

## NEW PRODUCTIONS OF MORE THAN USUAL MERIT APPEAR IN WEEK IN NEW YORK PLAYHOUSES

Oliver Morosco Opens New Theater With "Canary Cottage," Which Scores Heavily—William Gillette Makes Hit in "A Successful Calamity"—"Lilac Time," Jane Cowie's New Part, Makes Fine Impression.



Ted Barron, Composer of "Lilac Time"

BY LLOYD F. LONERGAN.  
NEW YORK, Feb. 17.—(Special.)—Few weeks have equalled the number of new productions of the one that has just passed. Not since early in the theatrical season have so many new (and good) things been presented in a single week. Oliver Morosco started the ball rolling by a special invitation to the members of the press and various honored ones among the profession to attend a special performance of "Canary Cottage" on Sunday night. The next night, the regular public were invited to come and bring their pocketbooks with them.

"Canary Cottage" was a notable affair in many respects. First of all, the music has been sung and Victrolized for many months, because this musical comedy has the San Francisco mark of success upon it. Then it signaled the addition of another new theater to the long list now in New York and the public was just as eager to view the interior of the Morosco as to see the much-advertised play. The theater is located directly opposite the Astor on Forty-fifth street and is attractive outside as well as inside the building. The interior is painted a soft gray and the furnishings are plum colored. The story is by Mr. Morosco and Elmer Harris, who are responsible for "So Long Letty" and, like the other play, it deals with life in California. This time it is among the bungalow colony.

Herbert Cothrell is the chief tinker, with "Lilac Time" as his second. Dorothy Webb and Elaine Davies have the leading singing roles and Charles Ruggles (of "Rolling Stone" fame) plays his first musical comedy part in delightful fashion. There are beautiful chorus girls, superb costumes and the play is considered only as the Morosco style. Among the song hits that preceded "Canary Cottage" to New York are: "It's Always Orange Day in California," "Old Man Methusalem" and "The Syncope Harp." Arizle Friganza has a screamingly funny burlesque of the overture from William Tell, which is sure to be a great hit.

William Gillette's new play, "A Successful Calamity," came the same night as the formal opening of the Morosco. Clare Kummer, whose "Goodness Gracious Anatol" has just been to the Republic, is the author. It tells of an American family, in society, so engaged in their own affairs that poor father has come to be considered only as the provider of the luxuries. He is never considered at all—there is no time for him in their busy lives—so father conceives the idea of losing his money and thereby teaches them a much-needed lesson. William Gillette's quiet, dry manner was admirably adapted to the leading role and the rest of the company well chosen. They included: Roland Young, Ruth Findlay, Estelle Winwood and Richard Sterling. The play was produced by Arthur Hopkins and the beautiful settings designed by Robert Edmund Jones.

Jane Cowie, under new management in a new sort of play, was received with great applause at the Republic Theater. "Lilac Time" is a story of the present war, in which Miss Cowie, as a French peasant who falls in love with an English soldier (Arms Caldera). She teaches him French and he teaches her English and they fall in love. The soldier goes away to fight for his country and dies in battle. The story tells of her anguish as typical of what is being suffered today by hundreds of women across the sea. Miss Cowie, with Jane Murfin, is responsible for the drama, about which the critics seem divided. All agree that the acting of the clever actress ranks with her best and is a welcome relief from her all "weepy" roles. The play, as a play, is by the same authors as "Katinka," "High Jinks" and "The Fire-King" and has a very melodious score.

A breezy new comedy is "You're in Love," the new Arthur Hammerstein offering. It is by the same authors as "Katinka," "High Jinks" and "The Fire-King" and has a very melodious score.

"Billie" Allen, from "The Century Girl," at MM

ton and Frank Gregory. The experiment is wait 4 with great interest. It is due entirely to the efforts of the Brooklyn Daily Eagle that the plan has been perfected. They have been trying for some time to interest people in the idea and the endorsement of the Brooklyn Civic Club was but one step in securing public co-operation. Two stock companies are now firmly established in Brooklyn and the manager of the Fifth Avenue Theater has offered great inducements to any Brooklyn playwright who will send him a good play. A contest will start shortly (under the auspices of the Eagle, and the winner will not only receive a cash prize and fine presentation of his play by the stock company, but an opportunity not often given to budding dramatists, who are "persona non grata" with most managers.

The second edition of the Winter Garden Show will come on Monday and is said to outdo anything ever attempted at the Big Playhouse.

"Oh Boy" is the title of the newest Princess production and will come to take to the road. It is a musical comedy on the lines of "Very Good Eddy" and "Nobody Home." The dates will be February 20, 23 and 27. "The Yellow Jacket" was produced first this season at special matinees until a theater could be secured for the performances.

Gilbert Chesterton's "Magic" and Galsworthy's "The Little Man" will be produced the same day and at the Rialto Theater Mr. Rothapel will offer as a special attraction "The Vicar of Wakefield" with Frederick Ward in the title role. This is the first time that a feature from the Thanhouser studios has been offered at the Rialto, but the unusual beauty of the picture, but the play will be seen for a week. Prominent in the cast is Carey Hastings, who was seen here a few years ago in "Mrs. Temple's Telegram." In which she created the comedy role of Martha Brown and later in "The Girl From Rector's." Miss Hastings is the wife of the old vicar and her picturesque costumes and charming acting add much to the delight of the production.

gramme which gives the characters in the order in which they speak. Thus, though Reginald Barlow comes on the stage first, Emma Dunne has the opening lines, so her name precedes his. "Old Lady 31" has come to be used as a new expression! It means a sort of mollycoddle man, so used to feminine society that masculine life is too strenuous for him. This takes the origin in the title of the play, for Old Lady 31 is a man! The home accomodates but 30 old ladies, but the inmates are sorry to see the couple separated, particularly as the man must go to the poorhouse, so they decide by unanimous vote to take his daughter, too. Of course he is spoiled to death by the ladies and it almost spoils a perfectly good husband. Another wife but Angie (admirably played by Emma Dunne) would have given up in despair, but she goes along in a sort of "Pollyanna" way and is rewarded by an inheritance which takes the devoted couple back to their old home, far away from the spoiling influences of the old ladies. The play has caught the public fancy as "something different."

### "Royalty at Red Wing" Has Setting in Arizona.

Second Episode of "The Secret Kingdom," Vitaphone Production, Is Replete With Thrilling Situations.

"ROYALTY AT RED WING" is the name of the second episode of "The Secret Kingdom," the Louis Joseph Vance story Vitaphone is presenting in serial form. The first dealt with the murder of the King and Queen of Albania and the saving of the life of the little Crown Prince by devoted servants.

Twenty years later, Philip Barr, the rightful King of Albania, but entirely in ignorance of the fact, having been raised on Red Wing Ranch, by "Peter Barr," whom he believes to be his father—rescues from the clutches of a frontier bad man "Julia Simond," who in reality is the Princess Julia, only daughter of the late King. The girl has been traveling in the United States incognito.

Fortwith they fall in love; but Julia leaves on the ship to Europe. Back in Albania, but one obstacle prevents Simond's declaring himself king—proof of the death of Prince Philip. He learns of the whereabouts of Captain Barreto through an intercepted letter, and dispatches Monsieur and Madame Savats to discover the whereabouts of the United States to assassinate Philip.

Savats and his wife arrive at Red Wing Ranch and pose as cattle buyers from Paris. Juan, son of the fisherman who helped Barreto and the Prince to escape, years before, is dispatched by America by Lieutenant Barreto, brother of Peter Barr, to warn him that Simond has learned of his whereabouts. He arrives in time to save the spies' plot, and in the fight that follows both Savats and Philip's supposed father, Peter Barr, are killed. Dying, Peter Barr charges Juan: "Don't let Philip know yet that he is the rightful King of Albania."

### AUTO THIEVES ARE JAILED

Three Companions of Herbert Smith Held to Grand Jury.

Three young men, held to the grand jury under \$250 bail apiece, were placed in jail yesterday with plenty of time to ponder on the sorry finale of a joy-riding automobile theft. They are Bernard J. C. Thompson, William Thompson and George Bosch.

With Herbert Smith, a 17-year-old coupe ward, they were arrested Friday by Detectives Craddock and Smith for the theft of a car owned by James Chittell, an employee of the Oregon Laundry Company.

Smith was at first taken to the Juvenile Court by the detectives, but was returned to Municipal Court on the request of Deputy District Attorney Deich, where he was committed by Judge Langguth.

### EXAMINATIONS ARE SET

Several Civil Service Vacancies Are Reported.

The United States Civil Service Commission announces open competitive examinations as follows:

March 7, 8, 9—Clerks, qualified in modern language, for men only, in the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce, Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C., at \$800 a year. There is particular need at this time for clerks qualified with a knowledge of the Russian language.

March 13, 1917—Landscape gardeners, for men only, to fill vacancy in the Quartermaster Corps, Ancon, Canal Zone, at \$1350 a year.

Mechanical draftsmen, for men only, in the Panama Canal service. The usual entrance salary for first-class draftsmen is about \$150 a month, and for second-class draftsmen about \$125 a month.

stenographer and typewriter, for men only, to fill vacancies in the Department of Service, Washington, D. C., at \$1200 a year.

March 14, 1917—Physician, for men only, to fill a vacancy in the public health service at Ashtabula, O., at \$30 a month and future vacancies in the Public Health, Indian, Panama Canal, Coast and Geodetic Survey and Philippine services will be filled from this examination.

March 17, 1917—stenographer and typewriter, for men only, in the field service.

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Evenings—Lower Floor, 1st 10 rows, 75c; last 7 rows, 50c; Balcony, 1st 6 rows 50c, balance 25c. Box and Loge Seats \$1. Matinees—Lower Floor, 1st 10 rows 50c, balance 25c.

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trappers are employed, who are paid 25 cents a head for both gophers and moles.

Assistant in market business practice, grade 2, for men only, to fill three vacancies in the office of Markets and Rural Organization, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., at salaries ranging from \$1200 to \$1600 a year.

Further information and application blanks may be obtained from M. K. Wigton, Postoffice building, Portland.

Farmers Fighting Gophers.  
BUENA VISTA, Or., Feb. 17.—(Special.)—"Fight the gophers and moles!" is the slogan of the farmers in the Luckiamute districts, where the pests during the past season gained headway despite the vigorous campaigns of months before. Traps and guns are the weapons employed, and school boys are at work, too. A number of regular

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Evenings 8:15. Prices: Lower floor, 25c; balcony, 15c.

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