

REAL SINNERS SEE "SINNERS" ON PRISON STAGE

New William A. Brady Play Has Its Premiere at Sing Sing.

HAT PUT IN NEW LIGHT AS BADGE OF FREEDOM

You've never thought for a minute, have you—male readers are being addressed for the moment—that your hat, your plain old \$2 to \$5 black derby hat, could be an object of serious, really very serious, interest to anybody? If you're normal all the thought you've ever given to a derby hat is that it's superfluously ugly, but there are hundreds of men, so it was learned yesterday, to whom a derby hat is much more interesting than the human it covers. When William A. Brady yesterday afternoon produced for the first time on any stage Owen Davis's play "Sinners" in the Catholic chapel at Sing Sing for the 1,500 prisoners there it was noted by the reporter looking against the wall on the side lines that the prisoners showed him were while waiting for the show to begin gazing steadfastly at the derby hat he carried.

Hat a Badge of Freedom.

The reporter looked to see what was wrong with the hat, and couldn't find nothing out of the way. Then suddenly it flashed upon him why the hat was of interest.

It had meant that the prisoner carrying it was going out again as soon as the curtain dropped, that all the men's activities were over he was not going back to a cell, but up the little incline and down the hill to the station and board a train that would carry him to his rights and freedom.

"Laws, man!" laughed a big negro—name known but not to be printed here—as he was offered a cigarette before the play began. "Laws, man! Ah do love to see a nigger come along with his hat. Ah loves to see 'em, but it makes me more blue. Ah don't know how come it, but it seems like Ah always looked up on Christmas day. When Ah gets out Ah'm going to see some other State."

In the big Catholic chapel where the negro spoke there had been a Christmas mass a few hours earlier and many of the prisoners had received communion. Then while they were meditating back in their cells into Ossining rolled an early morning train with extra cars attached containing not only Mr. Brady and his entire "sinners" company but several hundred feet of scenery.

Scenery Put Up.

The scenery car was backed into a siding where it could be unloaded a few feet from the prison wall. And then the men came in, a few at a time, and the trees—where lingered the scent of the incense burned at the benediction that had followed the mass—came Mr. Brady and his actors and actresses and Simon J. Corcoran, president of the Catholic Golden Rule Brotherhood of Sing Sing.

In front of the altar where mass had just been said they put up the first act, "The New York apartment of a pretty girl who has a luxury apartment because a fur coated person is paying for this and other luxuries she enjoys. There were blank stretches of wall on either side of the stage, where President Corcoran, after the mass, had wanted his name used and he said, "If you want to—I'm not ashamed of it," and his trusty assistants dragged out some prison draperies and stretched them artfully in front of the most beautiful of the Catholic professionals at the side walls.

Parlor of Cigarettes.

Richard Harding Davis, who had started early from his Riverside Drive apartment to motor to Sing Sing—his a prison fan and has been for years—with Mrs. Beattie May Davis's Christmas gift to the 1,500 prisoners, a parlor of cigarettes, was sitting expectantly in the balcony.

So were Owen Davis, author of "Sinners," and Romney Taylor, editor of the *Saturday Evening Post*, and other friends of Warden Osborne.

There were handshakes and "Merry Christmas" in the big dark chapel, then a bit of conversation. And just as the girls began to "begin" to say something she checked herself in the middle of a sentence as a far off sound of a train, a train, was heard.

By the time the train came the audience was all on its feet. One knew that the gray and black striped convict suits are worn no more, but one did expect to see regiments of men with close cropped hair and bulldog jaws, such as one seen on the stage and in the magazine story illustrations.

By tens and dozens and hundreds they filed into the chapel and they might have been any regiment of workmen standing their noon hour at a movie show. Some of them wore the gray uniform which had been the hateful stripe convict garb. Shilling, white-trimmed neckties were plentifully speckled in the tanks. More than half the crowd were in short sleeves. There were no cropped heads.

First Show in Eight Years.

"You know," said a middle aged convict sitting beside the reporter, rubbing his hands nervously, "he said 'I always wear a burg on shows, and this'll be the first show I've seen in almost eight years.'"

As you could see there were next to no guards in the room. Here and there an aide sat one saw a prisoner standing, a trusty, sitting up with an air of authority. But even the trusty were in a law and order.

The drama curtains rustled and President Corcoran of the Golden Rule Brotherhood appeared and stepped down to the balcony.

"I want to remark," said the president to the prisoners, "that you mustn't be backward about applauding during the progress of this play—always applaud in the right place, of course—so long as you do your applauding with your hands."

There was a prisoner directing the president in the audience, recognized by the reporter as Warden Osborne. He was addressing them, Warden Osborne in the audience sitting back unobtrusively in the center of the room. Here and there a prisoner withdrew and the curtains were parted to show men and women.

Continued on Fourth Page.

Three in Taxi Hit by Magistrate's Auto

Mr. and Mrs. Haviland and Daughter Bruised—Reynolds Is Unhurt.

An automobile driven by Magistrate Louis H. Reynolds of Brooklyn struck and knocked over a taxicab at Dean street and New York avenue, Brooklyn, last night. The top of the taxicab was almost completely torn off.

Riding in the taxicab were Mr. and Mrs. Edgar F. Haviland and their daughter, Constance, returning to their home at 1872 Dean street, only a block away. They were thrown in a heap, but were able to crawl out of the wrecked machine.

They escaped with a few bad bruises, as did the driver, John Dalzi of 18 College place, Brooklyn.

A policeman sent in a call for two ambulances when he saw the accident, but when the surgeons arrived they found that the Havilands had gone to their home.

Magistrate Reynolds and his car were not injured. The Magistrate waited until the ambulances arrived and then went on his way. Mr. Haviland is a manufacturer of shade rollers.

MISS LADENBURG KILLS A DEER.

New York Woman in Saddle Lands Buck at 200 Yards in Colorado.

COLORADO SPRINGS, Col., Dec. 25.—Miss Eugenie Ladenburg of New York city, daughter of Adolf Ladenburg, who has been making her home here for three months, returned to-day from an outing on the Trinchera estate's extensive holdings in southern Colorado. She brought with her for mounting the antlered head of a fine buck deer which she killed by a single shot from a 30-20 calibre rifle.

She was on her mount and the deer was 200 yards distant. The estate is owned by Chester A. Arthur, son of the late President Arthur. Miss Ladenburg's mother is passing the holidays with her.

SAVES MANY LIVES AND NEARLY LOSES HIS OWN

Policeman Risked Death for Woman Already Out of Burning House.

Policeman Samuel H. Weinstein was overcome by smoke and rescued by two volunteers last night after he had saved the lives of several other persons at a fire in the four story building at 118 East Fifty-ninth street. Charles Schultz has a jewelry store in the front of the basement there and when he and his wife found a blaze getting briskly under way in their kitchen they made a fight to save their property, the woman first running to the street for aid.

Realizing that the fire meant the loss of his jewelry stock, valued at \$30,000, Schultz made two attempts to get into his store after police lines had been formed. In one of his trips into the burning building he was so badly burned that he was taken to Flower Hospital.

Weinstein, after turning in an alarm, pulled Schultz and his wife out of the kitchen and forced them to the street. Next he got out all the tenants on the three upper floors. Meanwhile the fire had eaten its way into the adjoining building, and Weinstein was told that Henry Admeyer, an invalid, 72 years old, and his wife were on the top floor.

He went up there and carried the old man down, while Mrs. Admeyer followed.

While he was clearing his lungs some one told Weinstein that Mrs. B. J. Murphy, who lived on the third floor, had not come from the building. Weinstein went back again, but this time he did not return. When they saw that and understood what it meant, Cecil Craige of 349 East Fifty-eighth street and R. H. MacIn of 215 East Seventeenth street drove in the smoke that was now pouring thick from both buildings. They came across Weinstein on the first floor, completely exhausted. They carried him to the street and worked his arms and legs until he began to breathe like a real live policeman again. Then it was discovered that Mrs. Murphy was among the interested spectators.

The fire brought a big crowd. Traffic was stopped through Fifty-ninth street, and the fire horses as they streaked by and the merry-makers at the Arion Club and Plaza assembly rooms helped to make work for the police reserves.

Schultz and his wife, who were burned about the hands and face, were attended by Dr. George E. Maurer of 154 East Sixty-fourth street, who happened to be in the crowd, and by Dr. Bruce of Flower Hospital.

PEACE IN 1915. POPE BELIEVES.

Pontiff Sees Hope in Agreement Regarding Prisoners.

Rome, Dec. 25.—Persistent rain marred the open air Christmas festivities in Rome. Christmas was not celebrated at the Quirinal owing to the Queen's condition.

Pope Benedict XV. celebrated the first of the three masses incumbent upon all priests of the Catholic Church at midnight last night in the Pauline chapel in the presence of members of the court.

Cardinals who were present this morning at the audience at the Vatican say that the Pope is confident that the agreement for exchange of prisoners of war has practically been settled and that it most probably soon will be extended to include all prisoners, including those who are not wounded. He also believes that his efforts for peace will be facilitated by this agreement.

The Pope personally is convinced, the Cardinals say, that the war will not last a year. He counts upon the efforts of neutral countries to hasten peace and is determined not to cease in his own efforts. He is encouraged instead of discouraged by the partial failures of previous attempts.

The Pope urged the Cardinals to pray for peace, on the ground that God's interference is indispensable for peace, which will amount to a miracle if concluded when the outlook is apparently hopeless.

EIGHT STARVING TOTS, COLD TOO, MISSED BY KRIS

Mother Gets Dispossess Notice, but No Aid From Children's Society.

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children at 165 Schermerhorn street, Brooklyn, was notified by Mrs. Brownsville police yesterday that Mrs. Carlotta Adams and her eight children, whose ages range from 9 years to 3 months, were without food and fuel in their rooms on the first floor of 2101 Dean street, East New York. Mrs. Adams' husband left to find work recently, the reporting officer said, and Mrs. Adams had been served with a dispossess notice because she was \$24 in arrears for two months rent.

She last night the society's headquarters, told Miss Stux by telephone that the report of the case of Mrs. Adams and her children was on the record as it came from the police.

"None of our men was here to-day," the society's representative said, "but we left word with the police to tell Mrs. Adams to come here in the morning. We will help the woman to put her children away and will assist her too if necessary. The police told us they had given some money to the woman."

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RUSSIANS DRIVE AUSTRIANS AND GERMANS BACK

Kaiser's Troops Suffer Heavy Losses, Says Petro- grad Report.

Petrograd, Dec. 25.—The Russian General Staff in the field telegraphed to the Ministry of War to-night a summary of conditions in Poland and Galicia which is entirely favorable to the Russian arms. The Germans in front of Warsaw have been repulsed with heavy losses and the Austro-German force extending from the River Pilzta in Poland to the Carpathians in Galicia has been routed. The official statement issued to-night was as follows:

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Air Battle Near London Is Seen by Thousands

German Aeroplane Invades England—Attacked by Three British Biplanes and Land Gums Along Thames. Raider Makes Gallant Fight.

COMBAT ENDS IN GERMAN'S SKILFUL ESCAPE

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.
LONDON, Dec. 25.—The War Office issued the following statement to-night:

"A hostile aeroplane was sighted at 12.35 P. M. to-day flying very high from east to west over Sheerness. A British aircraft went in pursuit and engaged the enemy who, after being hit three or four times, was driven seaward."

The *Daily Mail's* Southend correspondent says:

"An air battle has taken place over the Thames. Two German airmen in a biplane this afternoon carried out a daring raid, trusting, no doubt, to catch the English napping. Thanks to the vigilant watch on the Thames, however, this was defeated, and the biplane had to take to flight. That it escaped the shrapnel and aircraft guns is due solely to the mist which prevailed. The naval air service acted most creditably, and as far as can be gathered to-night, the victor did no damage of any description."

"It is safe to assume that the biplane left Ostend at 10 A. M., following the coast to Calais, found the mouth of the Thames by way of Dover and then flew across country to Sheerness. It seems to have flown at a very great height above the clouds. It was discovered hovering over Sheerness toward 1.30 P. M. Unhappily, the enemy, the sky suddenly cleared and our anti-aircraft guns lost no time in getting the distance. The German biplane was very easily distinguished from the British type by its birdlike wings and tailing tail."

"There was intense excitement among the inhabitants when the guns opened on the enemy at an altitude of 4,000 feet and well within range. Six shells were fired. The biplane was seen to be hit and was again hit by the second. At all events, the machine came round and headed for the sea. Three British naval biplanes went in chase. In fairness to the foe, it must be recorded that he fought a gallant

rear guard action, showing splendid aim and accuracy of fire. On one occasion the pursuers were overtaken and a battle was fought while the machines were traveling at seventy miles an hour 2,000 feet above the earth. Two British aeroplanes flew above the German, pressing him down on the hull of lead poured up by the biplane beneath, a strikingly big and powerful machine."

"Five minutes Sheerness saw a wonderful picture as the four aircraft went by at terrific speed, blazing at one another in mortal combat. The German fought gallantly, returning shot for shot, but the pace was too hot."

"The enemy could not fire for fear of hitting the English machines. The German clearly counted on this, for, hemmed in on three sides, he suddenly decided to make a dash for it. He circled higher in the clouds and it seemed as if there must be a terrible collision at any moment, but our men skilfully avoided this. The enemy succeeded in his maneuver, and disappeared. Our machines returned at 4 o'clock, safe and sound, but without securing their quarry."

The correspondent of the *Daily Mail* at Gravesend says the attractions of Turkey and other places could not compete with the drama of the air. People rushed into the streets and watched the movements of the German machine and another to the left and another to the right, all driving it toward and down the river. Suddenly one of the pursuers swooped over the German machine and as it passed immediately above fired one shrapnel shell which burst immediately beneath the fleeing aeroplane.

The German air machine rocked violently, tipping one wing, and it was thought that the enemy's monoplane must descend. It struggled on, however, and eventually went out of sight down the river, just as two other aeroplanes appeared from the mouth of the Thames. The German machine fired about a dozen rifle shots and several shells exploded near it.

The pretax for the step was the activity of Moslem rebels who, instigated by Austria, were massacring the adherents of Italy's friend, Essad Pasha, and were looting just outside the walls of Avlona. An official despatch sent from the Italian warship *Misurata* at Durazzo says that the Albanian rebels at Tirana are threatening to move against the government of Essad Pasha. Essad, who was elected as provisional President by the Albanian Senate, left to-day for Kroja, where he will organize a campaign against the rebels. A rebel force is concentrating at Dibra, forty miles further into the interior from Kroja. Essad plans to march against the rebels with a strong force of trained troops and to crush them at a blow.

Japanese Diet Dissolved When Army Increase Fails

Dramatic Session Ends With Exercise of Royal Prerogative When Peace Party After Long Debate Kills Government War Measure.

CLEMENCEAU URGES JAPANESE AID IN EUROPE

Tokyo, Dec. 25.—Emperor Yoshihito dissolved the Imperial Diet to-night. The announcement was made shortly before 10 o'clock, after the House had carried its debate on the army increases contained in the 1915 budget through the day of yesterday and into the night without being able to compose its differences.

The step taken by the Emperor was the last desperate remedy to save the Ministry. All to-day and the greater part of the night the Parliamentary battle raged over the budget of 1915, which provided for an expenditure of \$36,000,000 yen (\$278,000,000), while showing a decrease in revenue of \$10,500,000.