

Theaters In America

THEN AND NOW

One hundred and sixty-two years ago today the first theatre in the United States was opened in the colony of Virginia at old Williamsburg. The originator was an English actor, William Hallam, Sr., who brought his own company from over seas and presented "The Merchant of Venice" as the initial performance. The idea spread rapidly and soon New York, Philadelphia and the other leading communities of colonial America each had their theatres. At the close of the century, theatres were open in the capitals of nearly all the thirteen original states. While the Virginian playhouse was the first in the United States, actors had played in the colonies before this date. The first is said to have been the English strolling player, Anthony Aston, who was known as Mat Medley. The actor and his art of that day was generally despised by the puritanical colonists. The Massachusetts legislature passed a law shortly after amateurs had given "The Orphans" at the Coffee House in Boston in 1749 which forbade such performances, attaching a penalty for actors and spectators alike of five pounds sterling each. The opposition in Philadelphia was so great that Hallam was compelled to build his theatre in 1759 outside of the city proper, in a district then in dispute and known as Southwark, or "Society Hill." Even then vigorous efforts were made to close the theatre. A petition was addressed to Judge William Allen, who refused to act, declaring that he had obtained stronger moral lessons from attending the theatre than from any sermons he had heard in church.

Today the theatrical profession is a huge industry in which more than \$100,000,000 is invested. There are in the United States over 3,000 theatres, not counting the 20,000 or more moving picture theatres, or circuses and halls for general entertainment. It has been estimated that during a good theatrical year there are more than 25,000 actors and actresses declaiming, trilling and dancing before the American people. One of the modern features of the profession is the traveling company, of which there are nearly 1,000. The estimated value of the 3,000 theatres is nearly \$40,000,000, while it requires \$20,000,000 annually to pay the players' salaries. About \$60,000,000 is distributed among the thousands of theaters for transportation, advertising, and to defray the cost of producing the plays. Today as a class actors and actresses are no longer generally considered pariahs of society. The most exclusive society circles have been opened to admit them, and there are instances where men and women of noble birth have given their social station for a career on the stage. Even clergymen have deserted their pulpits for the boards, while actors have abandoned the spot-light to take up careers in the church. Stars of the theatrical realm, as well as the lesser lights of the chorus, have sung and danced their way into the ranks of royalty and the nobility, not to mention the multi-millionaire set. Kings have granted them patents of nobility and learned societies and institutions have decorated them with medals and scholastic degrees.

OFFICE BROKE, "OZZY" WEST CUTS OUT THE TELEPHONE

OREGON GOVERNOR SAYS PEOPLE MUST PAY WIRE TOLLS AND PAY POSTAGE BOTH WAYS ON LETTERS TO SALEM

SALEM, Or., Sept. 7.—Because the incidental fund of his office has become exhausted, Governor West ordered his telephones disconnected and announced that persons from the outside who might wish to communicate with him must prepay wire tolls or postage both ways.

"The last Legislature failed to provide this office with funds sufficient to carry on business for two years term between sessions," de-

clared the Governor. "I shall not ask the emergency board to create a deficiency in my behalf, and inasmuch as our fund is now exhausted and the law makes it a misdemeanor for an official to incur an expense for which no appropriation has been provided, I shall incur none. Clerical work in my office will be lessened as a result, and I shall therefore discharge one of my stenographers."

FIGHT IN AIR OVER PARIS

TWO FRENCH MACHINES ENGAGE THREE GERMAN AEROPLANES AND PUT THEM TO FLIGHT.

PARIS, Sept. 7.—The building of supplementary defensive works is proceeding vigorously.

Several of the gates of Paris have been closed to traffic.

The Paris bourse is closed.

Fight in Air Over Paris.

A fight in the air over Paris has taken place. Three German aeroplanes hovered over the capital and immediately two French machines were sent up to engage them.

Meanwhile rifles and machine guns mounted on public buildings kept up a constant fire. By this means one of the German machines became separated from the others and the French aviators flew swiftly in its direction. The Germans opened fire, to which the Frenchmen replied vigorously.

The engagement seemed to turn to the disadvantage of the German, who mounted speedily to a higher level and, holding this position, was saved from further attack. He finally disappeared in a northwest direction over Fort Romainville after a vain pursuit.

The other German aeroplanes also escaped the fire of the guns and after circling about for a considerable time disappeared from view.

ORIGIN OF THE BOYCOTT

A landlord in the south of Ireland, in 1881, was particularly severe upon his tenants, whereupon the community arose in righteous indignation against him. They did not physically assault him, but they refused to treat with him in all the affairs of daily life. Did he go to church the congregation walked out; did he go to a hotel or restaurant, he could not find food or shelter. So completely was this work of ostracism carried on that it attracted first national and then international attention. This man's name was Boycott, and now all the world knows what it means to boycott a man. And thus was this new word born 33 years ago.

However, it isn't unlucky to find \$13 on Friday.

COACH AND HERRON ARE UNDER ARREST

Joseph W. Coach and John Heron were haled into Judge Kausrud's court this morning on charges preferred by the city, alleging the giving of liquor to minors. They were let out on bail to obtain counsel for their defense. The cases will come up for trial tomorrow at the city hall. It is rumored that others are implicated and some interesting points may be brought to light.—Bandon Western World.

BANDON BUDGET.

News of City-by-the-Sea from the Western World.

Col. and Mrs. R. H. Rosa, after attending the Eastern Star ceremonies at Marshfield and North Bend, left for Canada overland by way of Allegany and Portland. They will be absent for a month or six weeks and their destination is Winnipeg, Manitoba.

B. W. Knox and family of Marshfield arrived Thursday evening for a ten days' stay on Bandon beach. They are camping out and say the evenings are rather chilly.

Dr. R. V. Leep took Dr. H. E. Shoot to Marshfield in his car Friday. The latter took a boat there for his home at Portland. Drs. Leep and Shoot and L. E. Osborn and R. C. McKinnis recently returned from a month's hunting trip in Curry.

E. C. Drews, manager of the Coos Bay Home Telephone company, was over from the Bay the early part of this week attending to business matters in connection with the local exchange.

The James Butler, a steamer about the size of the Speedwell, is due into Port Orford this morning with a cargo of hay. It will load with ties for F. L. Botsford which will be shipped to San Pedro. The cargo will contain about 15,000.

GERMAN SAILORS TO TURKEY?

Athens Hears Men and Ammunition Went to Constantinople.

LONDON, Sept. 5.—The correspondent of the Reuter Telegram Co. at Athens says:

"According to a semi-official statement, news has been received from a trustworthy source in Constantinople that 800 German officers and sailors, as well as a quantity of ammunition, passed through Bulgaria recently in a special train on the way to Constantinople."

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