GOTHAM SHOWS GATHER HARVEST AT CHRISTMAS

Heavy Advance Sale of Seats for Week of Holiday Performances Is Noted-Independent Producer Begins to Reap Long-deserved Reward.



Helen Menken in"Three Wise Fools" BY ELIZABETH LONERGAN.

EW YORK, Jan. 3.—(Special.)-Last year the week before Christmas proved to be particularly profitable and the good fortunwas traced indirectly to the signing of the armistice. Early in December an unusual thing happened this year. Seats for the big hits commenced to disappear from the racks for the week of December 22. One instance was The Gold Digger" (the Belasco production with Ina Claire in the lead) which, ten days before Christmas had only a few seats left and those for had gone to war. Tuesday before Christmas, non for Christmas eve (supposed to be the worst night in the year). And the seats that were left were in the first balcony, and none too good at that! The theatrical prosperity bids fair to last indefinitely and the managers and actors will reap a well-deserved har-vest after the several past lean years.

One critic in commenting upon the passing year, made note of a singular fact. 1919 has been a wonderful year for the independent producer. Time was, and not so long ago, when all the plays were in the hands of a few people and the man with one show was in the minority. This year things money being put up, and, in consequence, a number of independent producers are making a lot of meney. Someone else in explaining this said that he had heard that a lot of people were glad to experiment with their money—that sometimes it was lost that way and so they did not have to that way and so they did not have to pay so much to Uncle Sam for income taxes! The Shuberts have one production on Broadway ("The Passing Show") where last season they had from 15 to 30 and Cohan and Harris (or rather it is Sam Harris, now) have one production just now, though last year at this time they had several. Same with "Kmand E." and others.
Last week saw the premiere of "Monsieur Beaucaire" and this the opening performance of "Abraham Lincoln" the much-discussed play that made a triumph for its English author. John Drinkwater when premiers suthor, John Drinkwater, when presented in London earlier in the season. William Harris, Jr., brought the play over and Lester Lonergan, well known on the coast, directed the pro-

duction.

Mr. Lonergan is appearing in "East and West" with Fay Bainter, and doing picture work, so his days are more than filled with working hours. The papers commented upon the fact that an Englishman should choose such a typical American theme for his drama. The pictures are so well drawn that one would imagine Mr. Drinkwater had been brought up on the life of Lincoln instead of having the life of Lincoln instead of having sort of second-hand information. The play traces the life of the martyred president from the eve of his nomination to the day of his assassi-nation. There are six scenes depict-

> THREE SHOWS DAILY!

SUN- MON- TUES- WEDNES-

THE DOUGLAS FAMILY SPRIGS OF HEATHER AND SHAMROCK THE NOTED STUART HOLMES "LOVE, HONOR AND

SURPRISE FOUR Blend of Harmony and Humor. JEROME MERRICK & CO.

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ELAINE AND TITANIA "Just a Little Change" PRICES ALWAYS 17c MATINEES
25c EVENINGS

ent in popping bottles in ne of the best fun in the produc tion follows a correspondence pro-posal in which Mike's picture is sent by his friend along with an offer of

More laughs follow when three women, at different times and un-known to each other, throw three men into the same closet in order that their presence may not be dis-covered by the various husbands and sweethearts involved.

sweethearts involved.

Among the song hits of "The Champagne Girl" are: "Whistle When You're Lonely," sung by Billie Bingham and chorus; "Whoa, January," sung by Cariton Chase; "On the Old Ohio Shore," sung by Clarence Wurdig; "Pat McGinty's Goat," sung by Madelaine Matthews, and an opening chorus introducing a medley of popular songs and churuses. The "Whoa, January" song is the latest hymn in memory of alcoholic spirits which have been banished from the land.

NEW BILLS AT THE MOVIES

(Continued From Page 2.) Love with wisdom is the secret of

The cast of characters includes: Gina Ashling, Clara Kimball Young; her brother, Gareth Hughes; her sis-ter, Pauline Starke; her father, Sam Sothern; her sultor, Milton Sills; an-other, Ralph Lewis; her favorite, Ed-mund Lowe; her impresario, William Courtleigh; the Yogi, Vincent Ser-rano.

Today's concert by Cecil Teague at 1:30 will include: "La Sorella" (Gallini); "Deep in the Heart of a Rose;" "Morning, Noon and Night" (Suppe); "Cavatina" (Raff); vivid vapid vaporings on "The Vamp."

"THE BLACK GATE" AT STAR

Earle Williams in Stellar Role of Shuler Spencer.

Just how far a big-brained, highlyrained, cultured man may fall into the depths of disgrace and oblivion is revealed with dramatic emphasis by "The Black Gate." This production, with Earle Williams in the stellar role, will be shown at the Star theater all this week.

NEWS OF THE THEATERS

(Continued From First Page.)

many changes of costumes, taking the audience into their confidence.

"Love, Honor and ?" involves the struggle of a husband to regain the struggle of a husband to regain the mastery of a too-fond wife who GUTDOOR CHARMS DEPICTED

'The Merry-Go-Round" at Strand

sought the company of rapid moving society and high livers to console her for the absence of the husband who Today and Tomorrow. FUN IS BILLED FOR LYRIC Circus folk when off parade and

"The Champagne Girl" Will Be on

Boards Beginning Today.

NOW

PLAYING!

Ben Dillon, Al Franks and the other

chrcus folk when of parade and the charms of an open, unconfined life are shown in Peggy Hyland's latest picture, "The Merry-Go-Round," which will show at the Strand theater only today and to-

chorus will uncork two hours of fun mandments" will come to the Strand



Heilig Theater Jan. 7

Prices-Floor, \$2; balcony, \$2, \$1.50, \$1; gallery, reserved 75c, ad-SEAT SALE TOMORROW

believed in them and while she minbelieved in them and while she ministers to them they are gambling over her soul. A pair of dice decides her future. Each time out of three chances fate gives her to "Sporting Chance," the wounded convict. The third time she gives in with the promise that on the morrow they will be married. But on the morrow "Sporting Chance" is again taken into custody by the law. How fate ar-

Lenore Ulrich

Lenore Ulrich

It is shown that If hope and ambition once leave the mind of a person no matter how well equipped he may become the verteat kind of a drifter. Mr. Williams takes the role of shaler shown at the Star theater of mandments."

Peggy Hyland makes an adorable a grifter of shaler spencer, formerly a distinguished lawyer, who has lost ambition. He is seen as the story opens and addictable of the performance. There were about 50 characters in the piay, including many well-known personages of civil war days Mrs. Lincoln was played by Winifred Hanley, John S. O'Brien was Seward, Albert Phillips General Grant, Frank Ginter, General Mede; James Durkin, General Lee, and J. Paul Jones, John Wilkes Booth. A third London success, by the way, will be produced soon by David Belasco, who recently acquired the American rights to Arnold Bennett's play, "Sacred and Profane Love," one of the most-discussed productions on the London season.

NEWS OF THE THEATERS

(Continued From First Page.) hall a big white sheet is stretched with a big light behind it. As each basket is offered for sale, the owner steps between the light and the screen and the bidders get a silhou-ette of the lady.

Charlie Ray as Ben Harding sets out to buy the basket of Maggie Palmer and she has told him in advance that she will have a big bow This is only one of the side features of a story in which Charles Ray ap-pears as the local baseball hero. There

Interesting and Thrilling Story Ap-

STRAND

PEGGY HYLAND

-IN-

GO-ROUND"

Better go round!

Christie Comedy

Current Events

Mutt and Jeff

COMING MONDAY "BROKEN COMMANDMENTS"

"THE MERRY-



EVE'S-FLOOR \$2; BAL. \$1.50, \$1; GAL. 75c, 50c. SAT. MAT. \$1.50, \$1, 50c

custody by the law. How fate arranges the remainder of her life forms the interest of "Broken Comthe bandits what they don't know about their business and then we find

about their business and then we find him butting in on the affairs of a little principality in Europe.

"An idea of the enormity of the production can be gathered from the fact that Mr. Fairbanks spent \$40.000 for the erection of one set alone. This is an entire section of a little French town and was built complete to the last detail, from palace to hovel, from city hall to railroad stational bridge. The amount of money in the bag, which was sent to Mexico tional bridge. The amount of money in the bag, which was sent to Mexico City, was not ascertained here.

Another city of an entirely different character was built in the hills surrounding the Douglas Fairbanks studios. Here the action demanded a Mexican village and a Mexican village 'Doug' built.

"Still another episode demanded a New York tenement street and 'Doug' built it.

A complete European railway line was built, 1500 feet long and of the Cars First and Alder

5

25¢

50e

Juarez Guards Seize Money.

ALCAZAR

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PUBLIC AUDITORIUM This Week, Jan. 5-6-7-8-10 BEGINS TOMORROW (MONDAY) NIGHT, 8:30.

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