

THIS WEEK: "THE COUNTRY COUSIN," BROAD, AND "MOTHER CAREY'S CHICKENS," ADELPHI

OTHER OF FEATURE FILM HOUSES THREE YEARS OLD

Stanley Ready for Birthday Celebration. What It and Its Impresario Have Done for Photoplay

Anniversary Week (the third anniversary) at the Stanley is upon us. On that point Stanley V. Maatbaum's comment on cinematographic conditions, especially those connected with playhouses and productions, is timely. The local impresario of motion pictures is, as usual, optimistic about the future of the art, craft, business, or what you will.

"People think that we have reached the limit of big things in photoplay," he said, "but, mark my words, the next six months will produce dramas approaching perfection of the art as well as quality in the film before the first of next year there will be a veritable revolution in photoplay attractions. These plans will be finished within a short time and then the actual work of erecting a picture palace the like of which has never been dreamed of hitherto will begin. It is worth mentioning that since we first gave thought to the construction of this new house, upon which we had intended to spend \$1,000,000, there has been an advance in the prices of structural materials of about one-fourth over the figures then submitted. This will mean, of course, that instead of investing \$1,000,000, we will expend \$1,250,000, and I am not so sure but that before the house is ready to open the sum will be somewhat in excess of

these figures. The new house will have a seating capacity of 4000 and will be supplied with every modern convenience and comfort for the patrons. It is my great faith in the future of pictures that prompts me to undertake not only the erection of such a costly structure, but the installation of an orchestra of 100 solo musicians and other innovations of a novel character.

The history of the Stanley Theatre might be said to parallel the history of the feature film in Philadelphia. Before its erection there was no such thing as a home of the five-reel photoplay, or, if there was, it was mute and ingloriously un-presented. The house opened, unless the reviewer's memory has misled me, with a picture of Jack London's "The Sea Wolf." It was one of the first productions of Bosworth, Inc., with Herbert Bosworth starred. Bosworth had struck out for himself after a long connection with Selig, and had contracted to turn almost all of London's tales into celluloid. A curious feature of the movie was that it served to bring to the attention of David W. Griffith a young man named Elmer Clifton, destined later to shine as a Fine Arts star and in the Babylonian episodes of "Intolerance."

On the same bill with "The Sea Wolf" was a pretentious vaudeville act starring Lina Arbanell.

Perhaps the most interesting phase of the Stanley's augmented vogue since its erection has been its influence on real estate values. It is said on good authority that Seventeenth and Market streets is considered in a far different light in 1917 from that of other years.

HIS VOICE-STUDIO IS IN FAIRMOUNT PARK

There, Amid Sylvan Calm, Jack Hazzard Unleashes His Golden Bellow

Read this about Jack Hazzard, the breezing petrel in "Miss Springtime," and you will know why he is doomed to what they call a ripe old age. It will hint why the girls all like him as they do a sunny Easter, and why the old fellows with round fronts and clubby faces hail him a good fellow.

"My boy, I am glad you asked me how I prepared myself for such a role as that I am now playing in 'Miss Springtime.' Out in front the public think the life of a comic opera comedian—and such a one as I have especially in mind—is, as you might say, a bed of roses. They only see the bright side. They hear his rippling laughter and listen to the bell-like qualities of his singing tones. They give him curtain call after curtain call—one singing comedian in particular—yet how seldom they give thought to the hours that he spends in preparing for his public appearances. I do not allude to rehearsals—to the real artist, rehearsals are a pleasure. Take the role of Michael Robin, which I illuminate in 'Miss Springtime.' I have my own method of singing. I prefer the open. I found Fairmount Park an excellent place to practice and all of my friends approved of this choice. But really I fear I am prattling on about my profession too much, and it is just possible that I am needed on the stage—it seems very quiet out there. Awfully glad to have met you. Come around some night and hear me sing."

And Mr. Hazzard, with a sweeping wave of his jeweled hand, bowed himself out and dashed upon the stage of the Forrest. In a moment there was a mighty roar of laughter from the big audience. The famous comedian was singing.



ELSIE KENT At Keith's next Monday and thereafter for a week.

THE DOMREMY MAID, IN BRONZE AND FLESH



One of the most interesting groups ever snapped unaware in connection with a photoplay. Geraldine Farrar, star; Jeanie MacPhearson, author, and Cecil DeMille, director, of "Joan the Woman," at the Chestnut now.

GERALDINE'S JABS HER INSPIRATION

There are several reasons why Jeanie MacPhearson was successful in writing the scenario for "Joan the Woman," now at the Chestnut Street Opera House. First of all, Miss MacPhearson went to school in Paris, where, as a child, she became deeply interested in the story of Joan of Arc. Second, before she entered upon the career of a writer of scenarios she was an actress not only upon the stage, but also in pictures. Miss MacPhearson was born in Boston, of Scotch-French parentage. She was sent to Miss DeFraga's school in Paris, and there she developed a literary tendency that seemed to indicate a future as a poet or a novelist. But later there were those among her friends who told her that she should be a singer, and so she went to Chicago to enter the grand opera field. After a time she decided that her training was insufficient for a brilliant career and that opportunities were greater in the drama. Consequently, she went to New York, and there it was her good fortune to become acquainted with Sir Johnstone Forbes-Robertson. He was starting then in Bernard Shaw's "Caesar and Cleopatra," and Miss MacPhearson obtained a role in the cast. She played for a season in this company and then went with "Strongheart," the Indian-American play, in which Robert Edeson starred.

Just about this time Miss MacPhearson decided to go back to her vocal studies. She engaged a teacher in New York and was so far advanced when the new season

WHEN TWO NOTED HEADS ARE BETTER THAN THREE

Co-Author of "The Country Cousin," at the Broad Next Week, Describes His Collaboration

Being a revelation concerning a more or less misunderstood process by Julian Street, who aided Booth Tarkington in the writing of "The Country Cousin," which is to be presented at the Broad next week.

A great many people have asked me about the method of work employed by Mr. Tarkington and myself when we collaborated in writing "The Country Cousin." People seem to often to suppose that Mr. Tarkington wrote certain parts of the play while I wrote other parts and that we would later join these parts together.

Of course, we did not work in that way, and I cannot give you a coherent or balanced literary production of any kind being produced by such a method. I have several times, and the finished work always resembled a patchwork quilt.

The original idea which resulted in our play was Mr. Tarkington's, and I felt it to be a great compliment when he asked me to join him in constructing and writing it. It was something like this: That the play should point the contrast between the more modest, wholesome and honest American ideals of ten or fifteen years ago and the more dissipated social life to be seen in many American cities today. That was the idea with which we began. We had no characters, no story, just a central theme.

We had a figure which we called "our girl," and other figures which we knew by like designations. At last for convenience, as our characters began to emerge from the blurred outline of the story and become real to us, we began to name them, and at the same time we began to construct the first act scene for scene. In this work we followed the method of keeping always in mind the direction the play ought to take. I found myself continually enamored of little vistas of the road which I wished to explore; that is, I would see, here and there, a chance for a comedy scene or some other sort of scene and would suggest putting it in, but in such cases Mr. Tarkington's superior wisdom and experience would come into play, and he would point out to me that while such a scene as I had suggested would make a good scene in itself, it must be sacrificed because it did not directly advance our story.

In my writing life I have been trying to learn to eliminate the unessential, no matter how alluring the unessential may appear, and I really thought I had learned to do it, but in the course of my work with Mr. Tarkington on "The Country Cousin" I learned more about how to do it than I ever did before. I learned it from him, and I shall always be indebted to him for what he taught me in the course of our work together—no matter whether of whether our play succeeds or not.

We outlined the whole play carefully, scene for scene, building each act up toward the climax which we designed to reach. Then we began to fill our skeleton with flesh. In writing the dialogue we worked like Siamese twins, that is with two heads. One head would suggest something, if the other head agreed that something was put down; if not, the two heads would debate the point and finally we invariably agreed. Almost every line in the play was written in that way. I sat at the typewriter and Mr. Tarkington would sit in a chair beside me, or would walk about the studio while we talked.

When we were in a delicate part of the work we would discuss the exact way in which to say the thing we wished to say, and our discussion resembled as much as anything else the kind of discussion that a man will conduct in his own mind when he is thinking over some delicate point. One of us would suggest a line, and perhaps the other would catch at it, but suggest a slight change of wording which would improve it. Or the other would say, "Yes, that's it!" whereupon I would put the line down. I think Mr. Tarkington and I could go over the manuscript today without being able to pick out fifteen lines which were contributed entirely by either one of us.

BUCOLIC DRAMA'S LATEST EXPONENT

A Glance Backward at Former "Rube" Plays That Held the American Boards

"Mother Carey's Chickens," as the latest contribution to pastoral comedy, departs from the farm atmosphere of rustic plays which have won such popularity. Philadelphia will remember the country life illustrated by such plays as "The Old Homestead," "Way Down East," and others. While comedy of rustic America, typified by "Mother Carey's Chickens," the latest contribution to the stage by Kate Douglas Wiggin, at the Adelphi next week, has been a feature in this country's theatrical pleasures for years, it has made no headway in England, where theatregoers until recently preferred to see the Yankee character burlesqued. Research discloses that a first effort at a rural play was "The Contrast," by a Boston writer, more than a century ago. Thirty years afterward another Yankee characterization appeared in the part of Jonathan in "The Forest Rose," a musical piece, a Chicagoan, Danfield Marble, is credited with attaining much success in a stage presentation of Yankee humor and Yankee shrewdness called "Sam Patch," which he played more than a thousand times until he went to London in the forties.

HUMBLE STREET CAR AS SCENIC AFFLATUS

If You Want to Understand the Last Word, Look at "Letty"

Those who have attended a performance of "So Long Letty," at the Lyric, and who have never been in the West, wonder why Mr. and Mrs. Robbins and their neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Miller, live in abandoned street cars. They agree that Oliver Morosco, the producer and co-author of the play, has provided something new in stage settings. But Mr. Morosco has good authority for the novel scenes shown in the two acts—the first outside and the second inside a street car. To the westward of San Francisco on a sandy shore some eighteen miles from the Golden Gate is a little settlement, Carville. When electricity displaced horses as the motive power for street transportation an enterprising young man purchased some of the old street cars and had them shipped to the seashore. Then he bought, for little or nothing, strips of land on the beach and on them he placed the cars. When he had fitted the cars into a semblance of habitations he had no difficulty in renting them to campers for the summer months. Some of the tenants bought the little houses. The idea took hold; more cars were moved to the beach and some made into quite pretentious cottages. So the authors of "So Long Letty" selected this little settlement as their locality. To be sure, the interior of Mrs. Robbins's abode is somewhat larger and more luxurious than one would naturally expect inside an old-fashioned street car, but that is "dramatic license."

Livingston Platt, who designed the scenery, has taken full advantage of the unusual opportunities offered. He uses an arch that mounts high toward a considerable thickness. One might think that this device would obtrude itself, but such is the use of the arch itself, of simple, graceful design and highly variegated, color and such are the quality formal and colorful designs of the setting disclosed beyond, that the inner proscenium justifies itself. The scene of the two street cars converted into beach houses, shown in the first act, naturally gave Mr. Platt an odd idea to start with. But while another scene painter might have designed the setting in nothing better than a fantastic sort of realism, Mr. Platt, by combining a genuine sense of design and color with a sense of humor, gets beauty and sufficient comic suggestions, too. The two cars, connected by a diminutive "Bridge of Signs," are delicately constructed, tinted in warm pinks and light greens, topped by designs in formal greenery and backed by a drop of deep blue sky.

FANCY "BILL" HART AS POEM INSPIRER!

Yet He Is One, and Here's the Evidence in Cold Type

Poetry and William S. Hart virtually are synonymous, says the press agent. The western actor, who is beloved by millions throughout the world for his impressive screen portrayals, daily inspires writers of both amateur and professional talent to pen verses about him and his plays. Each day he receives several dedicatory poems, and each poem radiates the rugged spirit of the West, of the plains, of gun play. Martin Brown is the author of the latest contribution, a poem describing the town of Broken Hope, which serves as the locale for Hart's latest Triangle-Kay Western drama, "The Desert Man," in which he is presented by Thomas H. Ince and which will be shown at the Arcadia all next week. The verses appear on the screen as a foreword of the story and give a colorful impression of the scenes that follow. They are:

Spotting the face of the desert's gray With shades of hue that matched it, A village that once was a city lay, Mocked by the sun that watched it.

All of its glory dimmed and faded, Burned dry by the whiffs of the slope; The living death of the doom that failed, The name of it—Broken Hope!

Other Theatrical News on Preceding Page

NOT AS DUSKY AS THEY'RE PAINTED



EVENING LEDGER PHOTOPLAY CALENDAR

Table with columns for days of the week (Monday to Saturday) and rows for various theaters (Alhambra, Apollo, Arcadia, Belmont, Bluebird, Cedar, Coliseum, Eureka, Fairmount, 56th Street, Frankford, Great North, Imperial, Jefferson, Leader, Liberty, Locust, Market St., Overbrook, Palace, Park, Princess, Trent, Union, Ave.). Each cell contains the name of the play and the actor playing the lead role.