

MODJESKA ON DRAMATIC ART

She Thinks the Present Starring System is Ruinous.

NOTORIETY MADE TO DISPLACE TALENT

Difficulties of Making Laws in New Mexico—Some Legislators Understand Only Spanish, Others Only English—A Dutch Colony Coming.

The famous Modjeska and her company of dramatic artists arrived yesterday and took quarters at the Millard. The great tragedienne is a most agreeable and accomplished conversationalist.

"If this pernicious starring system is not done away with," said Mme. Modjeska, "it will be the ruin of the dramatic art in this country. Anybody can be a star now. Prize fighters, divorced women, professional burglars, anybody with a reputation for anything unusual can rush upon the stage and get press notices by the yard. It is simply a fight between managers as to which shall make the most money."

But not this man cheat the smaller towns out of the best talent, to see really great artists in the dramatic line."

"Not at all. Good artists would remove to the smaller cities if they knew that they could depend upon the patronage of the people there. With the present miserable system the people do not know what they are getting. You see so much of the same people about this one and that one, and they are all paraded before the public as being of the highest possible merit. The public taste really becomes somewhat anaemic as a result of this, and I would like to see more attention paid to the elevation of the art and not so much to the money making side of the profession."

Chief Scannell was in Omaha yesterday and made arrangements with the local police that the two men were to be railroaded across the river, where he had men stationed to nab them as soon as they crossed the bridge. This program was carried out, and when the criminals thought they were going to breathe free air they were simply walking into the clutches of the Iowa authorities, and relieving Chief Scannell of the trouble of obtaining requisition papers.

Police Officer. Chief of Detectives Haze is getting requisition papers ready for H. H. Blanding, who passed several forged checks on Max Meyer some time ago. Blanding was arrested at Council Bluffs, but when it was found that he was also wanted at Avoca, Ia., the Council Bluffs police refused to turn him over to Omaha authorities. The great Avoca larder was returned an indictment against the prisoner, but it is said that the case against him is not strong, and Detective Haze will make another effort to bring him back to this city.

Burglars paid a visit to the store of S. Resnikoff at 301 South Twelfth street Wednesday night and carried off \$24 worth of small articles. The stolen goods included ladies' rings, pins, lockets and cuff buttons. Detective Bennett is making up a list of the articles, in operation with cars, engines and coaches of both sides running in the same train. This entails considerably more work for the policeman in making up a list than if the one standard was in sole use as in Omaha.

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When an individual is accused of crime in the law courts, the burden of proof is on him. It is not his duty to prove his guilt. We ask for a fair trial. We claim that the burden of proof should be on the accusers in our case also. We protest against this.

Certainly the brief statements made to your committee show that any of the bills before you for consideration would reduce the rates if they should be enacted, would irreparably injure the railroads of the state. We can prove that the figures given you are correct. We claim that, before you can fairly act on this question, you will bring our accusers face to face with the auditors and freight agents of these companies in your committee room, and that they will be required to prove that these figures are incorrect or that you must decide in our favor.

We can show you, furthermore, by detail figures that not one of the measures proposed would be of benefit to the farming community in this state, in whose favor we have no desire to act. Not one of these measures would reduce the earning power of the Nebraska farmer. They would force an advance in certain interstate rates, which would seriously injure Nebraska farmers.

G. W. HOLDRIDGE, General Manager R. & M. Railroad. GEORGE F. E. M. Y. R. E., General Manager U. P. Railroad. GEORGE F. E. M. Y. R. E., General Manager U. P. Railroad.

If you want to be on the safe side, stick to the old reliable Dr. Hall's Cough Syrup. It is sold by dealers everywhere.

If you don't know what the single tax is you are not up to date. Find out tonight.

SOUTH OMAHA AFFAIRS. Disastrous Fire Prevented by Presence of Mind. A smoldering fire in a Chinese laundry in the basement of the Lister block on lower N street was discovered Wednesday night in time to prevent what would certainly have been an extensive fire if left a few minutes longer. S. P. Brigham, whose printing house is on the first floor of the block, was warned by the smoke and personally notified Chief Smith, who was on duty at the time. Without turning in an alarm the chief made his way into the basement, crawling on his face through the dense smoke to