

## With The First Nighters

### ORPHEUM

"The Decision of Governor Locke" with Claude Gillingwater and an excellent cast composed of Miss Stella Archer, George Thompson, Frederick Forester and Robert Brott, is a headliner so tense and dramatic as to make it distinctive with a very few other vaudeville sketches of the day. In reality the story is along the same lines as have been often used before, that is, a political boss bringing pressure to bear on one to whom he is opposed, by a threat of exposing an act that happened in the early career of a woman. This same situation was strongly brought out in that remarkable play, "The Woman," and in various guises has been portrayed elsewhere, but that makes Mr. Gillingwater's sketch none the less effective and, on the contrary, the climax is lead to so adroitly and with such splendid technic that the interest does not wane a second and the acting is so perfect that nothing is lacking in the production. The Mann act is used as a basis but in such a way that one never knows it until the finish and the reference is dramatic, not offensive.

But there are lots of other good things on the bill which opens with the Flying Werntz Duo. Lots of good things even if Sherman, Van and Hyman are allowed to pull a lot of Lizzie stuff. The one who does most of the falsetto work gives the impression of a female impersonator too lazy to put on a makeup and most of the act is disgusting. Will we never get away from such things in vaudeville?

Winnie Baldwin and Percy Bronson, beautifully and sometimes strikingly dressed, bringing with them a list of new stuff, are charming Orpheum audiences in a manner that is wholly delightful and Miss Baldwin is particularly fascinating in more ways than one, whether you look or whether you listen. She is everything you would like her to be and her flirtation with the ukelele is an inspiration.

Claudius and Scarlet, back again with their old songs of the Sixties that seem to grow more popular at their hands each season, have landed big at every performance and Diamond & Brennan, especially Jimmie Diamond, are making a great hit. All the makeup James puts on you can put on the head of a pin. But he doesn't need any makeup, just a mouth and legs and arms which are working every minute stirring up the laughter. As a foil, Miss Brennan is not particularly brilliant, but acceptable.

The show ends with the Six Schiovanis in the acrobatic stunts that have made them famous across two continents.

### AMERICAN

Two Triangle dramas, two Triangle-Keystone comedies, a five-reel Pathe Gold Rooster comedy-drama, a comedy cartoon, a travelog and two editions of the Pathe News have been booked for the three programs of the American theatre for the week beginning with the Sunday matinee performances. In accordance with the policy of the American all of these pictures have been personally inspected by the management of the theatre in order that it may be assured that they meet the required standard. Photodramas which do not meet with the high standard set by the American theatre cannot be shown in that house.

Helen Ware, who was seen here at the Salt Lake theatre early in last season in "The Price" is at the head of the Triangle cast which is scheduled to present "Cross Currents" Sunday and Monday. The story is one of the renunciation of love by a woman who finds that her sweet-

heart had become attached to her sister. The accompanying comedy for the Sunday and Monday show is "Dizzy Heights and Daring Hearts," produced by the Triangle-Keystone company. It features Charles Conklin.

For Tuesday and Wednesday the Pathe Gold Rooster feature, "Excuse Me," will be shown. George F. Marion, the author of the farce plays the leading role, that of the colored porter on a transcontinental train. The action all takes place on board the train which is enroute from Chicago to Reno. Accompanying this picture on the American program will be a Colonel Heeza Liar cartoon, "The Nature Fakir," a travelog on "California's Rocky Coast" and the Pathe News.

The week-end bill at the theatre incorporates two Triangle subjects, the drama being an incident in the lives of traders on the New York stock exchange and the comedy featuring Weber and Fields.

"Between Men" is a story of the rivalry between two men for the hand of a girl and the pitting of their wits in the stock market. One of the tremendously powerful scenes in a replica of the big metropolitan market in full swing during the trying moments of breaking a corner. William S. Hart, House Peters and Enid Markey play the leading roles.

Weber and Fields in their second Triangle-Keystone vehicle have a counterpart of their former picture "The Best of Enemies." The new subject is entitled "The Worst of Friends." The Pathe News with the latest animated news of the war will also be on the bill for Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

### "THE BLINDNESS OF VIRTUE"

Cosmo Hamilton's exaggerated essay advocating that unsophisticated maidens be imbued with a thorough knowledge regarding a little bit of everything, has been the attraction at the Empress this week, if it may be called an attraction, and the audiences have literally eaten it. So much of the same kind of stuff in better shape

has been seen latterly that Mr. Hamilton's effort is anything but inspiring. However, it was delightfully played by the Ernest Wilkes stock company with Clifford Thompson as the particular star of the production in the role of the young man fussing along the primrose path. He gave a most finished performance.

Paul Harvey was also excellently cast as the vicar and Nana Bryant and Clair Sinclair, both of whom may usually be depended upon, gave nice performances though it was hardly in keeping with the part for Miss Bryant to wear a wedding ring. A nice bit of character work was done by Merle Stanton as Cookie.

The play has its dramatic moments, but as a whole is a bore and all that saved it for those who appreciate dramatic art, was the scenic investiture and the acting.

At the end of the month, the Wilkes Stock company will move to the Utah theatre to finish the stock season, a deal having been consummated through which the Paramount people represented by L. Marcus of the Notable Feature Film Company of this city will take over the Sullivan-Considine and associated interests in the Empress which will be turned into a high-class moving picture house.

### "IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE"

In view of everything that has been said regarding "It Pays to Advertise" written by Roi Cooper McGrue and Walter Hackett, the play was more or less disappointing except for those exactly in the mood to enjoy it, and so were most of the members of the company. The farce would make an excellent vaudeville sketch, but in its present shape it is drawn out to such an extent that it becomes a bore before it is half over. There is a laugh in a lot of the lines, and with this particular company, Elmer Grandin as Cyrus Martin was the most luminous personage, though the Ellery Clarke of Cliff Worman was a character gem of the highest order. In condensed shape, "It Pays to Advertise" would provide ample

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