

Nebraska Boy Wins Renown as Playwright in the East

Within the confines of Boston there used to be a man who always went to Europe to have his hair cut. No barber in this country suited his taste. The man who clipped his locks must reside in Paris or London—sometimes the American went to London and at other times he sailed across the channel and tried a polite barber on the Rue de La Paix or in some other street.



FREDERICK BALLARD.

But the point of this preamble is that when one cannot get just what he wants where he is, he would better go where he can get it. So, a few years ago, Frederick Ballard, a young man of University Place, Neb., and a student at the University of Nebraska, reasoned that he needed the east to help him succeed. He had tried himself to write plays. In school, after he had taken his A. B. degree and was working for his master's sheepskin, he produced a comedy while taking a course in play writing under a Prof. George Ford. This comedy was about some pickle manufacturer who had lots of money. What the plot was, the writer does not recall; that the play was a good effort, is still a clear recollection.

When young Mr. Ballard had done with his work at the University of Nebraska he went to Chicago, and there studied stagecraft while assisting on the stage of the Chicago theater. He spent a year in that city, and, so he says, learned very much about staging and building a play. Following his stay in Chicago, he went to Boston and enrolled in Harvard university, where he specialized in play-writing.

The east soon saw the talent of the young Nebraskan and last fall he was given recognition by John Craig, owner of the Castle Square theater, whose prize he won for the best play produced in a competition. This piece was "Believe Me Xantippe," and it was produced at the Castle Square theater, enjoying a run of several weeks during the last season. Mr. Ballard feels that he never could have gained success with a play like "Believe Me Xantippe" had he stayed in Lincoln, Neb. He had to go east to get what he wanted.

But Mr. Ballard was not done when he had made "Believe Me Xantippe." Just recently he has written another play and it has been accepted by David Belasco, who will give it a New York showing early next fall. And now, still later, Mr. Ballard has written another play, and it is also a success. It is called "Good News" and was presented by the Harvard Dramatic club two weeks ago, scoring a big success. Of this play the dramatic critic of the Boston Transcript writes:

One of the three plays (those presented by the Harvard Dramatic club) was written by Mr. Ballard, "Believe Me Xantippe," at the Castle Square theater this winter, and the shorter and earlier piece seemed the finer fibred and more sensitively tempered. Mr. Ballard is concerned with two homely folk of a remote village in New York, a father and a mother old enough to have sent a son to the city—the simple, ruminative, deeply feeling and narrowly concentrated

folk that he knows both by observation and sympathy. Their son has been long gone in the city. There he has murdered the man who has betrayed the woman he loves. He believed her a good and honest woman, and she was not. The boy had been tried and convicted. The father has come back from the trial and sits in broken, dreary talk with the mother. It traverses many things; how the villagers shrunk away from the house as they learned the facts of the trial; how the boy's old sweetheart had been sent elsewhere; how the boy had borne himself in the court—with courage and even with cowardice, as the father reiterates, since little but pride is left to comfort him; how the future stretched blank and dark before them. As the talk proceeds it opens many vistas into the lives of these folks. Short as the play is, it is a play of long, sharp backgrounds. Before the talk is done it is as though the spectator had entered into the lives and spirit of father, mother and even son. Unusual penetration and imagination of a young playwright, a considerable skill and an imparting sympathy have opened these vistas and wrought these backgrounds.

"From first to last there is unusual maturity in Mr. Ballard's play—in the quality of the intermezzo, the suggestion of the long backgrounds, the drawing of the threads into the shorter half hour of the piece, in the penetration of character, the quiet power, the sensitive sympathy and the sustained key of the whole. In spite of its grimness, it is fine-fibered, truthful, sincere work, done with exact and unobtrusive skill."

REBUILDING BOOK IS READY

Companion to Tornado Booklet Just Published by The Bee.

SHOWS REMARKABLE RECOVERY

Pictures Taken on Day of Storm and Six Weeks Later Give Details of the Reconstruction Work.

"Wrecked in a Night; Rebuilt in a Day," is the title of a book which The Bee has just published to show how rapidly Omaha has rebuilt itself since the great Easter tornado. This newest book is a companion to the one which this paper issued immediately after the tornado, showing the vast destruction which was wrought in the city. It has thirty-two pages, and, side by side, are views in the tornado zone, showing places as they appeared the morning following the storm and as they looked six weeks later. The photographs are clear and sharp and measure 4 1/2 by 7 1/2 inches. They give details and are interesting because they show what the great spirit of Omaha has accomplished in such a short time.

More than 900 buildings were wrecked in the storm, now two-thirds of this number are under construction, and many of them have been totally replaced. Nine-tenths of the homes which were more or less

damaged have been completely repaired. The work of reconstruction in this city has been so remarkable that it has won the praise of all the country. No city has ever shown such energy in rising from a great disaster.

Sending Book to Friends.
The new Bee booklet will be on sale at The Bee business office, Seventeenth and Farnam streets, Monday morning. It is priced at 10 cents, and will be sent by mail for 12 cents. The advance orders for this book have been large, and hundreds of persons have declared their intention of sending copies to friends who received the first Bee book in order that the country may know how fast Omaha has recovered from the heavy blow of Easter.

DAILY NEWS DENIED NEW TRIAL OF ESTELLE CASE

Judge Hollenbeck of Fremont has decided against the Omaha Daily News in its application for a new trial of the libel suit recently won by Judge Lee S. Estelle. Judge Estelle was granted a verdict for \$5,000 against the newspaper and its attorneys filed application for another trial.

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ENGLAND, the world over being looked upon as the mother country of civilization, and its citizens inhabiting every land that has been trod by the feet of human beings; its flag floating over every sea and its crown holding jurisdiction and sway over a territory so vast that it can hardly be measured or comprehended, has one day each year when its millions lay aside business and cares and on a common level meet to observe a holiday. That day the Englishman, whether he is still a native of the land of his birth, or a citizen of some other country, reverts May 24.

To the Englishman, May 24 is what July 4 is to the man who was born beneath the Stars and Stripes of the United States. It is a holiday that he loves and one that he observes from birth to death. It is the birthday anniversary of Victoria, Alexandria, who, born in 1819, reigned for more than fifty years queen of English possessions.

Prior to the death of Queen Victoria, the day was designated as the queen's birthday and observed as such. In England and in all English possessions it was observed. Men and women ceased their labors, factories, mines and workshops closed their doors and business was practically suspended. In whatever lands British had cast their lot, they followed the old custom and to show their honor, love and respect for the queen, made the occasion a holiday. On the death of Queen Victoria and to show their respect to the king, the name of the holiday was changed, but not the date of holding the celebration. It was given the name, Empire day and as such, will probably always be known.

Omaha British to Unite.

In Omaha the men who were former subjects of the British crown have seen fit to begin the observance of the holiday the evening of May 23. They do this, they say, that the following day may be given over entirely to recreation and celebrating, not in a loud and undignified, but in a quiet manner, befitting gentlemen.

The celebration, or at least the main feature will occur at the Paxton hotel, beginning at 6:30 o'clock in the evening, and will be under the auspices of the Omaha Canadian club, an organization with a membership of some 200. At that hour a reception will be held, it being followed by a banquet in the main dining room, which will be elaborately decorated and hung with American and English flags. During the banquet a selected musical program will be rendered and immediately after the close, there will be a number of speeches, Robert Cowell, presiding as toastmaster.

At one time there was some thought of inviting an orator from out of the city, but the club members recognizing the fact that there were eloquent orators in their own ranks, decided to depend entirely upon home talent and in carrying out the plan, selected Mr. Cowell as

the principal speaker, with Matthew A. Hall, John Dale and Victor White to respond to toasts.

Among the many former subjects of Great Britain, all of whom are now honored and respected citizens of Omaha, there are several who have seen service in the army and navy of England; have been students and teachers in the universities of the mother country; have practiced in the courts of England and Canada and have been graduated from the medical and dental colleges, receiving many honors before coming here.

Cleveland Wanted to See Life.
Of all the English-American citizens in Omaha, there is no man who has had a wider experience than W. G. Cleveland, head of the Cleveland Drug company, and there is no man in the city, whose life story, if written, would be more thrilling than his.

Born in England, Mr. Cleveland was graduated from the University of England, having studied medicine. In 1884, when but 19 years of age and after having finished his college course, he heard

the call of the wilds and cutting the home ties and bidding adieu to the scene of his childhood, he sailed for Canada. Landing in one of the cities of eastern Canada, he quickly discovered that that was not "out west." Like many who had never been there, he inquired the location of this land of enchantment and was told that it was hundreds of miles away, far beyond the pale of aristocratic civilization. There he concluded to journey. He turned his face westward and in the fall of 1884 went to Regina, where he concluded he would join the Canadian mounted police. He at once enlisted as a private at a princely salary of 10 cents per day and found.

For the next five years, Mr. Cleveland underwent all the hardships that fall to the lot of a mounted police officer, who rides the border between the United States and Canada and penetrates the boundless prairies, the mountain fastness and the ice bound region of the Arctic circle of the Dominion.

ber of promotions, Mr. Cleveland became something of a sailor beneath the British flag, making two voyages to India, and subsequently coming to Omaha and engaging in business in what he considers the best city in the world.

Mounted Police Duty.

Though not given to talking of his own exploits, Mr. Cleveland can tell instances of his own experiences that are hair raising and most intensely interesting. And while there were many dangers attending, he looks back to the five years spent in the saddle as a mounted officer of the Canadian government, as the most pleasant of his life. Immediately after his enlistment in 1884, he was sent to the front, but he did not have to go far to reach the line separating civilization from the wilderness, for twenty-nine

John J. Boucher, attorney, was born in Ottawa and with his parents came to the United States in 1873, and to Omaha in 1881. He studied law in the University of Nebraska and since graduation, has practiced his profession in this city.

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