

**FAMOUS ACTRESS SEES GREAT POSSIBILITIES IN MOVING PICTURES**

Mrs. Fiske Talks of Poetry and Art While Dispensing Red Cross Seals.

By V. W.  
Minnie Madden Fiske sold Red Cross seals yesterday afternoon at the booth in the lobby of the Portland hotel. Immediately it became known that the great actress was really dispensing the Christmas seals together with her most gracious smiles, the little holly-hung booth was stormed with men, women and children anxious to make their purchases direct from the hands of the wonderful woman whom they had hitherto been privileged to see from afar.

With characteristic graciousness, Mrs. Fiske had a pleasing word for every one. One of the most interesting visitors to the booth was a very aged man who had known Mrs. Fiske when she was a tiny girl. A bashful little girl who ventured up to the booth to get a glimpse of the "great lady," as she characterized the great actress, left in joyous excitement—Mrs. Fiske kissed her.

**Happy to Contribute.**  
"As you know I am interested in every living thing, so I was more than happy to contribute my mite to the sale of the Red Cross seals and was only sorry that I could not have stayed at the booth longer," declared Mrs. Fiske last night.

"I find I have made many new friends in Portland through the pictures of 'Tess of the d'Urbervilles,' and I am very happy over it too, for my head and heart are full of the picture play; it has such wonderful possibilities. My experience in acting 'Tess of d'Urbervilles' before the moving picture machine was nothing short of a revelation. I had known, of course, that Bernhard and others of distinction had given their art to the picture drama, just as I had known that noted singers had sung into the graphophones. But then an astonishing thing happened.

**Finds Art in Moving Pictures.**  
"Almost before we began the work I felt an absorbing sense of something new and strange and wonderful. With all my soul I disagree with Mrs. Bernhard, who declared there could be little art in the moving-picture play. The silent drama will not supplant the familiar spoken play, but it will take its place as a new and beautiful art—an art in some respects more ethereal and delicate than that which the conventional drama ever can be. As it develops toward its ultimate dignity, it will perhaps be more akin to music and painting than to acting, as we now know it. The absence of physical bodies and the sense that all is more reflection may be made to furnish an extraordinary stimulation to the imagination and to the poetry in our nature.

"There is a wonderful appeal in nature's splendid settings—in the dim woods along the rippling streams, in the mountain tops, in the sunlit fields, in the vaulted sky. There is no audience looking on. I felt the verity and beauty of all this when we went to the chosen places to act the successive scenes of 'Tess.' When actors begin to understand this new and wonderful art, its possibilities, they will become nobly inspired with the beauty of its environment and the reach of its opportunities. They will find something nobler, purer, simpler and loftier than anything they ever can find in the artificial atmosphere of the theatre, where

**WELL KNOWN WOMAN OF STAGE ATTRACTS MUCH ATTENTION**



Minnie Madden Fiske (seated, wearing veil) Helping Sale of Red Cross Stamps at Booth in Portland Hotel.

there is disillusionment on every side. "If the dramatist desires Niagara or the Grand Canyon as a background, he can have it. He need not be satisfied with a poor stage picture. Think of the limitless material available. At this time we are witnessing the first crude manifestations of this new art. As it now is projected it often is beneath contempt. There is no discipline or order, very little sense or taste, but above all no real understanding on the part of those presenting it to the world. "But it will outlive all this confusion. Out of the present chaos the beautiful new art will emerge. It will have to pass through the hands of the dull minded, who have not the vision to see what it really is. Some day it should, and I believe it really will, command the genius of such poets as Masterlinck."

In this appreciation of the picture play Mrs. Fiske has the sympathy and cooperation of her husband and manager, Harrison Grey Fiske.

"I think few actresses have been as fortunate as I," said Mrs. Fiske. "I know of no other manager who would have let me undertake the things I have undertaken. In this respect I can speak of my husband as the manager in a sort of impersonal way. He has always been in the closest sympathy with my ideals and ready to cooperate with me in any cherished enterprise. All this has been very fortunate for me."

**Johnston Gets Bunch.**  
Eugene, Or., Dec. 3.—Manager Johnston of the Portland Men's Resort was a visitor at the Eugene Coffee club this week to obtain ideas as to how the local institution is conducted with a view of establishing a lunch counter at the resort similar to the one here.

**PROPERTY OWNERS OPPOSE ADOPTION OF WATER SCHEME**

(Continued From Page One.)

Commissioner Daly in reference to it, provided the suggestion by Mayor Albee that the remonstrators appoint such a committee is taken up.

Despite his explanations of Commissioner Daly that the proposed scheme of charging water consumption against the premises, does not affect the taxpayers or the taxes in any way, and will result in a big saving to the water bureau, the property owners present were a unit in demanding a negative vote on the ordinance.

The majority of them took the attitude that the scheme is unjust to the property owner for the reason, they declared, that it makes the landlord responsible for the water consumed by his tenants. Attorney Frederick V. Holman, one of the speakers, also attacked the legality of the proposed measure. He said he had looked into the matter and had found no specific authority by which the council had the right to collect water rents from the property owner.

**Court Action Threatened.**  
"And," said he, "unless there is some express provision in the charter authorizing collection from landlords, then the proposed ordinance would be absolutely void."

He was followed by B. S. Pague, among others, who declared that he would fight the first lien put against his property for unpaid water used by tenants and would carry it to the supreme court if necessary. Several others stated they would do the same thing.

At the conclusion of the speeches the atmosphere cooled considerably and the leaders concluded their side of the case by expressing the opinion that the commissioners would act on their best judgment in the matter and not from political motives.

The view of the property owners present was epitomized by A. King Wilcox, who, in entering a protest, said: "The proposed ordinance provides that the water bills shall be rendered quarterly, after service. The tenant has entire control as to the amount of water he uses, and the landlord, who is responsible for the payment, under this ordinance has no control over it. Now why should the landlord pay for the water consumed by his tenant, any more than for the meat his tenant eats?"

**Tenants Could 'Beat Bill.'**  
He then told of several instances where tenants had left without paying rent, and added that under the new ordinance the landlord would be responsible for water bills in addition to loss of rent.

Others spoke in the same strain, and repeated stories of how tenants had left, and leaving, neglected to give any forwarding address for the rent bill to follow.

Finally Commissioner Daly was given a chance to make a partial explanation. Amid repeated interruptions he said, in effect: "This ordinance should not be discussed from the viewpoint of the taxpayer because the taxpayers do not contribute—as taxpayers—to the upkeep and maintenance of the water bureau. This is paid by your tenants—the consumers."

Here some people in the rear of the council chamber broke in with cries of "We property owners make the city," and were promptly suppressed by shouts of "Let him have his say."

Smiling pleasantly, Daly continued: "Although you don't know it, you property owners are given many benefits because these tenants do pay the way of the water bureau. For instance, there are 4462 fire hydrants in Portland for the protection of the houses you own."

**Says Consumers Pay Bill.**  
The water consumers and not the taxpayers paid for them. During the last seven years an average of \$60,000 annually has gone into the installation of these hydrants which give you lower insurance.

There is no question that the system proposed would result in a large saving. Instead of billing \$5,000 water consumers each month, we would bill them only four times a year. That would mean a saving in clerical hire and all along the line. It would mean a lessened expense of thousands of dollars each year.

"Other cities bill against the premises like we propose to do. Among them are Brooklyn, Seattle, Sacramento, Boston, St. Louis, Chicago, St. Joseph, Racine and others."

At this point several people importuned the mayor for a chance to speak and Daly, his statement unfinished, sat down and gave them the opportunity. Soon after the meeting adjourned and the council continued its session until this afternoon.

Among the speakers against the passage of the ordinance were Rodney Glines, Thomas Guilan, Leo Field, Thomas Hishop, Weiderman Seaton and A. Dekum.

**MRS. LAIRD NATIVE OF LANE COUNTY**

Eugene, Or., Dec. 3.—Mrs. William Laird, a native of Lane county, but a resident of Pullman, Wash., for 26 years, died at that place yesterday and will be buried in the family plot in Pleasant Hill cemetery Friday. She was born in Loat Valley, above Pleasant Hill, her maiden name being Euretta Stoops. She was married to Mr. Laird 30 years ago. They moved to Pullman in 1887 and her husband has been employed by the Northern Pacific railway as telegraph operator and freight agent since that time. Mrs. Laird was a member of a well known pioneer family of this county. She leaves three brothers and two sisters.

**Ad Club Was There.**  
Hood River, Or., Dec. 3.—Over 500 people met at the Riverside Congregational church last night to listen to a program of music and song given for the benefit of the Chautauqua committee to assist in liquidating an indebtedness incurred at the Chautauqua in Hood River valley last season. The Ad club quartet, of Portland, had a part on the program.



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- Blue Flannel Shirts...\$1.50

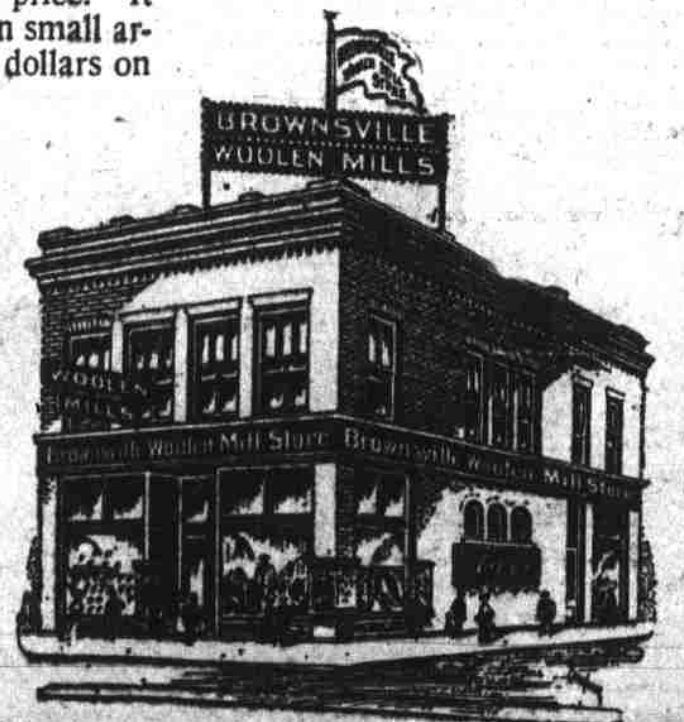
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