

PRESS AGENTS' ROUND TABLE

An amusing incident that occurred to Arthur Sidman, who, with his wife, constitutes the chief feature of the Palace Star Vaudeville Company which is billed for Chase's New Grand this week, is related by George K. Sellinger, the advance press agent for the organization.

"It seems," says he, "that the management of a summer resort at which the Sidmans were playing, a couple of years ago, had engaged a high diver for the exhibition of his Fourth of July crowd. I should explain that the diver was what is generally called a 'hick,' or tough. On the day in question the manager came to Mr. Sidman and said:

"Say, Sidman, I want you to do me a favor; this high diver insists upon an announcement being made before he descends. You climb up the derrick about half-way, and make your bluff strong that you are leery of going any higher. I'll give you the money 'ha-ha' for being scared, but that's between us, see? Hang on to the ladder for yer life and make yer apell."

"The diver proceeded to instruct Mr. Sidman as to the speech, adding, in his own vocabulary: "Now, Sid, old boy, make it a 'peach,' don't you! I want to tell it to 'em right; they ain't no guy in this leaping business that's in it with me when it comes to climbing, and you can't make it too strong. You climb up the derrick about half-way, and make your bluff strong that you are leery of going any higher. I'll give you the money 'ha-ha' for being scared, but that's between us, see? Hang on to the ladder for yer life and make yer apell."

"The time arrived, and the 'hick,' in glaring red tights and an abundance of nerve, climbed up to the top, followed by the shaming Sidman. The grounds were literally packed with people awaiting the one big event of the day.

"After silencing the crowd with a proud wave of the hand, and hanging on for dear life, with the other, the comedian shouted:

"Ladies and gentlemen: I take great pleasure in calling your attention to the monster feat about to be performed by 'Toronto Red,' the most perilous high diver ever known to the amusement world! He risks his neck and limb to entertain you! He will leap from this pedestal, 100 feet high, into that shallow tank of water below, only thirty inches deep! Ponder on this, the most daring feat ever attempted by a human being! Are you ready? This is 'Toronto Red,' who stood like a statue in his blood-red tights."

"Yes," came the reply with a very circus bow!

"A prearranged signal from Mr. Sidman, and the hand starting near struck up an awe-inspiring air; the crowd was lushed, as they waited in breathless suspense!

"Go!" shouted the comedian.

"No reply.

"Go!" again cried the actor at the top of his lungs.

"A pause, and 'Toronto Red' looked down at Sidman, and in a voice trembling with fear, said:

"Say, Sid, I've lost my nerve; I've got to come down and become the comedian could realize what had happened, the bravest diver in the world had started to descend. A howl went up from the disappointed crowd, and cries of 'Throw them in the lake!' 'Drawn 'em!' rose on the air. That word 'them' came like a thunderbolt to the astonished Sidman, who at once realized that he was considered a party to the 'hicks.' The crowd surged around the foot of the derrick, but luckily for Sidman, in their haste to get hold of 'Toronto Red,' they lost sight of the comedian, who jostled his way through the crowd into the stage door of the theatre adjacent, unharmed, and a trifle 'worried.'

"The crowd threw the diver into the lake, and as fast as he could crawl out, repeated the operation, till finally the police managed to land him in the net-up net of the clutches of the crowd until morning, when he quietly took a train and faded from view.

"When Sidman stepped on to the stage that night he was greeted by a storm of jeers, cat-calls, and admonitions, until the manager was forced to appear before the audience and explain matters. Mr. Sidman, he said, has not played that resort since, nor has he any aspirations to become a 'speaker' for a high diver who forgets to dive."

Sam Meyers, who is connected with "The Rose of Persia" in a business capacity, tells several stories in which John Le Hay prominently figures. Mr. Le Hay was in this country several seasons ago with the musical play, "His Excellency," and was naturally a great deal surprised with much that he saw in America.

Says Mr. Meyers:

"On his return to London, Mr. Le Hay was asked by an Irishman who did chores about his house what was the most wonderful thing that he saw during his trip to the United States. Mr. Le Hay replied that on his way to Chicago, while sitting in the buffet car, when it pulled into Pittsburg, a gentleman who had picked up an acquaintance with him saw a friend who was on the train for New York looking out of the car window, whereupon he beckoned for him to come over to the train on which were the English comedian and his chance acquaintance.

"The friends and Mr. Le Hay adjourned to the smoker, where they enjoyed their perfectoes until finally without any warning, the train for Chicago rattled out with the man whose destination was New York on board. After a half hour's ride, the man with New York for his destination asked the man who was bound for Chicago where he was going, and his reply 'Chicago,' Mr. Le Hay said, 'My, but this is a wonderful country; here you are both on the same train, with one going to Chicago and the other to New York.'

Mr. Le Hay himself is the authority for the statement that the Irishman of all work firmly believed the story.

BRIEFLY TOLD.

Virginia Earle has an automobile. Ada Rehan arrived in New York from England last week for \$20,000.

Julia Arthur bought a set of tables the other day for \$20,000.

Mathilde Preville has joined the cast of "The Princess Chic."

Lionel Lawrence has replaced Nat Willis in "A Million Dollars."

Motjeska has returned to New York from her California ranch.

"The Girl With the Auburn Hair" will next season sing in comic opera.

J. B. Elouin will manage "The Princess Chic" for Kirtle La Shellie.

Thomas Whiffen will replace Cyril Scott in "The Casino Girl" now in London.

Frank Christlander has succeeded E. B. Reynolds as manager for Sousa's band.

Mr. and Mrs. Nat. C. Goodwin (Maxine Elliott) sailed for New York last Saturday.

Diminutive Arthur Dunn is playing James T. Powers' old part in "A Runaway Girl."

Nellie O'Neill is winning distinction for her clever soubrette work in "A Pemmle Drummer."

Aline Bouvier, with Jeff De Angelis last week, hopes soon to enter the legitimate field, all her work so far being in opera.

Bon Ami Is an improvement over scouring soaps. It is made of finer material. It will not scratch, "scour off" and "wear out" surfaces on which it is used.

AMUSEMENTS.

In the presentation of POLITE VAUDEVILLE in the CHASE THEATRE it is the constant aim of the management to prevent the use of a single word, expression, or situation that will offend the intelligent, refined, and cultured classes.

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Chas. Frohman's Empire Theatre Company, Brother Officers, BY LEO TREVOR. Company includes William Faversham, Jessie Millward, Margaret Anglin, Guy Standing, Mrs. Thomas Whiffen, Edwin Stevens, Margaret Dale, W. H. Crompton, Lillian Thurgate, Joseph Wheelock, Jr., E. Y. Bensusan, and others.

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AMUSEMENTS.

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