

## How the Ak-Sar-Ben Shows Are Made Up and Put On---the Actors and "Es prit du Corps"

Behind the Scenes at Rehearsals in the Den—Women's Parts All Taken By Men—Famous Strike for More Wienerwurst and Stronger Cheese.

Thousands who have witnessed the initiation and musical show at the Ak-Sar-Ben-Den, north Twentieth street, have little or no idea of the vast amount of detail work necessary to stage an enterprise of this magnitude. During the Ak-Sar-Ben initiatory season, which runs usually from about June 1 to September 1, thousands of out-of-town men are entertained at the den, and they are unanimous in singing the praises of Omaha's foremost local amusement feature.

These initiation and amusement sessions are attended only by men. Women are permitted at the Den only on the occasion of the annual grand ball which has become a society classic. Fair maids and matrons of the realm don their most gorgeous attire to see and be seen amid a scene of bewitching light and color effects.

**Would Surprise Women.**  
Omaha women would be surprised if they knew of the high character of the musical shows presented at the Den, season after season, every show being different, and every female role being taken by "mere men," who disport themselves as "chorus girls" and stimulate other female characters with remarkable success.

The Ak-Sar-Ben musical show has resolved itself into something of an institution. The cast changes with the passing of the years, some remaining for several seasons and then dropping out for a rest. But there is an esprit du corps which can be appreciated best by those who have witnessed the snappy entertainments presented every Monday evening during the season. These entertainments have aroused the admiration of men of national prominence.

**Roosevelt Enjoyed Himself.**  
The late Theodore Roosevelt enjoyed an evening at the Den, and the late Chauncey Depew likewise said he was amused and entertained. The late Col. W. F. Cody and former President W. H. Taft were among the distinguished visitors who wore Ak-Sar-Ben buttons.

In the musical show of this season there were 60 Omaha men, all actively engaged in their everyday work, but with time, inclination and talent for this kind of diversion. The show is rehearsed and staged with all the care given a regular professional attraction. Last spring Ben Johnson began training a chorus of 48 men for the show, which was named "The Trail of the Wandering Juice." While the chorus was learning its part the principals were busy with the dialogue and the lyrics.

Work of putting the show together, instruction in make-up, fitting of costumes, and other details, followed, until the production was ready for the opening. During the hot weather the men appeared faithfully every Monday night to give the show. It was hot work sometimes in the dressing rooms, but it was a labor of love, and that is the answer. Every man was a member of Ak-Sar-Ben, and had paid the regular membership fee of \$10 for the year. Incidentally, the performers received the benefit of the training and the experience, which they regarded as some compensation for their efforts.

**List of Characters.**  
Oscar Lieben and Frank Nelson had charge of the work of instructing the actors in the art of making up and appearing chic in the female roles. Mr. Lieben is recognized as a pastmaster in the art of dressing a man as a woman in a manner that deceives the critical eye.

The leading characters of the show given during the initiatory season recently closed, were: Henry W. Dunn, Mephisto; Frank Latenser, Bacchus; George Long, Neptune; Kenneth Reed, Gambirius; Micky Gibson, bartender to Neptune; Oscar Lieben, Nicotina; Walter Adams, Terpsichore; L. M.

### Harvard \$15,000,000 Drive Holds Promise to Science

New York, Sept. 27.—To prevent the loss to posterity of many invaluable works in all branches of human progress is one of the prime motives of the \$15,000,000 campaign which the Harvard endowment fund committee will wage throughout the world early in October.

A large number of inventions, discoveries and priceless works of art and literature have been given to the world by the college laboratories and the professors' studies. The world can ill afford to have this contribution to humanity curtailed, but such a fate is imminent in America unless the public is aroused to a realization of the necessity of providing resources to carry on and extend the work of the past.

It may be the fortune of an instructor in one of our colleges to secure power from the sun's rays for the use of humanity or to harness the ocean waves for industrial purposes, or to perfect a perpetual motion machine, or to establish communication between the earth and Mars, or to give to the world some still undreamed of scientific contribution. To further this work the public, however, must awaken to the call for funds to permit the teaching profession to give of its time and energy to research and experimentation.

Under the scale of salaries paid instructors and professors at Harvard since 1906, these public servants have been compelled to forsake the classroom for commercial life or spend their leisure hours in outside work, so that their income will more nearly correspond with the greatly increased cost of living. This condition of affairs is likewise true of every other higher educational institution in the country and is proving a great handicap to 20th century advancement.

More than one-half of the fund sought by Harvard university will be invested to return approximately \$600,000 to raise the salaries of the teaching personnel 50 per cent.

Bunce, keeper of the winery; Charles Docherty, head clerk; E. C. Page, grand moff; B. F. Thomas and Arthur Rosenblum, assistant grand moffs. Charles Gardner appeared during the season in several of the leading roles.

Gus Renze, general director of the Den, exercised a supervisory interest over the actors and the initiation crew. It was up to Gus to see that the show was ready when the curtain was rung up, and it may be said that the show was always ready on time. During one Monday night of the season, however, there was consternation behind the scenes. Renze ran around in circles, exhibiting more temperment than his closest friends believed he could generate.

**Strike for Stronger Cheese.**  
This back-stage outbreak occurred at the time when the actors in Chicago and New York were going on strike. The Ak-Sar-Ben actors threatened to walk out. It was five minutes to 8 and a large crowd was waiting for the show to start.

"How did you get that way?" asked Renze of the actors.  
Henry W. Dunn, appearing in his forbidden costume of Mephisto, responded as spokesman.  
"We demand more wienerwurst, more near-beer, and also stronger cheese. Do we get our demands?" he asked, with an air of finality.

Renze readily consented to comply with the demands of the actors, but under his breath he called them a bunch of bolshevists, realizing, however, that he was up against a serious situation.

Tom Brown, famous professional saxophone player, witnessed the show last summer while on a visit here. He asserted in all seriousness that, with a little lengthening out he believed the Ak-Sar-Ben musical show would make a real hit on Broadway.

## Riding Devices Popular With Both Young and Old on the Fall King's Gay Highway



Young and Old Patronize the Riding Devices on the Carnival Grounds.

### Bodies of Czar's Family Destroyed By Fire, Is Report

Omaha, Sept. 27.—The bodies of the Grand Duchess Elizabeth, the Grand Duke Sergius, and other Romanoffs murdered by the bolshevists near Perm a year ago, and discovered subsequently in a pit at Tlapavsk have been safely removed east. The bodies of the czar and his family, who were killed at Ekaterinburg and cut to pieces, were destroyed by fire immediately after the crime.

All evidence and clues collected on the spot confirm this. The body of a pet dog belonging to one of the czar's daughters has been found

above the charred debris at the bottom of an iron pit to which the corpses of the victims are known to have been conveyed. There is no longer any reason for secrecy in this matter now that the Reds are in possession of the locality.

**Race Row in Hawaii.**  
Honolulu, Sept. 27.—Japanese and Chinese of Honolulu have, temporarily at least, found the Shantung

controversy overshadowed by a new issue, the rice supply. Because of an embargo on the exportation of Japanese rice, Hawaii is threatened with a grave shortage of this oriental food staple. Hoarding and profiteering, it is said, are adding to the gravity of the situation. Japanese and Chinese agree on this point, but each charge the others with doing the hoarding and profiteering.

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## RECEIPTS

	1917	1918
Wheat	13,714,600	18,040,600
Corn	29,882,600	45,688,200
Oats	20,280,500	23,572,000
Rye	871,200	1,500,000
Barley	1,713,200	2,663,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>66,462,100</b>	

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