

# At the Theaters



CHARLES MILLWARD in "Bought and Paid For"



Wm. H. CRANE At the Brandeis



BERTISH At the Orpheum



LORRINE FROST with Wm. H. Crane At the Brandeis

**C**HANGES announced in the policy of the leading Omaha theaters during the week are such as appeal directly to all who have the good of the theater at heart, and will be found of especial advantage to Omaha folks who get their pleasure at the play. It was not with a prophet's voice. The announcement was made months ago, before the experiment was undertaken, that Omaha and its environs could not afford adequate support for two first class theaters; this fact was so patent that its statement seemed trite. But the rivalry between two big organizations, each seeking to control the destiny of the American theater, from the business end, at least, had reached such a point that either was willing to risk loss rather than to concede anything looking to settlement. Loss was inevitable, and it came. Now these big managing firms are pursuing the wiser course of co-operation where it is to the distinct advantage of producers and managers alike. As a direct result, Omaha is to have all the first-class shows in one theater, while the other will be given over to the uses of a resident stock company, playing high grade productions at moderate prices. This arrangement is so desirable that its benefits need no argument. That it will prove popular seems almost equally sure.

he gave the stage some of the best American successes. For years he has devoted his personal talent to American character and his energies and resources to the production of American comedies. The growing ranks of American dramatists owe him much. It is to Mr. Crane's everlasting credit that he never debased his art by stooping to win passing favor and easy money from the north or the south. He has offered none but wholesome plays and types. As man, producer and actor the profession is honored by his career.

William A. Brady is sending us to the Brandeis theater for four days beginning this evening, with the usual matinee on Wednesday, "Bought and Paid For," by George Broadhurst. Robert Stafford marries a telephone girl. Stafford is kindly hearted, generous, considerate and deeply attached to his wife, but he has one flaw. His besetting sin is drink. He is a gentleman souse. At such times his wife, who has grown to love him, is in mortal terror, not so much for fear of his striking her, but because she feels that when he is under the influence of liquor he is another man—as though she, a wife, was being caressed by a drunken stranger. It is while Stafford is on one of these spells that his wife repulses him and exhibits her disgust. She refuses to kiss him and her attitude arouses the man's obstinacy until he frankly informs her that she is bought and paid for; and that she would not have married him if he had not been rich, with the paid her price, and that she is his property. The truth of the statement is forced upon her and, screaming, she runs to her bedroom and locks the door. Stafford picks up the iron tongs from the fireplace and breaks in the door. This is one of the strongest scenes ever staged.

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One word of commendation for the Vaughan Glaser Stock company, that begins its season at the Boyd this afternoon. Mr. Glaser is known to Omaha folks only by reputation as a stock manager, but that reputation is of the best. He has sent hither an organization that appears to be the strongest Omaha has had in years, from the standpoint of ability. Its members are well known, and have played together for long enough time to be perfectly at ease with one another, and thus should begin their new engagement with little or none of the difficulties that sometimes beset actors when they work together for the first time. The play in which they open is a strong drama of modern incidents, and ought to give a very good line on the ability of the company. And the list of plays for the season is so attractive that it is easy to predict success for the undertaking.

Louis Mann is to be the attraction at the Brandeis Thursday, December 12, with "Elevating a Husband," a dramatic comedy by Clara Lipman and Samuel Shipman. In "Elevating a Husband," Mr. Mann is seen as Charles Sample, a young and ambitious cent-store merchant of splendid moral caliber, but a bit unfinished as to education and "manners." A portion of his code, in fact, to quote a line from the play, is "a warm heart but cold cash." Just after reaching affluence in business Sample falls violently in love with a refined but poor young music teacher, a fellow lodger at his humble boarding house. The girl is fond enough of Sample to marry him, but determines that after the union she will proceed at once to "elevate" him. It is in the method she pursues that the humor and interest of the play are found. At the end both find happiness, but not before they have gone through a series of extremely interesting and humorous experiences. Mr. Mann will be supported by the company headed by Ethel Ann Wellman and including Charles Miller, Percy Denton, Charles Halton, Edmond Roth, Homer Hunt, Laura Walker, Marion Holcombe, Petra Folkman and Paul Schwager.

"An Indian Romance" will be the principal feature of next week's bill at the Orpheum. This act is beautifully staged, the scenery being unusually picturesque, and the native costumes add much to the spectacular effect of the performance. Frederick H. Seaton, who plays the leading male role, is a student of ethnology and carries with him a valuable collection of books, which he studies systematically.

The "Wonder Kettle" vaudeville's greatest mystery, will be one of the big features of the bill. This odd cooking utensil fries steaks and chops on top, cooks ice cream and freezes mercury. The curtain rises over a brilliantly lighted stage with the kettle boiling on top of a huge cake of ice. Mr. Andrews removes his kettle from the ice and proceeds to make a dish of delicious ice cream, samples of which are passed to the women in the audience. With the same fluid which freezes the ice cream he fries a chop until it is as hot as glass. To show that the fluid is harmless, Mr. Andrews drinks some of it. He finishes the performance by burning the cake of ice.

Le Maze trio, eccentric comedians, will do many funny stunts and spring a number of new jokes. Bertish, the ideal athlete, will give an exhibition showing his remarkable strength and agility. Ben Lewin, the well-known English actor, will give a series of character impersonations, which include several of Dickens' sketches. Williams and Warner, a popular pair of Frenchmen, will give a pleasing musical entertainment.

The Vaughan Glaser Players will open the stock engagement at the Boyd theater tonight in Charles Klein's success, "The Gamblers." The story deals with a young financier who follows the footsteps of others in desiring to amass a fortune in so short a length of time. He finds himself involved with the federal government through the misuse of

William H. Crane is coming to Omaha this week, a welcome guest. He is now in his fifth year on the stage, and his jubilee tour has so far been a veritable jubilee. His visit to Omaha is to be made notable by reason of the fact that on Saturday of next week he will be the honored guest of the Commercial club at luncheon, when he will speak on "The Business of Being an Actor." Many tributes have been paid to Mr. Crane since he started on this tour of the country, but none more to the point than the following from the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, which so happily expresses the sentiment of this department that it is gladly adopted:

In the fifty years of his career as an actor William H. Crane, who presents at the Century this week one of his delightful American characters in "The Senator Keeps House," has seen in the American stage a development of dramatic art and organization unparalleled in any other age.

The American stage is far from perfect—we shall never have perfection in that or any other art—but it has advanced with seven-league boots. The few adequate playhouses in the principal cities of fifty years ago have multiplied into many palaces in many cities. Every town has a fairly adequate theater. Productions have become marvels of thoroughness, accuracy and beauty. The uncertainties and adventures of the pioneer stage have been overcome by a great organization supported by vast capital. Perhaps the business side has overshadowed the art side, yet the latter has signal achievements to its credit.

To have been not only a valuable factor in this advance of the American theater, but a conspicuous figure on the stage, to have advanced with it to the rear of the histrionic faculty and the leadership of American comedy is a rare experience.

Mr. Crane has earned his laurels. Although he has had unusual success and seems to have tripped down a pleasant path, bright with laughter and good will, he has worked. With his partner, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Crane gave superb productions of Shakespearean comedies. When producers of American plays were rare

the present time, and reveals Crane in the role of a United States senator. The dominant theme is of a domestic nature, but there is just enough of political interest in the tale to make it suitable to the scene of its activities.

Mr. Crane will offer here his original production and the same company that appeared with him during the New York run. In the cast will be found Mabel Bert, Lorraine Frost, Marion Kerby, Zeffie Tilbury, Jack Deveraux, Harry Harwood, William Winter Jefferson, Charles Riegel and Bud Woodthorpe.

This is Mr. Crane's fiftieth year upon the American stage and his present tour is in the nature of a happy celebration of that eventful period of his career.

At the Brandeis theater Robert Campbell's company in "A Fool There Was," will begin its engagement on next Sunday night for four days.

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**8-TEXAS TOMMY DANCERS—8**  
 DEAR READER—  
 Joe Hurtig, proprietor of this troupe, is so sure some wisest thing to employ a Fiskerton man to escort Jennie Austin to and from the theatre in every city. Here's my tip to you: Put on some extra slouch in this man's town or you'll lose her.  
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 It Causes Ice to Burn.  
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