

STAGELAND



Emma Trentini in "The Firefly"

BY LEONE CASS BAER.
COMEDY, comedy everywhere and not one drop of think in Portland's theaters last week. The tired business man of whom we hear so much and see so little, took his wife and galloped madly to the Heilig to see the newest foliage and twigs on "The Ham Tree." Only one tree in history has flourished like unto this one. That is the oft-quoted "green bay."

At the Baker another show, made for laughs, and maybe conducive to a bit of quiet rumination, played to capacity houses. "Our Wives," a farce comedy, threw an X-ray light on matrimonial ups and downs, and if the percentage of weddings is greatly diminished in the next few months it can safely be attributed to the enlightenment given to prospective bridegrooms by the Baker play.

"Mut and Jeff" finishes its week-end stay at the Heilig with a matinee to-day and a night performance. Then comes Trentini in the comic opera, "Firefly," under the management of Arthur Hammerstein. This tour has been one of triumph for the little grand opera star, Emma Trentini, and as Nina in the "Firefly" she is delighting all who are lucky enough to hear her. Trentini, which is a sterling stamp in itself. Others in the cast include Craig Campbell, Marion Lee, Melville Stewart, Grace Hansen, Vera de Rosa, Rosemarie Blair, William Wolfe, Betty Barrell and John Hines. The "Firefly" engagement opens tomorrow night at the Heilig and continues for one week, with a special matinee on Saturday.

One of the ten-strikes of a season's play is assured in this week's Baker attraction. "The Littlest Rebel," which Dustin Farnum brought out a year ago to Portland, is the offering, with Mayo Methot in the title role. This is by all odds the biggest role Mayo has been given since she began to add her tiny mite—and night—to the Baker force. In this role she appears in every one of the four acts. The story is written around the lovable little girl she por-

trays and the play is one calculated to make a sensation in local theater circles. Edward C. Woodruff will appear in the role Dustin Farnum played. Follows next at the Heilig a motion picture week, with the white slave traffic as the subject. These pictures, wherever exhibited, are causing discussion and creating widespread interest in a subject hitherto given too little attention.

"Allies Jimmy Valentine" follows "The Littlest Rebel," with Mayo Methot again in the cast. The vivacious and always adorable Fritz Scheff, famous songbird of comic opera, headlines the new Orpheum bill, opening this afternoon.

Joe Maxwell's seven dancing girls headline the Empress bill opening tomorrow afternoon, and Bothwell Browne's musical comedy, "Inn Laughland," tops Pantages. Ed S. Allen returns to the Lyric in "Gay Paris."

"THE FIREFLY" TOMORROW

Mlle. Trentini to Appear at Heilig in New Comedy Opera.

"The Firefly," Rudolf Friml's new comedy opera in three acts—for which Otto Hauerbach has written the libretto, and which is named after the little Italian girl, who is the heroine of the story—is a merry production, full of sparkling music and happily shifting incident, and from the standpoint of lyric attractiveness, probably the best opera of its kind for some time. Eleventh and Morrison streets, for a limited engagement of six nights beginning tomorrow (Monday) with Mlle. Trentini, that bewitching little prima donna, in the star part. A New York recreation pier, a tropically beautiful estate in Bermuda, and a Fifth-avenue mansion interior are the backgrounds against which the plot of crossed and shifting loves is developed. The score is full of songs that are real "hits." Some of them which linger easily and pleasantly in the memory are: "Call Me Uncle," with its catchy succeeding dance, and "Love Is Like a Firefly" in the first act; "Tommy Atkins On Dress Parade," the charming waltz song; "A Woman's Smile" and "The Beautiful Ship from Toyland" in the second act. In the third act, the

effective waits introduction and the songs "Kiss Me and 'Tis Day" and the duet "The Latest Thing From Paris" are notable. Mlle. Trentini's engagement in "The Firefly" will mark her farewell to comic opera, as upon completion of the present tour the little prima donna will again join Mr. Oscar Hammerstein's forces in grand opera. A special matinee will be given Saturday.

"THE LITTLEST REBEL" IS ON

Baker Players to Appear in Greatest Production of Season.

The interest of players is worked up over the production by the Baker players this week of Dustin Farnum's thrilling play, "The Littlest Rebel," which opens this afternoon for the week. It is a drama of superb heart interest with a war-time setting. Instead of dealing with an ordinary love story, however, "The Littlest Rebel" takes an entirely different angle. The heroine is a child, the daughter of a Confederate scout. Around this mere bit of humanity the action revolves through the play. The first act shows her home with mother and a couple of slaves, her father being pursued by the Federals.

He escapes, but the home is burned, the mother dies and the child left alone. In the second act she is discovered in a cabin, and the father, hounded by the Federals, takes refuge in the loft. He is found by the Lieutenant, who, however, is induced to spare him by the little girl's pleadings and the helplessness of her condition. But this Lieutenant has an enemy in his own camp, who, getting evidence against him, has him arrested and condemned for treason, together with the captured scout, who also is sentenced to die as a spy. This is after the terrific battle of the third act, one of the most thrilling and realistic ever staged. The last act shows the quarters of General Grant, the "war machine," and every possible effort is put forth to save these two brave men. Grant is immovable, however, until Virgie, the "littlest rebel," as she is known, breaks through the guards and by her artfulness and appealing manner induces the General to make a personal investigation, with the result that both men are pardoned, the one to go North to his own little girl and the other to find happiness and solace for his broken home in the love of "The Lit-

tlest Rebel." The role will be played by Portland's favorite child actress, Mayo Methot, who will have the star part this week. The usual matinee will be given Wednesday and Saturday, with the bargain night Monday.

FITZ SCHEFF ORPHEUM STAR

Bill With Repertoire of Songs. Fritz Scheff, former grand opera prima donna, will headline this week's bill at the Orpheum. The dainty, Titian-haired Viennese will woo and win a great host of admirers. In all the splendor of gorgeous gowns and remarkable voice, the little prima donna sings a variety of songs that prove instantaneous hits. From her repertoire, Mlle. Scheff sings the "Parla Waltz," by Ardette; "Just a Little Love," a Little Kiss," by Fischer, and "Kiss Me," by Victor Herbert, taken from "Mlle. Modiste." Louis Aschenfelder, accompanist for Miss Scheff, plays a selection from "Rigoletto." As an encore, Miss Scheff sings "For You," by Merkle.

The charm of Mlle. Scheff's offering has much to do with the popularity of the act. The singer's personality helps her wonderfully. Tudor Cameron and Johnny O'Connor are two clever young men whose skit, "Hired and Fired," gives them a splendid opportunity to air their talents. When Madge L. Maitland decided to enter vaudeville, she realized that novelty was the winning element in the games, so she has steadfastly followed out her original plan of omitting ragtime and shockneyed ballads from her repertoire, and sings nothing but character songs, many of which are written for her. Miss Maitland's personality is refreshing and pleasing. To see a troupe of monkeys taking huge enjoyment in a bowling match is to witness an entertaining spectacle. Onlookers may expect this from Edward Gillette's trained monkeys, among whom the featured members are a clever pair called Adam and Eve, both adept bowlers. Sam Barton almost rides a bicycle, not quite, because that would spoil the delightful comedy of his turn. But his efforts are amusing. "The English Johnny and the Cop," otherwise known as Armstrong and Ford, furnish a goodly share of amusements with their funny patter and occasional songs. The Two Throwing Tabors show that the manipulation of Indian clubs

can be developed into a fine art, with not a few almost sensational features. DANCING GIRLS AT EMPRESS Act Listed as Maxwell's Best to Headline New Show.

Joe Maxwell's Seven Dancing Girls will be the headline attraction at the Empress this week in a spectacular act said to be the best ever presented by the prolific vaudeville producer. The star danseuse is Ada Proctor, who will be seen in several specialties. A carload of special scenery is carried for the act presented by the Dancing Girls and the lighting effects are gorgeous. Warren and Blanchard, former Orpheum artists, are the extra attraction. They will be seen in the vaudeville act in which they have been scoring great success for many years. Warren is a capital blackface comedian and Blanchard is a cultured singer.

Gladys Wilbur, a beautiful woman, will sing several songs, featuring the popular airs of the Sunny South. Miss Wilbur has a stunning gown for every song she sings. Another musical offering is that offered by Clark and Ward, continental vocalists, who have won great praise all along the Sullivan and Cosmopolitan circuit. Something brand-new in vaudeville is the act presented by Spisell Brothers and Mack. It is a sketch built on novelty lines. The plot centering around "The New Chef" surprises salons are found in the odd playlet and comedy prevails in it from first to last. Another comedy act is that to be presented by Patrick, Francisco and Warren, "The Three Rubes," recently a headline attraction at the New York Hippodrome. They call their act "Fun on the Farm." It teems with side-splitting comedy talk and situations. Tim McMahon and Edythe Chappelle, headliners of the current Empress show in their laughable skit, "Why Hubby Missed the Train," will be seen for the last time at the Empress to-night in the usual three Sunday-night shows. The show opening at the Empress tomorrow is the first anniversary show of the new Empress, the \$750,000 playhouse being one year old March 5.

Special music under direction of Frank Harwood has been arranged for the week. 'INN LAUGHLAND' AT PANTAGES Bothwell Browne's Musical Comedy Vaudeville House Feature.

"Inn Laughland," Bothwell Browne's big scenic musical comedy success, will top the bill with a large cast at Pantages for the week commencing with the matinee tomorrow at 2:30. The scene of the delightful attraction is laid in a mythical inn and the various characters play the roles of noted actors and actresses in travesty manner, making the act a genuine success. The musical hits are numerous and include "Art, Art, Art," "The Moon and the Maid," "Who's Your Friend" and a haunting Spanish waltz. Fifteen players will be seen in the cast headed by Miss Willa Turner and the large chorus will offer the various numbers in attractive manner.

Lora, the girl in the parrot, has been brought direct from Europe as special added attraction and she will be seen in the latest Continental mystery novelty. Lora is strikingly beautiful and her ability to entertain in her own unique way will cause her to attract the same deluge of attention that she received while starring in the principal theaters abroad. Widely known as the "human orchestra," Leon Rogee will offer his routine of musical novelties. With no other aid than that afforded by his hands, lips and throat, Rogee will imitate almost every known musical instrument and his work will be appreciated by all. Ten shades of burnt cork is the term best fitted to describe Elliott and Mullen, two of the best-known minstrels in vaudeville. Their songs are catchy and their comedy never less. Their very antics win more than ordinary laughs and they will prove very happy entertainers. Sensational feats on the midair trapeze will be given by Frank Smith. New animated events will be offered by the Pantages concert orchestra under the direction of H. K. Evenson. "College Town," with Miss Zena Keefe and a large company, will close

its engagement here with the performances this afternoon and tonight.

FOUR SHOWS BILLED TODAY

Omslow and Steinfeld Will Be Seen in Farwell Performance at Lyric.

A matinee today and three shows tonight will be the farwell performances of the Omslow & Steinfeld Company at the Lyric Theater, as the company moves North for an indefinite engagement at the Keating & Flood house in Seattle, and Ed S. Allen, the popular Hebrew comedian, with a company of high-class artists, including Robert McKim, Edna Marble, Doris Matthew, Lotie Darragh, Thomas J. Bundy, George Henry and the famous "Beauty Chorus" will open Monday in a side-splitting comedy playlet called "In Gay Paris." Allen, the principal comedian, appears in the role of a Hebrew who goes to the French metropolis for a general good time. It doesn't take him long to get separated from his bank roll and he is at his wits' ends for means to get home again when a couple of friends come to his rescue with a well-laid plot for him to win the hand and millions of an American widow, who has come to Paris in search of a title. They introduce him as a Baron, which gets them into no end of tangles. The action is lively and steps only long enough for the interpolation of a number of the latest popular song hits. An added feature of the big bill promoted by Manager Flood is L. Erwin Ireland, "Kid Irish," champion featherweight wrestler of the world, in an interesting and instructive wrestling exhibition. Ireland meets all comers and forfeits \$10 to any person his weight who can stay on the mat with him for 10 minutes and not be thrown.

MAJESTIC PROGRAMME VARIED

Pictures, Music and the Latest Steps in Society Dances Will Appear.

The Majestic Theater opens a splendid bill for today, Monday and Tuesday. The programme includes some excellent attractions besides a well-blended programme of pictures. Miss Hortense Sundquist, who enjoys an exceptionally popular reputation, has been booked for an extended engagement, and Majestic patrons will be entertained by her best violin solos, of which she has memorized more than 200, ranging from the most difficult operas to the latest rag. Mrs. Lora, the girl in the parrot, who has lately arrived in this city, and Harry Gray, late of New York, will give their clever dancing act, showing the latest New York cranes, the Turkey Trot, the Tango and Hesitation waltz. Miss Zaro and Mr. Gray have recently appeared at Thes Damsantes among Portland's social set. The picture programme is exceptionally good, and is outlined as follows: "The Massacre"—As the woman he loved lay dying, the former suitor

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