manual signs. There are no bells in the club, the assumption being that if they were to ring nobody would notice them. Under the doorknobs a button resembling an electric bellpush certainly does exist, but when pressed there is no responsive sound. Instead a red electric light is automatically switched on, and the members know that someone is at the door. Similarly when the services of the waiter are invoked, a red light is the means by which he is summoned.

UGLY SIGNS SOON TO GO

France Proposes Prohibitive Tax on Billboard Ads.

PARIS, July 16.—(Special.)—Passengers from London to Paris will be delighted at the news that the journey on French soil will be, in all probability, no longer disfigured by the thousands of hideous advertisements that at present line the railway. M. Klotz, the Minister of Finance, has recently proposed a law by which a prohibitive tax is to be placed on all such disfiguring boardings. Whereas at present these signboards are merely subject to a fixed tax of from 25 to 50 cents each, henceforward, according to the proposed law, the tax will be changed into an annual duty of \$75 a square yard of advertisement. The tax will be doubled or tripled if the sign contains two or three announcements.

Moreover, the tax on the land on which the signs are erected is to be increased by the amount of profit which the landowner derives from allowing their erection, so that all possible inducement to let space for the purpose will be removed.