WILSON DOING HIS UTMOST TO KEEP AMERICA NEUTRAL

President is Said to Have Better Grasp of War Situation Than Any Other Man in This Country.

By Sidney Espey.

WASHINGTON, March 15.—The wind-up of congress has given Pres't Wilson an opportunity to devote his intellectual energies exclusively to foreign affairs and to place himself in direct charge of the nation's foreign policy. He has long wished for this opportunity, for no man is a keener student of international "weltpolitik" than he. Now that he has it, he will utilize it to the full.

It is not a generally known fact, but it is nevertheless true, that the president reads every line of cablegrams coming to the state department from abroad. The most insignificant consul has his reports—except those that are purely routine—scanned by the chief executive, and in this manner more than one man has been promoted for efficiency at his post, and more than one aspect of American foreign policy has been developed. It will surprise many of his critics to know that the president probably has a better grasp of the situation than any other man on this side of the Atlantic, barring a few specialists who know only one phase of its infinite ramifications.

The president works as late as 1 and 2 o'clock in the morning reading the dispatches, so determined is he that his administration does not "slip a cog" in any of its dealings with foreign nations. His attention has been particularly assiduous since the German "war zone" declaration, when it became apparent that the United States was standing on top of a powder box and might be precipitated into the world conflict at any moment. Since that moment the president has been at the directing helm of the state department; he has been, in a word, the acting secretary of state, guiding and directing each move the United States made on the international chess board.

A Difficult Task.

The preservation of American neutrality in the past six weeks has been an extremely difficult task, but Pres't Wilson believes he has succeeded in passing all the breakers. He has from the first endeavored to preserve the spirit as well as the letter of the laws of neutrality, and he thinks he has done this in spite of tremendous pressure, and most bitter and unjust criticism, from many sources. He has been assailed by both pro-British and pro-German advocates for maintaining such a strict neutrality, and many of them have read into his interpretation of international law an obvious bias towards their opponents. The fact that both sides have accused him of favoring their enemies, is, in his view, the surest proof that he has been strictly impartial.

The president's first aim has been to keep out of all entanglements which might embroil the United States in war, and this, in the view of administration officials, he has done without impairing the dignity of the strictly independent position of the nation. When protests against violations of the rights of neutral nations were necessary, they have been made, and made strongly and pointedly, as the occasion required.

To Protect Trade.

The second aim of the president has been to protect the interests of the American trade. It has been vital to his administration to restore prosperity to the country, so that the democratic party could not be accused of the responsibility of "hard times," and when the European war broke out, with the dislocation of all established foreign trade, it was a bitter blow for the time at least for the hopes of an immediate return of industrial activity. Many lines of trade in the United States have been paralyzed by the war, while a comparatively few industries have benefited by it. The first note sent to Great Britain by the state department was a vigorous assertion of the rights of neutrals to maintain their trade relations in war times, and it had a decidedly salutary effect, even though Great Britain never relinquished the principles which this government brought into dispute.

The third aim of the president has been to develop the role of the United States as prospective peace maker between the warring nations. He believes that this republic will be called upon to mediate the struggle when the belligerents have at last reached the point of financial and military exhaustion. His place in history, as the mediator, would be secure, without reference to the vicissitudes of domestic politics, and the president is grimly determined to do nothing to impair his influence as a peacemaker when the great opportunity comes, if it comes at all.

MAISIE GAY

Comedienne with Arthur Hammerstein's big musical jollity "High Jinks," coming to the Oliver, March 21.

Theaters

AT THE ORPHEUM.

The Orpheum presents a new bill of vaudeville today featuring Sarah Padden, the dramatic star, in a one-act comedy drama of department store life, entitled, "The Little Shepherd of Bargain Row." Miss Padden has long been a favorite in dramatic roles and this playlet is said to give her excellent opportunity for it is a worth while play about things that count. Henry Toomer and company present an attractive sketch of stage life, called "Sidelights." The three Mori brothers will be seen in Japanese pastimes. Fitch Cooper is a musical rube comedian and Eul and the Lavine sisters offer singing and dancing.

THE AUDITORIUM.

"The Rods of Wrath," a drama in three parts by M. O. Penn, produced by the Pathe company with Mr. Penn, Eleanor Woodruff and Henry Walthall in the cast, is the featura at the Auditorium today and tells a powerful story. Wolf Erickson, captain of the ship, "Ellen Miller," returns to port after a successful voyage. On account of his terrible temper he is greatly feared by his entire crew. Even his son, John, a lad of ten, is a victim of his father's wrath, thrashing him one day with a rawhide. Erickson's wife reprimands him for this, telling him some day he will be sorry. The brutal captain silences her and falls asleep, and dreams that he is so severe with his son that he steals away and goes to the city. There he is drugged and carried to a ship lying in the harbor.

A day or two after, when he regains consciousness, he is horrified to be confronted by his father, for whose ship he has been shanghaied. His father instructs the mate to be as severe with his son as with the others of the crew. He and the mate have a fierce battle and the father interferes, when John strikes him with a crow-bar and jumps overboard to escape.

During the melee the lamp has been overturned and the ship catches fire. Everybory escapes though, and John returns home to his mother when the father comes in, and he and John have a scuffle, during which John shoots at his father but hits his mother. With a start the father awakens and realizes that it was all a horrible dream, and he surprises both mother and son by telling them that he will never more raise him hand in anger. The picture shows a wonderful scene in the burning of the ship.

"The Open Drawbridge," one of "The Hazards of Helen" series, featuring Helen Holmes; "A Daughter's Strange Inheritance," a three reel Vitagraph with Norma Talmadge and Van Dyke Brooke, complete the bill.

HIGH JINKS.

After the whiff of a magic perfume, the principals and chorus of "High Jinks," the musical jollity which Arthur Hammerstein will present at the Oliver theater Sunday night, March 21, all begin to sing and dance a song called "Something Seems Tingle-ingle-ing," which treads its way through the entire performance, and proves, it is said, one of the very jolliest airs in many, many seasons of musical comedy.

The plot, which is supposed to take place in France, deals with an innocent mixing up of wives and fiancees. The flight of a doctor, pursued by a duelling Frenchman, whose wife the doctor has kissed, changes the locals from Paris to the seaside. Numerous complications arise, making the story a typical French farce, full of life and merriment, but kept clean from start to finish.

In addition, the plot forms a thread on which are strung such bright musical gems as "Something Seems Tingle-ingle-ing," "Jim," "Love's Own Kiss," "I'm Through With Roaming Romeos," "Chi Chi," "Not Now, But Later," "Come Hither Eyes," "I Know Your Husband Very Well" and "Dixiana Rise."

AT THE LASALLE.

"Life's Shop Window," is the title of the five reel dramatic story featured at the LaSalle today. It is based on actual happening in the Indian camps and mining towns of the west and features Claire Whitney and Stuart Holmes in congenial roles. The picture is based on a very popular novel by Victoria Cross and has a splendid success both as a book and as a play. Admirably produced with wonderful mountain scenery as the natural background and telling a story that is filled with emotional incidents it can be classed as one of the genuine features of the season. A laughable comedy, "The Runaway Closet," in which a timid lover hides in a receptacle for clothes, and when things get too hot for him tries to escape, taking the closet with him, afford many opportunities for clean, wholesome fun making.

AT THE MAJESTIC.

The Ralston musical comedy company began the second week of their engagement Sunday, presenting the musical farce, "Girls From the Follies." A laughable plot featuring E. R. Ralston as a colored servant, Fred Dunham as the easily deceived husband and Dorothy Ellis as the suspicious wife afforded many moments of comedy. The song numbers are particularly good and include "Wrap Me Up in a Bundle," by Helen Brandon; "In September," a duet between Miss Brandon and Mr. Dunham; "He's a Small Town Sport," a rural comedy number by Eugene Rauth, and many catchy choruses and dances by the attractive girls of the company.

AT THE SURPRISE.

"The Wolves of Society" is shown at the Surprise today. It is a well told story of two imposters who invade the home of a millionaire. The adventuress marries the father and drives his daughter from the home. Later the hero comes to the girl's rescue and the interlopers are exposed. "A Martyr of the Present," a drama in which a man assumes the blame for his brother's crime and then evades the law.

AT THE COLONIAL.

A story of Spanish intrigue and Mexican romance; the search for buried relics; the rescue of an unfortunate girl; the saving of her home and fortune by a brave young American are the elements that go to make a most interesting narrative called, "His Last Deal," is a short reel Majestic drama of more than ordinary interest.

OPENS THEATER ON SUNDAY, IS ARRESTED

Test Case Will Be Tried in Elkhart This Morning—Pastor Makes Charges.

Special to The News-Times.

ELKHART, March 15.—Twelve men will decide whether Elkhart theaters will be permitted to do business on Sunday as the result of the opening and operation of a moving picture show and the subsequent arrest of the owner here Sunday. Heretofore theaters have remained closed on Sunday in Elkhart, but yesterday Clifford Cole, manager of the Orpheum theater, opened the playhouse and displayed moving pictures during the afternoon and evening. Consequently the Rev. F. W. Lineberry of the First Methodist church had Cole placed under arrest.

Cole has demanded trial by jury for this morning and being backed by all theater men here will put up a strong fight to win his case. The outcome of the trial will have a vital effect upon Sunday show business in this city. Three of the city's principal attorneys, R. E. Proctor, Parry Turner and J. H. Church have been engaged to represent Cole.

SANCTUARY'S PURPOSE TO MAKE KNOWN GOD

Church's Part in Spreading the Teachings of Divine Being Shown By Dr. Gardiner.

"One of the great purposes of the Sanctuary is to make known the way of God. In no other place is the great fact of God revealed with such clearness as in his temple. Sunday after Sunday, men and women who gather in the sanctuary for worship, are reminded of the fact of God. Here He is set forth as a personal God. Here too, we learn that God stands in the relation of Father to this world of men," said Dr. James L. Gardiner, pastor of St. Paul's Methodist church Sunday morning at the annual memorial service in his sermon on the subject "Thy Was Is In the Sanctuary."

"In the sanctuary too God's way of immortal life is revealed. From no other place as from the church is the assurance of immortality so frequently and so persistently set forth. We today are met to pay our tribute of love and respect to members and friends of this church who during the past few years have been called home. We today may weep for them, but we do not weep as those who have no hope. We know that we shall meet again for in the sanctuary we have learned the great truth, that it is not all of life nor all of death to die.

"From Drunken Plumber to Daring Preacher" was the subject of the evening sermon it being the second of four evenig sermons on Harold Begbie's great book "Twice-Born Men." Next Sunday evening he will speak on "From Fallen Criminal to Faithful Character." The service will close with a sermon on "From Notorious Sinner to Noted Saint."

CATTLE MUST STAND TEST

Dr. R. M. McDonald Issues Warning to Local Shippers.

Dr. R. M. MacDonald, who was appointed by the state board of health to act as veterinarian for St. Joseph county, issued a warning Sunday against the shipping of cattle from this vicinity into other states with proper examination. All cattle taken from one state to another must be given the tubercular test and also examination for other diseases. Dr. MacDonald is anxious that the shippers in this locality take the proper precautions before making any shipments either into Michigan, Illinois, Ohio or any other states. It is the duty of the county veterinarian to examine all such shipments and to see whether any of the cattle are suffering from infectious disease.

LAD PULLED FROM RIVER

While playing along the river bank near E. Lasalle av. Sunday afternoon about 3:30 o'clock, Raymond Goheen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Goheen, 809 E. Lasalle av., barely escaped drowning. The Goheen boy owes his life to his two companions, Gerald Pierce and William Dorsch, who came to his rescue and dragged him from the water. The lad fell from the river bank and being unable to swim had gone under water. His companions sprang into the water after him and brought him to shore.

BLANCHE SWEET AT THE LASALLE FRIDAY IN "THE WARRENS OF VIRGINIA."

RAILROADS SHOW PROFIT

Cleared More Than Fifty Million During January.

WASHINGTON, March 15.—One hundred and seventy-five of the principal steam railroads of the United States earned, during January, 1915, net operating revenue of $50,425,650, the interstate commerce commission has announced. Total operating revenue of these roads for January amounted to $213,942,073 and operating expenses $163,516,423. Net revenue per mile in January, 1915, of these roads was $221 compared with $227 for January, 1914.