



Florence Earle, (upper circle)
(Below) Denman Miley, (lower circle)
Georgia Mack and Theodore Warfield, Singing
"Babes in the Woods" in "Very Good Eddie" at the Baker.

BY LEONIE GASS BAER.

THE opening of "Very Good Eddie" at the Baker Theater tonight will introduce to Portland playgoers one of the youngest of American theatrical producers and at the same time the most successful.

Fifteen years ago F. Ray Comstock, not yet out of his teens, was selling tickets in the box office of the Star Theater, in Buffalo. Now he has the distinction of never having produced a theatrical failure.

When one considers that in the world of the theater only one production out of four is a success and that the manager who beats this average is fortunate, they will marvel that Comstock's producing career should be 1000. While all of his productions have not been quite as successful as "Very Good Eddie," "Nobody Home," "Oh, Boy," "Kitty Mackay" and "The Wanderer," it is still a fact that he has never produced a failure.

One of the secrets of his success, according to Mr. Comstock's own opinion, is the fact that he tries out all his productions in stock before submitting them to a Broadway audience. Among his holdings are three theaters outside of New York—in Albany, Syracuse and Cleveland. Every Spring, when the regular Eastern theatrical season is over, he installs a splendid stock company in each of these houses, the members selected so as to include musical as well as dramatic talent.

Out of the many manuscripts submitted to him during the season he selects a dozen of the most likely ones and produces them in stock. He figures that human nature is pretty much the same all over, and if the people in Albany or Cleveland approve of a piece it is likely to be just as well received in New York. So he has the advantage of most other New York managers by getting a line on his wares before he offers them for metropolitan consumption. That is how he tried out "Experience," "Oh, Boy" and "Very Good Eddie." A few weeks ago he tried out a musical version of "The College Widow" with his Cleveland stock company and it was so well received that he will produce it in New York in September.

Another secret of Comstock's success, as will be noticed by those who see "Very Good Eddie" this week, is his elimination of the chorus girl. Not that femininity of the youthful and nifty variety no longer finds a place in his productions, but that the chorus—henceforth—must be a chorus of girls. There are a score of girls in "Very Good Eddie" who sing and dance, but any of them would be grossly offended if she were referred to as a chorus girl. Each one has some individuality and distinction, and each one is given a bit, however small, to give her a feeling of importance to the production.

Individuality Is Kept. "It is impossible," said Mr. Comstock recently, "for short girls and tall girls, dark haired girls and dazling blondes, lively girls and quiet girls, stately girls and jolly little cut-ups to have the similar personalities, and each one must be treated and costumed differently. For that reason no two costumes in 'Very Good Eddie' resemble each other."

"Each girl wears a model gown especially designed for her particular style, coloring and personality, and, although there are a dozen changes of costumes in the performance, the same rule is adhered to."

"I hate the word 'chorus girl.' It stamps a person as belonging to a union or company, all banded together. Whenever I see 20 or 30 young women in a musical production, all dressed alike, all going through the same movements and all swaying exactly to the same measure, I get the same sort of feeling one does when a class of poor little orphan children pass by in their gingham aprons. In my company each girl gets a chance to display her individuality and I have discovered much latent talent among the girls that might otherwise have gone to waste."

Importers' Models Used. And speaking about dressing the chorus the praise agent, Charles Hertzman, tells me that the New York importers of Parisian frocks have recently sought permission from some of the highest class musical comedy producers to permit their feminine members to wear some of their choicest models. A gown well displayed is half sold, is a maxim among modistes and costumers, and while there are plenty of live models that can be had for reasonable salaries, the models used in the show rooms of the business, yet there are models even more desirable as to perfection of form and more favorably endowed for the purpose by generous nature, whose services have the added advantage of great publicity.

How many women are there whose chief delight in the theater is gained by viewing the creations of Paris



Ned Nestor's Sweethearts at Hippodrome.

modistes as displayed on the stage by popular favorites? And where can such beautiful gowns be seen to better advantage than at the Hippodrome, made by expert lighting and artistic backgrounds?

It is no wonder, then, that the makers and importers of high-class costumes are anxious to display samples of their wares on stage models. And it happened this Spring when the importations arrived in New York—a little later than usual on account of conditions abroad—there was a rush on the part of the importers to get some of their models placed where they could get the benefit of the best display. Naturally F. Ray Comstock, who owns the swaggar Princess Theatre, was among the first to be sought. They discovered that his musical comedy

real comedy, top the bill, with five other interesting acts and a new picture featured.

BROADWAY STARS TO BE HERE
"Very Good Eddie" in West After Solid Year in New York.

There is scarcely a playgoer in this city who has not heard a great deal about "Very Good Eddie," the smart and bright musical comedy success, which ran an entire year at the Princess Theatre, New York, followed by a hit in Chicago, and which came direct from that city for a brief Summer tour of the West. The engagement at the Baker beginning tonight and running for the entire week will be played by a metropolitan cast.

With the possible exception of "Chin Chin" there has not been a musical comedy produced in New York in 10 years that won the unanimous praise of press and public and attracted such huge attendance for such a long time as has been the case with "Very Good Eddie." Where most musical comedies fall short of humor, "Very Good Eddie" has for its foundation an irresistible farce by Philip Bartholomae and Guy Bolton, which supplies it with an endless succession of bright lines and laughing situations. Where the average musical comedy depends for success on one song hit, each of the 16 musical numbers in "Very Good Eddie" is a distinct feature, and the entire score has been the dancing craze of the country for months. "Babes in the Woods," "On the Beach at Le Lait," "I Love Them All," "If I Find the Girl," "Wedding Bells are Calling Me," "Some Sort of Somebody," "When You Wear a 13 Collar" and "Old Boy Neutral" are only a few of the entrancing melodies in the piece. And "Very Good Eddie" boasts of the most swaggar fashion chorus ever seen on any stage—all personally selected by Elizabeth Marbury, trained by Frank McCormack and gowned in frocks from Paris and designed by Elsie De Wolfe.

The action of "Very Good Eddie," which is in two acts and three scenes, "Very Good Eddie" had four weeks yet to run in Chicago, and would then start for a tour of the principal Western cities. One importer had 14 exceedingly smart models of various sport costumes, embracing all sorts of outdoor diversion from polo to tennis, and Mr. Comstock was able to secure the entire lot for the "fashion number" in "Very Good Eddie." Of course, the producers of musical comedy do not depend upon this source for costumes. The "Eddie" costumes were designed by Elsie De Wolfe and by the late Melville Elia; but the sport costumes are an advance hint of what the ultra-fashionable at Newport are wearing this Summer.

At the Strand, home of vaudeville pictures, Al Hallett and company present a comedy sketch, "Dreams," as the headline, with a Butterfly photograph, "Sweet King," a comedy featuring Jack Mulhall as a second drawing card.

The Hippodrome, too, offers new vaudeville pictures today. Ned Nestor and Charles Moore, with a bevy of pretty maids in a miniature musical

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is based on the tribulations that ensue when two newly married couples, starting on their honeymoons on a Hudson River boat, become mixed up and find themselves paired off not in accordance with their marriage certificates. The story keeps the audience in constant laughter except when they are applauding the musical numbers, the dancing and the singing and the hundreds of surprising novelties that dot the performance. And throughout is evident that atmosphere of "class" that truly makes "Very Good Eddie" a musical show that's different.

In the cast to be seen here are Denman Miley, George Mack, Harry Myers, Theodore Warfield, Edna Bates, Florence Earle, Helen Raymond, Harry Linkey, Jean DeBriac, Elaine Ford, Ralph O'Brien, Jess Holligan, Irma Chase and others—most of them new to the West, but all Broadway favorites.

NEW PANTAGES BILL SNAPPY

"Oh, Please, Mr. Detective," Is Farce With Dashing Appeal.

Striking features on the programme at the Pantages for the week commencing with the matinee tomorrow promise to make it one of the most attractive of the season.

"Oh, Please, Mr. Detective," the dashing musical farce with songs and showgirls, will be the headline attraction. George Choo, the well-known New York and Chicago producer, will present the production.

Bobby Wolsey, the musical comedy star; Betty Evans and Hudson Freeborn are among the principals and there is a chorus of pretty girls who sing and dance in such a way as to delight everyone. The musical numbers are many and tuneful, while the lines are clever and filled with laughs.

Will Norris, the ragged entertainer, in "Tattered Talent," has one of the funniest acts in vaudeville. He is a cycling comedian of remarkable ability and he has been one of the hits in the East.

"Woman Proposes," one of the last works from the pen of the late Paul Armstrong, will be presented as a special attraction by the Armstrong Players, eight in number. The sketch is a powerful one in which Mr. Armstrong puts forward the theory that woman not man is responsible for matrimonial proposals. The theme is cleverly handled, yet in a satirical vein. Mr. Armstrong was noted as the author of "The Deep Purple," "The Grey Hound" and other popular plays, and he was also known as a novelist. The Armstrong Players form a company of Eastern stars from dramatic companies who handle the roles in capable manner.

Montrezza is an excellent accordionist who has many melodies on his finger tips and who is a clever musician. Stuart, the male patti, is a wonderful impersonator of female roles. He has a wonderful voice and his songs are admirably handled. The costuming of the act is striking.

Green, McHenry and Deane in their act entitled "From the Farm to the Cabaret," a production which includes songs, dances and amusing diversions.

"The Neglected Wife" in its ninth episode has come to one of the striking climaxes which grips those who have followed the intensely interesting Pathé serial.

"Honey-moon Isle," with its pretty girls and its clever players, will close with the continuous performance today from 2 to 11 o'clock. Pantages offers many inducements to those who escape the heat for this ventilating system and its coolness make it one of the most pleasant amusement places in the city.

NEW "HIP" BILL IS LIVELY

Nestor and Moore and Their Sweethearts Feature Programme.

Ned Nestor and Charles Moore, with their sweethearts, will head the new Hippodrome bill, which opens this afternoon. The girls are said to be among the prettiest in the country and appear in the most exquisite and costly costumes.

Their repertoire of songs, comedy patter and late dance steps, Nestor and Moore are capable entertainers and the act promises to be one that will be extensively popular.

Edwin and Lottie Ford, late of the "Ford" revue, will offer a new and entertaining number. Both are reputed to be very clever entertainers. A unique offering, under the title of "The Admiral's Reception," will be presented by William DeHollis and company. The act consists in the main of juggling, with comedy interspersed.

"Bungalow Love" is the self-styled vehicle run by Melville and Milne. The two principals are said to have good voices and they both know how to use them.

Singing, talking, dancing and comedy will be offered by the Hippodrome attractions by Sherwood. "The Nurse and the Scout" is the title of the offering. This couple seem to be able to play every kind of a broad farce. The act has a military touch.

Henry Rudolph, a high tenor of prominence, is to be billed wrong, as he is called "The Vagrant Tenor," but his list of vocal solos shows nothing but high-class offerings and they are reported to be rendered beautifully.

"The Marionettes" will be the new O'Henry drama which will be shown.

SPEED AS CURE IS FEATURED

Novel Film Play Balances Vaudeville at Strand.

Speed is the watchword of the American temperament, and Jack Mulhall, the dynamic Butterfly photoplay favorite, is the very embodiment of it in the leading role in the photodrama, "High Speed," which will balance the vaudeville programme opening at the Strand Theater this afternoon.

Mulhall belongs in that vigorous and lovable group of typical American movie men with Fairbanks and Farnum, and his career this season has been one that has made him a top-notch favorite with photoplay fans wherever the pictures go.

As "Speed King," the hero of the photoplay that will run at the Strand Sunday, he is at his very best.

It is the story of a girl who comes back from finishing school utterly blasé and apathetic. Her father, a millionaire, is a sportsman, regards this as a disease instead of an accomplishment, and in his efforts to shake his daughter out

BAKER THEATER ONE WEEK BEGINNING TONIGHT

NIGHTS, 50c TO \$2—SATURDAY MATINEE, 50c TO \$1.50—MATINEE WEDNESDAY, BEST SEATS, \$1.00

THE MUSICAL COMEDY TREAT OF THE YEAR—JUST FUN—JOLLY TUNES—PRETTY GIRLS



COMPLETE CAST—ORIGINAL PRODUCTION—SWAGGER FASHION CHORUS

THE SMARTEST & BRIGHTEST MUSICAL COMEDY SUCCESS OF THE SEASON

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Direct from one Year's RUN at THE PRINCESS THEATRE New York City

THE CURE PROVES EFFECTIVE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STORY IS THROUGH A SERIES OF DELICIOUSLY COMICAL EPISODES.

Al Hallett and company in the comedy sketch, "Dreams," are the feature of the vaudeville programme, with an act that is one of the best bits of comedy that has come over the circuit this season.

Shelby sisters are a classy couple of harmony duetists, with an original and attractive offering.

Willie Karbe is an "upside down marvel" with a dazzling array of clever acrobatic and hand balancing stunts done with exceptional grace and finish.

Shaw and Sharp, a pretty girl and clever man, have a line of comedy songs and patter and character work that is most attractive.

The 15th episode of "The Voice on the Wire," concluding this serial, will be as an additional attraction on the bill Monday and Tuesday.

Girl Sues for \$25,000.

CHICAGO, July 15.—William M. Rasmussen, deputy teller of the Pioneer State Savings Bank at 4601 North avenue, was sued for \$25,000 in

the Circuit Court here by Miss Faye Smith, of Omaha. At the office of her attorneys, Messrs. Osborne, Cloud and Stephens, it was said the action is for alleged breach of promise to wed. Rasmussen, it was said, courted Miss Smith for several years, both by visits and correspondence, and they were engaged to be married.

Chile Grabs College Graduates.

WASHINGTON, July 12.—In his annual report, recently made public, the rector of the University of Chile shows that during the last 25 years more than 50 per cent of the graduates from the engineering courses have entered the service of the government of Chile. He gives a list of 258 graduates. Of these 148 are classed as public servants, or employees of the government; 21 as being engaged in mining or other industries, and the remaining 78 are either engaged in contracting or have retired from active life.

Unexcelled Vaudeville—Broadway at Alder. Matinee Daily, 2:30. Twice Nightly, 7 and 9. Popular Prices—Boxes and Loges Reserved.

WEEK COMMENCING TOMORROW'S MATINEE

GEORGE CHOO PRESENTS The Laughing Success of the Twentieth Century.

"Oh, Please, Mr. Detective"

With Bobby Woolsey, Betty Evans, Hudson Freeborn and One of the Biggest and Prettiest Chorus.

Will Morris The Cycling Comedian, in "Tattered Talent."

Montrezza The Delightful Accordionist.

Pantages Orchestra H. K. Evenson, Director.

Green, McHenry and Deane From the Farm to the Cabaret.

Stuart The Male Patti.

'The Neglected Wife' The Ninth Episode.

SPECIAL ADDED ATTRACTION

"WOMAN PROPOSES"

Written by the late Paul Armstrong, Author of "The Deep Purple," "The Grayhound" and Other Successful Plays, and Presented by the Armstrong Players.

NOTICE—The Curtains Will Rise for the Continuous Performance Promptly at 2 o'clock Doors Open at 1. Last appearance of "Honey-moon Isle" and an All-Star Bill.

SPEND THE DAY AT ST. JOHNS CHAUTAUQUA SUNDAY PROGRAMME

2:30 Musical Arts Quartet

3:00 Dr. Frank Bohn

Dr. Bohn, European correspondent of the New York Times, one of the best posted men in the country on the Central Powers, will deliver a powerful lecture on

"The Mind of Germany"

8:00 Musical Arts Quartet

8:30 Montaville Flowers

Montaville Flowers, one of the greatest lecturers on the American platform, will give his masterly treatise on the reconstruction after the world war,

"Rebuilding the Temple"

ST. JOHNS CHAUTAUQUA

5c Carfare

Central High School Grounds

NEW SCENIC RAILWAY TODAY! Council Crest

BRING YOUR COFFEE POT AND PICNIC IN THE OLD ORCHARD.

DANCING TONIGHT

BASEBALL RECREATION PARK.

Corner Vaughn and Twenty-fourth Sts. VERNON

PORTLAND

JULY 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22.

Games Begin Weekdays at 3 P. M.

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LADIES DAYS: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays (Except Holidays).

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A side-splitting musical hodge-podge in which dancing, singing, dainty girls, beautiful costumes and elaborate stage settings vie with each other in the first Western presentation of a clean satire, entitled

THE SOCIAL WHIRL

Commencing Sunday, July 22, and presented free every afternoon and evening at 3 and 8:30 to Oaks patrons in the auditorium.

Spend your vacation here—30 acres along the winding Willamette, covered with rustic vine-covered picnic spots, rides, new and startling attractions, dancing, swimming, a free kitchenette for the social set—free swimming lessons every weekday between 1 and 2—a safe place for beginners to learn—a happy place for little and grown-up children to keep and regain their health in nature's beauty spot—the playground of Portland.

So carfare from any part of the city, transferring to special trains, First and Alder—hard-surface paving for autos all the way via Spokane avenue, and plenty of free parking space on the grounds.

OAKS AMUSEMENT PARK

HIPPODROME

FOUR DAYS COMMENCING SUNDAY

NED NESTOR & CHARLES MOORE

WITH THEIR "SWEETHEARTS" "A MUSICAL COMEDY"

Melville & Milne "Bungalow Love."

Edwin & Lottie Ford "Latest Terpsichorean Revue."

Wm. De Hollis & Co. "The Admiral's Reception."

Sherwood & Sherwood "The Bugler and the Red Cross Nurse."

PHOTOPLAY

Henry Rudolph "Classical and Popular Songs."

The Marionettes as O. Henry Drama.

Matinee Daily, 1:30-5, 10c. Evenings, 6:30-11, 15c

Continuous Performance Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays

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BROADWAY AUG. 7 to 11 MATINEES

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With Bruce McRae and a Strong Cast in

"COME OUT OF THE KITCHEN"

A COMEDY IN THREE ACTS

By A. E. Thomas, author of "Her Husband's Wife" and "The Rainbow."