

### Spring Producers Given Chance as Season Slackens

By BURNS MANTLE.

NEW YORK—(Special Correspondence)—Spring producers grow active. Some of them, having been denied theaters all winter, and finding the doors of several now standing open, are gaily dragging in the works of art they have had cached in the office safe until such time as they could try them on a metropolitan audience. Frequently they suggest that kind of play—the kind some one might be expected to drag in if the door was left open. Occasionally, however, they are sweetened by a bit of drama that is interesting or a musical comedy book that is sane.

Among the five that came in last week is a comedy written by Arthur Richman and called "Not So Long Ago." It goes back to the old New York of the '70s, when the conscienceless profiteer who flourished after the civil war was still a subject of discussion. Eggs were up to 25 cents a dozen and \$3 a pair was barely being charged by some dealers for a pair of shoes. It is the time of the bustle, the big bustle, that, thrown into prominence by the Grecian bend, stuck out in back of milady's gown like an elaborately ornamental rear balcony. We recall that as late as the '80s the conceived idea that they really were intended for small boys to ride on.

There is a considerable charm engendered by this particular comedy, for all that it is simply based on the familiar Cinderella theme of the theater. The heroine is the daughter of the equally familiar inventor, who is a little touched in the mind, but abnormally sound as to heart. To help meet the increasing cost of living she has gone to work as a seamstress in the home of the Ballards, very exclusive persons in the Knickerbocker set, though not nearly so rich as they pretend to be.

Being a good deal of a dreamer, the little seamstress imagines herself the sweetheart of the young man of the house, young Billy Ballard, and each night when she goes home she gathers the other romantic girls of the neighborhood about her and tells them all her experiences of the day. One day Billy brings her chocolates, and one day he invites her to have lunch with the family and his mother and sister are perfectly dear to her. Another time he takes her riding, and there is a possibility that he may take her to dinner at Delmonico's in Fourteenth street.

But the dream is shattered when a rival lover, growing jealous of the Billy Ballard anecdote, retorts to the heroine's father that he fears there is an affair on, and that a certain rich young man is trying to take advantage of a poor inventor's daughter. Whereupon the inventor calls to see young Mr. Ballard to request him to cease his attentions to Elsie—Elsie Dover being her name—which exposes everything and Elsie must admit that she is just a plain little liar. In the end, as may be surmised, young Ballard discovers that true hearts are considerably more than courted by the princess gets her prince.

The young people most vitally concerned in telling the story are Eva Le Gallienne, for some seasons past the most attractive of the local group of ingenues and the most gifted, though she is just being discovered, and Sidney Blackmer, an engaging youth from the south, who came to prominence first in a road company playing "39 East," and later with Maxine Elliott's brief venture with "Trimmed in Scarlet." These two give excellent performances and much of the charm of the play is due to the attractive quality of their playing.

As an independent producer of plays Sam Harris, who suffered the loss of George Cohan as a partner following the actors' strike settlement, seems to be doing quite well. Both the plays he has brought to Broadway—the first being William Collier and the farce "The Hottentot," and the second a musicalized version of "Checkers," now known as "Honey Girl"—have registered emphatic hits. Of course they have had the advantage of Sam Forrest's direction and Mr. Forrest worked with Mr. Cohan for years and years, and knows most of his tricks. Still there were many to predict that with the resourceful Cohan gone it would not be easy for his old firm to succeed.

Edward Clark has not done much to weaken the story of "Checkers," in making the adaptation for "Honey Girl"—nothing worse than the substitution of the sweetie title. It still remains an amusing comedy drama, with the ingratiating Dave Graham, formerly of the race tracks, trying to live down his past in the little Louisiana village and succeeding admirably until he falls in love with

## On the Screen in Omaha

Wanda Hawley-Bryant Washburn (RIALTO)



the daughter of the village banker. After that, the cruel father runs him out of town with the suggestion that unless he comes back with \$25,000 he need not come back at all, and may as well give up all hope of marrying the heroine.

The fact that the departure follows a snug finale does not appear to rob it of its sentimental hold on the audience. Neither does the injection of musical interludes in the second act, in which the race is run, with Dave's last cent backing the favorite, take more than the edge off the excitement of the incident. In this version he has pawned the heroine's ring in place of her locket, and the gold horse, "Remorse," is replaced by the "Honey Girl" of the title. In the last act he returns to the village and saves father's bank from a run with his \$25,000 and there's an end to that.

The cast is wisely chosen. Lenne Overman plays Checkers, Edna Baske is the banker's daughter, there is a friendly soubrette in Louise Meyers, and George McKay and Rene Riano have a lot of fun with two broad comedy roles.

Years ago, when John Barrymore

### How Bryant Got Along Told in a Few Words

Bryant Washburn is blessed with good looks, considerable talent as an actor and a likable personality. He broke into pictures via the stage. None of the Washburns were theatrical, one of his great-uncles being Dwight Moody, the famous revivalist, but Bryant had an early ambition to act and as a youth obtained the position of head usher in a Chicago show house. This was followed by small parts in stock companies. In a short time, Mr. Washburn was playing important parts in such productions as Eugene Walter's "The Wolf" and "The Remittance Man." He transferred his talents to the cinema in the early days of the industry, making his first real hit in picturizations of the "Skinner Stories." Soon afterward he was signed by Famous Players-Lasky to star in Paramount Artcraft pictures.

and frequently do happen in twenty years.

Charles B. Dillingham has not done as well as usual with this "Girl from Home" production. It is as prettily staged and as generously cast as Dillingham productions usually are, but Craven's book lacks snap and the Craven comedy is not up to par. Heroes and comedians did one sort and another have had so many experiences with South American revolutions since "The Dictator" was written that the complication is a little worn, and in his effort to live up to his responsibilities both as author and star the comedian is conscious of his handicaps. He is helped considerably by a stunning cast, including Gladys Caldwell, Marion Sunshine, William Burress, Flora Zabelle, Russell Mack, Joe Prouty, Jessica Duncan.

### At the Vaudeville Theaters

ASSISTED by seven comely young women, William Rock comes to the Orpheum this week. Since he last appeared in Omaha he developed this new dance production which is announced as "William Rock with 1-2-3-4-5 Girls and Two More." Each act in the act is a distinct type. They have been chosen to depict the various forms of feminine beauty as his best effort. "The Piano Tuner," a clever sketch, is to be offered by Charles O'Donnell and Ethel Blair as one of the featured acts. The skit commended an exceedingly funny "The Alexander Kids are a trio of prodigious writers as they have been in America. "Listen Mickey," is the title of a "nut" act offered by the eccentric comedians George Lane and Tom Moran. The "Chor Line" troupe, Oriental wonder work, a company of six, hail from Canton. Their gorgeous costumes and embroidered pieces are one of the most pleasing features of their act. Evangelina and Kathleen Murray are a pair of attractive misses who sing and dance in a manner very captivating. The Jack Hughes duo, a sister, billed as instrumental virtuosi, offer a program which includes both popular and classical music. Clever and amusing paragraphs culled from the daily papers will be a film feature in "Tuition of the Day." News events will be pictured by kinograms.

THE stellar act at the Empress today is to be contributed by Charles Lancelotti and Myrtle Vail, famous musical comedy favorites. A novel and laughable offering will be that of the Morton brothers, Paperologists and Harmonica Experts. MAHONEY & AUBURN Novelty Juggling Act. Photoplay Attraction Wm. Fox Presents Buck Jones in "Forbidden Trails" in "Some Nerve" Pathe Weekly Martin Johnson Feature.

**Two-Piano Recital**  
Adelyn Wood and Dorothy Morton Jobst  
Assisted by Mrs. A. I. Root, Contralto  
FIRST CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
36th and Harney Admission \$1  
Monday, May 17, 1920, 8:15 P. M.

### Rock, Dancer and Comedian, Adds to List of Productions

WILLIAM ROCK and his "1-2-3-4-5 Girls and Two More," a combination that is just finishing an "Orpheum" tour of great popular success, comes to the local Orpheum for the week starting today.

Mr. Rock is a well-known favorite in the two-day, as well as in musical comedy and farce. It was in vaudeville that he first gained recognition as a finished all-around performer, particularly as an excellent dancer and a light comedian. Musical comedy makes frequent claims on him, but vaudeville has never lost sight of him or the teams of Rock and Fulton and Rock and White, of which he was the first part. Musical comedy lovers will recall the former team particular in "The Candy Shop."

In Mr. Rock's new production he offers song innovations and dance creations that smack of the Rock finesse, while the gowns and scenic investiture will bewilder the onlookers by their magnificence, beauty and splendor.

The girls who wear the frocks and gowns abound in feminine attractiveness and their physical appearance at once recalls those pulchritudinous favorites of ancient times.

It has been said that Mr. Rock has originated more dance steps than anybody else in the business; in fact, it might be said that his name is synonymous with marvelous, graceful dancing, and his efforts never fail to arouse extraordinary enthusiasm. But in this production, which he originated and conceived, so much care has been given to the selection of the vocal numbers and

### EMPRESS

TWO SHOWS IN ONE SEVEN BROWNIES  
Presenting "The Syncope Schoolroom"  
GEORGE DAMEREL & EDITH VAIL  
in "Hearts and Clubs"  
Comedy with Music  
MORTON BROTHERS  
Paperologists and Harmonica Experts  
MAHONEY & AUBURN  
Novelty Juggling Act  
Photoplay Attraction Wm. Fox Presents Buck Jones in "Forbidden Trails" in "Some Nerve" Pathe Weekly Martin Johnson Feature

to his supporting cast as would be given to spectacular New York productions, with the result, an act that gives you in 30 minutes a compact musical revue you could not see elsewhere in two hours.

### Omaha's Police Parade to Flash on Empress Screen

The first moving pictures of Omaha's police force, taken at the annual inspection held here recently, will be shown at the Empress theater starting today. These pictures show "Omaha's finest" going through field maneuvers under the direction of Sergeant Lyman Wheeler, drill master, and passing in review before the admiring gaze of several thousand spectators and the mayor and city commissioners. The machine gun and riot gun squads are shown armed with their grim weapons, ready to meet any emergency that

may arise. These pictures were taken exclusively by the Pathe camera man and are included in the latest Pathe News.

**Still in Graveyard?**  
Hinton, W. Va., May 15.—Gordon Kirby of this city is alleged to have used the graveyard on the hill back of the city as a place where he disposes of moonshine whisky. All the transactions were made at night and a tombstone was the counter. Federal agents grabbed him.

**BASE BALL TODAY**  
Omaha Vs. Wichita  
Game Called 3:30 P. M.—Route Park  
Box Seats on Sale Barkalow Bros.  
Cigar Store, 16th and Farnam

THE BEST IN VAUDEVILLE

# Orpheum

Orpheum Circuit

WEEK STARTING SUNDAY, MAY 16  
Matinee Daily 2:15 Every Night 8:15

**WILLIAM ROCK**  
With 1-2-3-4-5 Girls and Two More

George LANE & MORAN The CHOY LING HEE TROUPE  
in "Listen, Mickey" Oriental Wonder Workers

Charles O'DONNELL & BLAIR Ethel  
in "THE PIANO TUNER"

Evangelina MURRAY GIRLS Kathleen JACK HUGHES DUO  
in "Songs and Dances" Versatile Instrumental Virtuosi

**ALEXANDER KIDS**  
Cute, Cunning, Captivating, Clever Children

TOPICS OF THE DAY KINOGRAMS  
Matinee—15c, 25c, 50c, 75c Sat. and Sun.  
Night—15c, 25c, 50c, 75c and \$1, at \$1.25 Sun.

## BENEFIT RECITAL

ELIZABETH BLISLE BROOKFIELD (Contralto)  
WORT S. MORSE (Violinist)  
LORETTA DE LONE (Harpist)  
RUTH FLYNN (Pianist)

at  
First Methodist Church  
Corner 20th and Davenport  
Thursday Evening, May 20, at 8:15 P. M.  
Auspices Omaha Woman's Club

## American Legion

# Dance and Outing

# KRUG PARK

Friday, May 21

The Legion's First Outdoor Dance and Outing and It's Going to be a HUMMER

Members will be mailed tickets.

# THOUSANDS

Attended the Opening of

# Krug Park

Saturday; Thousands More Will Be There

# TO-NIGHT

It's One Place in Omaha Where You Can Always

## ENJOY YOURSELF

by Dancing, Riding and Watching the Countless Throng

When They Are Not at Home They Are at Krug Park.

That's why so many doors are locked and houses closed during the summer—the entire family has gone to Krug Park.

For Refined Amusement and Recreation there is no place like

# KRUG PARK

It's Yours to Enjoy, So Come Today

### MONDAY SPECIALS

—AT—  
**OMAHA'S FINEST MARKET**

The one Omaha store that permits none but the purest of Food-stuffs to become a part of its stock.

**3 Big Grocery Specials**  
Pet Milk, large cans ..... 10c  
Post Toasties, Monday special..... 10c  
Corn Puffs, special Monday..... 10c

**ITEMS FROM OUR POPULAR TEA AND COFFEE DEPT.**  
Mr. Kirby, formerly of Courtney's, is in charge of this department.

**JUST RECEIVED**  
Fresh Roasted Coffee

Special Santos Blend, lb..... 40c  
Household Blend, a good one, lb..... 45c  
Our Famous Ankoia Blend, lb..... 55c

**TABLE SUPPLY**  
OMAHA'S PURE FOOD DEPARTMENT  
SEVENTEENTH AND DOUGLAS STREET  
Courtney Building

### Let Your Boy Spend His Summer on a Real Western Ranch

With seventeen other boys, each with a horse for himself, camping trips in the forests, to the Indian Villages and exploring prehistoric cave dwellings under supervision of men of sterling character. I sent twelve boys there last summer, who had the time of their lives, gaining in health and knowledge of Nature. Parents were most grateful for suggestion. I shall be glad to tell you of camps, ranches and outdoor trips for girls and boys, and grownups, too. I recommend only those I have investigated.

No charge or fees. **Ask Mr. Foster**  
Burgess-Nash Co.  
On Balcony