

TWO NEW LIQUOR LAWS INTRODUCED License for Retailers Fixed at \$1,000, While Grocers Must Pay \$500 Permits by Police Commission to Be Good for 90 Days and Revocable for Cause

Two ordinances to regulate the liquor traffic were introduced by Supervisor Murdock yesterday. One fixes the retail license at \$1,000 per annum, while the other imposes a \$500 license on sellers of liquor in quart quantities or more.

The penalty for violating any provisions of the ordinance by a retailer shall not exceed \$500 or imprisonment not to exceed six months or by both fine and imprisonment. The ordinance, if passed, will be in effect July 1.

Mayor Taylor's veto to the Hooks amendment, exempting the wholesalers and sellers of original quart packages was received and with it the executive's reasons for withholding his signature.

As it is patent to me that it is for the benefit of the city that all dispensing liquor at retail, whether in grocery or otherwise, should be brought under such control, I earnestly recommend that you honorably acquiesce in the ordinance in lieu of ordinance No. 29, which and whereby all those dispensing liquor at retail shall only do so on permission of the board of police commissioners and on license based upon such permits.

RESOLUTION SENT BACK A resolution providing \$200,000 to be expended in the repair of streets and sewers before the arrival of the fleet was recommended to the streets committee to make a new allotment.

The bill requiring the construction of sidewalks in the burned district prior to May 1, 1908, was passed to print.

The ordinance drafted by the state board of health and the citizens' committee to rid the city of rats was referred to the health committee.

Comte introduced an amendatory ordinance providing that the chief of the fire department may, "at his discretion," detail two firemen for duty at the theater during each performance.

A resolution requesting the city attorney to end litigation with the Spring Valley company was referred to the water rates committee.

The health and building committees will examine the northwest wing of the city hall. Larkin and McAllister streets to determine if the present sidewalk can be fitted up as a branch street to relieve the congestion at the county jail.

A communication from Millan-Griffith company announcing that it had decided to the city a lot 100 by 1,376 in Broadway street at Stanley place for a park was referred to the streets committee.

PASS "RAT PROOF" CLAUSE The amendment to the building law requiring "rat proofing" in basements by the laying of concrete floors was passed to print over Center's objection that it would work great hardship on the small property owners.

The petition of the organized labor protective league requesting the mayor to issue certificates against the municipal bonds remaining unsold in the city treasury, the certificates to be accepted in payment for street and sewer work, was referred to the city attorney.

The petition of 14,616 alleged qualified electors to call a special election to acquire the street railways and telephone system was referred to the utilities committee.

The "curfew" bill, prohibiting minors under 16 years of age from loitering on the streets after 8 o'clock in the evening, was passed to print.

A resolution allowing the Geary street road to pay to the city 1/2 instead of 10 per cent of its gross receipts for November and December was adopted.

APPROVES MANY PARKS Utilities Committee Reports Favorably to the Supervisors

The utilities committee reported favorably to the supervisors yesterday on the following propositions to be included in the bond issue proclamation:

Lands for parks situated in vicinity of Telegraph hill..... \$500,000 Twin peaks..... 100,000 Pointe d'Or..... 200,000 E. South Street and Fortieth avenue..... 100,000 Glen Park..... 100,000 Other localities..... 200,000 Total..... \$1,500,000

Lands for playgrounds in the vicinity of Church and Twenty-sixth streets..... \$50,000 Loma and Twenty-sixth streets..... 27,200 Brazil and Munich streets..... 12,800 Total..... \$90,000

Lands for widening Market and East streets..... \$200,000 Lands for widening streets between Montgomery avenue and water front, 2,000,000

The committee from the South End Improvement League reported that its protest against the park propositions would be heard Thursday. The protesters ask that \$1,000,000 instead of \$200,000 be set aside for parks in the district extending south from Sixteenth to the county line and from the bay to the ocean.

CRY OUT FOR WATER Hundreds of Reis Tract Residents Appeal to Board of Supervisors

Several hundred residents of the Reis tract appeared before the supervisors yesterday afternoon to demand that some arrangement be made whereby they would be furnished with water. The County Line company having cut off their supply when they refused to become stockholders in this mutual company.

Attorney Allen, representing the water company, said that it was being operated at a loss and that T. B. Potter, its president, was willing to turn the plant over to the city. Being a mutual company, it could furnish water only to share holders. For that reason the intending consumers had been asked to take one share of stock each. More than 100 of them, who had accepted the invitation, were being supplied with water.

Harry Dowdell, representing the petitioners, thought that the supervisors could order the Spring Valley water company, which has a main running through the tract, to furnish water. He said that they had offered to pay for any pipe needed to connect with the main now in place, but the Spring Valley company had refused.

While it was the opinion of Mayor Taylor and the supervisors that they had no legal power to interfere, the water rate committee of the board was instructed to see the Spring Valley company in an effort to secure some relief for the people.

FRENCH COMEDY HIS BIG SUCCESS

Grace George and Frank Worthing discussing terms of divorce in the first act of "Divorcons" at the Van Ness theater.

Grace George in "Divorcons" is Ideal in Fragile, Capricious Role Frank Worthing Wins Large Share of Honors in Sardou Play

By Walter Anthony

CAST OF CHARACTERS In Sardou's Comedy, "Divorcons" M. Henri des Prunelles..... Frank Worthing M. Edouard Geras..... Douglas Gerrard M. Clarynes..... A. H. Stuart M. Bafourdin..... Charles Stanley Bastien, servant to Des Prunelles..... Edward Fielding Joseph, waiter..... William Ricciardi M. de Brionne..... Douglas Wilson Cyprienne, Mme. des Prunelles..... Grace George Josepha, maid to Cyprienne..... Angela Ogden Mme. de Brionne, a young widow..... Laura Lemmers Mlle. de Laignan..... Justice Cutting Mme. de Valfontaine..... Evelyn Carrington

If there's a lingering suspicion in your thoughts that life's mirror is better hung in the amber shadows of tragedy than in the bright light of comedy; if you believe that the scowl is truer than the smile, then go and see Sardou's "Divorcons" at the Van Ness theater this week and change your mind. If you entertain no convictions whatever about the mission of the stage and regard it merely as a medium of egress from care in ingress to enjoyment, go and buy a ticket. Also to be Teuton and not Latin—if you know good acting when you see it, and glory in the delight of it, join the string, which will be long, at the box office and see Miss Grace George and Frank Worthing in the Margaret Mayo version of Sardou's bonbon comedy.

As to Miss George, who made her first San Francisco bow at the performance last evening in the character of Cyprienne, even the English liked her humor in the role and they saw even the great Rejane play it. Image anybody but Grace George playing it for you after last night! Such a fragile, delicate touch is needed. A nervous untutored handling of the part would shatter it utterly or make it pitifully cheap and brutal and vulgar.

Cyprienne is an unhappy wife who loves her husband and does not know it. He neglects her and she finds a lover whose advances she accepts because mainly she has no love else. The lover is a Frenchman, a young man with a successful French comedy are there, you see. The husband (Worthing) learns of the affair and intercepts a telegram from the lover (Douglas Gerrard) and sends his wife informing her of the passage of a divorce law which will release her from the bonds she thinks annoy her. Des Prunelles, the husband, accuses the hoax and throws his wife into the arms of her lover in a scene of splendid comedy.

EXCITES THE ROMANCE The lovers are disconcerted, but try to bear up under their unexpected happiness, and the ardent soldier, somewhat cooled, leaves the house of the man he has tried to injure. Then follows a scene between husband and wife wherein the former gradually assumes the form of lover, and by usurping the place he apparently gave to his successor, excites the romance that is all there is of harm in Cyprienne. He invites her to dine with him and makes her love to the promised and faithful successor. That completes the illusion until his wife, discovering his romantic affection has been sleeping, graciously and deliciously forgives her lord and master for her incontinent infidelity, and sends the lover about his business.

In the telling of the story by the playwright and in the interpretation by the actors lies the charm of the comedy, no less than its truth. One of the most delicate pieces of mummery I have seen occur was when Des Prunelles, after promising under the terms of the divorce law, which his wife believes has been passed, to give her up to the soldier, urges her to be frank and tell him all about her infidelities. She does. She shows him a secret drawer from which she extracts, one by one, the evidences of her perfidy—letters and souvenirs and all. Her lover has kissed her once on the cheek, once on her neck, when he was putting her in her wrap, and once he bit her on the wrist. That is the sum of her offending, and she tells it with delicious exaggeration of her secret sinning.

CARRIES GIRLISH INNOCENCE Miss George carried through the scene a girlish innocence which was at once preposterous under the circumstances and entirely feminine. She was telling the truth. The audience is persuaded of that, as well as her husband. Then he turns, too, and gets her jealous of his imaginary amours. By that time, and it is in the second act, the play is a light.

In the last act, alone with his wife in a cafe, he is pounced upon by the police and accused of harboring a married woman in the apartment. Adhering to the love investigated the raid, because Cyprienne had broken a dinner engagement with him. She sees that he intended only to wrong her, in the first place, and accepted her as wife only to eke out with her fortune his own small income, and she sees finally the inherent nobility of her husband. The latter gets on his knees and apologizes for the ruse which has made her happy in spite of herself, and the curtain falls.

The gossamer like fineness of the story is torn in the telling. Sardou's dramaturgy will not transpire from stage to page.

WELCOME IS HEARTY Worthing's welcome back to San Francisco was hearty and sincere. He has been and is still ill. He came across the continent to appear in San Francisco. That is a circumstance which will make us truly debtors to his kindness. He is an actor of manners and class. He looks the role he wears, and his comedy is not a cloak but an assumption, genuine and real. Gerrard, as the lover, was fair; William Ricciardi, as the waiter, was good; Angela Ogden, as the maid, and the other members of the cast were mainly adequate and effective, with but little, however, to do.

The play is made of the comedy itself and Worthing and Grace George in almost equal parts, with a balance in favor of the demure and dainty leading woman who made her first bow to us last night.

CENTRAL "How Baxter Butted In," at the Central, as presented last evening, is a rural comedy, full of the liveliest incident and suggestiveness. The usual elements of serio tragic comedy are there; the old country deacon; the hired

help, amazingly funny in his fatness and Buster Brown suits; the hard, rigid, pitiless stepfather; the constable shivering with terror when he has to perform his duty; and the mother torn between her duty to her husband and her child, though the love for the daughter wins in the end. All the character parts are remarkably well depicted, and the setting in the third scene is really beautiful. The old windmill incident is undeniably thrilling, and the descent of Ezra Quid, the hired boy, from the burning tower by means of the windmill arms, brought forth rounds of applause. The boardman won fresh laurels as Baxter, and Gus Mortimer, Sadie Ainsley and Elmer Booth in their respective roles were the life of the five acts. Zinn's dancing girls are both pretty and picturesque, and their dancing very graceful and catchy. The play will run all this week.

PRINCESS Military men, flags, patriotic music, pretty girls in the gowns of the belle of '61 and stirring scenes are filling the Princess theater every night with enthusiastic playgoers, who go to hear "When Johnny Comes Marching Home."

Although Arthur Cunningham, by right of mighty voice, has captured the honors of the piece, he is by no means the only attraction, nor is his singing all there is to the tuneful opera. Everybody in the cast of "Princess" principals has a chance, not to forget to mention Ned Nye and Will H. Bray, who are newcomers at the new opera house. Then there are Harry James and his orchestra men, who keep the music lively, and George Lasky, out of sight but evident in the pretty stage pictures and clever "business" of the light opera. Unless all signs fall the Princess will "sell out" every night this week, and "When Johnny Comes Marching Home" will be retained another week at least.

PIANIST WILL SAY GOODBYE Tonight will witness Mme. Teresa Carreno's farewell to San Francisco. For the occasion a program of superlative excellence has been arranged, in which the great pianist will display all her wonderful powers at the keyboard. The recital will be given at Christian Science hall. Here is the program to be presented:

Beethoven..... Mozart Sonata Op. 81, No. 3..... Chopin "Nocturne"..... Schumann "In der Nacht Tocatta"..... Tchaikowsky "La Fausse Note"..... Rubinstein "Am Seegestade"..... Macdowell "Etude de Concert"

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TRICKS WOMAN AND IS LANDED IN JAIL Charge of Issuing Fictitious Check Filed Against East-ern Man

Howard W. McGill, who is alleged to have tricked Mrs. Margaret Page of 3201 Washington street out of \$100 February 8, was booked at the city prison yesterday on a charge of uttering a fictitious check. H. Graf, representing the City of Paris dry goods company at Washington street and Van Ness avenue, swore to the complaint before Police Judge Weller. McGill is accused of making purchases for Mrs. Page to the value of \$102.50, giving a check on the Crocker national bank in payment, which he afterward rescinded. It is said he had no funds on deposit at that bank and in giving the check, it is alleged, he was guilty of a felony.

When charged McGill is said to have remarked to Detective Burke that he was surprised to find his act a felony; otherwise he would have been more careful. McGill is an eastern man and, it is alleged, hit upon a scheme to advertise for a companion for his "police" in an effort to raise money. The police believe that Mrs. Page was not his only victim through the advertisement, and that others will be heard from. Mrs. Page has not yet sworn to a complaint against McGill, nor has the firm of O'Connor, Moffatt & Co., who also got one of McGill's checks, taken any action.

NO PARDON FOR EVANS SACRAMENTO, Feb. 17.—Governor Gillett denies that any efforts have been made to have him pardon Chris Evans, the famous bandit, who is now serving a life sentence at Folsom. The governor states that he will not pardon him. Evans is a decrepit old man barely able to get around without assistance. His family endeavored to have him released by Governor Pardee two years ago, but failed.



WIFE SAYS BRANN LOVED TOO MANY CLUBMAN ACCUSED OF UNDUE FAMILIARITY WITH WIDOW AND WEDDED WOMAN

Harry H. Brann, Olympic club man and a well known figure in business circles, was accused by his wife, Lillie G. Brann, who yesterday sued him for divorce, with having paid "systematic and marked attention to a married woman." He had a key to the residence of the married woman, complains the wife, and neglected the latter in order to spend his time with the unnamed one.

There was also a certain widow, according to the complaint, to whose residence Brann likewise had a private key. He is alleged to have paid marked attention to the widow, and to have used the key in order to gain access to her and be in her company.

It was the habit of Brann to remain out at night until late, covered his wife, Mrs. Brann says her husband refused to speak to her for long periods, except in a harsh and surly manner. On one occasion she remonstrated with the married woman whom her husband visited, and Brann berated her. She charged him with misconduct with a woman at a Golden Gate avenue restaurant.

The Branns were married in August, 1878, and have one child, a son, aged 6. The defendant is the president in charge of the Brann & Prior company, sail makers and ship supply merchants, receiving a salary of \$500 a month. His possessions include an interest in the ship Alice McDonald, an interest in the Simpson lumber company, an interest in the Freeman lumber company and an interest in the Olsen-Mahoney company. Mrs. Brann, who was a Miss George before her marriage, asks for \$250 a month alimony.

Other suits for divorce filed yesterday were: Alice McLoughlin against Frank E. McLoughlin, a saloon keeper at 483 Haight street, cruelty; Audrey Isted against Harry Isted, cruelty; Eva M. Cesena against Cipriano Cesena, cruelty; M. R. Rothenberg against I. A. Rothenberg, cruelty; Kate E. Fry against Thomas Fry, infidelity, Rose Gardner being named as correspondent.

The following divorces were granted yesterday by Judge Trout: Emily Bergen from Charles A. Bergen, willful neglect. By Judge Hunt—Annie B. Lussier from William Lussier.

SUES FOR \$26,295 Trial of a damage suit for \$26,295, brought by Robert Francis Spear against the United Railroads and Wells, Fargo & Co., was begun in Judge Hunt's court yesterday. Spear, who was an expressman, owning his own wagon, sustained injuries in a car accident which, he alleges, have incapacitated him from work for the remainder of his life. According to his complaint, a car running at an excessive rate of speed crashed into a Wells-Fargo van and threw it off the track and against the wagon of the defendant. Spear was thrown to the ground, run over by his own horses and kicked by them.

WANTS SALE CONFIRMED Teresa Bell, administratrix of the estate of the late Thomas Bell, yesterday applied to the superior court for confirmation of her sale to the Union oil company of 4,000 acres of land in Santa Barbara county. The property brought \$446,000, of this sum \$45,000 had been paid in cash. The value of the Bell estate is about \$1,000,000.

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HOTALING SHOWS A NEW SHYLOCK

Powerful Presentation of the Great Drama at Ye Liberty in Oakland Plays Jew of Venice With Yiddish Accent That Adds to Character

CAST OF CHARACTERS In the Comedy, "The Merchant of Venice" Duke of Venice..... Henry Shumer Antonio, the merchant, friend to Bassanio..... E. L. Benson Venetian Gentlemen..... Bassanio..... Landers Stevens Gratiano..... George Field Lorenzo..... Henry Mortimer Salario..... Robert Harrison Solanio..... George Rand Salerio..... Max Weizman Shylock, a Jew..... Richard M. Hotaling Tubal, friend to Shylock..... George P. Webster Old Gobbo, father to Launcelot..... James Corigan Launcelot Gobbo, servant to Shylock..... Jack Sheehan Leonardo, servant to Bassanio..... Desmond Gallagher Balthazar, servant to Portia..... Melvin Richards Portia, a rich heiress..... Miss Isabelle Fletcher Nerissa, her friend and companion..... Miss Blanche Douglass Jessica, daughter to Shylock..... Miss Josephine Withrow

With Richard M. Hotaling's impersonation of Shylock in "The Merchant of Venice" last evening at Ye Liberty playhouse in Oakland came the added realization that his "vacation" into the realm of Shakespeare marked little short of an epoch in the dramatic history of California. To the younger generation which have had too few opportunities for hearing the immortal plays this notable season, which concludes this week, has been a liberal education. To the men and women who have seen and studied them Mr. Hotaling's characterizations have been a gratification to his friends, his critics and his lago have been analyzed in the light of all former presentations by the world's great actors and the consensus of opinion is that he has taken a place in the very first ranks. And now comes his Shylock to complete his triumph.

That Hotaling does not care to avail himself of the fruits of this triumph is a loss to the stage, but a gratification to his friends, both business and personal. They cannot spare him to the world of nummers.

USES THE DIALECT. Surely none of the actors who have won fame for themselves ever brought more intelligence to their study of the characters which are of flesh and blood to the world; none of them had greater ability to express the result of their analyses of motives and actions, and surely none of them ever gave more beautiful voice to the wondrous lines of the bard than does "Dick" Hotaling. But when all has been said by way of comparison, it remains for the critic to say that the greatest charm of his work lies in the originality of his interpretations. To the last line he has dared to paint every verbal picture as he saw it.

The most daring proof of Mr. Hotaling's individuality is certainly expressed in his delineation of Shylock the Jew, presented with such magnificence last night. In the face of all traditions he plays the Jew with a Yiddish accent. This conception of the part is not new to the theater going public for it was duly startled a few years ago, when Mr. Hotaling gave two performances for charity. At that time he was the people who objected seriously to his defying tradition, and declared that he played the Jew as he understood him.

Since that memorable performance he has not changed his mind, for Shylock last night was constantly Yiddish to the last syllable. Not for an instant did Mr. Hotaling forget that he was the Jew, the man whose words were infected with the language of his forebears.

SYMPATHETIC PORTRAYAL With the background of the other presentation of "The Merchant of Venice," it is easier to give the real value to Mr. Hotaling's interpretation. The surprise of it is over an act of willful deliberation, it must be conceded that a more sympathetic characterization of the Jew has never been given by any one.

In Venice Shylock was apart from his neighbors by reason of his religion; he was ostracized in every way and belittled. Presented by Mr. Hotaling, his speech strongly but not confusedly marked by Yiddish, his isolation seems still greater. This accentuated isolation brings a more sympathetic understanding of the character of the Jew, and his philosophy and his hatred. The very accent that marked his speech set up as great a barrier as his religion between him and the merry hearted, fun making Venetians who wanted nothing from him but his money.

Using this dialect Mr. Hotaling never oversteps the line that would turn it into ridicule. His enunciation is as distinct as if he were using the most melodiously intoned English. Into the voice of the maddened, grief stricken, revenging Jew he brings a strain of emotions so appealing that the audience holds its breath, and there is naught but sympathy for this man at bay.

REPEATEDLY ENCORED Again and again after every scene Mr. Hotaling was encored, but it was after the trial scene that the audience demanded his reappearance eight times. His was a splendid triumph that those who listened in tense excitement as he demanded his rights and pleaded for himself could not seem to do him adequate justice. He was his.

Many of the scenes in which Mr. Hotaling portrayed the Jew may pass from the memory of those who had the

HOLDUP MEN STAB VICTIM SIX TIMES

Footpads Rob and Knife Italian Peddler at Vallejo and Dupont Streets

Policeman Led to Dying Man by Trail of Blood on Sidewalk

With blood flowing from six ugly wounds in his neck and breast, Philippe Mendoza of 313 Green street was found late last night in an unconscious condition at Vallejo and Dupont streets by Policeman Richard Skain. The man had been held up, robbed and murderously assaulted.

Mendoza, who is an Italian peddler, was on his way to his home when he was accosted by two masked men. He was told to throw up his hands, and instead of doing so he struck one of the men, whereupon his companion drew a knife and plunged the weapon into his body.

Mendoza fell to the sidewalk and the robbers pounced upon him, and when he uttered a groan the two highwaymen rained blows upon him and beat him into unconsciousness. The victim regained his senses a few minutes later and crawled some distance. The trail of blood was seen by the police officer, who followed it and found Mendoza.

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