

GOLDEN WEST PLEASING PLAY

House Not Up to Standards Demanded by the Show Which Was Really Clever—Belasco Has Several Pleasing Situations.

It is to be regretted that one of the greatest productions of the season should have played to empty seats but such was the fate of "The Girl of the Golden West" at the opera house last night. Medford people are supposed to be up to date and well versed in dramatic news and just why they allow one of Belasco's greatest plays to pass them unnoticed is something of a mystery. It is the play that Rice, the greatest living writer of operas, has chosen as a typical American plot for his latest work.

As the name would suggest this play deals with western life, the scene is laid in California in the early fifties and the characters are taken from that conglomerate human mass that gathered together from the four corners of the earth. It is true that these western plays in most cases have been lurid melo-dramas, the characters being taken from the yellow-backed novel rather than real life. In fact the real literature of the west has yet to be written. Bret Harte being practically the only man of genius whose pen was inspired by the romance of the "forty-niner."

The girl whose character forms the general figure in the play is supposed to have been born and brought up in a dance hall and gambling house of the mining camp, her father being a gambler and her mother a fast dealer. Her parents however were bound together by a true and devoted love. This truth and sincerity the daughter inherits. The mining men were her friends and felt rather than understood the purity of this girl.

One day, however, she meets "Herrerez," a young man who had been highly educated but finds out at his father's death that his inheritance was a ranch and a band of out-throats, his father having been a highwayman. The son, feeling that the name he bore was blackened by crime, he takes to his father's profession. His polish and refinement appeals to "The Girl," and a love is born that dominates the lives and destiny of these two. He is being hunted by a posse who tracks him to the house of "The Girl" where he is wounded in an attempt to escape. He makes his way back into the house, his sweetheart hides him in a loft of the cabin. He is closely followed by the sheriff who hates "Herrerez," knowing him to be a rival in the affections of "The Girl." At this point Belasco produces a bit of stage realism that is truly wonderful. The girl having convinced the sheriff that the road agent did not enter the house the officer is on the point of leaving, apologizing for his mistake, when blood drops from the loft on his hand. He looks at it for an instant thinking it the result of a scratch. He takes out his handkerchief to wipe his hand when drop, drop, comes the red blood upon his white handkerchief. He then comprehends the situation and brings the robber down at the point of his gun. The road agent, weak from his bleeding wound drops into a chair. At this point we are shown the intensity of a woman's love, in a stage picture, that leaves an impression upon one's mind. This woman's love is of a kind that Bernard Shaw calls the force of the universe. She pleads for the life of her lover, but being unable to appeal to the sheriff's sympathy, she proposes to deal three hands of poker and on the result the best two in three is to decide whether she accepts the sheriff for her husband or he the sheriff to leave the hand to "The Girl." Of course she wins and we draw a long breath to ease our suspense.

So much for the play as for the actors they were all splendid in their respective parts, each one deserving special mention.

The chief responsibility of the acting rests upon three characters. Miss Vaughan, "The Girl," Bertram Lytell, who played the part of the road agent, and Will R. Walling, who was the sheriff. Miss Vaughan is an actress of unusual ability, being capable of showing a suppressed emotion that gives her work a finish that is most satisfying. In spite of her rough speech you could always detect the true and noble qualities which formed the foundation of her character. Bertram Lytell was a western hero who did not swagger or overdo his part. He showed us a new type of the bad man who also possessed latent virtue that was brought out in bold relief by the purity of love.

Will Walling made a splendid sheriff. He is an artist. We hope Mr. Belasco will not be entirely dis-

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Net Operating Receipts Are Given as \$2,635,290 on 1913 Miles Track—Total Cost of Construction Is Said to Be \$111,797,797.

SALEM, Ore., Nov. 15.—The Oregon-Washington Railway & Navigation company's delayed report reached the railway commission today. Operating revenue for \$7,958,053 operating expense of \$5,322,763 and net operating revenue of \$2,635,290 is shown. The company's income from freight amounted to \$3,053,759 and from passenger service \$1,057,454. The funded debt of incorporation is \$63,005,000, on this accrued interest amounted to \$1,146,640. Total mileage of 1913 is reported. The total cost of construction of all roads built was \$111,797,797.

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