

Musical Comedy "The Pink Lady" Possesses Unique Combination of Book and Score



Scene in musical comedy, "The Pink Lady," which will appear at the Heilig theatre for seven nights commencing Sunday, May 5. Catchy songs accentuate the humorous possibilities of the piece.

Few people realize why a performance on the stage is different and yet you will always discover if you analyze a real hit that it possesses qualities that mark a change in public opinion at the moment when taste is experiencing a craving for just this change. As an instance the phenomenal success of "The Pink Lady" is cited. This piece at first glance is just a musical comedy, with a song and story and a bit of color. Kipling has bitterly outlined women in a term as terse and yet given some subtle quality of personality that appeals to her mate each particular red and bone and hunk of hair becomes the very soul of all he craves in the beauty of mutuality.

Through the past 10 years, musical comedy has been climbing up out of the field of hodge-podge. In its early stages it bespoke the restless spirit of the times. In fact, most of the entertainments which were ambiguously described as musical comedy were in reality just a mixture of variety and burlesque with no regard for the unities and as little rhyme or reason as could be permitted. In its time, this was all right, but gradually the great public felt the need of something more coherent and a little more artistic. As the need developed, we found artists who knew the subtle influence of color lending their knowledge to the enlargement of these airy mixtures of foolery and frothiness. But still we were progressing in spite of ourselves and even this color harmony was not sufficient to hide the defects of construction which, after

all, is the thing that counts upon the stage. There were several productions which touched the fringes of this public yearning, but remained for "The Pink Lady" to unearth it. Watch the performance of this comedy with music and you will see why it stands out so distinctly. First of all, it has a story to tell and tells it. With a little re-adjustment here and there, its book could be played as a straight farce and meet with hearty interest; the meanwhile one would never miss the possible association of a melodious score. But having decided to bring this story within the confines of musical comedy, the score was necessary and therefore the purpose was to make it essential. But how get this music into the plot without arresting its developments? The

musical numbers are not interpolations, but accompaniments. They relieve the action and at times accelerate it and always brighten it up. Not a song is there simply for the vocal effect or possibility. Rather they weave into the plot and hurry matters along and color the atmosphere. How often have you seen a play starting with a story halted for some irrelevant remark such as: "Yonder moon is shining sweetly tonight." That used to be called musical comedy license. But the public, with a keen sense of the ridiculous, wearied of such things and especially if the remark came in appropos of nothing and you knew forthwith the tenor was going to give a very poor imitation of a nightingale singing lyrics to a rose. No solos are juggled in

by the heels in this delightful performance. The story progresses naturally and unfolds its rich and humorous possibilities and the songs accentuate them. By this combination of book and score, the piece becomes extraordinary and the public is quick to discover what it wants and knows it the instant it is revealed to them. They may not know why or understand the subtle influence which leads them to the point of recognition but they always do recognize something different when it is given to them and so in reading about for the reasons of "The Pink Lady's" remarkable vogue just watch it closely and one will understand instantly that there is an apparent reason. "The Pink Lady" will appear at the Heilig for seven nights beginning May 5, with a Wednesday and a Saturday matinee.

MAYOR COTTERILL WARNS COUNCIL TO GET ECONOMY BEE

If Not, He Tells It Seattle Will Surely Fly to Commission Government; Present Plan No Better Than Old.

(Special to The Journal.) Seattle, April 27.—Unless city affairs are conducted with greater economy and efficiency than in the past, Seattle will adopt a commission form of government. This is the prediction of Mayor George E. Cotterill. In this opinion he is upheld by Councilman Austin E. Griffiths, who has just returned from an extended trip to the east, combining business and study. Griffiths declares the present system under which this municipality conducts its affairs is the very enemy of economy and efficiency. Both declared that Seattle's charter is on its final trial, and that unless better results are attained the people will demand, and properly so, a commission form of government. Two years ago, when the ward lines were obliterated and a council of nine members at large was substituted for

councilmen from each ward and one at large, it was hoped city affairs would be conducted with greater dispatch and economy and with better results. This hope has not been realized, and many citizens believe the former system is preferable to the present. Instead of working together for the general good, the nine councilmen have engaged in personal campaigns and in acrimonious disputes. Some of the members have espoused radical hobbies until the routine of the municipality was neglected and each councilman rode his own hobby in an effort to promote personal ambition. The occasion of the warning by the mayor was at the first gathering under the present administration of the advisory board, which Mayor Cotterill has enlarged to include heads of all departments and the city council. The mayor was well pleased at the get-together spirit manifested, and he told department heads that he will expect greater efficiency from each. With efficiency must go economy, he stated. Unless there is marked efficiency under the present administration, there will be a movement for the commission form of government before the next city election. At the first of the year there were 29,597,000 horses and 4,322,000 mules in the United States, an increase of 231,000 of the former and 29,000 of the latter in a year. The United States exported more than 12,000,000 pounds of dynamite and nearly 1,000,000 pounds of gunpowder last year. Seeking coal deposits, the Prussian government has sunk the deepest bore hole in the world to a depth of 7468 feet.

MODERN SCHOOL FAR IN INTERIOR

State Superintendent Finds Lakeview High Among Country's Best.

(Salem Bureau of The Journal.) Salem, Or., April 27.—State School Superintendent L. R. Alderman returned Wednesday from his first visit into Lake county, in the southern part of the state, and said he met one of the most pleasant surprises of his life at Lakeview. "After traveling 110 miles by stage to reach Lakeview, when I reached there I found a handsome \$50,000 high school building, with the finest high school auditorium in the state, located on an eight acre tract of land, and with the school organized to meet almost every need of the people," said Superintendent Alderman. "The school is doing nearly all the work usually done by a Y. M. C. A. It has fine playgrounds, and is conducting night classes. It is up to date in every way." Superintendent Alderman also spent some time visiting the high schools in Klamath county. He said that at Klamath Falls the high school was conducting an experimental station in connection with the county poor farm.

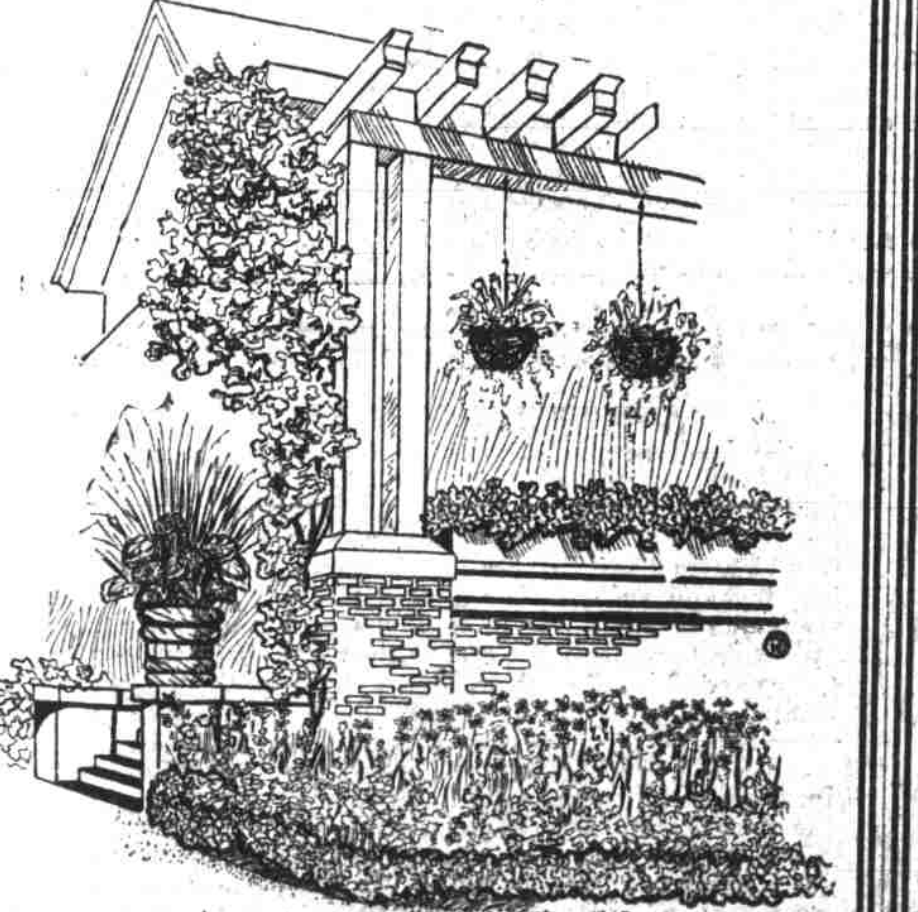
IRVINGTON GIRLS GIVE SUCCESSFUL RECITAL

The recital given by a number of Irvington girls Friday evening, April 19, in the Church of Good Tidings, Twenty-fourth and Broadway streets, for the benefit of the poor children's cot at Good Samaritan hospital, was a gratifying success in every particular. The excellent program reflected much credit on the young performers, and

was enjoyed by an audience that comfortably filled the church. The candy table, presided over by Miss Beth Ludlam, did a good business, and Miss Jeanette West sold geraniums at another gaily-decorated booth. The sum of \$48 was realized and will be turned over to the hospital at once. The young girls who helped to make the affair a success were: Misses Dorothy Bliss, Beth Ludlam, Jeannette West, Jeannette Wiggins, Helen Zimmerman, Constance Davis, Beatrice Fortous, Verna Barker, Lucille Stevora, Madeline Grady, Jean Findlay, Helen Wegmann, Helen Barnes, Irene Barnes, Minerva Holbrook, Francis Kingsley, Francis Wardner and Master George Horace Wardner Jr.

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