

At the Theaters



Robert Mantell in "Hamlet" At the Boyd

Lillian Rosedale At the Orpheum

Ruth St. Denis At the Orpheum

Claudia Tracy BRANDEIS HIPPODROME

Virginia Irwin At the Gayety

Shakespeare Spells Ruin?

Not So You Would Notice It if You Make Up Your Judgment from the Advance Sale for the Robert Mantell Engagement, Which Argues for Deep Public Interest at Times for the Classics

MANAGERS who believe that "Shakespeare spells ruin" might have had their eyes opened had they been able to watch the lines in front of the boxoffice window over at the Boyd throughout the week, buying seats for the Mantell engagement. Mr. Mantell has played here before, with considerable success, but it is not recalled that the announcement of his coming ever excited the populace to any real pitch. This time the interest seems genuine, and the engagement begins with a sale of seats that spells success for it from the financial view. For the matter of that, Mr. Mantell's agent says the story is the same all over the country wherever he has played this season; people show a greater interest in the substantial drama than has been noted for many seasons, and give close attention to the Shakespearean classics. This is comforting, indeed, to one who takes his theater seriously, looking upon it as something better than a mere place to seek amusement. It must not be inferred that this is going to lead to an epidemic of "classics," heaven forbid! It is simply an indication that for the moment folks who have been fed up on the frivolous or who can get little comfort from the movies or the pictorial reviews, are coming in for a chance, and that enough of them still linger around the old place to make it worth while for some good actor to devote his talent and ability to the presentation of drama that has more "body" than froth.

It does not pay. The folks like to see the things they know all about in advance. "Richelieu," the play in which Robert B. Mantell, foremost classic tragedian on the American stage, will open his week's engagement at Boyd's theater tonight, is perhaps the most timely of all the classics, in that it deals with a period of storm and stress in French history that is being duplicated on a more gigantic scale today. It was Cardinal Richelieu who saved France, then a young and struggling nation, from the clutches of secret intrigue, and made it a power in the European family. The play in which Mr. Mantell will be seen, the work of Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton, is a story of a conspiracy that sought to overturn the cardinal-minister and his government and destroy the significance of France. The great scene in the play in which Richelieu foils his powerful court enemies by drawing round his young and lovely ward, involved in the intrigue, the magic circle of the Church of Rome, has never been surpassed for dramatic power in all the range of stage literature. As an intensely interesting and fascinating story the drama of "Richelieu" is unsurpassed by any play in the Mantell repertoire. "Richelieu," which will be repeated Wednesday night, is the only non-Shakespearean play of the week. The

Thinking over some recent experiences, one wonders if we are to ever experience the thrill of coming across a new or novel arrangement of the time-honored material from which modern light comedy is built. The wife, temporarily estranged from her husband, seeking safety and solitude in domestic service, for example. The situation is piquant in its possibilities, and with variations innumerable, has served to sustain play after play, and yet shows little sign of wear. While it is grateful to us all, because of association, and likely will for that reason retain its popularity far ahead in years to come, it is always the same. Some day a pioneer play-monger will rise up and alter the whole situation in such a way that the auditor will not recognize it. What will happen to such an one is beyond conjecture; he may be recognized and rewarded, but more than likely he will meet the fate that usually overtakes anyone who undertakes to thrust an innovation on the public. But he may feel sure that his idea will not die, and some time a successor will come along, spring it anew, and get much credit and considerable cash or so doing. And as it progresses othooh it out here and puff it up there, and get further fame and increasing quantities of cash from it, for the public will like it better each time it is paraded in a different guise. This is the reason for so little of invention or real novelty at the thea-

has answered the call to the colors. The series of pictorial and dramatic dances to be presented have been gorgeously invested scenically. The repertoire will include "The Japanese Flower Dance," "The Moon of Love Waltz," "The Peacock Dance" and "The Dance of the North American Desert." An Omaha character actor, Charles Withers, will be seen as the star in one of the feature acts, a travesty melodrama called "For Pity's Sake." Billed as the one-man glee club, Frank Crumit will exhibit his ability as a fun-maker, a singer and an instrumentalist. Composers of such popular songs as "Cleopatra Had a Jazz Band" and "Don't Bite the Hand That Is Feeding You," Jim and Betty Morgan are to present a pleasing vocal act. Vivian Holt, operatic soprano, and Lillian Rosedale, pianist-composer, will offer a concert feature. Two eccentric clowns, the Gaudsmidt brothers, with their Spanish poodles, are laugh producers. "A Twentieth Century Elopement" is the title of the comedy sketch to be presented by Verce and Verci. The Orpheum Travel Weekly will picture upon the screen a trip through the Yosemite valley, which was once a tortuous river canyon.

Another hit added to the growing list of People and Greenwald's musical successes is to be seen in the sextette De Luxe, which is the headline attraction at the Empress theater for the first half of the week. James Mahoney and Ruth Rogers, a precocious pair of youngsters, have a number that consists of singing, talking and dancing. Both are excellent singers and present several exclusive numbers. Jere Sanford, in "The Chore Boy," offers singing and yodeling. The Four Pierrots, in a comedy novelty surprise complete the bill for the first half of the week. For the last half of the week the bill is headed by "The Poolroom," a dramatic story of the underworld. The cast includes six men, with Royal Douglas, late movie star with the Essanay company. The Ruby Girls present instrumental and vocal numbers that combine technique and a perfect exhibition of voice culture. The Melino Twins present a comedy talking and tumbling offering. Christie and Bennett, the Virginia boys, offer a comedy singing number.

"Bill" is the title of the book to be presented all week at the Gayety theater by Fred Irwin's Big Show and Leo McDonald, the author, intentionally gave it a name that would get people to wondering what it is all about. As a matter of fact, "Bill" refers to one Bill Shakespeare, whom Mr. McDonald has seen fit to resurrect and bring to Broadway that he might see to what plight his beloved theatrical world has come. "Bill" calls on inspiration to guide him upon his future course and The Spirit of Ragtime does wait upon him and gives him a good tip on what to do. "Bill" is finally seen in an up-to-date office and the manner in which he meets existing theatrical conditions of the day brings the play to a most interesting conclusion. Ladies' matinee daily all week, starting tomorrow. Today's matinee at 3.

Values Husband's Affection. Lexington, Neb., March 2.—(Special.)—Mrs. George Hanna is suing her father-in-law, Thomas Hanna for \$50,000 damages, alleging he is responsible for trouble existing between herself and husband.

Tom Linton and His Jungle Girls, in a scenic singing, tropical oddity, "The Up-To-Date Missionary," is the headliner of this coming week. Tom Linton, the well known comedian, and Grace Lindquist are featured. Mr. and Mrs. O'Clare call their offering "A Breeze From the Lakes of Killarney," and Mr. O'Clare introduces his original songs, "A Toast to Dear Old Erin" and "The Land of the Blarney Stone." Little Miss Claudia Tracy presents an offering consisting of a little of everything that develops into a screaming number from start to finish of her act. Johnson Brothers and Johnson, a trio of singers and comedians, present a diversion in black and whiteface, and Maxine Brothers and Bobby put a new aspect on gymnastic stunts in "Two Men and Some Dog." The Sidney Drew comedies, always increasing in popu-

We're Not Congeneric, That's Why We Have No Folk Dances

It is the belief of Ruth St. Denis that the day is not far distant when America will evolve a characteristic folk dance of its own.

"A young nation, we have as yet no national dance," said Miss St. Denis, "because our citizenry is non-congeneric. We are not all of the same nature and consequently we do not all like the same things. But it won't be long, I am hoping, before we will have our own typical dances even as the other nations have. I say it is coming, and it will be developed out of our present day dances such as the one-step, the fox trot, the tango, etc.

"Folk dances are as much a part of a country's spirit as its national air. The folk dance is the simplest form of terpsichorean expression because it is so easily done. Our one-step is the nearest approach to it. And the popularity it enjoys makes me think it will play an important part in the formation of our own national dance."

Price of Sisal Twine. The food administration has regulated the price of sisal twine for the harvest of the 1918 crop. An order has gone out to the manufacturers requiring that they shall not charge more than a given amount above the price of sisal.

BOYD Theater

TONIGHT ALL WEEK

ROBERT B. MANTELL

"THE LEADER OF OUR STAGE"—William Winter
TONIGHT—RICHELIEU
 Mon. Night—Merchant of Venice
 Tues. Night—Hamlet
 Wed. Mat.—Romeo and Juliet
 Wednesday Night—Richelieu
 Thursday Night—King Lear
 Friday Night—Macbeth
 Sat. Mat.—Merchant of Venice
 Saturday Night—Richard III

Popular Wednesday Matinee
Romeo and Juliet
 with the Young and Lovely Genevieve Hamper

4 NIGHTS Sunday, Mar. 10

Commencing The Comedy Classic of the Century

THE "GIPSY TRAIL"

By ROBERT HOUSUM
 A Play of Youth, Romance and Laughter
 Direct from Chicago With the Original Cast and Production, Including Otto Kruger and Elsie Mackay.
 Seats on Sale Monday, March 4, 9 A. M.

One Matinee, One Night, Thursday, March 14
 Farewell American Tour
HARRY LAUDER
 MAIL ORDERS NOW FILLED
 PRICES: 50c, 75c, \$1, \$1.50, \$2, \$2.50
 Seat Sale Mon. Mch. 11

Every Afternoon at 2:15

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Orpheum

SUPERIOR VAUDEVILLE

Every Night at 8:15

WEEK STARTING SUNDAY, MARCH 3

RUTH ST. DENIS

In a Series of Pictorial and Dramatic Dances

JIM & BETTY MORGAN

In Songs of Their Own As You Like It.

VIVIAN HOLT and LILLIAN ROSEDALE

Operatic Soprano Pianist-Composer
 In Songs and Stories to Music.

CHARLES WITHERS

In "FOR PITY'S SAKE," by Arthur James (A Travesty Melodrama in Four Acts)

THE GAUDSMIDT BROTHERS

Netherland's Premier Eccentric Clowns
 With Their Spanish Poodles

VERCE & VERCI

Presenting "A 20th Century Elopement."

FRANK CRUMIT

The One Man Glee Club

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 except Sat. and Sun. Few at 50c. Gallery, 10c; Nights, 10c, 25c, 50c and 75c.

"OMAHA'S FUN CENTER"
Gayety
 Fred Irwin's Big Show
 Original Offering
 Includes Leo Hays, Samartoff & Paul Wood & Lillian Rosedale
 Beauty Shows, 12 Magnificent Settings
 LADIES' DIME MATINEE WEEK DAYS

WHO ARE THE THREE MOST POPULAR GIRLS IN OMAHA?
 Answer This Question at Our Box Office.
DAILY MATINEES Except Sat. and Sunday
 7:15 and 9:15 Every Evening, 15c, 25c and 35c.
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