

READY FOR NEW SEASON

WITH COMING OF SEPTEMBER ALL THE THEATERS ARE PREPARING FOR ANNUAL RUSH.

The legitimate theatrical situation in Washington has reached low tide for the season with the three principal theaters closed, but with the vaudeville and burlesque houses in full swing, there is no dearth of entertainment for the stay-at-home contingent, and as the bulk of said contingent consists of unfortunate individuals of the male species, the needs of the hour seem amply provided for, and the great mass of sojourners at the seashore and the mountains repair to their homes the full season of 1909-10 will be fully under way.

What the forthcoming season will bring forth is, of course, problematical. Post and interseason prognostications, like conjecturing as to the future baseball situation and political results, are dangerous business for the reviewer, but, braving the danger, we have no hesitancy in asserting that at this moment the outlook is distinctly favorable. The tendency toward better things was so clearly apparent during the latter part of last season as to make the prediction fairly safe that that tendency will run over into this

whiter period of dramatic activity. Of course, there will be the usual complement of "plays of the hour," sensuous problem plays, and bizarre musical shows, but the failure of a good many of like quality last year, and the success accruing to cases like *Sothern in Repertoire*, "The Servant in the House," and "The Titching Hour," makes it appear likely that in the case this season, especially in view of the writing criticism in the periodicals and the talk of the people in their homes. Even in musical plays the tendency seems higher, both in regard to the character of the vehicle and the caliber of the music, in the first-mentioned matter the taste seeming to veer backward toward real comic opera, and in the latter a disposition is discernible toward real music of originality and sentiment and away from clap-trap and rehash. If there is a failure of realization in the above repeatedly expressed expectations, we will at least have the satisfaction of knowing that our hopes and feeble efforts were in that direction anyway.

THIS WEEK'S PLAYBILLS

Chase's—Polite Vaudeville.
Chase's next week, in which Labor Day is observed, will offer a holiday bill of pleasurable proportions, among its features being "Top o' the World," the great spectacular musical and dancing hit, with its collage ballet and the portrayal of "The King's Dream" included, in the latter of which are presented the Doll Princess, the Polar Bear, Jack-in-the-Box, the Peppermint Boy, and other fanciful characters. The added attractions will be *Silver's*, the world-famous clown of the Madison New York Hippodrome. The third exceptional presentation will be that of Claude and Fannie Usher in "Fagin's Decision," which is credited with having won much success. The *Helm Juveniles* will be a number of their own drawing power, as they are exercising a potent drawing power, as these clever youngsters are believed to be unequalled here. Leo Donnelly, the jocular comedian, will be on the list. Mr. Quick, the lightning sketch artist, will offer fresh fun material. Van Cleve, Denton and "Feter," in "And Her Name Was Maud," have a comic sketch. It is said, and the motion pictures will show "Scenes in Edinburgh and Glasgow."

COMING ATTRACTIONS.

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LOCAL STAGE NOTES.

Fred G. Berger, manager of the Columbia Theater, has joined his son at Utica, N. Y., and is now automobiling in New York State.

Harry All, a brother of George All, the animal impersonator, is doing the peppermint boy in "Top o' the World" at Chase's next week.

The Helm children have become stars of the first rank in vaudeville, the youngsters having had many offers for musical comedy and extravaganza.

Almost without exception, the members of the Columbia Players have headed for New York, and by this evening the last of them will have departed.

Leo Donnelly was a soldier in Uncle Sam's service during the Spanish-American war, and afterward he became a monologist, playing next week at Chase's.

Fred Nible, the chief of the White Rats, has returned from Europe so overlaid with material for interesting travel talks that he does not know where to begin. His season opens early in October.

The ride on the runaway train, which proved so sensational a feature of the Lyman H. Howe New York Hippodrome travel festival at the Columbia Theater a fortnight ago, will be repeated to-night as an additional number on a programme otherwise entirely new.

Among the song gems which Al H. Wilson will introduce to a Washington audience for the first time in his new play, "Metz in Ireland," on the occasion of his forthcoming engagement at the Columbia Theater will be "Love Thoughts," "Erin's Isle," "The Banisher," "The Nightingale Song," and "Little Jimmy Murphy."

A former Washington girl who has made a decided success in a professional career is Miss Eva Whitford. After several months' study with Mrs. Suzanne Oldberg she has had five seasons of hard work in musical comedy and drama, and she is to take a well deserved rest, having been placed in charge of the entire musical department of the Baylor Female College, at Benton, Tex.

It is said that Miss Whitford, aside from possessing a voice of rare quality, shows much histrionic ability, and on her return from Texas next season will be featured in one of Belasco's New York productions.

The story of "Vasta Herne," the new play by Edward Peple, in which Mrs. Leslie Carter will open her season, is so unique that she is anxious that its trend and theme shall not be made public until its first presentation.

Miss Henrietta Crossman's tour opens at Powers' Theater, in Chicago, about September 1, and all the cities of the East will be given a chance to see "Sham." The far West and South will not be visited until the season following.

Maude and Edna Davis, cousins of Jefferson Davis, the late president of the Southern Confederacy, have been engaged by George H. Brennan for "The Chameleon." This will be their fifth consecutive season in the celebrated Dixon play.

Miss Mabel Barrison has temporarily retired from the cast of "The Blue Mouse," and is resting in New York City, and is expected to resume her tour in the same place in Atlantic City September 8. Joseph Howard, her husband, will be a member of the cast.

Vaughan Glaser and Willard Holcomb have announced that in view of the fact that so many presentations of "St. Elmo" have been announced, they will defend their rights to the title and play in the courts, and will prosecute any infringement.

"The Master-Key," a play by Cosmo Hamilton, the English writer, will be produced in Philadelphia by William A. Brady on Monday, September 6. It was placed in rehearsal yesterday. The management announces for this play "the best non-star cast of recent years."

Miss Mabel Hite has been signed by Liebler & Co. to star in a new comedy which the firm will produce a little later in the season, and in which the chief part is of the sort Miss Hite has been so successful in portraying. Mike Donlin, her husband, will be a member of the company.

Before Mrs. Leslie Carter selected the new play by Edward Peple, which is to be the principal production in her repertoire this season, she had to read over 200 plays submitted to her not only by ambitious amateurs, but by some of the most prominent members of the Dramatists' Club.

The case of Florence Ziegfeld against Ned Bayes and Jack Norworth occupied the attention of the court last Friday in New York, on the application to restrain these players from appearing in vaudeville. It developed during the course of the trial that Mr. Ziegfeld was paying Eva Tanguay \$1,200 a week.

John Philip Sousa has named his new march, upon which he has been at work several months, "The Honor of the Yankee Navy." Arrangements have just been concluded between Mr. Sousa and Miss Blanche Ring, whereby the composition is secured exclusively for her new musical comedy, "The Yankee Girl."

Although "The Servant in the House" is now running in Denmark, Norway, and Sweden, and will be produced in London within the next few weeks, it has not yet been seen in Buffalo, Pittsburgh, Detroit, Cleveland, Cincinnati, New Orleans, Charleston, Savannah, Richmond, and many other important theatrical centers.

Charles Rann Kennedy, author of "The Servant in the House," has completed his new play, "The Idol Breaker." It will be produced by Henry Miller during the coming season. In addition to this latest Kennedy drama, Mr. Miller will shortly produce a new play by Langdon Mitchell, author of "The New York Idea," and one by Paul Armstrong, author of "Salomy Jane."

Although Mrs. Leslie Carter has not played in London since her big successes in "The Heart of Maryland" and "Zzzzz," she is well known there and is regarded as one of the foremost emotional actresses speaking the English language. There was great rejoicing there last season over her large measure of success won in "Kassa," and she has received a flattering offer to appear in the play at a prominent London theater.

Rehearsals were begun on the stage of the Hudson Theater, in New York, last Tuesday morning for "The Noble Spaniard," the Victorian farce in which Robert Edson will appear this season. Mr. Edson arrived in New York from his summer home at Sea Harbor Monday evening, accompanied by Mrs. Edson and Ann Murdock. The popular star is as brown as a berry and in the best of health.

The company to support Mr. Edson will include Desires Bernard, a Washington girl, who has been making a name for herself in the Henry B. Harris production, "The Wizard." Others of the cast include Gertrude Cochran, Vernon Clarges, Mace

PLAYS AND PLAYFOLK.

Lulu Glaser began rehearsals last week of "The Girl from the States."

John Philip Sousa has signed contracts with the Shuberts to write a comic opera. It will be called "The Glass Blowers."

Charles Klein was once an actor. He played the bootblack in Mrs. Frances Hodgson Burnett's play, "Little Lord Fauntleroy."

Hamilton Revelle, the well-known English actor, will be seen in the principal male role in Eugene W. Presbrey's "The Coast of Chance."

In addition to appearing in a drama by Eugene Walter, Nazimova, the Russian actress, will be seen in another new play by an American.

The farewell tour of Beulah Poynter in "Lena Rivers," is announced. This when met in the States to quit the stage or try a new play.

Mrs. Humphry Ward has obtained an injunction against W. A. Brady restraining him from offering "The Marriage of William Ashe" in the stock houses.

Louise Gunning began her second season in "Marcelle" last Monday at the Savoy Theater, Atlantic City. Jess Dandy remains with the company as a special "feature."

Orme Caldera and his wife, Julia Dean, who were in the Columbia stock company together in Washington, have arrived in London, and will tour the Continent until the latter part of September.

Liebler & Co. have engaged James O'Neill to appear with Viola Allen in "The White Sister," while Minna Gale, who was in the company last season, as well as William Farum, have been re-engaged.

Miss Grace Van Studdford will resume her starring tour in "The Golden Butterfly," opening September 20, at the Forest Theater, Philadelphia, after which she will again visit the large cities of the East and West.

Henry W. Savage is going to deal in Shakespeare next season. He intends to present Harry E. Dixey and Helen Lackey as co-stars in a revival of "The Taming of the Shrew." Here will be richness, indeed.

The story of "Vasta Herne," the new play by Edward Peple, in which Mrs. Leslie Carter will open her season, is so unique that she is anxious that its trend and theme shall not be made public until its first presentation.

Grant Mitchell, who last season played a prominent part in support of Robert Edson, and who will be seen this year in "An American Widow," was born in Columbus, Ohio, June 12, 1874, and made his debut on the stage in Richard Mansfield's production of "Julius Caesar," at the Herald Square Theater, New York.

In "Vasta Herne," Mrs. Leslie Carter's new offering for this season, she will be seen for the first time in many years in strictly modern costume. Of the opportunity this offered Mrs. Carter has taken the fullest advantage, and the gowns which she will wear in the four acts of the Edward Peple play are certain to create something of a sensation among the feminine portion of her audiences throughout the country.

William Faversham has purchased the rights of the new play that Stephen Phillips, the English poet and author of "Herod," has about completed. The theme of the latest Phillips drama has not been made known, but it is understood that the story has been laid in modern times. The author of "Herod" and "Ulysses" has heretofore confined his dramatic efforts to ancient times and to a fabled or historic people.

Klaw & Erlanger will send "Little Nemo," the biggest and best musical comedy ever staged, to Syracuse for fair week. Harry Clay Blaney is cast for the role of Flip. Joseph Cawthron, Harry Kelly, and Miss Marie Foster are the parts they assumed last season. Only minor changes have been made in the cast that made "Little Nemo" the sensation of a season in New York, Chicago, and Boston. A special train of seventeen cars is needed to transport the production.

Julian Royce, who is to be leading man with Miss Hattie Williams in "Detective Sparks," has probably created more convincing roles in London productions of Pinner plays than any other living actor. Abroad this is regarded as a great distinction, because the new Sir A. W. Pinner invariably selects all the casts for the first performances of his plays. In appearance and manner Mr. Royce is a fine English-delineator in speech, careful in utterance, and always accompanied by the single, stringless moccasin that never falls out, however much the owner talks or the spectator worries.

William Norris, who forsook Shakespeare for musical comedy-making a distinct and lasting impression in "Rabes in Toyland"—and who later returned to the "legitimate," has decided to make another change of base. The Shuberts have offered him the leading role in "The King of Cadonia," one of the latest English musical pieces, and Mr. Norris has accepted. Sam Bernard had first choice on the comedy, but preferred "The Wizard." Later it was reported that Richard Carle would be seen in "The King of Cadonia," and of course under the management of the Shuberts, who control the rights of the piece.

Richard Le Gallienne's "Orestes." So many misstatements have been made regarding Richard Le Gallienne's adaptation of "Orestes" that the plain truth in the matter will be of interest. Mr. Le Gallienne is making this adaptation for the use of William Faversham and Walter Damrosch, who wrote three plays on the matter which will be of interest. Mr. Le Gallienne is making this adaptation for the use of William Faversham and Walter Damrosch, who wrote three plays on the matter which will be of interest. Mr. Le Gallienne is making this adaptation for the use of William Faversham and Walter Damrosch, who wrote three plays on the matter which will be of interest.

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Nights, 25c, 35c, 50c, 75c. Mals, 25c.

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CHASE'S THEATRE. THE SOUL KISS STARS. CECIL LEAN AND FLORENCE HOLBROOK. JUST AS THEY ARE. THE NIGHTINGALE SONG. SUZANNE ROCAMORA. HASTINGS AND WILSON. WALSH, LYNCH & CO. BROOMSTICK WITCHES. THE AMERICAN VITAGRAPH.

LUNA PARK. Free Gate Week Days. Last 9 Days. Closing Labor Day. This Afternoon American Regimental Band and To-night Continuous Band Concert from 8 to 11 p. m. NIGHTLY THIS WEEK FREE MOTION PICTURES AND ILLUSTRATED SONGS. TUESDAY, AUG. 31 S. & H. Green Stamp Merchants' Picnic.

COLUMBIA TO-NIGHT 8:20 o'Clock. RIDE ON THE RUNAWAY TRAIN. (Repeated by Request.) and LYMAN H. HOWE N. Y. Hippodrome Travel Festival.

NEW LYCEUM. MATINEE DAILY. Week Commencing To-morrow. The Real Leader of Them All. The New Century Girls. The Acknowledged Mistress of Mirth and Melody. A Competent Conclave of Consistent Comedy Creators. Next Week—MERRY MAIDENS.

IRISH FAIR AND FIELD DAY, BENNING RACE TRACK, SEPTEMBER 22 AND 23. WORLD-RENOWNED ATHLETES, TOURNA-MENTS, MARATHON RACE GRAND SPECTACLES AND REPRESENTATIONS OF IRISH ACHIEVEMENTS. VOTE FOR MOST POPULAR IRISHMAN.

THE SINS OF SOCIETY.

A glance at the offerings for the coming theatrical season will demonstrate that one of the most striking productions ever outlined in this country will be Brooks & Dingwall's presentation of the great Drury Lane drama, "The Sins of Society," which is announced to open at the New York Theater August 31.

The advance announcements from many quarters reveal a return to the more solid forms of stage entertainment and at the forefront of this cycle is the stirring story of contemporary life in the London "smart set."

It was a record run in London and it was revived with even greater eclat. After success in the American rights, Messrs. Brooks & Dingwall produced the story in Chicago, where it remained for three months and demonstrated that it was a bigger play than in England. It was taken off in the summer in order to permit the producers full opportunity to get everything in splendid shape for the New York run.

The Drury Lane institution has long been regarded as an institution, and the story, "The Sins of Society," was the greatest thing of its kind ever done at that famous playhouse. Its American premiere is unique in that the original elaborate effects and beautiful scenery is the most stupendous undertaking ever presented on an American stage.

The production is divided into fourteen scenes, and each would require a chapter of descriptive were it worked out in novel form to illuminate a novel of the same purpose. Singularly enough the story is so concisely told that aside from the elaborate effects of production it could be given in a quieter atmosphere and with nothing more impressive than the usual scenery of the contemporary drawing-room drama.

The dramatic action deals with the story of the so-called "smart set" of the English society and depicts the evils of gambling at bridge, which is the surest indication of the timeliness of the subject and the possibilities that it unfolds.

Together, "The Sins of Society" will be the impressive departure of the season, and it is not likely that anything as comprehensive in plot and elaboration will be brought forth in a long time.

An idea of the extent of the production is gleaned in the announcement that the stage of the New York Theater had to be completely remodeled to make it possible to tell the story in the big manner that it is to be given. A thirty-foot excavation was made for the shipwreck scene and three immense steel bridges put in to span the space. The floor is laid over these in sections that can be moved in a moment to meet the requirements of the production.

An exceptionally strong company has been engaged to portray the various characters of the piece and everything done to assure theater-goers a smooth and thoroughly comprehensible presentation of this stirring story in every essential detail.

Sam Bernard in "The Wizard." The Shuberts have selected "The Wizard" as the title of the new musical production in which Sam Bernard is to star under their direction. The book of the piece is by Hartley Manners, author of "The Great John Ganton," the lyrics are by Robert B. Smith, and the music by Julian Edwards.

Preliminary rehearsals for "The Wizard" have been called, and the production, which is the most elaborate ever offered by the Shuberts, will have an early autumn opening. Bernard in "The Wizard" is slated for an indefinite engagement in one of the Shubert Broadway theaters, New York.

Rehearsals were begun on the stage of the Hudson Theater, in New York, last Tuesday morning for "The Noble Spaniard," the Victorian farce in which Robert Edson will appear this season. Mr. Edson arrived in New York from his summer home at Sea Harbor Monday evening, accompanied by Mrs. Edson and Ann Murdock. The popular star is as brown as a berry and in the best of health.

The company to support Mr. Edson will include Desires Bernard, a Washington girl, who has been making a name for herself in the Henry B. Harris production, "The Wizard." Others of the cast include Gertrude Cochran, Vernon Clarges, Mace

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