

THEATRICAL NEWS and GOSSIP



Stageland

ALCAZAR—For the initial attraction of the Alcazar Musical Comedy company, which opens its season tomorrow night at the Alcazar theatre, "Mlle Modiste" is the opera selected. It is, according to eminent critics, the best American light opera of the time. Victor Herbert is responsible for the score, while Henry Blossom (of "Checkers" fame) wrote the libretto, and in this way they have written an opera that is unusual and one that marks the return of the legitimate light opera, such as were written by Offenbach and Strauss. Miss Mabel Wilber, the Alcazar prima donna, is to portray the role of Fifi, which was originally played by Fritz Scheider and Miss Wilber's personality is befitting the role. Like her predecessor, there is a charm in her Fifi that makes it a distinct creation. Fifi is a little milliner's assistant, who longs for better things. She loves and is loved by a hussar, but the family of the officer is very much opposed to the match. At this juncture a rich American aids the little milliner, putting the means of a musical education into her hands. She disappears, only to return later a famous singer. Oscar Figman, as the American millionaire, has his hands in the comedy of the opera, while Henry Cootie, George Natanson, Detmar Poppin, Eddie Sedam, Lee Daly, May Wallace and Eva Olivetti will come in for their share of the success of the opera.

A noteworthy interest has been manifested by many of the local music lovers and from every indication a successful summer season of light opera and musical comedy is assured.

There will be matinees Wednesday and Saturday. Next week's offering will be "Mlle Modiste."

BAKER—One of the subjects just now agitating the public mind is that of the looseness of the divorce laws prevailing in different states, and especially Oregon. For this reason William Anthony McGuire's intense drama, "The Divorce Question," which Verna Felton will be seen in at the Baker for the week starting this afternoon, is peculiarly opportune. It is a powerful argument against divorce—extreme perhaps, but one which taken in any light cannot but impress vividly upon one's mind that this subject is one that needs attention just now.

The scene takes place within a Catholic church, and the predominating character is the Rev. William Jerome. This role will be played by John Fee, the popular young leading man with Miss Felton, while he plays the part of a priest whose parents were divorced when she was but a child, both married again, and under remarkable circumstances. It depicts the effects that may be visited upon the children of divorcees and, while highly dramatic at times, is not without its lightening comedy situations. These are written around a youthful couple who are running away and getting married after a few weeks in love, this also being considered one of the causes of many divorces, and that could be prevented largely by stricter marriage laws. "The Divorce Question" has never been presented here before. Matinees today, Wednesday and Saturday.

LYRIC—"Mlle O'Kissme," a laughable musical burlesque with all the late song hits and beautiful choruses, will mark the week of Dillon and Franks at the Lyric starting this afternoon. In their popular eccentric roles of Mike and Ike the two comedians will have more than the usual amount of laughing bombs to shoot. Mike is a lawyer and Ike is his chief clerk, but the employer is in the habit of taking his clerk out for night revels in order to have an alibi in case of anything happening that might involve him. Innocent little Ike goes along on this particular night a lot of things happen that bring matters to a head next morning. Among the incidents is the dashing Mlle O'Kissme, who shows up to make trouble as it were just as the wives of Mike and Ike also happen in at the office. Then follows the complications in which the cute little actress keeps them all guessing until the very finish, when to the consternation of everybody she picks Ike's grouch and unattractive old father-in-law.

The usual number of song hits will be introduced, such as "Jump, Jim Crow," "The Old Spangled Banner," "Kissin' Sid," and many more, with Dorothy Raymond, Billie Bingham, Clarence Wurdig and the other clever principals backed up by the prize Rosebud chorus and brilliant stage effects. Fun, pretty girls and music is the Lyric motto, and it has long held first place in Portland as the home of the most popular and airy form of amusement so popular everywhere.

Matinee daily, with the "Country Store" Tuesday night and the chorus girls' contest Friday.

MacLean and May to Star

The first co-star vehicle selected by Thomas H. Ince for Douglas MacLean and Doris May is "What You Husbands Do!" by George V. Hobart. A strong cast with all young players has been selected. Besides Mr. MacLean and Miss May this includes Walter Hiers, Alice Wilson, Norris Johnson, Alice Elliot, William Buckley, Margaret Livingston and J. P. Lockney.

THE following plays and players are billed at Portland theatres this week: Left, Miss Arnold, soloist of the Arnold and Taylor duo. Verna Felton, who is being starred in the Baker Stock company productions, is seen clapping the knees of John G. Fee, in a scene in "The Divorce Question," at the Baker for the week, starting today. Above, a scene from "Mlle Modiste," in which the new Alcazar Musical Comedy company will open the summer season at the Alcazar tomorrow evening. Below, Rosebud chorus girls in "Mlle O'Kissme," Lyric. At the right, two of the Greater Morgan dancers, headline act at the Orpheum.

Made San Francisco Sit Up Now He's Come a Cropper

By Robert Welles Ritchie
LONDON, May 31.—Poor old Lord Sholto Douglas, once the most talked-of men in San Francisco and seven days wonder of all California—poor old Sholto's gone on the rocks. London, which does not know its own Lord Sholto nearly as well as the city by the Golden Gate once did, read today that George Douglas Sholto, "described in the receiving order and commonly known as Lord Sholto Douglas," had entered a petition in bankruptcy before the London Bankruptcy court. He didn't have a penny of assets and no chattels upon which anything could be realized. He was "stony broke." Petitioner alleged that before the death of his father in 1900 he had received an allowance of \$1000 and that he had inherited \$50,000 which he had lost "because of the war."

After losing all his money early in 1917, Lord Sholto continued in his petition, he and his wife had subsisted on the bounty of a relative, who had made them an allowance of \$50 a week; but now that had been withdrawn, there was positively not a stiver in sight and his debts amounted to nearly \$1500.

KNOWN IN SAN FRANCISCO

A different Lord Sholto, this middle-aged and humbled man who stood with head bowed before the senior official receiver, from the one San Francisco knew in the early '90s. The Lord Sholto Douglas cut a flaming swathe through the city of the Golden Gate, and was known as the "potlachee" indulged by wealthy miners from the Klondike. His picture was in every paper, his name on every lip.

The youth in his early twenties who hit Market street with a loud noise and a cloud of smoke in 1894 was all the West believed a real English lord should be from its instruction by the vaudeville stage and its recollection of the elder Southern Lord Dundreary.

This gay boy had white hair parted in the middle and plastered down on either side with pomade, pale blue eyes, a very large nose and what was known in the pat-slang of the day as "a rush of teeth to the face."

A SHERLOCK HOLMES LORD

He wore checks as large as a new development subdivision out near the Presidio, a monocle, a fore-and-aft cap such as Sherlock Holmes used to sport on the stage when he followed the lighted cigar through the gas chamber. Also a stick—a stick weighing in the neighborhood of five pounds and with

a carved ivory alligator's head for a handle.

He was a mark!

And poor young Sholto acted the part. He had money to spend on wine in the Palace grill. He had money to spend on any likely investment. Result, many corbs popped under the palms of the old Palace, and every con-man in California who knew a "sick engineer" or an "Indian chief" with inside information on a gold mine groomed his shillabars and trotted them out before Lord Sholto.

The boy was a glutton for punishment. No easier mark ever passed under the hand of a collector than the young man from Brazilian diamonds to shares in the airship which was building out on Haight street.

Just when the Sunday papers had exhausted all the funny paragraphs on Sholto he made a visit to the Sacramento valley and in Marysville, I think it was, the jolly yokels gave the English adventurer an entirely new thrill. He'd heard all about the Native Sons of the Golden West—what visitor to California is allowed to live in ignorance of this grand and glorious institution? Carelessly over a bar in the National House on the first night after his arrival the scion of Norman lineage dropped a regretful tear that he was not qualified to join this noble order—having had the bad luck to be born in England instead of the Golden state.

Immediately a choice group of Marysville's cut-ups determined that Lord Sholto should not permanently suffer the stigma of not being a Native Son, so for his exclusive benefit they organized the Order of the Woolly Bear and extended to the Englishman a glowing invitation to become a member. They urged that few had ever received this honor; in that they were absolutely truthful; he was the first and last initiate.

WHAT MADE HIM RUN?

They nearly killed Lord Sholto at that initiation. These brawny young men took the Englishman apart to see what made him run and put him together again rather badly. But Sholto was game and after the ordeal was over he was propped up in a chair at the head of what the local editor doubtless referred to as a "groaning board" and he ordered the grape to pass.

Hardly had the echoes of this escapade died when Sholto had a love affair. Her name was Loretta Mooney and she was a singer on "small time." Loretta's family tree ran back to the Kings of Ireland, perhaps, but it was not noted in Burke's Peerage. Loretta's mother

was what the French call a "blanchisseuse," so were many of California's grand ladies at one time or another. They were married and the papers played Sholto clear across the front page.

About that time the stern pater or uncle, or whoever it was back in England that was supplying the sinews for Sholto's adventuring, decided to go out of the sinew-supplying business, and the young Benedict was stranded. Was he down-hearted? Not Sholto!

He had somebody write a vaudeville part for him to play in a skit opposite Mrs. Sholto, and he made his premiere in the same theatre that first received David Warfield behind the "foots."

STAGE APPEARANCE A RIOT

It was a riot. All San Francisco fought for seats. The Cherry Sisters in their prime never had the S. R. O. sign out on the sidewalk so fast. The only stage appearance that might have added to the finish of the act was a net. All Sholto had to do was to come out on the stage and appear natural. The audience did the rest.

After a whirlwind career on the stage Sholto and the pretty Loretta disappeared. San Francisco never heard of them thereafter.

I can only add this bit—and a sad one—to the latest history of the man who once awoke naughty Frisco. The eldest son of the once gay Sholto and Loretta Mooney—who was a Native Son, even if his daddy couldn't be—was killed fighting in France last year.

Collect War Taxes, Latest Bunko Game

Cleveland, Ohio, May 31.—(I. N. S.)—It's here, boys. The latest "patriotic" confidence game is collecting war taxes. M. F. Heldes is looking for the two smooth collectors who explained that his contribution to the national income under the "new revenue bill" would be exactly \$10.20. Heldes paid and asked questions afterward.

On Beer Strike

Melbourne, May 31.—(U. P.)—(By Mail)—Port Darwin, Australia, has been on a beer strike for 11 weeks, in protest against the high price of the beverage, 43 cents per bottle. The authorities have finally been induced to investigate the cost of beer in tropical countries, in order to determine whether the price shall be lowered in Port Darwin.

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AMUSEMENTS

VA. UDEVILLE
ORPHEUM—Broadway at Taylor. Big time vaudeville, headlining "The Greater Morgan Dancers."
FANFARE—Broadway at Alder. Fifth class vaudeville and playhouse features. Afternoon and evening. Program changed Monday afternoon.

HYPHODROME—Broadway at Yamhill. Acker-mann & Harris vaudeville and playhouse features. Afternoon and night.
STOCK
BAKER—Broadway at Morrison. Baker Stock company, in "The Divorce Question." Matinee 2:30, night 8:30.

LYRIC—Fourth and Stark. Lyric musical farce comedy company, in "Mlle O'Kissme." Every evening and afternoon except Thursday afternoon.

ALCAZAR—Eleventh and Morrison. Musical Comedy Stock company opens Monday evening, June 2, in "Mlle Modiste." 11 a. m. to 11 p. m.

COLUMBIA BEACH—Sixth near Hall. William Desmond, in "The Mists of Hell." 11 a. m. to 11 p. m.
LIBERTY—Broadway at Stark. Blanche Sweet, in "The Unpardonable Sin." 11 a. m. to 11 p. m.

STRAND—Washington between Park and West. Vaudeville, playhouse, 11 a. m. to 11 p. m.
MAJESTIC—Washington at Park. Bessie Barriscale, in "Two Gun Betty." 11 a. m. to 11 p. m.

COUNCIL CREST—Dancing every evening except Sunday. Sunday afternoon concert. Council Crest Amusement Park—Armstrong Folly company, in musical travesty. Skating, boating.

'Now, Listen, Lester' Is Current Phrase

"Now, Listen Lester" is a phrase made popular by the audiences of "Listen Lester," John Cort's musical comedy at the Knickerbocker theatre, New York, as an introductory preface to all good advice. Of course, whether advice is good, bad, or indifferent, can only be decided by the recipient thereof, but the admonitory tone that seems to encircle the words "now, Listen, Lester," heard so often in that play, implies that she, he, or it at whom the phrase is directed is about to hear something to his advantage. Lester, of "Listen Lester" is put in the way of a big reward for the happy recovery of letters (and fully but unfortunately in the possession of one Arbutus Quilty. The words bode good fortune to the original Lester, and it is said that whoever is fortunate enough to have those words repeated into his ear is likely to have similar good fortune. So far all "listening Lesters" are doing well.

"I'm worried about Willie Skiffens," "He's so studious that he ought to get along." "Yes. But he is trying to learn aviation from a correspondence school."—Washington Star.

Parks and Resorts

OAKS PARK—"Paqueta," a Spanish musical comedy, is the offering of the Armstrong Folly company at the Oaks Park auditorium for the week beginning today. Costumes and special antics in keeping with the theme have been arranged by Director Ed Armstrong. The principal part will be played by Miss Perqueta Courtney, who will lend herself to the role with especial fitness.

"Paqueta" is a dainty Spanish miss madly in love with a soldier of her sunny country. The match is fought by Paqueta's parents, who design for her happiness through a marriage with a wealthy civilian. Paqueta's dislike for the civilian is as strong as her love for her hero, and while much sparkling humor is interjected in working out the story, the theme offers opportunity for a display of the abilities of the Armstrong cast and chorus. Miss Courtney will sing "Jazz Baby," a song similar to those which won applause for her during the past week.

The Armstrong trio—Farnsworth, Ives and Leahy—will be heard in a group of new songs, and a duet by Evans and Newton, "For the Two of Us," is expected to be a popular hit. Miss Lillian Lewis, premier dancer, will stage a special Spanish number at each performance.

Making much of a bull fight feature, the Armstrong company has done part of its rehearsing this week in a study of the true Spanish arena battle. A lighted swing feature will be another addition to the interesting settings for "Paqueta." The Winter Garden runway specialty will be repeated.

Manager Cordray says that the Oaks pavilion is proving more popular as a dancing place this year than ever before.

COUNCIL CREST—Dancing, concert, and orchestra concerts are growing in popularity at Council Crest, and with the coming of warmer weather and the increasing number of novel events are being planned for the near future.

COLUMBIA BEACH—Some aerial thrills will help start the Columbia Beach season next Sunday, June 2, when Aerodrome will give a series of stunts. His ascension includes a jump from the gas bag by parachute, and J. M. Ries, manager of the park, has sent letters to several motorboat owners at Vancouver, asking them to keep an eye on Miller when he makes the jump. The chances are that he will land somewhere in the Columbia river.

What Public Wants; What Public Gets

The public has been slandered often by producers and authors who have declared that they knew what the public wanted. By filling theatres for a season with a meretricious music burlesque, they have persuaded themselves that what the public does not want is art. But art is skill. It is not, as some persons would have you believe, heaviness, or, as others imagine, exploitation of themes which are by common consent left undiscussed at dinner tables or in polite drawing rooms. The art of a composer who had gained the Mendelssohn scholarship of the Royal Academy of Music and the art of an editor and writer whose work in both capacities had given fillip to the London periodical, Fun, was combined in the creation of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas. In their composition more thought and more power of observation were applied than are applied to the writing in all many a speech which moved the British parliament.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

John Barleycorn Is Given Short Respite

Cleveland, Ohio, May 31.—(I. N. S.)—John Barleycorn, due to pass away in Ohio May 24, drew a 24-hour respite when license officials ruled that special liquor licenses, good only for Monday, May 26, might be issued. The one-day licenses cost the holders \$305 each, but there was a grand rush on the part of saloonkeepers to pay their money.

SOME members of the Armstrong Folly company, who will appear at the Oaks Amusement Park this week in "Paqueta," a musical comedy offering with a Spanish flavor. The attraction will be on the boards for the week.



Private Tires of Being Dead One

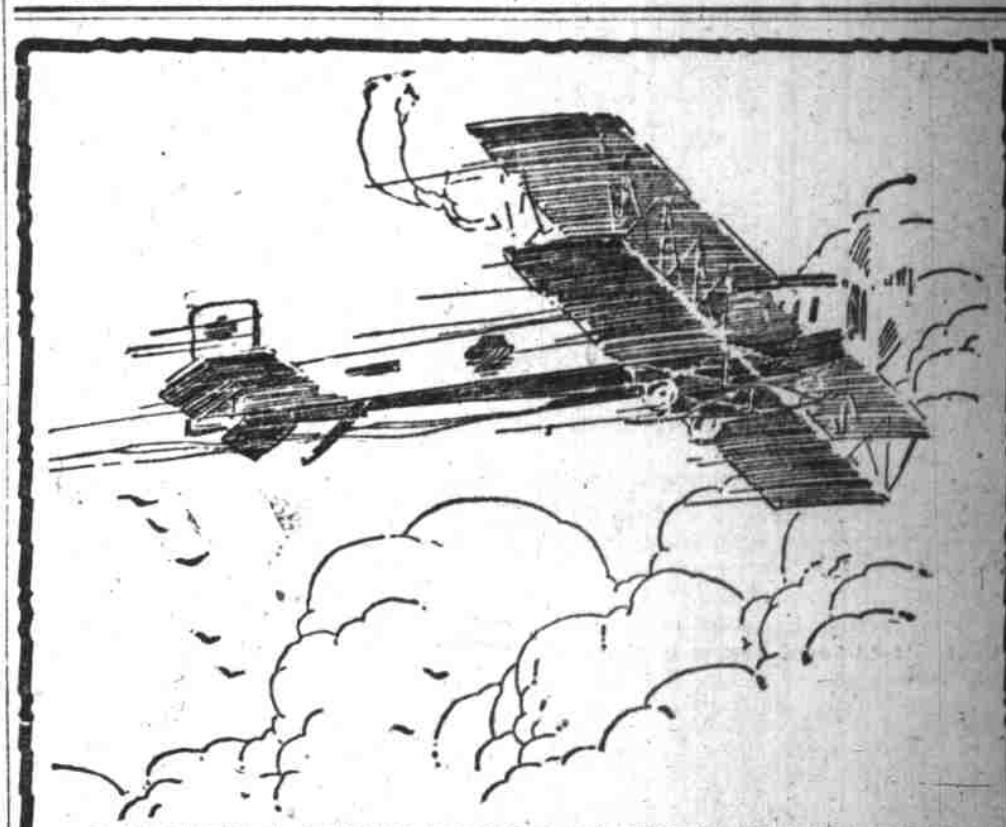
Philadelphia, May 31.—(I. N. S.)—"I'm tired of being dead and would like newspapers to print the fact that I'm alive," declared Private Oscar Burns, Company L, One Hundred Ninth Infantry, in a voice that sounded anything but ghostly. "I've been reported dead three times, once since I got home more than a month ago. I was wounded but am all right now and I'm dust by Evans and Newton. "For the Two of Us," is expected to be a popular hit. Miss Lillian Lewis, premier dancer, will stage a special Spanish number at each performance.

Police Called to Liberate Feline

Philadelphia, Pa., May 31.—(I. N. S.)—"Please send the police to Forty-second and Spruce streets quick! I am in distress," an excited voice over the phone cried into Police Sergeant Breitmayer's ear. Half a dozen cops were loaded into a patrol wagon and hurried to the house. When they entered they saw a woman chasing a cat whose head was stuck in a sardine can. After many chairs and tables had been overturned the cat was finally made canless.

Killed Blasting Stumps

Connersville, Ind., May 31.—(I. N. S.)—"Please send the police to Forty-second and Spruce streets quick! I am in distress," an excited voice over the phone cried into Police Sergeant Breitmayer's ear. Half a dozen cops were loaded into a patrol wagon and hurried to the house. When they entered they saw a woman chasing a cat whose head was stuck in a sardine can. After many chairs and tables had been overturned the cat was finally made canless.



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PARACHUTE JUMP

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The New Gold Shore on the mile-long board walk—all for your amusement.

200 acres of park for your picnic.

Take Vancouver Cars—Every Few Minutes
Autos—Interstate Viaduct to Columbia Beach Road

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4 BIG ACTS
VAUDEVILLE
and
CURRENT EVENTS WEEKLY