

With the First-Nighters

The three familiar pictures on this page will be readily recognized by those who remember the stock companies that played in this city a few years ago, as those of Madge Carr Cook, Blanche Bates, and Thomas W. Ross, three of the popular members of those companies, who



MISS BLANCHE BATES

Seen here the past week in "The Darling of the Gods."

have since made great hits in stellar roles. And all of them created the parts in which they rose to fame.

Madge Carr Cook as Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch, Blanche Bates as Yo-San in "The Darling of the Gods," and Tommy Ross in Blossom's inimitable "Checkers." It is a notable fact that nearly a dozen of the members of those stock companies we saw here, are now heading companies of their own.

THE DISAPPOINTMENT OF THE GODS.

The past week has been marked by the meeting of the Belasco forces, though save the mark, if we are to mention Mr. Whittlesey in the same breath with Miss Bates.

The appearance of Miss Bates was an occasion of moment, but in all fairness it must be said that no matter how fine a performance Mr. Belasco sends us in the future, no matter how hard he is trying to break the trust, and no matter how conscientious his star may be, this \$2 game in front of the tiny stage where he tries to produce his plays doesn't go again, for it is better to be deprived of seeing the play altogether, than to anticipate so much, and realize such a paltry little.

The local staging of these plays is not even a resemblance of the way they are put on in the East, and some of the scenes of Monday night

were positively ludicrous, owing to the lack of room and facilities for handling the scenery.

Miss Bates, who won our hearts long before she was a star, added a new lustre to her fame in the eyes of her host of local friends and admirers. Her Yo-San is a marvelous delineation, and this charming woman who is in truth a Darling of the Gods, was most admirably supported in this tragedy of Old Japan. But the play was ruined for many on account of the disadvantages under which it was produced, and more than one resolved "never again," until the artistic manager builds a house of his own, or busts or trusts the trusts.

WHITE WHITTLESEY.

The name of White Whittlesey was practically unknown in Salt Lake when the lithographs were posted a few days ago. His features as they beamed from these papers made a very favorable



THOMAS ROSS

Who has made a great hit in Henry M. Blossom Jr's "Checkers."

impression and the average theatre-goer, noting the luster of eye and apparent grace of form, went to see him on suspicion. It cannot be said that they were entirely disappointed in the venture, as Mr. Whittlesey's stage appearance is all that could be desired. But as the star in the three plays presented, "Heartsease," "The Second in Command," and "Soldiers of Fortune," coming in the wake of John Drew, Henry Miller and Robert Edson, it is but just to say that he was at a disadvantage, and that the candid critic, comparing his work with that of the men who have appeared in the stellar roles before him, could scarcely view it with unmixed joy. But while Mr. Whittlesey is an actor of considerable talent, his performance attains to little beyond a very acceptable mediocrity, and it was just and proper that

popular prices should prevail. By far the best thing he does in his present repertoire is in "Heartsease," where the glamor of Henry Miller's artistic work fails to place him very far in the shadows. It is in "The Second in Command" that he suffers most in the minds of those who remember Mr. John Drew's impersonation. The trouble is that in this performance the title seems to exactly suit him, since, without consulting the program, one would naturally accord the title role to Mr. John Sainspols, whose acting as Colonel Anstruthers overshadows that of the star. Mr. Whittlesey's interpretation of the major is far from happy, and he infuses into it a sort of mining affectation which to say the least does not belong there. The support in general is worthy of commendation, although the leading lady, Miss Eugenie Lawton, wears too long a face, is too utterly devoid of emotion, and looks too maternal for the generally accepted standards of a heroine.

"THE SULTAN OF SULU."

"The Sultan of Sulu" will hold his court on the stage of the Salt Lake theatre next week.

The comic potentate is the creation of George Ade and Alfred G. Wathall. Mr. Ade has added much to his fame by his bright, satirical treatment of certain consequences of the occupation of the Philippines and the introduction there of American characters, cocktails, alimony, and other things incident to the up-to-date civilization.

The story of "The Sultan of Sulu" is the history of Ki-Ram, who rules the island of Jolo or Sulu. Ki-Ram has abducted some of the nieces of a neighboring chief or Datto. The Americans compel him to abdicate and make him the Governor of the island instead. His matrimonial affairs might have remained unnoticed, if he had not proceeded to make wholesale love to the American women who had come to help civilize the natives. He proposes marriage to Pamela



MADGE CARR COOK

Starring in "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch."