

# Lights Change Stage Scenes

Turn of Switch Transforms the Scenery, Costumes and Figures in London Theater.

WORKED OUT BY A RUSSIAN

M. Samoiloff Asserts He Is Merely Utilizing Harmony Between Light, Line and Color—Principles Are Not New.

London.—The wonders accomplished in transforming scenes, costumes and actual figures from one period of history to another by a mere change of light on the stage of the Hippodrome has set all London talking. In a revue now playing there is a scene representing a very modern dame sighing for her lover in a frowning mountain pass. She sings, the echo answers and the audience is beguiled by the sweet sentimentality of the situation.

Then behind the scenes somebody does something and everything is altered in a flash. The grim mountains become a Hindu temple, the frowning rocks melt into sands and palms and the tall, slender young woman turns into a stout Indian maiden. It has all been brought about by a change in light, by the manipulation of more than 100 different switches at the same moment, and the audience is carried back 3,000 years and from one continent to another. Every detail is transmogrified, and the girl, who was clad conventionally in a yellow artificial silk blouse with blue facings and a rust-red golf skirt, appears now with her bust draped in white, embroidered in black and brown, with her waist unclashed and her trousers-skirt pale cream with a graceful figured pattern.

Back Goes Everything.

An Oriental scene follows, with the customary dances. Men and women in all the finery of the East enter and weave in and out in the mazes of the ballet. The lover comes on, to all appearances robed in the loose white garments and the trousers of certain castes of Hindus. The action grows fast and furious; the heroine is threatened by a rival; she runs to the hero for protection, and as he clasps her to his arms some one throws those switches again.

Back goes everything to the mountain gorge, and a very modern young man in a brown lounge suit of unexceptionable cut is seen embracing the young woman in the crowd of equally modernly dressed people.

How is it done? Only Adrian V. Samoiloff, the Russian artist who has worked the thing out, and the Moss Empires, who hold the patent, can tell in detail, but it is possible to give a general idea of this startling new stage effect. When M. Samoiloff was asked about it, he said:

"It's merely a matter of establishing and utilizing a harmony between light, line and color. Is it new? Well, all the elements of it have been known for years; I have merely brought them together and worked them out scientifically and systematically. Do you remember, for instance, the postcards we had as children, which showed one inscription in one light and another in another? Well, that's part of it. Then during the war he heard a lot about 'dazzle' and camouflage, and how a few apparently random lines of paint would alter to the distant observer the shape of the outline of a vessel. That's part of it, too. I have merely worked along these and similar lines until I got the results I wanted."

Light Changes Costume.

"But the girl's skirt and blouse in the mountain scene seemed to be of solid color and heavy material, while in the Hindu scene they were quite

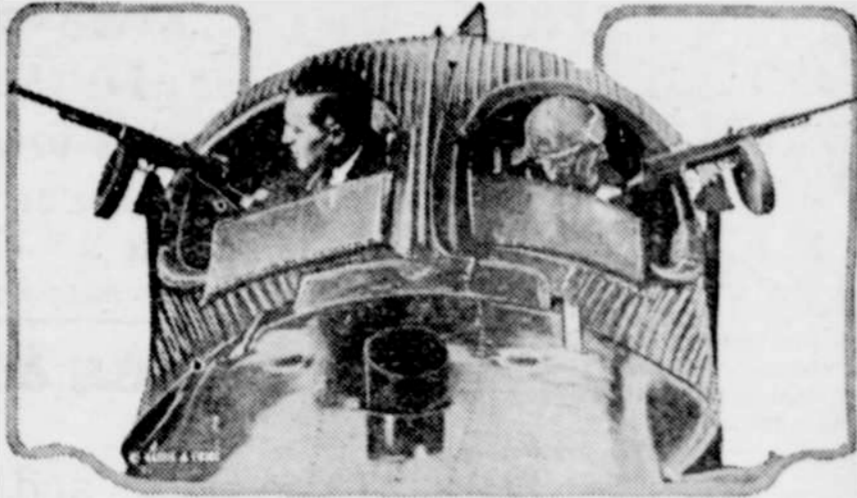
flimsy and covered with embroidery. How about that?"

"That's quite simple," replied M. Samoiloff. "To the colors I use in the mountain scene I applied two methods of analysis. First, I took their spectra; then I analyzed the paints used chemically. From the spectra I found into what colors the first would split up by the application of the proper kind of strong light, and by chemical analysis I discovered that a great variety of substances had been used in the original paints and colors to produce the original hues. Take, for example, several pieces of red ma-

terial; they will seem to match exactly, but chemical analysis will show that one contains radium bromide, another phosphorine or zinc, and a third no special chemical at all. In ordinary daylight they look exactly alike, but when I begin to throw my specially prepared lights upon them they change in different ways according to the chemicals they contain. When you have worked this out very carefully, as I did, it will be quite simple for you to make a plain blouse look like a mass of embroidery.

"Perhaps you noticed in the Oriental scene three of the dancers who seemed to be clothed in quite different ways; one looked as if she were wearing merely a skirt, another was draped to her shoulders, and so on. Yet when the light was changed all three were found to be clad in modern gowns, the only difference between them being the colors of their costumes. It's merely an application of the knowledge of how light affects color."

## New Dreadnaught of the Air



Gun pit of the JL-2, armored dreadnaught of the air, showing two of thirty machine guns from which 3,000 shots can be fired in four seconds while the plane is speeding at 140 miles an hour. The initial flight was made from New York to Washington in two hours with no stops.

## Alien Property to Be Returned

Government Officials Are Trying to Map Out Plan for Unraveling Tangle.

NECESSARY TO PEACE STATUS

Most of the Seized Holdings Will Eventually Go Back to the Original Owners—Claims of Our Citizens Must Be Satisfied.

Washington.—Administration leaders are trying to map out a policy for disposing of the alien property trusts. Most of the seized holdings will eventually go back to the original owners, but Alien Property Custodian Miller insists that the claims of American citizens against Germany and Austria must be satisfied first. The ultimate disposition of the property rests with congress, except in cases where it has expressly authorized settlements. Winding up the alien property affairs is now the big task before the administration in getting back to an actual peace status.

No Austria-Hungary Now.

Virtually all the attention, both public and in congress, has been focused on the seized German holdings in this country. The chief claims of American citizens growing out of the war are against the German government, which will probably be charged up with the financial loss to Americans through the Lusitania sinking, on which many of the claims rest. For this reason it is expected that settlement of the German property will be longer delayed.

In addition, the fact that the Aus-

tro-Hungarian empire broke up after the war has made possible a return of a large portion of the property seized from Austrian and Hungarian nationals who after the peace treaty became citizens of the new republics that assumed friendly diplomatic relationship with the United States. Mr. Miller has been proceeding quietly with the unraveling of numerous claims until the old Austrian property is in such shape that he can see daylight, and he anticipates little trouble from that source between now and the time congress acts.

Congress will have to pass on the disposition of less than half the Austro-Hungarian holdings, or property valued at \$18,000,000 out of a total of \$40,000,000 seized when war was declared. When congress amended the trading with the enemy act it provided that the possessions of citizens of Czechoslovakia and Poland and subjects of the new Jugo-Slav nation and the section of old Hungary added to Rumania might be returned, and settlement of the claims of these people is proceeding rapidly. Mr. Miller announced that possessions valued at more than \$9,000,000 already had been handed back to the owners.

Of the remaining approximately \$30,000,000 Mr. Miller estimated that about \$12,000,000 subsequently will go to nationals of the three new European states or nationals of the new section of Rumania. This will leave approximately \$18,000,000 tied up in trust until congress authorizes the President, through the alien property custodian and the Department of Justice, to return it or dispose of it otherwise.

In discussing the Austrian and Hungarian property seized in this country, very few pointed out that it included very few estates of any size—in fact, only one, the Gladys Vanderbilt estate, valued at \$4,000,000, which was returned after congress provided that the property of American women married to alien enemies prior to April 6, 1917, which was taken over during the war, might be handed back. Count Szechenyi, who married Gladys Vanderbilt, is now mentioned as the Hungarian ambassador to the United States when the treaty ratifications are exchanged.

One Item of \$400,000.

Of the remaining Austro-Hungarian property in the hands of the government the largest lump sum is that of \$400,000 taken over with the Austro-Hungarian bank of New York. Part of this trust fund will probably be handed back before congress passes on the Austrian property. Mr. Miller said that citizens of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Jugo-Slavia and Rumania hold an interest, the extent of which is still undetermined, in the bank. It is expected to materially reduce the total when claims are allowed.

Virtually all the rest of the Austrian property consists of small estates, some of which amount to only \$40 or similar sums awarded workmen under state compensation acts. The \$18,000,000 of Austrian and Hungarian property is in the same boat as the bulk of the German trust funds, over which the President has no power of disposition until he obtains further authority.

## Horse Racing and Starvation in Soviet Russia



Here is an example of the sharp contrasts in soviet Russia. One photograph shows a trotting race on the track at Moscow reopened by the Bolshevik government. The other shows a starving family in the Samara district waiting for food or death.

## Lessons of War in New Defense

Plan Provides for an Efficient Staff Trained in Peace Time.

BARS CENTRALIZED CAMPS

Foundation Work on Great National Scheme of Mobilization Already Done—Regular Army to Train Men for War.

Washington.—Two lessons of the World war, learned at heavy cost, are sharply emphasized in a War department bulletin, giving the first official picture of the new national defense structure projected in the reorganized army of the United States. One lesson comes direct from the battlefields of France. It is that efficient staff work is vital to modern military operations, and with it goes the corollary that staff functions cannot be learned over night.

The other comes from the wartime din and confusion of the centralized training camps at home. It is that efficient mobilization of the nation's fighting strength can be carried out only as a decentralized process through agencies set up in times of peace.

Realization that these lessons must be worked into the new military policy if perilous delay and costly confusion which preceded past mobilizations were to be avoided has marked the effort of the War department. The bulletin shows that it has attempted to write regulations under the revised national defense act that would furnish a clean-cut scheme for war mobilization without violating national traditions against militarism or creating machinery that would impose heavy burdens in peace times upon the taxpayers.

To Profit by Experience.

The project undertaken probably is the most far-reaching military effort the nation has ever attempted in peace times.

The foundation work has been done. All over the country decentralized machinery is being set up capable, its designers believe, of getting the nation on a war footing with little delay and confusion. Yet it is felt that the nation at large and even the most important links in the new defense chain, the regular army, the National Guard and the Officers' Reserve corps do not appreciate fully what is being done.

Col. John McA. Palmer, the officer assigned to aid congress in framing the legislation making it all possible, and who has devoted himself to a study of the subject, was called upon to furnish the document, and his work is to go to all parts of the new army as a means of preventing misunderstanding.

Colonel Palmer points out that at the conclusion of previous wars, the United States scrapped all it had learned in battle and demobilized without any attempt to carry those costly lessons on to younger generations for their protection and aid in time of war. Veterans of the Civil war, schooled in soldier craft, skilled in staff work and the handling of mighty forces with minimum confusion in movement and minimum losses in battle, went back to civil life, he says, and lost all touch with military matters. When the war with Spain came their knowledge was lost to the men of 1898. It was necessary to build again from the ground up, and 1917 saw this waste repeated, the bulletin asserts.

The purpose of the new scheme of welding the regulars, the National

Guard and the organized reserves into the army of the United States in peace times is defined by Colonel Palmer as follows:

"It is primarily the object of our new law to perpetuate the framework of the organization developed in the World war, so that its tremendous cost can be funded as a permanent investment for all time."

Had such a system as is now well advanced toward establishment been erected after the Civil war, the officer adds, "in 1898 more divisions than were needed for the war with Spain could have begun their expansion within 24 hours after the declaration of hostilities."

Centralized Process Demoralizing.

"Mobilization in 1917," Colonel Palmer continues, "would have proceeded as a decentralization process and not as a great centralized process, upsetting the economic life of the nation. It would not have been necessary to spend millions for great concentrated training camps or to overburden the railroads with unclassified personnel and material in order to organize and train and equip and provide officers all at the same time. Such a national organization must have saved months in time and millions in money."

Colonel Palmer points out that Stonewall Jackson alone of leaders on either side of the Civil war entered the contest with knowledge of what staff work meant. He had studied Napoleon's troop orders, and in the first battle of the war, Colonel Palmer says, "showed that even raw troops can stand like a stone wall if the prevalent rawness does not extend to the craftsmanship of the commander."

To meet such a situation, the new military policy imposes on the regular army the duty of training in peace times the men on whom must of necessity fall the burden of command and direction of great forces in war. From this arises the present distribution of the regulars into divisional areas which underlay the corps and army area structure. It is not expected, officers say, that more than a division ever will be brought together

Supposed Suicide Gets Up and Runs

Baltimore.—Several hundred persons gathered on President street to await the arrival of the police to move the body of a reported suicide lying under a railroad car. They were startled when the man got up and ran. William N. Houck, conductor of a Baltimore & Ohio railroad train, grabbed the man and held him for the police.

The "suicide" gave his name as Angelo Scapano, thirty-two, and an address on President street. He was found lying between two freight cars, with his head across one of the rails. A pistol with two discharged chambers was nearby.

A watchman at a nearby plant fired several shots to attract the police. Scapano told Lieutenant Mooney he had crawled under the car to sleep and knew nothing of the pistol or pistol shots.

In peace times, but through practice in handling a divisional unit of 20,000 or so men, training can be imparted, it is felt, to fit future leaders to handle corps of armies in battle.

From its role as staff college, also, comes the demand of the army for a larger proportion of officers than the actual enlisted strength of any probable regular force would require. These extra officers would play little part in the actual peace time employment of the army as such or even in small emergency that required only the regulars to meet the nation's needs. They would be under training in staff functions, and in turn be passing on their knowledge to the National Guardsmen and reserve officers and the whole scheme of keeping the country up to date in a military sense without keeping any substantial force under arms at any time rests on this provision, it is asserted.

Corn for Fuel.

Le Sueur, Minn.—Declaring that corn at 21 cents a bushel is cheaper fuel than coal, Dr. F. A. Dodge, a resident of Le Sueur and a farm owner, has commenced burning corn as a fuel to heat his residence. Al Schlegel, a farmer living near here also says he intends to use corn as a fuel, because of the low price and labor at \$3 a day.

## Where Your Pencil Lead Comes From



The island of Ceylon produces most of the graphite used by the world in the manufacture of lead pencils, paint, stove blacking, lubricants, crucibles and foundry facings. The methods used in the mining of the mineral in Ceylon are primitive, natives only being employed in the work. The Ceylon graphite is over 98 per cent pure carbon. It is also commonly known as "black lead." The above photograph shows native women working over a barrel of graphite at Colombo, Ceylon.

## Tagging Chicks as They Are Hatched



In order to keep a record of their best chicks, progeny of their best laying hens, the poultry raisers of California are tagging the tiny birds as soon as they are hatched. A numbered bit of metal is affixed to a wing. Miss Edith Struders, who claims to have some of the finest of Petaluma's twelve million fine hens, is shown tagging a few of her day-old chicks.