

MABEL WILBER'S GOWNS ENVY OF ALL FAIR SEX

Fascinating Sonia in "The Merry Widow," Coming to the Heilig, Got Her Dresses in Paris, and Greatly Admired Are They by Audiences.



MABEL WILBER, WHO IS SONIA IN "THE MERRY WIDOW."

WHEN Miss Mabel Wilber, the fascinating Sonia, the title role of Henry W. Savage's enormous all-star revival of "The Merry Widow," steps on the stage at the Heilig Theater, Eleventh and Morrison streets, Sunday night, April 20, a gasp of admiration, and even perhaps of envy will be forced involuntarily from every woman in the audience, as their eyes grasp the beauty and magnificence of Miss Wilber's gowns.

Perhaps no play which ever visited Portland has been costumed so magnificently as "The Merry Widow." Even Mr. Savage with all his tremendous expenditures in the past, has never before paid such prices for gowns as he did when the frocks for the present tour of "The Merry Widow" were ordered.

To Miss Wilber, herself, belongs the credit of the artistic triumph, for not only did she design and order each of the gowns which she, herself, wears, but also the 16 which the Maxim girls

wear in the last act and which cost in Paris from \$500 to \$900 each.

Mr. Savage did not send "The Merry Widow" on tour last year, and as a consequence Miss Wilber passed the winter in Paris, cultivating her voice. Shortly before she was ready to sail for America, Mr. Savage asked her to go to the four leading dressmakers of the gay French capital, and from each order four of the Maxim girls' dresses, and from whom she pleased, those that she, herself, was to wear. "Never mind the expense," protested Savage. "Get them competing against each other." And with the stimulus of the producer's letter behind them, some really wonderful gowns were evolved.

On Sunday night, Miss Wilber will not only sing in the 5000th performance of "The Merry Widow" in America, to celebrate which, incidentally, every woman in the audience will be given an appropriate souvenir, but she will have sung her own part considerably more than 2000 times. The engagement is for four nights, with a matinee on Wednesday.

PRESBYTERIANS HAVE BIG MEETING AND DINNER

Gala Event Held at First Church—Returned Indian Missionary to Speak at First United Presbyterian Church.

THE First Presbyterian Church held its annual business meeting and dinner Thursday night, over 400 people being present.

The following officers were elected: Elders—F. E. Cooper, John S. Bradley, Fletcher Linn, H. C. Ewing and Dr. George M. Wells. Deacons—C. F. Wright, L. Ringer, Andrew Chrysal, W. B. Wells, T. L. Thomas and Dr. A. S. Nichols. Trustees—W. W. Cotton, H. C. Campbell, P. I. Fuller, W. R. MacKenzie, D. A. Pattullo, Frank Robertson and Dr. S. A. Brown. Sunday school superintendent—James F. Ewing.

The treasurer's report showed expenditures as follows: Church house, building fund, \$46,500; Congregational expenses, \$12,200; benevolences, \$1,000; salaries of seven home and foreign missionaries of the church, \$13,100. The session reported an increase of 448 members during the year, a loss by removal of 193, leaving a net gain of 255. The total membership is 1571.

The board of deacons reported, after all disbursements, a relief fund, a balance on hand of \$500. No department of the church has shown a greater growth than the Sunday school, which has an enrollment of 1368. Attendance for the last three months has averaged 770. High water mark was reached last Sunday with 844. This is an increase in attendance over last year of 50 per cent.

The Women's Missionary Society reported great advance in all lines of its work. Besides sustaining the seven Home and Foreign Missionaries, two special gifts of \$1000 each have been made, bringing their total disbursements for all missionary causes up to \$4400. This society is busily engaged in getting ready to do its part in the entertainment of the Woman's North Pacific Board, which will hold its silver anniversary in the First Presbyterian Church house this month.

The Gloria and Fidelity Chapters of the Westminster Guild, each reported a substantial increase in membership and attendance, as well as an interesting and instructive course of study in missions.

The Women's Association has held regular monthly meetings, consisting of all-day sewing for the needy, with a luncheon at noon followed by a brief musical programme and social hour. This organization occupies a large place in the social life of the women of the church.

The San Graef Christian Endeavor Society held a meeting every Sunday night during the past year, with an average attendance of 84. In addition to its own prayer meetings, socials and entertainments, work has been carried on at the county farm and the Men's Resort, where the young people and the pastor in charge, as ushers, and furnish the music.

The Young People's Circle, composed of members of high school age, reported

ed, through its president, George MacIntosh, an attendance of from 40 to 60 each Sunday at the regular prayer meeting. Several social gatherings and entertainments for young people were held. This organization has met with an enthusiastic response among those for whom it is intended.

The Men's Resort, a mission for men at the corner of Fourth and Burnside streets, has done a helpful work this year. One hundred and seventy-three gospel meetings have been held with an average attendance of 94. Beds for 2445 and baths for 325 have been furnished. Men have been given meals, work has been supplied and a helpful service done generally for men who have become stranded.

Miss Valentine Prichard reported on the work of the People's Institute, which is conducting a social work here. The pastor's assistant read his report of the Church House activities for the four months past, in which time 205 meetings, aside from religious services, have been held, including lectures, banquets and entertainments with a total attendance of 12,400. In the same period the various religious services showed an attendance of 46,800, making a total of 59,200 for the four months. Future plans were discussed.

Reports were heard from the finance and nominating committees after which the pastor, Rev. John H. Boyd, spoke briefly of the successes of the year just closed, and of his vision for the future of the church.

Mrs. Alice Reed McClure will deliver a missionary address in the First United Presbyterian Church, Sixth and Montgomery streets, tomorrow night at 8 o'clock. Mrs. McClure accompanied her husband to India in 1896 under the auspices of the United Presbyterian Church, and began a missionary career full of promise. Her husband died in the field, but she was able to continue the work with success. She is delivering addresses on her Western itinerary and everywhere receives a cordial welcome.

There will be a musical programme by the choir of Mount Zion Methodist Episcopal Church, Sixty-first and East Stark streets, under the subject of "Heaven," tonight. As this is a programme of special interest, all elderly persons who will communicate with the pastor, Rev. C. L. Hamilton, Tabor 3331, will be taken by automobile to and from the service.

The Brotherhood and the Aid Society of St. James Lutheran Church gave a reception to the new members of the church last Wednesday night. About 200 were in attendance. Miss Linehan and Miss Myrtle Hansen gave some vocal numbers and Mr. Bullock recited some original verses. The president of the Brotherhood, A. P. Gram, presided and called upon representatives of the various societies of the church for words of welcome. Miss Dieckman

cently from Pasadena, Cal., responded in behalf of the new members. The basement rooms of the church were elaborately decorated in green and yellow.

The second question-answering service will be held at Centenary Church, East Ninth and Pine streets tonight. This type of service has aroused such interest that it is likely to be continued at intervals. Dr. Trimble says that more questions have been deposited in the box than he can find time during one service to answer. The most pertinent and profitable of these will be selected. These are samples: Is conversion instantaneous or gradual? Are babies Christians? Is there a personal devil? I have been engaged two years; is it time we were married? etc. The current interest theme at the 7:45 P. M. service will be "Who should be the next Mayor of Portland?"

At the meeting of the Oregon Presbytery of the United Presbyterian Church in Kenton, Thursday, Rev. S. Earl DuBois, pastor of the Grand Avenue United Presbyterian Church, and Rev. Frank D. Findlay, pastor of the First United Presbyterian Church, were elected delegates to the General Assembly to be held at Atlanta, Ga., May 14. L. E. Hamilton, of Albany, and J. C. Brown, of the Willamette Congregational, were chosen lay delegates to the

CHARLES T. M'PHERSON KNOWS NOT BIRTHPLACE

Pastor of Trinity Methodist Born En Route From Tennessee to Texas in 1870—How He First Learned to Read Is Mystery.

AMONG the ministers of the gospel of whom Portland may be proud is the Rev. Charles T. McPherson, pastor of Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church, 368 Hemlock street, who has lived in Oregon for 13 years and who has built or reorganized as many churches in that time, and in addition assisted the Young Men's Christian Association to raise funds for the building it now occupies.

Mr. McPherson came to Oregon from Walla Walla, where he had been pastor of the First Methodist Church, South, and changed to Methodist Episcopal, joining the Oregon conference. His first appointment was to build two churches, one at Seaside and another at Astoria. Thence he went to Junction City, where he remained one year and lifted a mortgage on the Methodist Episcopal Church there.

His next church was re-establishing the University Park Church on the Peninsula, and from there he went to Canby and transformed the Methodist Episcopal Church in that town after working a year. Marshallfield needed his services, and he promptly repaired the Methodist church, built a parsonage and built the Methodist Episcopal Church at North Bend, at the time the finest church in Coos County.

Medford Call Heard. From Coos Bay he went to Medford, and there he straightened out the troubles of the First Methodist Episcopal Church in a year, and the next year found him building a church at Estacada. Also he helped build two small churches in the surrounding mountains. He was then ready to come to Portland.

Arriving in Portland, Mr. McPherson straightened out the financial troubles of the Church and organized the Epworth Church, also building a parsonage, one of the finest in the city. At this time he was defeated for Councilman-at-Large on the Republican ticket.

His next work was to save Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church, and being successful, was appointed pastor, which position he now holds. His first achievement in this church was to engineer a contest which won a \$2760 organ offered by 30 Portland merchants to the Portland churches.

New Edifice Proposed. Believing that the congregation would be increased and the work of the church enlarged if he got another location, he is now raising funds to erect a new Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church at Twenty-fifth and Ivon streets.

Mr. McPherson's life has been unusual and, therefore, interesting from the start. He does not know his birthplace, but is told that he was born while his parents were en route from Tennessee to Texas, in 1870. His father was a Scotch farmer, and went to live near Greenville, Tex., when Mr. McPherson was a child. Both parents died when he was an infant, and how he made his way is not remembered distinctly by Mr. McPherson, except that he was assisted by friends.

How he first learned to read is another mystery to him. He attended Greenville school after he had learned to read, and passed much time in reading when not working. He took

Assembly. Mr. DuBois was re-elected clerk for the ensuing year, and was selected to attend the committee on missions, which will meet May 7, in Washington, D. C. Rev. T. A. Schurz was chosen moderator for the ensuing year.

Commencing tonight, Rev. James Hardy Bennett, pastor of the First Methodist Episcopal Church, South, will deliver sermons for ten successive Sundays on "The Passion of Jesus."

All are cordially invited to visit the Rescue Home of the Salvation Army, which is in charge of Adjutant Line-man.

The Peninsula Avenue Lutheran Church, after having been thoroughly repaired, renovated and newly furnished will be reopened and dedicated today. The dedicatory services will begin at 10:45 A. M. in German. The sermon will be preached by Rev. E. Berthold, of Cornelius. The address will be delivered by the first pastor of the church, Rev. C. Buechler, of Portland. The afternoon services will be held at 2:30 with a sermon in German, by Rev. A. Krause, of St. Paul's Church, city. The evening services will be at 7:30 in English, with a sermon by the pastor.



Rev. Charles T. McPherson, Portland Pastor, Who Does Not Know Birthplace.

ing when not working. He took scholarship prizes and several in school athletics. When 18 years old he went to Alabama and was licensed to preach, becoming known as the "boy preacher." Finishing high school, he went to Blount College in Alabama, working his way as janitor, and taking a prize for scholarship. He taught one year and then went to Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn., where he worked his way through and won a number of scholarship prizes. Then he continued preaching.

In 1901 he married Miss Anna D. Atwood, vocal instructor and principal of the Epworth League at Willamette University, Salem. His first act of civility was to have his medals melted into rings for his wife. The couple have two children.

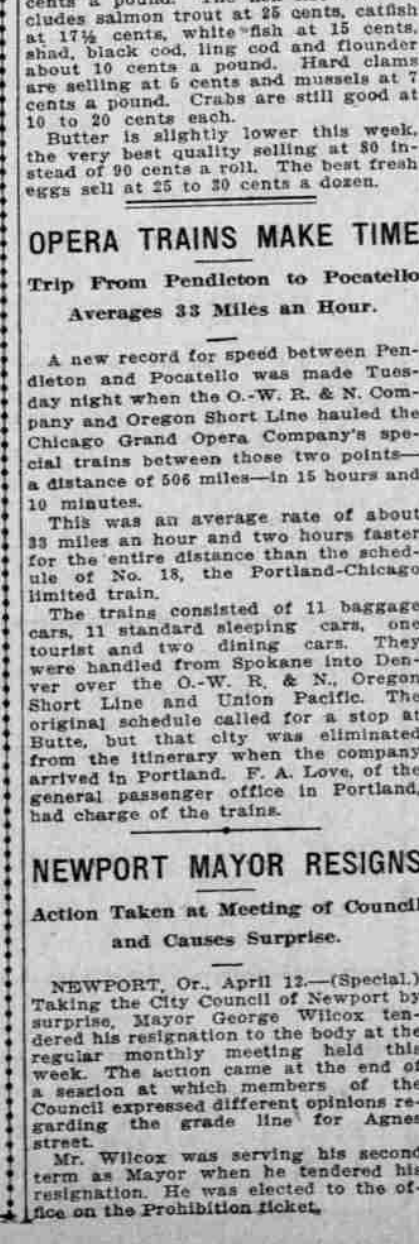
Good Things in Market

ASPARAGUS, shad and strawberries suggest "real Spring" menus, and all are in the market now, though as yet they come from the South. California asparagus sells at 8 to 10 cents a pound and is welcomed by those who "just can't wait" until the super-excellent Oregon asparagus comes in. Other early vegetables are becoming more plentiful and a little lower in price. There are mustard greens, spinach, dandelion and field salad, for "Spring fever"; early Oregon cauliflower, Bermuda potatoes, green peas, green beans, hot-house cucumbers and tomatoes. None of them can be described as "cheap" at present, but they are lower in price than they were, and very attractive in appearance. Rhubarb now costs about 7 cents a

pound and is a useful and wholesome rather scarce as is usual at this season. A few turkeys are to be seen at 35 cents a pound. Hens sell at 20 to 25 cents according to age and quality, and broilers and fryers cost 35 to 40 cents. Razor clams are prominent in the fish displays at 12 1/2 cents a dozen. Columbia River smelt is disappearing, but still to be had at 2 1/2 cents a pound. Perch are in the market again at about 10 cents, and California chinook salmon at 20 and 25 cents. The fish list also includes salmon trout at 25 cents, catfish at 17 1/2 cents, white-fish at 15 cents, shad, black cod, ling cod and flounder about 10 cents a pound. Hard clams are selling at 6 cents and mussels at 7 cents a pound. Crabs are still good at 10 to 20 cents each.

Butter is slightly lower this week. The very best quality selling at 30 instead of 30 cents a roll. The best fresh eggs sell at 25 to 30 cents a dozen.

YOUNG WOMAN IS SECRETARY TO PORTLAND'S CHIEF EXECUTIVE.



MRS. MAY E. NELSON.

The first woman to serve as secretary to Mayor Rushlight during his administration is Mrs. May E. Nelson, who has taken the place of George McCord, who resigned to take up work as campaign manager for the Mayor. Mrs. Nelson is well known in Portland. She has been a stenographer in the office of Waldemar Seton for the last five years. She lives at 406 1/2 Park street.

CRITICISM IS COURTED

OREGON ENGINEERS INVITE MIRROR OF PRESS.

Society's Excursion to Eugene in May Will Be Given as Compliment to University.

Inaugurating an effort to bring the engineer into closer touch with political and social affairs, the Oregon Society of Engineers Thursday evening established the unique precedent of inviting criticism of themselves by the press. Following this meeting President W. H. Graves says other elements of the community will be urged to come before the society and hold up for its gaze a mirror, that the engineers may see themselves as all others see them. These meetings may cover a considerable period, and are designed to reveal the means whereby the engineer may enter upon a broader variety of public duties, such as

members of some other profession find opening to them in civic and political problems.

Marshall N. Dana was the principal speaker for the press at the initial "mirror" meeting. His survey of the field was calculated to make the engineer feel less aversion to wholesome accurate publicity. He pleaded with the members of the profession to get in closer touch with the press, and to recognize that proper publicity was for community benefit and progress. Warning his hearers that the press was the most powerful medium for education to be found in the field of modern endeavor, and that the engineer should study how to profit by this agency, the speaker recited a number of instances where good opportunities were passed to do effective public work.

W. D. B. Dodson followed the first speaker with an exhortation for the engineer to join all professional workers in the effort to interest the masses of the people in constructive news. He pointed out that the public at large was becoming more and more the master in great engineering enterprises, and that the engineer should feel it a business duty to get closer to the public and assist in satisfying the public of the business aspects of the great development problems facing the West.

Mr. Scott, of the Pacific Engineer and Builder, was the third speaker. H. L. Vorse, J. H. Morton, President Graves, W. H. Crawford, Henry Blood and other members of the society joined the discussion. H. L. Vorse was named by President Graves the society's committeeman to invite co-operation at all The organization in a great excursion to Eugene on May 17, as a compliment to the University of Oregon, and to introduce the people of Portland to the workings of the institution. Chairman Vorse estimates from his preliminary efforts that from 500 to 1000 persons will avail themselves of the opportunity to make this trip. All local societies will be urged to join, and also the Oregon Agricultural College.

EQUALITY LEAGUE TO MEET

Portland Body Appeals to Women to Aid National Association.

A public meeting to be held in Ellers hall Thursday, April 17, at 2:30 P. M. has been arranged by the Political Equality League, at which an address on "Our Public Schools" will be given by E. L. Mills. The league has extended an invitation to the public to attend the meeting.

The league has made an appeal to the suffragists of Oregon to respond to the call of the National Suffrage Association for funds to carry on its work in other sections of the country, pointing out that Oregon women were assisted financially by the National body in the recent campaign for the extension of suffrage to women of this state. The policy of the local league to maintain its loyalty to the National body and to make its meetings centers of education, has received the endorsement of leading women of Portland. The address of Mr. Mills was arranged in view of the coming election of a member of the Board of Education, as he has made a study of educational work.

New York has 150 hotels, with accommodations for 100,000. This is exclusive of charitable institutions.



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With kindest regards from Dr. Wullner, as well as myself, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,
(Signed) Coenraad V. Bos.

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OPERA TRAINS MAKE TIME

Trip From Pendleton to Pocatello Averages 33 Miles an Hour.

A new record for speed between Pendleton and Pocatello was made Tuesday night when the O.-W. R. & N. Company and Oregon Short Line hauled the Chicago Grand Opera Company's special trains between those two points—a distance of 506 miles—in 15 hours and 10 minutes.

This was an average rate of about 33 miles an hour and two hours faster for the entire distance than the schedule of No. 13, the Portland-Chicago limited train.

The train consisted of 11 baggage cars, 11 standard sleeping cars, one tourist and two dining cars. They were handled from Spokane into Denver over the O.-W. R. & N. Oregon Short Line and Union Pacific. The original schedule called for a stop at Butte, but that city was eliminated from the itinerary when the company arrived in Portland. F. A. Love, of the general passenger office in Portland, had charge of the trains.

NEWPORT MAYOR RESIGNS

Action Taken at Meeting of Council and Causes Surprise.

NEWPORT, Or., April 12.—(Special.) Taking the City Council of Newport by surprise, Mayor George Wilcox tendered his resignation to the body at the regular monthly meeting held this week. The action came at the end of a session at which members of the Council expressed different opinions regarding the grade line for Agnes street.

Mr. Wilcox was serving his second term as Mayor when he tendered his resignation. He was elected to the office on the Prohibition ticket.

TEACHER BUILDS UP MODEL RURAL SCHOOL.



Mrs. E. L. Stowe.

BRIDGEPORT, Or., April 12.—(Special.)—With every pupil enrolled in the Polk County spelling contest, a teachers-parents club formed and a community spirit aroused for the continual betterment of school conditions, the Guthrie School, near this place, has become a typical modern rural school.

Mrs. E. L. Stowe, the teacher, has introduced new methods that are bringing results in that vicinity. Last Spring all the students were given unusual encouragement in the school fair work, and this year, after a handsome prize was given the school for the second best display at the county fair, the planting season is being met with vim and energy.