Evening World

COMIC PAGE
Thursday, October 3, 1918

Daily Magazine

THE NEW PLAYS

"Information, Please!" A Diverting Escapade

BY CHARLES DARNTON

IN a new theatre almost as beautiful as herself, Jane Cowl played the lovely lady last night with a wardrobe so dazzling as to make "Information, Please!" seem a brilliant comedy.

At any rate, the Selwyn Theatre proved to be an eye-opener, even in these days when new playhouses are as common as subway stations. It is quite out of the ordinary with a spacious lounge where women as well as men may have a cigarette, if you please, and what's more there is a smoking room for the pipeless sex. So you see, it's very much up-to-date if not a trifle beyond. A deep lobby adds to the comfort and distinction of a house that is decorated in the best of taste. The lighting of the stage, however, is a bit too vivid.

Women are sure to like the comedy written by Miss Cowl and Jane Murfin, for it is wholly concerned with the follies of a spoiled darling. Only a very foolish or an extremely handsome woman could behave as Lady Betty does and keep her skirts out of the dust raised by scandal, and although she bolts to America with a youthful admirer, she manages the affair so nicely on both sea and land that she can face even a hotel detective without flicking an eyelash. Betty "elopes" because her husband, Sir John Desmond, gives more of his time to politics than he does to her, and she hopes to arouse his jealous interest. Of course, Sir John follows her on the next boat, and when he leaves her in the hotel she promptly brings him back by turning in a fire alarm.

This farcical device is a liberty that would be taken, perhaps, only by feminine playwrights, but it serves its purpose and has the merit of quickening the action of a play for the most part leisurely. As Betty has taken along her maid and companion, not to mention return tickets, there's really no cause for worry at any time during her unprompted trip. At the hotel she merely calls up "Information" on the telephone and asks, "How far is it to Reno?"

While Miss Cowl could not suggest an English lady and often kept her voice at too high a pitch, she gave a great deal of charm to her role and by this means succeeded in fascinating her audience. In her quieter scenes she acted with a delightful sense of comedy. But it must be said that she was noisy without being amusing in displaying the early morning tantrums of Lady Betty. It was all very well for her to be discovered in bed, but once she was out of it her petulant arguments with the servants were somewhat irritating. Betty's difficile character might be established with less fuss.

A capital performance of Sir George Forrester, a confirmed philanderer and a good sportsman, was given by Henry Stephenson. It was his luck to figure in two of the best situations developed by the play—one in which he persuaded Betty to let him use her name in a roadhouse episode to allay the suspicions of an obdurate husband; the other a dinner that took the form of a divorce conference at which he was the only diner. Mr. Stephenson acted with such ease and good humor that he made Sir George a choice spirit who gained immediate appreciation. As the younger brother who found himself the victim of a platonic elopement, Robert Rendel was also well in character.

Orme Caldara was not altogether convincing as the Irish Member of Parliament whose complete trust in his wife drove her to desperation. For one thing, Mr. Caldara was not at all sure of his accent. Blanche Yurka was breezy but vociferous as Lady Betty's American friend, and Alan Brooks achieved amusing results with little effort as the New Yorker who followed her about. A drunken newspaper reporter did not give a happy touch to the proceedings.

But the play as a whole proved entertaining, with its many bright lines, and when some of the dull stretches are done away with "Information, Please!" will doubtless give Miss Cowl a new popularity.

About Plays and Players

By BIDE DUDLEY

THE next attraction at the 39th Street Theatre will be A. H. Woods's production of "The Big Chance," an American play in four acts by Grant Morris and Willard Mack. This play has done very well on its preliminary tour. In the cast are Clara Joel, John Mason, Cyril Keightley, Harry Robert, Annie Mack Berlein, William E. Meehan, Katherine Harris Barrymore, Ramsey Wallace and others. The New York opening will take place Wednesday evening, Oct. 9.

BOSTON REMAINS CLOSED.

Word from Boston says the municipal Government there has decided to keep the theatres closed next week as a further precaution against the spread of Spanish influenza. Managers who have troupes laying off in Boston have begun to seek bookings elsewhere. It is feared the Boston closing may last indefinitely.

NEW PLAY COMING UP.

Charles Guernon, co-author of "Eyes of Youth," is writing another play in collaboration with Sidney Burton, who studied drama under Prof. Baker at Harvard. It is to be called "Angelica's Independence."

SHE KNEW WHY.

Harry Levey, Manager of the Symphony Theatre, was puzzled the other night by strange shadows on the screen. He investigated and found that some of the chorus girls, who take part in the musical numbers, had discovered a short cut to their dressing room and were passing in front of the projector. Harry put a sign on the picture operator's booth reading "Detour Here." A few minutes later two of the girls were noticed looking at the sign.

"Huh!" said one. "I wonder what that guy, Detour, has his name stuck up here for?"

"Oh, it's just like them' French movie operators," replied the other.

OUR OWN POPULAR SONGS.

In a cafe three times a day,
Jerry O'Grady would dine.
To that cafe went pretty Mae,
Feeling a little too fine.
Headwaiter Moss sat her across
From happy Jerry that noon.
Jerry said, "Well, this is sure swell,"
Mae she replied very soon:

Chorus.

"Over the oysters with you, dear,
Over the oysters with you,
Though you're a stranger,
Some one has trained me
How to be loyal and true.
Over the oysters with you, dear,
Why should a girl be blue?
Order the soup or
I'll swear like a trooper
Over the oysters with you."

DIPPY DOODLEUMS.

"Oh, mamma!"

"Yes, my son!"

"Good morning! Brooklyn has things New York hasn't. Did you know that, love?"

"No, my little pet. What has Brooklyn that New York hasn't?"

"The other end of the Brooklyn Bridge. Come now, let us laugh in concert."

"Fie, fie, Willie! My little boy's jokes are punk. Mamma wants to open the piano. Get her a chisel, please."

"Tut, mamma dear, you know I haven't the time. I would suggest that you blast. Now I must go and see a film director. What does it cost to get into the movies?"

"Only 10 cents and the way you, my little pudgins. Oh, ha, ha! Mamma gets her sense of humor from your grandfather, old Judge Ebenezer Nicodemus Obdiah Swayback."

"That's nice, mamma. Grandpa must have a lot left."

"There! Just for that, you bughouse little thing, mamma shall not take you to Hoboken, when she goes to Toronto. Now, get the hatchet, dear, and go to the potato patch. Mamma wants you to chop her some potato chips."

TO AID A CHARITY.

Winchell Smith and John L. Golden will produce "Three Wise Men" in Hartford Oct. 14. They will donate the proceeds of the initial performance to the Hartford Children's Aid Society, which was founded by Mr. Smith's mother, Mrs. Virginia T. Smith. Maxine Elliott will see the play with a view to obtaining the London rights for her sister, Lady Forbes Robertson.

GOSSIP.

Charles Hampden has been added to the cast of "A Stitch in Time."

The Selwyn-Pollock play, "The Crowded Hour," will open in Washington Sunday night.

Max Figman is staging "Listen Lester." Felix Adler of the cast has promised not to "ad lib."

Alice Hegeman has been engaged for "Glorianna." Milan Roder is the show's new musical director.

Lurleen Garrison has joined the cast of "Fiddlers Three" and she's only eighteen years old.

Harry Tierney has written the music for the new Century Grove Revue, now in rehearsal.

Gustave Ferrari has arrived from London bringing with him the musical score of "Freedom."

Caroline Leonard, wife of John Kearney of "Sinbad," slid off an elephant in a Chicago parade recently and just laughed.

Gloria Goodwin has been engaged by the Messrs. Shubert for a role in "The Melting of Molly."

Al Jolson is in his last two weeks at the Century. He is booked for Philadelphia and must leave.

Imogene, the dog actress of "She Walked in Her Sleep," has quit. She claimed the press agent, Arthur Keller, was favoring the other girls.

Count Ilya Tolstoi, son of the author of "Redemption," will see Arthur Hopkins present John Barrymore in the play at the Plymouth to-night.

LIFE IN RUTHERFORD.

Gene Schiffull "went and done it." Done what? Fell in love. Atta boy, Gene!—Sterling Spur.

ANSWERS TO INQUIRIES.

Clemont—The Metro offices are in the Fitzgerald Building. You can get your information there.

K. L. H.—Don't know of a man named Francis X. Bushwick. Don't you mean Francis X. Bushman?

A THOUGHT FOR TO-DAY.

John Kinney of Wellsville, who has recovered from an attack of influenza, is around telling people he has lost his grip.

FOOLISHMENT.

The Duchess of Hitchie Mahootie
Was known as a wonderful beauty,
But she was a proud one,
And never allowed one
To call her "some baby" or "cutie."

FROM THE CHESTNUT TREE.

"What does your husband put on his face after shaving?"

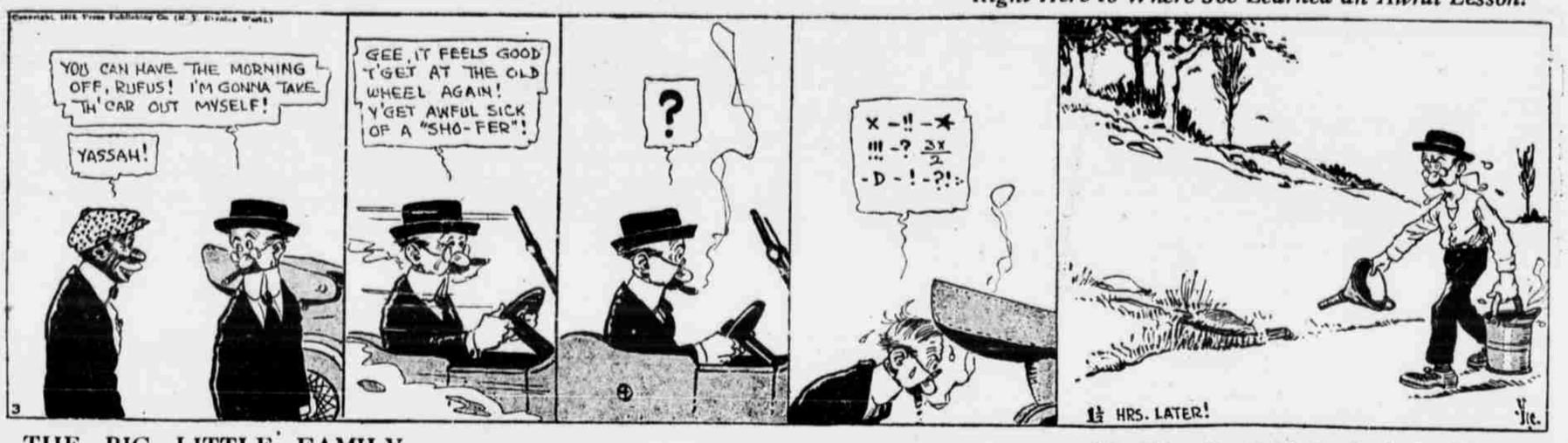
"Sticking plaster."

LITTLE MARY MIXUP

Would a "Double Tooth" Count the Same?

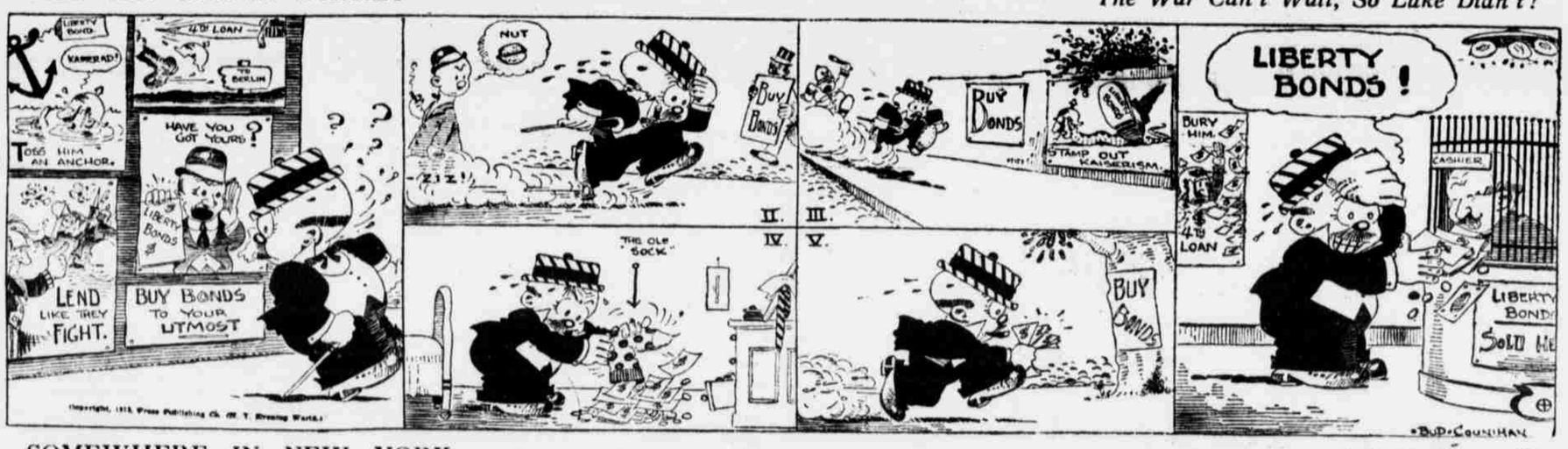
JOE'S CAR

Right Here Is Where Joe Learned an Awful Lesson!



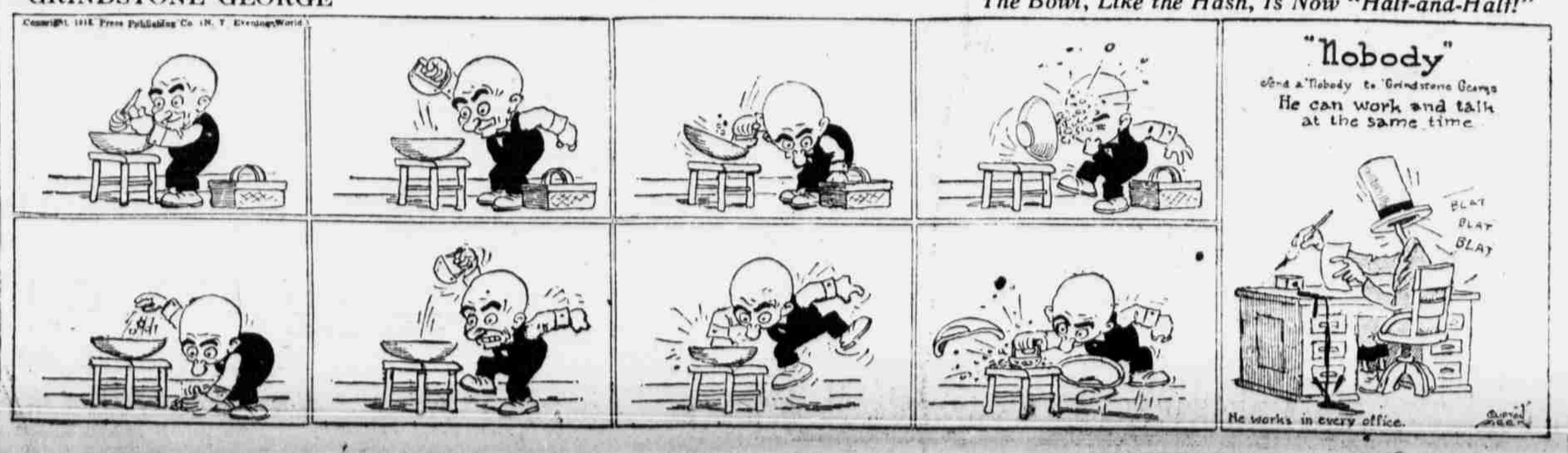
THE BIG LITTLE FAMILY

The War Can't Wait, So Luke Didn't!



SOMEWHERE IN NEW YORK

"Small Change!"

GRINDSTONE GEORGE

The Bowl, Like the Hash, Is Now "Half-and-Half!"