

# THE THEATRE

## A Musical Comedy of the Great War

Last night the American Theatre recalled itself to the days of the Deutsche Theatre, with a musical comedy of the great war, almost from the pen of "Immer Feste Druff." The only intermediary between Unter den Linden and Girard avenue was Rudolph Christians' admirable little company from the Irving Place Theatre, New York. It was native entertainment—which is a good thing for entertainment to be—and it was very good fun.

As preliminaries, a speaker before the curtain took a swing at grape juice diplomacy, and the German Consul gave two military bows, all amid the enthusiasm of a small but earnestly Teutonic house. Then the curtain went up, with the assistance of an orchestra musically and ably conducted by Victor Wagner, and we gazed upon what one of the comedians described as "die Junfrau und die Jungfrau." For we were in the Swiss hotel before the war. There we found a Frenchman proving the perils of his race by making love to a married woman, the wife of a German. As he did it to a really charming song, "The Eyes of a Beautiful Woman," the audience was quite willing to forgive him long before he died in a Belgian skirmish—see the third act—and cleared the lady's character to the husband, who happened to be a Frenchman. The lady herself testified to her innocence by joining the Red Cross.

In between came a good deal of very excellent patriotism and some equally good humor. The German in the audience supplied part of the former by not finding it necessary to advertise their inner reverence for their national anthem by standing up. A goodly quantity overflowed from the stage in speech and song. The whole company sang of spilling the last drop of their blood for the Vaterland; and when they came to that magic word, the comic porter, who had just joined the army to escape his wife, saluted with impressive self-consciousness. The patriotism, he said to the credit of the librettists, Hermann Haller and Willi Wolf, was well mixed with fun. They rhymed "Submarine" with "Zeppelin" and served a "spring soup" to the soldiers which was described as "a la Zeppelin mit Submarine Klee." The comic sergeant gave another demonstration of Germany's perfect preparedness by hauling out a little French dictionary and beginning lessons.

The music was excellent. Walter Kolle's score had melody in the characteristic Teutonic-Viennese fashion, running from waltz through comic rattle to military march. Only once did it descend to a barbershop chord, and the sentimentality of "Forget Me Not" accounted for that.

The performance itself ran quite as high as libretto or music, if not higher. While Margaret Christians was plausibly beautiful and convincing, full of high spirits, Hans Unterkircher and Richard Feist put some acting as well as singing into the parts of the rival men. The comedians were the more memorable, for they were thoroughly German, rich, unctuous. But how could they help it when their names were Christian Rub and Rudi Rahe and they had such amusing samples to distribute as "That's not a wire, it's a German wire," "Belgian or no Belgian, what speaks French is French?"

Probably the best part of the evening was the feeling it gave you of how Berlin and all Germany shut in by a ring of foes, is really talking the war. This little bit, half patriotism, half joke, brought up the real Berlin as "Tipperary" brings up the real London. But it also brought up by that very touch of the humorous humanity, a newer and keener realization that, over the water there, under the shadow of Hill No. 66, real soldiers, average men were in the killing each other, to no purpose but the sowing of damnable hate.

## 'The Shepherd of the Hills'

To close the regular season of the Walnut and to prepare the minds of its patrons for summer stock, the dramatization of Harold Bell Wright's vastly popular novel, "The Shepherd of the Hills,"

Sharing equal honors in the act is Lenna Stephens and Billy Wilson. Nearly a dozen singers and dancers assist in the funmaking, and the audience appreciated the combination immensely. George Brown, transcontinental walker, ran several miles on a machine and aroused much enthusiasm. Warm approval also greeted Porter J. White's sketch "The Visitor," Leon's Models, Gordon and Whyte and Miller and Lyle.

There is plenty of comedy and surprises in the Garden of Mirth, the headliner at the Cross Keys. Lively comedians and pretty girls keep things on the move throughout the act, which was warmly received. Laughter greeted Clark and McCullough continuously while they explained the troubles of a brakeman. Their explanations were mingled with acrobatics, which made them big favorites with the audience. Harry Bulger, the former musical comedy star, had a budget of new things, accompanied by a style which proved that he belonged on Broadway. Ripin, a Scotch ventriloquist; the Nicol Brothers and an exceptionally good picture completed the bill.

## PORT OF PHILADELPHIA

### Vessels Arriving Today

From	Arrival
St. Antonio (Italy), Palermo, passengers and mail.	10 a. m.
St. Antonio (Italy), Palermo, passengers and mail.	10 a. m.
St. Antonio (Italy), Palermo, passengers and mail.	10 a. m.
St. Antonio (Italy), Palermo, passengers and mail.	10 a. m.

### Steamships to Arrive

From	Arrival
St. Antonio (Italy), Palermo, passengers and mail.	10 a. m.
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St. Antonio (Italy), Palermo, passengers and mail.	10 a. m.

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ANCHOR LINE  
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# THE PHOTOPLAY

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The PhotoPlay Editor of the Evening Ledger will be pleased to answer questions relating to his department. Questions relating to family affairs of actors and actresses are barred absolutely. Queries will not be answered by letter. All letters must be addressed to PhotoPlay Editor, Evening Ledger.

## "The Heart of Maryland," by David Belasco

film version by the Tiffany Film Company; produced at the Chestnut Street Opera House.

When announcement was made that "The Heart of Maryland" was to be filmed, the writer's heart glowed with retrospective joy, for he had seen almost all the rehearsals of the speaking company in the Herald Square Theatre, New York, in the middle 90s. He had seen the author of the play rave and rant and swear. He had seen him bounce Mrs. Carter about in a way little short of cruel. And so he hid himself to the Chestnut Street Opera House—expectant! Alas! another fondlest hope went glimmering! Another illusion of the days of yesterday went to wreck and smash! For, to tell the truth, Mrs. Carter is not a success on the screen.

The film version of the Belasco success is well done. It is a beautifully photographed, it has its thrilling moments. And it is satisfying so long as Mrs. Carter does not appear in heroic side in the screen. Her gestures are stiff, even amateurish. Her facial expression is a distortion, something less than physical or mental anguish. And she is 20 years too old for the part of Maryland Calvert, the young Southern girl, who sacrifices all for her lover.

As for Thorpe, the villain, there was no E. J. Henley. Nor was there an Odell Williams nor the other stars with whom Belasco had surrounded Mrs. Carter. Yet, withal, it is a photoplay far above the average, well worth seeing. Incidentally the temperature in the theatre was better than that on the street, and that is something in favor of the silent version of "The Heart."

## State Convention Plans

Hundreds of exhibitors and other motion picture men are expected to attend the Pennsylvania State convention and exhibit under the auspices of the Motion Picture Exhibitors' League at Reading on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, June 7, 8 and 9.

## Convention Manager Ben H. Zerr, who is president of the Reading local and the State body, can be seen at his desk at the headquarters daily, wading through the heavy mail. In all probability the exhibit room will be taxed to its capacity with various displays.

Rausch Temple, where the convention will be held, consists of two floors. The lower one will be used for the exhibit, while the upper part will be devoted to entertainment of various kinds. A grand ball on Tuesday evening during the exhibit. Many of the screen favorites have been invited to attend and already numerous acceptances have been received. The evening of a "Dutch lunch" will be given the visitors, while a banquet will mark the close of the affair Wednesday night. At the latter it is expected to have as one of the guests Governor Boomer and other State officials, in addition to Mayor Stratton and his cabinet.

## Adventists Meet in Wilmington

WILMINGTON, Del., April 27.—Considerable business of interest to the members of the church was transacted this morning at the meeting of the Chesapeake Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, which is being held here. Elder R. T. Baer, president of the conference, is presiding and a number of the leaders of the church are in attendance. The session was opened by a prayer service and a number of reports were given. The session was closed by a prayer service and a number of reports were given.

## Theatrical Baedeker

ADVERTISEMENTS—Peg o' My Heart, with an excellent cast. Harry Manners' popular and amusing comedy of the impetuous young Irish girl and what she does to a sedate English family. Theatrical Baedeker, with an excellent cast. Harry Manners' popular and amusing comedy of the impetuous young Irish girl and what she does to a sedate English family.

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KENNEDY, Wm. 7 miles from Reading Terminal. New inn. Added features.

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## FERN ROCK, PA.

KENNEDY, Wm. 7 miles from Reading Terminal. New inn. Added features.



THEDA BARA

The noted Fox film star, whose acting in "The Cleopatra Case" has caused a sensation among "movie" audiences.

of the Jitney. Philadelphia is almost jitney overrun, and as a result it is possible for every one to ride to work each morning in some sort of an automobile for not more than 10 cents at the most.

The entrance to the studio yard every morning looks like a combination of a big social function and a go-as-you-please automobile parade, for aside from the many jitneys a large number of the players arrive in their own cars. Barry O'Neill, who directs most of the feature productions, favors a big limousine; so does George W. Terwilliger, the writer and director. Lawrence McCloskey, head of the scenic department, drives his own car. Edgar Jones, John Ince and Joseph Kaufman, directors, drive their own touring cars. Arthur Johnson has a touring car, but utilizes a chauffeur; Orm Hawley drives one of the speediest runabouts of them all. Lottie Briscoe also favors a runabout. Little Leslie prefers to be driven by a chauffeur, and so does Ethel Clayton. Crane Wilbur, George Soule Spencer and Earl Metcalfe, all leading men, are their own chauffeurs, and Dorothy DeWolfe, Lubin's "littlest leading woman," has them all beaten. She drives in each morning in a pushmobile, as important as all out of doors, accompanied by her father, and parks her "motor" on "leading woman row," between Orm Hawley's runabout and Ethel Clayton's touring car.

## "What's Doing Tonight?"

Manquet, Credit Men's Association, Manufacturers' Club, 6 o'clock.

Opera, "Tales of Hoffman," Behrens Opera Club, Academy of Music, 8 o'clock.

Concert, Steuben Chorus, Steuben Auditorium.

Monthly meeting Harmon Chapter, Brotherhood of Andrew and Philip, Harmon Presbyterian Church, Frankford, 8 o'clock.

Annual meeting Apprentices' Library, Broad and Spring streets, 8 o'clock.

Open air suffrage meeting, Broad street and Columbia avenue, 8 o'clock.

M. C. A. School of Music, 1421 Arch street, 8 o'clock.

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## PAINTS VIVID PICTURE OF SINKING AUDACIOUS

Continued from Page One

was a loud thud. I can't exactly explain that noise, but I shall never forget it. It seemed as though we were all on a trolley car going to a picnic and another car had crashed into us from the rear. Immediately the entire crew appeared on the decks. They were at attention and ready to obey. While the ship was enveloped in smoke and parts of her decks were in flames, we could see boats from a distance coming to our relief. The ships were coming toward us at full speed, but it seemed a very long while before the ships actually appeared near our boat. There wasn't a man aboard the Audacious who was thinking of his life. His mind was on one thing, and that was to save the Audacious.

## OTHER SHIP TO RESCUE.

"Many members of the crew jumped overboard after the ship began to sink. Others remained on the decks until they were forced to jump into the ocean. There was no scramble to leap off first. We were rescued by the crews of different ships, who came to our aid, and after being taken ashore in Scotland were given dry clothes. After resting up for a few days many of the members of the crew were sent to different naval stations."

"I was informed that I was scheduled to go aboard the Riviera, which before the war was one of the cross-channel steamers belonging to the Southwestern and Chatham Railroad Company. On December 1 I left Harwich Harbor aboard the Riviera. We were escorted out of the harbor by 16 destroyers and the light cruisers Arcturion and Undaunted. We steamed all next day, arriving off the Heligoland about 11 p. m.

"We immediately began to get the sea planes into the water and in about half an hour 12 of those machines were ready to start. There was a heavy fog hanging and the rain of the previous day made the machines extremely heavy. I was out in a rowboat about Christmas time making an inspection of the machines, which were still in the water. While making the inspection I remember seeing a Zeppelin hovering over me and gradually getting nearer and nearer, until she was almost over our heads. Then the Zeppelin began to drop bombs, but they aimed wide. The guns of one ship were aimed at the German Zeppelin.

## STILL HEARS THE GUN.

"I often feel that at the present time I still can hear the echo of those shells which were fired at the Zeppelin. I remember seeing bombs after bomb aimed at our ships. Fortunately the bombs landed in the ocean with a splash. Later I was transferred to a small boat, what really was a rowboat, and rowed about waiting for further instructions. You can just imagine how I felt with all those bombs bursting around me. My rowboat became unmanageable. The following day I was alone with no one in the immediate sight. I surely expected to be picked up by some German ship. Instead, a Dutch trawler came about 6:30 p. m. and took me to Amsterdam where I was interned. I was given a pair of Dutch wooden-soled shoes, an old pair of pants and a jersey. I was sent 15 miles inland, where some of the naval brigade were interned earlier in the war.

## ESCAPES DUTCH SENTRY.

"There I remained about three months and I proposed to get out of that place which I did one night. I broke past the sentry and swam a ditch which surrounded the camp and walked all night until I reached about a mile from the camp. I boarded the first boat that I saw and was getting ready to leave. I hid in the coal bunkers when I remained for three days until we reached Liverpool. I almost starved during the trip because I was not eating. To appease my hunger I sucked coal. Once in Liverpool, I went aboard the St. Leon and obtained some food from the sailors who informed me that the steamship Odra was leaving the next day. I boarded that steamer on April 6 and continued myself in the bunkers. I used to leave my hiding place in the evenings and go to the hotel where I boarded the ship. I always slept in the day and at night I ventured to go on the deck, but not very often. I arrived in New York on Friday evening, April 16.

"After the ship had anchored, I took my opportunity and jumped overboard and swam to the docks, where I climbed up on the pier. I almost drowned for loitering. Later I secured dry clothes and now I am in Philadelphia."

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This Empire RED Tire has a tread that laughs at ruts and slippery streets. The elastic RED Rubber contracts on cuts and keeps them from spreading.

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