At the Theatres Today

Oregon — Rudolph Valentino with Nita Naldi, Casson Ferguson, Gertrude Olmsted and Eileen Percy in "Cobra."

Heilig—"The Circle" with Eleanor Boardman.

Bligh — Hippodrome vaudeville and pictures.

MANTELL IS COMING HERE ON WEDNESDAY

Premier Shakespearian Actor to Be Seen in "The Merchant of Venice"

A dramatic treat of the very highest order will be offered local theatergoers at The Heilig Theatre, on Wednesday evening, January 13th, when America's eminent tragedian Robert B. Mantell, supported by Genevieve Hamper and an exceptionally capable cast presents "The Merchant of Venice." This play has been the medium of attracting more attention to Mr. Mantell's artistry than any other play in his repertoire. "The Merchant of Venice" has been considered by students of Shakespeare to be one of the most impressive of his many plays. To revert to Mr. Mantell's interpretation of the role of "Shylock" the names of both Booth and Garrick are the only ones coupled in the same breath. In the gallery of conspicuous characterizations of Shakespearean roles Mantell's "Shylock" occupies a prominent place. As chief support to the star is talented Genevieve Hamper who through her excellent work as "Lady Macbeth," "Cordelia," "Ophelia," "Rosalind," and "Portia," has reached an important position in her profession. This is Mr. Mantell's last season on the road and this will be the only presentation of a Shakespearan play here this season.

1925 FIRE LOSS NEAR 3 MILLION

Marion County's Total $261,028, Low for Second Largest Population

Fire losses in the state of Oregon, exclusive of Portland for the year 1925, aggregated $2,942,166.97, according to a report prepared yesterday by Will Moore, state fire marshal. The fire loss for the year 1925 shows a decrease of approximately $200,000, when compared with that of 1924.

The largest loss of $559,512.43 was in Multnomah county outside of the city of Portland. The smallest loss of $2172.25 was in Tillamook county. Hood River county had the second heaviest losses of any county in the state during 1925. The losses in this county aggregated $380,050. Marion county, with the second largest population in the state, had fire losses totalling $261,028.

For the month of December, 1925, the fire losses in Oregon, outside of the city of Portland, aggregated $174,303. There were a total of 48 fires, thre of which were classified as incendiary. The most disastrous fire during the month of December was at Corvallis where the Science hall at the Oregon agricultural college burned with a loss of $76,000.

The decrease in fire losses during the year 1925 when compared with previous years was attributed by Mr. Moore to the fire prevention campaign that has been carried on in different sections of the state during the past few years. As a result of this campaign Mr. Moore said the fire department officials have made frequent inspections of the property within their jurisdictions and that numerous fire hazards have been eliminated.

Reports prepared by the state fire marshal indicated that most of the fires were caused by defective or overheated flues. Rubbish and sparks also caused a large number of fires. Approximately 15 per cent of the fires were classified as of an undetermined origin.

NEW CARY FILM AND VAUDEVILLE AT BLIGH

"Beyond the Border" Harry Carey's latest western which for action and romance puts all his previous pictures way in the background, at the Bligh theatre today.

The story was made from Meredith Davis' sensational magazine story, "When Smith Meets

Smith" and in it Carey plays the part of a courageous officer of the law who faces all sorts of danger to free an unjustly accused bandit and have the real offenders brought to justice.

Today's bill at the Bligh is topped by the James Wright company of three girls and two men. Each is an artist. The stage is set in a camping scene in this piece of whistling, singing, or playing of saxophones, accordian, banjo and guitar.

Meyer and Nolan have a fast number of singing, dancing and piano playing is the work of this couple offering plenty of comedy. A bulldog at the finish sings with the couple.

Paul Braden opens the show with his card act. He has some good tricks.

Baldwin and Haley bring days of the past. The old-time bartender, and the hackman go through some comedy songs, and hand out plenty of laughs for their part of the show.

Hip Raymond and company close the bill. Hip is a clown who works on tables, and furnishes good comedy.

WANT WET DAYS BACK? "BUNKUM" SAYS MAJOR

(Continued from page 1.)

movement that no one familiar with the situation could talk in favor of returning to the old days. It is not possible that a decent person would want the old conditions back.

"A hulla baloo is often raised today that drinking has increased. This is a gross misrepresentation. Every drunk that comes to the attention of the police force is arrested today. Hence, when a man is drunk, he calls more attention than he did formerly, and it seems as though the condition is worse.

"As matter of fact, there is not one drunk today where there were 20 before prohibition. There are certain old soaks still living who will drink, no doubt, till they pass away. But when these are gone, the demand will be lessened, and the nefarious trade of bootlegging will die a natural death.

"If the conditions of the pre-prohibition days should return today, when we have our automobiles, the situation would be terrible. No one would be safe on the streets.

"In those days, teamers would drive into the cities, take on a complete jag, and board their wagons. They would be dead drunk, absolutely incapable of driving their teams. But the horses would jaunt home, knowing the way. The automobiles, however, might not be so familiar with the home route as the horses were.

"From all information I can gather, business conditions in the city have much improved since the advent of prohibition. The saloons made no business other than paying license fees.

"Some people thought Salem was doomed for bankruptcy when prohibition set in. They thought the city would not make a financial go without the money taken in as license fees from saloons. But the city gets the same money today, only it takes it from the people in taxes. Now a man spends his money so that his family is benefitted, and legitimate business houses are given a chance.

Certainly prohibition has made Salem a more desirable place to live in. In the old days, it was not an uncommon sight to see some woman standing outside a saloon, trying to get her husband to come home.

"The community is more prosperous when a greater number of individuals are prosperous, than it is when only a few have all.

"Few today are really hard up in this city. Of course, there are some, and as long as there is a universe, I suppose there always will be some. Some are impoverished through misfortune. Others through their own lack of energy.

"Considering the population, drunkeness in the city is now practically nil. It is astounding to think that people ever put up with such conditions as used to exist.

"During the past year, I haven't seen more than two men on the streets of Salem that I could swear positively were under the influence of intoxicating liquor. And each year, drunkeness is becoming less common.

"Some people complain that boys—the much touted younger generation—are getting drunk more than ever. These people claim they get their booze, get girl friends, and hike out for a dance.

"The reason it seems there are more young fellows drinking now is that each case is noticeable. In the old days, there would be at least a dozen boys leaning over the bars drunk to one drunken lad of today.

"Of course we can't cut off the evil all at once. We must wait till it dies a natural death. If all the officers make the same effort to enforce the law, though, there will be a decided change immediately.

"As for the talk that the people want the old wet days back—it is so much buncombe. If you will examine the records you will find that in all the states where the matter has come up again before the people, there have been tremendous increases in the majority of votes for prohibition in comparison to the vote that brought the amendment into being.

"By ridding Salem of the saloons and of booze, another evil has been dispensed with—the red-light districts. The old red light districts were at Front and Ferry streets and on Liberty street where the telephone office is at the present time. The drunks used to patronize these places, and raised cain at all hours of the night.

"But no man in his right mind will patronize such rat holes as the red light districts were. Naturally, when booze went out, and the drunks became sober for the most part, the demand for the painted women fell off, and they moved out, not so much because of the law, but because they could not get enough trade to pay them for their profession."

VALENTINO FILM IS NOW HERE

"Cobra," with Rudolph Valentino, Nita Naldi and Eileen Percy, is now showing at the Oregon theatre and will be continued over Monday. It is said to be one of the most powerful films yet produced by the Ritz-Carlton company and is released under the Paramount banner.

WILL HONOR JUDGE

SEATTLE, Jan. 9.—(AP.)—Seattle will honor the late Judge Thomas Burke in one of two ways, by a building on the University of Washington campus or by a statue from the hands of one of the world's leading sculptors.

KIWANIS ADJOURN

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 9.—(AP.)—Officers and trustees of the Pacific northwest Kiwanis district, adjourned here today after a business session.

Safety often depends upon a good pair of legs more than upon a good pair of fists.

Ignorance disregards sex; just as many women are fools as men.