CLYDE FITCH "DAMNS" TWICE

TALKS OF HIMSELF AT THE PRESS AGENTS' DINNER.

Denies That He's "a Dude and a Flippant" —Admits That He's Written 44 Plays With Only Four Flat Failures—Toast Drunk to Mrs. Anna Marble Pollock.

In a voice seething with intensity and with a couple of honest, straightforward damns impetuously thrown in, Clyde Fitch denied once and for all the accusation that he is "a dude and a flippant," when the playwright rose to speak at the supper which the Press Representatives of New York gave in his honor on Friday evening—yesterday morning, perhaps, would be more exact—at the Café des Beaux Arts. The 100 or more press agents, players, playwrights and guests greeted the emotional outburst with wild whoops of approbation.

As Mr. Fitch truly observed after a glance along the tables, the press agents had again filled the house to the S. R. O. sign. Wells Hawks presided and the rest of the imagination that filled the dining room was strung out along parallel tables like the strings of a lyre. Ivy leaves labelled "The Original Climbers" decorated the room, and the white tasselled menus were decorated with the coat of arms of the club—a "cut trunk" couchant, field yellow; crest, a lyre bird rampant; motto, "A lie in the press is worth two raises in salary."

The press agents have been saying for the last three years that they had formed an organization that was meeting every Friday night, but as these statements had no backing except the word of perhaps another press agent, the yarn never came to much. It was learned during the Fitch supper, however, that the club has held many stormy sessions in a Broadway chop house of late while trying to hit upon a name. When the name question first came up the Ananias Club was naturally suggested early, but it was rejected because of its obviousness. Arabian Knights and Walla Wallas ran neck and neck for two or three meetings, but the Press Representatives was finally adopted for its simple sincerity. Then somebody said: "Let's give a racket for Clyde Fitch," and the club was publicly launched.

When the Broadway whistles blew the 10:30 quitting time on Friday night everybody hurried toward Bryant Park in his clawhammered working clothes, and from then on till midnight the house filled steadily. Wilton Lackaye, who is also a playwright, and Bim the Button Man arrived about the same time. Dave Warfield followed rapidly, a length ahead of Whiting Allen and Willard D. Coxey—the representatives of the very best Big Top circles; Winchell Smith, who dramatized "Brewster's Millions"; J. Allison, Paul Kester, I. F. Marcosson, associate editor of the *World's Work*; F. P. Adams, Dave Sasseen, the only Brooklyn press agent in captivity; Channing Leon Larkin Pollock, Frank J. Wilstach, who, in addition to being a brother of Paul, is first story teller among the Shubert hirelings; Burton Emmett, and an A. D. T. messenger boy, who broke in impetuously and yelled across the press table, "Is Charles Hemstreet of the Wagenhals & Kemper forces in the house?" until suppressed. The envious said it was a "plant."

Mr. Fitch arrived soon after, accompanied by Roi Cooper Megrue. Mr. Megrue is the entire Fitch business representative. He has placed about all the Fitch plays. He enjoys excellent health. There wasn't any room for more diners by this time, and besides every place contained a menu on which was printed a practically complete list of the Fitch plays arranged in three solid columns and a "break over." The guest of honor said during the evening that this was the first time he had seen them listed in one bunch. There was only one missing in the string of forty-two, he said, and two more that could have been added honestly. He took the list home for future reference.

"Mr. Fitch is a good thing," explained Aage Toxen Worn, when he responded to the toast, "Our Debt to Mr. Fitch." "He ought to be kept alive. When a man has about a hundred of us throughout the country writing for him at a time we need him in our business. He has written forty-two plays, one for each of his years. He is not averse to being photographed in fur coats or automobiling with our stars. In fact he has played the game as it ought to be played. To-night we have raised our prices because he is a star. We've installed an orchestra. The house is full, and now we cry, 'Author! Author!' " [Loud cries for "Author!"]

"Only two or three times since I began to write for the stage eighteen years ago," said Mr. Fitch, "have I attended a public dinner. I never wanted to do so until to-night, and I am very glad to be here among a body of men who do not talk buncombe. [Uncertain applause.] This is the sweetest and happiest honor I have received during those eighteen years. There is no class so lovable as the press representatives. Their worse knock is to say, perhaps, 'That damn So-and-So gets more in the papers than I do.'

"I'm a queer man," continued Mr. Fitch, with growing sincerity of tone. "I'm straight and sincere, and the reason I don't go to public dinners is that I do not want to be with men who will praise me to my face and damn me behind my back. But here I am with real friends. [Hoora-a-ay!] In my work for the theatre I am sincere. I am called a dude, a flippant. I am not a dude, a flippant! and I'll say what I have to say here and never take it back. During my eighteen years of work I admit I've tried to make money, but most of all I've tried always, always, to make a good play.

"Among the forty-four plays I've written I've had four flat failures, with all the bands playing. But I am not one of your Mrs. Winslow dramatists, I am not restful. In this world the thing to do is to fight. To die fighting is the game I like.

"The press agent is the best of all critics, and I always take his word first. He is in touch with the public and the press and he doesn't think he can write your play for you better than you can. I thank you, gentlemen. If I am ever asked who I want to write my epitaph I shall answer, 'A press agent.' " [Distressing applause.]

Wilton Lackaye said when called out on the carpet that Mr. Fitch's "sincere heart talk" made the usual after dinner speech look ridiculous. Next to actors, thought Mr. Lackaye, the press agents are the best ever. The presence of the actor folk and playwrights at a press agent dinner reminded him of a story about a Maine farmer who was exhibiting a moose in a tent. A countryman came to see the show with his family and was about to pay 25 cents a ticket for each of his children, when the moose exhibitor learned that there were sixteen children altogether.

"You may all go in free," said the show owner promptly.

"Why?" asked the farmer in surprise.

"Because," answered the showman, "it is quite as important that my moose should see your family as that you should see the moose."

The press agents, concluded Mr. Lackaye, could make their own application.

"The Contrapuntal Differences Between the Fitch Dramas and the Pollock Plays" was responded to by Channing Leon Larkin Pollock. There are two chief differences, he said—quality and quantity. Mr. Pollock told that when the late Roland Reed was operated on in St. Luke's Hospital he was placed upon the operating table in the clinic room, from which the medical students had been excluded for the time being. Just as the ether cone was about to be placed over the actor's nose, he rolled his eyes up and down the long tiers of empty benches around the operating table.

"Doctor," he said, "you may be a good surgeon, but you've got a damn poor press agent."

Other speakers were Frank J. Wilstach, Charles Emerson Cook, who is president of the club; Frederick F. Schrader, Whiting Allen and E. D Price, who said he gave Fitch his first job when fresh from college. He made him a press agent at $35 per. Mr. Price then proposed a toast to "the greatest press agent of them all, Mrs. Anna Marble Pollock," and everybody stood up with glasses at "attention."

THE STEWARD REPORTS

On the Voyage of the Swedish Prince and the Greasers' Eternal Growl.

The steward of the steamship Swedish Prince, in on Friday from Cardiff, submits these stanzas:

It was the good ship Swedish Prince
That sailed the mighty main;
Bound for United States,
A cargo for to gain.

Her captain's name was Woolam,
A big kind hearted man—
Owners and crew to study
Always was his plan.

He said unto the mate,
Who went by name of Foster:
"We'll get the ship in proper trim
No matter what it cost her."

So, with a will and with a vim,
The men did then proceed
To clean that ship from stem to stern
Till she looked a sight indeed.

The second mate, whose name was Cox,
And also short and stout,
Takes his place upon the bridge
And keeps a sharp lookout.

The third mate, too, he was there,
Although his name was Wight,
To keep the ship upon her course,
And the lights all burning bright.

With such men as these there's no doubt
A voyage must be joy,
When there's no ice or fogs about
Our pleasures to destroy.

Not to forget the engineers,
Who growl about the grub,
And do not think of it at all
When'er they want a sub.

The steward, he has no time for them.
Are there any stewards who do?
Because they say What's this and that?
Just like all greasers true.

The steward takes it in good part,
For no malice is ever meant;
It's just a little way of theirs
And comes regular as the rent.

We will not dwell on these things now,
For we've the voyage to describe;
And all the many things that happen
On this long, eventful ride.

For the first three days it was all right
And as calm as could be;
The ship was steady as a boat
Upon the River Dee.

Then the sea began to rise
With high and mighty force,
And struck the ship with fury strong
As she held upon her course.

But not long did it last,
For soon the storm was o'er;
And calm and smooth did it become,
And work commenced once more.

The engineers started their games—
The poor half starved men—
But we put them to right about
Before they could count ten.

In every ship where'er you go,
Far o'er the oceans wide,
No matter what you give to them
They're never satisfied.

The cook has not much time to spare
When cooking all the food;
He does his best to make things nice
For all our little brood.

But when the ship does roll about
It makes him curse and swear;
Around do fly the pots and pans,
All in the galley there.

And he is there among it all,
Though true it doesn't seem;
He does his work just the same,
Half choked with smoke and steam.

We have a carpenter on board
Who is a Dutchman bold;
"Mein Gott, my vord, vat do you tink,
I do schoost vat I'm told."

Another Dutchman have we here,
The donkeyman is he;
And he's at work from morn till night
Whene'er the ship's at sea.

But when the ship is fast in port,
With joy his face does glow;
He thinks of all the overtime
That swells his wages so.

So it goes on from day to day,
Each one is about the same;
And so if anything goes wrong
There's the mess room boy to blame.

HYDRA HEADED NEWARK.

Two Sets of Officials on Hand to Transact Public Business.

A climax was reached yesterday in a political fight for possession of seventy or more offices under the jurisdiction of the Common Council of Newark when the taxpayers were presented with the unusual spectacle of two sets of officials in nearly all the public departments. The situation was interesting even from the taxpayers' point of view, since only one set of officials will receive pay for their work.

Whether it will be the Democrats who took possession of the offices or the Republicans who refused to vacate them who will run short on the salary question is a matter that will be decided by the Supreme Court. The taxpayers, being assured that they will not have to pay double for the same service, are rather enjoying the fun.

The fight is an outcome of the last election, which resulted in the Democrats securing a majority of two in the Common Council. A week ago, after a series of squabbles over a division of the spoils, the Democrats finally agreed to apportion the offices, whose aggregate salaries amount to more than $100,000 a year. The slate was put through the Council a week ago. The changes were to be made February 1, but when the Democratic appointees appeared at the City Hall to take the oath of office they were saddened by the news that the Republican incumbents had engaged Chandler W. Riker as their counsel and that he had secured from Chief Justice Gummere a rule to show cause why the appointments should not be declared illegal on the ground that the meeting of the council at which they were made was illegal and also on the contention that the appointments should be made and the salaries fixed by ordinance instead of by resolution, which was the course pursued. The granting of the rule acted as a stay and prevented any action being taken under the authority of the resolutions.

The Democratic Aldermen sought advice from City Counsel James R. Nugent and he devised a counter movement. There was a regular meeting of the Council Friday night. The Democrats spread the report that they had decided to take no further steps on the appointments until after argument was made on the rule granted by the Chief Justice, which was set down for next Saturday. The meeting was permitted to drag through a monotonous course until after midnight. Then Democratic Leader Ryan sprang on the Council an ordinance prescribing the duties of all officials not already so prescribed. He followed this with a series of resolutions under which all the appointments were made over again. It was long after 1 o'clock yesterday morning when the game ended so far as the Council was concerned.

Immediately afterward most of the appointees were called into the private office of Mayor Hausseling, who administered the oath of office. As soon as each man was sworn in he was instructed to appear at his respective post of duty at the opening hour for business and remain in possession.

TRACTION OFFICIALS INDICTED

For Failure to Provide Safety Appliances and Give Court Information.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 2.—The Grand Jury today returned indictments against W. Kesley Schoepf, president of the Cincinnati Traction Company; R. E. Lee, general superintendent, and Newton Wickersham, an employee, for failure to provide proper safety appliances on traction cars and for refusal to furnish to the Court information respecting the causes of the recent wreck on Warsaw avenue, which resulted in the death of two persons and the injury of a score.

The Grand Jury's action has created a sensation.

IN SOCIETY.

Many at homes and some musicales are scheduled for this afternoon. Mrs. William T. Bull will give one of her informals with music.

There was a rehearsal yesterday forenoon at St. Thomas's Church of the wedding of Miss Florence Flower and Pierre Lorillard Barbey, to take place there Wednesday afternoon. After the rehearsal Mr. Barbey, accompanied by his best man, Henry G. Barbey, and his six ushers, left for Tuxedo, where he gave his bachelor dinner at night at the clubhouse. Miss Flower, who is the daughter of Mrs. James de Laval Flower, formerly of New Orleans but now of this city, will not give any preliminary bridal feasts, as her sister, Miss Estelle Flower, will be her only attendant.

Countess Massiglia has attended some of the musicales of the last week. Marquis and Marquise d'Andigne are about to sail for their home in France. Count von Moltke, fiancé of Miss Thayer of Boston, sailed last Tuesday for Europe. The Duke of Newcastle has been constantly entertained of late. Viscount d'Autroche and Prince André Poniatowski sailed for France on Thursday. Admiral Lord Charles Beresford is due to arrive here next Wednesday on the Kaiser Wilhelm II.

Mr. and Mrs. George W. Vanderbilt, now in their new Washington home at 1707 New Hampshire avenue, have been attending many of the smart functions at the capital. They have cards out for a series of dinners to be given in February.

Miss Ethel G. Rockefeller, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William G. Rockefeller, will be one of the bridesmaids at the wedding of Miss Elsie Ladd and Alexander von Gontard in St. Bartholomew's Church on Tuesday.

Besides Miss Rockefeller, the Misses Dorothy Schieffelin, Ethel Du Bois, Edith Talcott, Elizabeth Stevenson and Marguerite Quackenbush, will attend Miss Ladd as bridesmaids. Mrs. Ethelbert Ide Low will be her matron of honor. Gustav Kulenkampf will assist as best man, and Henry F. Fiedemann, Henry Willnick, Henry R. Burt, Alfred Broedermann, Le Roy Clark and R. W. James Kingan will be ushers. The Rev. Dr. Leighton Parks, rector of St. Bartholomew's Church, will perform the ceremony. Mr. and Mrs. William Whitehead Ladd will give a reception after the church ceremony, at their home, 139 East Thirty-fourth street.

Miss F. Louise Vanderhoef will follow the British custom and two pages, Harman B. Vanderhoef, Jr., and Gilbert Demorest, will follow her up the aisle of St. Bartholomew's Church next Wednesday afternoon, February 6, when she will become Mrs. Gustave Maurice Heckscher. There will be a flower maiden, Ella May Thomas, and the Misses Antoinette Heckscher, sister of the bridegroom; Mary A. Vanderhoef, a cousin; Kate de Forest Prentice, Adelaide S. Knox, Mollie Maxwell and Anna Connelly will be bridesmaids. Mrs. Morgan Cowperthwaite will attend her sister as matron of honor. John Stevenson will assist as best man, and F. Bailey Vanderhoef, brother of the bride; George C. W. Low, Spencer Turner, Morin S. Hare, Roger Flanders and Ernest Tracy will be ushers. Afterward Mr. and Mrs. Harman B. Vanderhoef will give a redeption at their home, 40 West Fifty-eighth street.

Miss Beatrice Morgan, whose wedding with Frederick S. Pruyn of Albany will take place in St. George's Church, Stuyvesant Square, next Tuesday, February 5, will be attended by two of her cousins, the Misses Mildred Carter and Louise Kobbé, as bridesmaids. Miss Morgan made her social début here a couple of seasons ago at a ball given by her grandmother, Mrs. David P. Morgan of Washington, who gave a similar festivity this winter to introduce Miss Carter and another granddaughter, Miss Gladys Kissel. Other attendants of Miss Morgan will include the Misses Dorothy Kane, Lydia Jones, Sylvia Parsons, Janet Dana, Corinne Robinson, Dorothy Snow, Gladys Rice and Lily Lee Page. Edward L. Pruyn will assist his brother as best man.

There will be a large fashionable attendance at the wedding of Miss Alice Ogston Marquand and Alan Fullerton, who is a son of the late Admiral Sir James Fullerton of Hamble, South Hants., England, to take place next Wednesday, February 6, in St. Margaret's Church, Westminster, London. The bride is a daughter of the late Frederick Marquand of this city. She and her elder sister, Miss Elizabeth Marquand, have a house in Wilton Crescent, London. It was while the bride elect was visiting her maternal grandmother, Mrs. George Ogston, in Washington, D. C., last year that her engagement to Mr. Fullerton was announced. Her mother, who married a second time and is Mrs. Graeme Harrison, has lived for some years in England.

Miss Adaline Havemeyer and Peter H. B. Frelinghuysen will have a big wedding next Thursday in St. Thomas's Church. The Rev. Dr. Ernest M. Stires, the rector, will perform the ceremony. The bride will wear a superb costume of white satin with point lace, orange blossoms and diamond ornaments. She will be attended by her cousin, Mrs. Harold H. Weekes, as matron of honor. Mrs. Weekes was Miss Louisine Peters. Miss Matilda E. Frelinghuysen and Miss Augusta Munn will be bridesmaids. After the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Henry O. Havemeyer will give a reception at their home, Fifth avenue and Fifty-sixth street.

Mrs. Henry S. Redmond of 11 East Fifty-fifth street will give a luncheon and bridge party to-morrow. Mr. and Mrs. Samuel H. Valentine will entertain the Tuesday Evening Club on February 8. Mrs. Bruce Brown of 180 West Fifty-ninth street will give a dinner to precede her bridge party on Wednesday. Mrs. John Prentice Kellogg will give a bridge on Thursday. Mrs. Fraser's bridge club meets at the home of Mrs. Frederick Roosevelt, 8 East Fifty-second street, on February 7.

Mrs. G. Ogilvy Haig arrived on the Teutonic on Thursday and will be the guest, while here, of her mother, Mrs. Astor, and her sister, Mrs. M. Orme Wilson. Mrs. Haig's daughter, Miss Caroline Drayton, makes her home with her father, J. Coleman Drayton.

A. Griswold Thompson is the cotillon leader of the Friday Junior series, which has a meeting on the night of February 8 at Sherry's. The young women who belong to this are chiefly next winter's débutantes. Mrs. George J. Gould, one of the patronesses, is now absent, and the others, Mrs. Paul Gibert Thébaud, Mrs. E. Henry Harriman, Mrs. James R. Hayden, Mrs. Stephen Peabody and Mrs. William Anderson, will receive. Mr. Thompson will as usual dance without a partner.

There are a number of cards out for the wedding of Miss Nellie Shewan and Elias S. Gifford of Boston, to take place next Wednesday, February 6, in the Hotel St. Regis. There will be a large reception after the ceremony, for which the bride will wear a costume of white satin with point lace and orange blossoms. She is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Shewan of 90 Riverside Drive, who have their country place at Cold Spring on the Hudson.

Mr. and Mrs. John C. B. Pendleton, who were married on Thursday at the bride's home in Baltimore, are on their honeymoon. The bride is a niece of Mrs. Richard Irvin, and was given away by her brother, John B. Morris.

Miss Caroline de Forest and Miss May Callender will give another of their series of informal Sunday afternoon musicales to-day at their apartment in Tiffany House, 27 East Seventy-second street. M. Gilibert is to sing.

Stowe Phelps will lead again at the third Junior Cotillon at Sherry's on Tuesday night. It will be danced before the midnight supper and some of the débutantes who attend plan to go afterward to the Charity Ball at the Waldorf-Astoria, where the dancing will go on to the early morning. Some of the patronesses will receive.

Dinners will be given on Tuesday night by Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Oakley Rhinelander, Mr. and Mrs. W. Watts Sherman, Mr. and Mrs. Henry F. Dimock, Mrs. Thomas Fowler, Mrs. George H. Macy, Mrs. J. Edgar Bull and others, their guests going with them afterward to the Charity Ball. Mrs. Louis T. Hoyt of 392 Fifth avenue will give one of the dinners on Wednesday night. Mrs. Joseph Pulitzer will give a dinner on Thursday night at her home, 7 East Seventy-third street. As at the last dinner given by Mrs. Pulitzer, an entertainment will follow.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Demorest Little have returned from their wedding journey, and Mrs. Joseph J. Little, Mr. Little's mother, gave a big tea for her daughter-in-law on Monday afternoon at her home, 47 West Sixty-eighth street.

The Children's Branch of the Loomis Sanatorium Guild will hold a cake and candy sale at the house of Mrs. Clarence M. Hyde, 284 Madison avenue, on Friday, February 8, from 2 till 6 o'clock, for the support of free beds for consumptive children in the Loomis annex.

Smith—Morton.

Miss Pauline Morton and J. Hopkins Smith, Jr., were married yesterday afternoon in St. Thomas's Church, Fifth avenue and Fifty-third street. There were many palms at the entrance and in the chancel, where there were also lilies and orchids in profusion.

The Rev. Dr. Ernest M. Stires, the rector, performed the ceremony at 4 o'clock and the bride was given away by her father Paul Morton. She wore white satin with point lace and orange blossoms and carried a bouquet of lilies of the valley.

She was attended by Miss Mary Canby of Chicago as maid of honor, and by the Misses Lily Lee Page and Martha McCook of this city, Faithful Ames and Katherine H. Elkins, Florence Howland and Jean Oliver of Washington, D. C.

St. John Smith assisted his brother as best man and John W. Minturn, Morris W. Kellogg of this city; Edward Morley, Lowell Burch, Charles Schweete, Frederick Hale, Barrett Wendell and J. Lothrop of Boston were ushers.

The bride is the second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Morton of 733 Park avenue, who gave a big reception afterward.

COLER GETS HIS COAT BACK.

Pawnbroker Only Loaned $10 on Garment the Bird Said Was Worth $300.

Borough President Bird S. Coler has recovered his fur lined overcoat that some thief stole from his home at New York avenue and Prospect place, Brooklyn, on Thursday morning. Mr. Coler said the coat was worth $300.

A Stanton street pawnbroker, however, only loaned $10 on it. The police found it on Friday, and yesterday Mr. Coler redeemed the coat by paying the $10 and interest.

36 Friends He's Sure Of.

Postal Inspector Michael H. Boyle completed on Friday thirty years service in the inspection department of the Postal Service. He was appointed on February 1, 1877, and assigned to duty in this city, where he has been continuously ever since. On Friday there was handed to him a typewritten expression of esteem and congratulation which was signed by all the men in the building who have been there during all of Mr. Boyle's term of office. There were thirty-six signatures and the inspector was so proud of the bit of paper that he couldn't help showing it.

"I wouldn't take a farm for that," he said, as he tucked it lovingly away in his pocket.

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The above models are fashioned of blue and black broadcloths, unfinished worsted, dark and light gray mixtures and plaids, stripes and checks. Skirts in divided, safety and sidesaddle styles.

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Value $19.75	Value $12.50	Value $10
Black Broadcloth	Blue Cheviots	White Linen
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Safety, Sidesaddle or Divided Models	Safety, Sidesaddle or Divided Styles	Safety, Sidesaddle and Divided Models

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Ladies' Fancy and Automobile Coats
ALSO CARRIAGE ROBES AND RUGS
to be sold on
Tuesday, February 5, and for following afternoons, at 2 o'clock.
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