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:-: "The Mystic Light" :-:

A Musical Comedy, the music of which was composed by a Regina Man, the libretto of which was written by a Regina Man, which has been staged under the direction of Regina people and which is being sung and acted entirely by Regina amateurs. To be performed at Regina Theatre on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, January 28, 29, 30 and 31. Stage rehearsal held last Saturday indicated the play is rapidly assuming form.

CHAS. R. SHRIMPTON, Who Wrote the Libretto for the Musical Comedy, "The Mystic Light," and Has Done a Large part of the Work of Directing Its Production

A "Made-in-Regina" Production

PROF. F. LAUBACH Composer of the Music for the Musical Comedy, "The Mystic Light"—He is Well Known in Regina Musical circles.

THE STORY OF "THE MYSTIC LIGHT;" WHAT ITS SUCCESS WILL MEAN TO REGINA; A MONUMENTAL TASK

A GOOD PLOT, WITH LIBRETTO AND MUSIC WHICH GIVES PROMISE OF SUCCESS—COURAGE AND HARD WORK REQUIRED TO BRING IDEA TO FRUITION—LEADING ROLES ARE BEING WELL TAKEN—SOME OF THE PRINCIPALS.

The "Mystic Light" on Wednesday next will be an accomplished fact.

There may be some people in Regina who do not quite realize what this means to the city, who are underating the importance of it.

There may even be some who do not know what "The Mystic Light" is.

For the benefit of the latter first, be it known, that "The Mystic Light" is a complete musical comedy, the plot and words of which are the work of a Regina man, the music of which has been composed by a Regina man, the staging of which has all been done under the direction of Regina people, and which is being sung, acted and played by Regina amateur performers.

Let this be said here: What standard of success has been reached in this production will be an unknown quantity until on Wednesday night. The very best professional attempt carried out under the most favorable auspices is never free from this element of absolute uncertainty. How much more a wholly amateur production—amateur in every detail. Therefore, be the success of the Regina made musical comedy ever so mediocre, the fact that it was brought to the point of completion, that it could be put on the stage at all, remains a remarkable thing.

A MONUMENTAL TASK

Just what a monumental task it has been to bring the idea to fruition cannot be realized by any one who has not been connected with it—not realized, at anyrate, by anyone except a professional producer; and the best professional in the business would have thought twice before undertaking it.

It took supreme courage, and supreme confidence in themselves and in the little band of faithful amateurs who rallied to their call, to enable Messrs. Shrimpton and Laubach to make the attempt; it has taken months of the hardest kind of work, and latterly almost continual rehearsing to get it into shape. But from the nebulous form of the original idea, and the mass of musical numbers and dialogue parts which formed the first rough draft of the production; from the untried efforts of the amateur performers, and the germs of ability which waited to be brought to the surface, a real musical comedy has been growing into life—and it will be born into the theatrical world on Wednesday night next, at the Regina Theatre.

What the Rehearsal Showed.

A word here as to whether or not "The Mystic Light" will be worth seeing next Wednesday night. That question was definitely settled last Saturday night when the first stage rehearsal was held at the Regina theatre. Out in front, in the dark auditorium was a small, and critical audience who had been invited for the express purpose of giving a plain and unvarnished opinion of the performance.

Naturally, there was plenty to criticise. A task so big could not possibly be perfected to the point where it was beyond criticism in so short a time. But when all criticisms had been made and all possible points of weakness suggested, when the natural imperfections of all rehearsals was taken into consideration; and the advantage which scenery and costumes would give duly reckoned—when the critic had summed up all these points, one fact stood out clear and indisputable. The seemingly impossible has been accomplished, and accomplished with a remarkable degree of success, considering all the circumstances, we are to have a "Made-in-Regina" musical comedy of which we will certainly have no reason to be one whit ashamed, and of which, if fortune smiles on the efforts of the company, we may when all is said and done, have reason to be very proud indeed.

A Strong Framework.

The great fact that appealed strikingly to those who saw the rehearsal on Saturday night last was that, whatever imperfections there may be in certain parts of the music—there could not well fail to be some even under the most expert of hands—and whatever alterations may be necessary to improve the libretto and the potency of the situations, scenes, and acting—there is in "The Mystic Light," as it now stands the musical, literary, and dramatic framework for a theatrical production it is quite possible to envisaged as ranking with some of the present day musical successes.

The plot is a strong one, full of romanticism, and lending itself to some very dramatic situations, which are fully taken advantage of by Professor Laubach in the musical setting which he has prepared for it. It is in brief as follows:

Silas Washington Mervin, of New York, who has amassed a fortune through his "Matchless Mixture," which he has extensively advertised in the United States and Europe, is taking a trip up the Nile with his party, which includes his daughter Ruth, Lady Marbleton, Miss Poppy Cecilia, Lord Elpas Slater and Bertie Burlingham. His idea is twofold. Firstly, he intends to advertise his medicine through Africa; secondly, he has hopes of benefiting his daughter Ruth's health. She has been pining for her lover, Dick Edgecombe, who was manager of the National Surety Bank of New York, but in, when the bank suspended payment three years previously, disappeared. All efforts to locate him have been futile.

The party sail up the Nile into that land of mystery and spell, of magic night and legends rare, and eventually arrive at Akra-Abra, a spot little known, where they decide to take a rest for a few days and stop at the hotel Europea.

Their Arab guide, found in good preservation a temple of Horus. The populace of the place still clings to the old religion of sun worship, and in the temple there is a Mystic Light which has been burning for three thousand years.

The legend surrounding the light foretells that it was lit by the spirit hand of the good queen Helvina, and is to the effect that should the light fail or at any time become extinguished that pestilence and famine would fall upon the land, and further, that the sun would not rise upon the morrow.

The Feast of Osiris.

Into this land of enchantment, with its wealth of Orientalism and kaleidoscopic colourings, the party find themselves upon the eve of the feast of Osiris. Ruth, with her modern and up-to-date American ideas ridicules the idea of the mystic light and together with Bertie, visits the old temple of Horus. They find that the light is only an ordinary lamp, and out of pure mischief Ruth extinguishes it.

The sun sinks in a glorious bath of color. The feast of Osiris begins. Pinkah, the high priest, describes the old time legend to his reverent flock.

Suddenly there is the sound of voices raised in lamentation crying: "The light bath failed." Consternation reigns among the people. Pinkah causes his guards to seize Samar, the keeper of the temple, who is really Dick Edgecombe in disguise. Ruth, Pike and Lord Elpinas are also seized, and followed by the angry maledictions of the populace they are hurried away to be thrown into the Hall of Mummies, which is underneath the temple of Horus.

In the Hall of Mummies.

Into the gloomy Hall of Mummies' march the guards with their prisoners, interrupting a simple devotional dance of the temple maidens who are decorating the altar for the feast. In this forebidding place the four are left with the assurance, by Pinkah, that in the morning they will be fed to the holy crocodile. Pike thinks of a brilliant idea. He suggests that they shall fulfil the legend by taking the mummified queen from her sarcophagus, and getting Ruth to apparently rise from the tomb. At first the idea is ridiculed by the others, but all other attempts to make an exit failing, they eventually adopt this plan. Pike takes the place of a patriarchal priest, and performs the ceremony. The people are amazed at the fulfilment of the ancient legend, and offer no resistance to the escape of the prisoners. Pike, who in the mystification of the moment has borne the mummy away, reaches the Hotel Europea at midnight with it, and causes much consternation by arriving while supper is in progress.

The Mummy Revived.

He is at a loss to know what to do with the mummy, but the arrival of Professor Graufelstein, of the Egyptological Observatory, solves his difficulty, and he sells her to him. Mervin comes upon the mummy, and is seized with the idea that if he could wake her up with his Matchless Mixture it would be a splendid advertisement. He pours a draught of it down her throat, and the mummy comes to life. Ruth arrives with the others, who were confined in the Hall of Mummies, and is mistaken for the mummy.

The mummy, upon waking, sees Pike and in a most humorous scene tells him that she is not Queen Helvina, but Myrmentia, who was a dancer at the court of the last Pharoah. However, everything comes right in the end fo rthe mummy, owing to the effect of the mixture wearing off, becomes drowsy and falls asleep again.

Miss Doreen Marshall, although having only a small part in "The Geisha," made quite a hit. As "Libby" in "The Mystic Light" she has a soubrette's part that suits her admirably.

Dr. M. R. Parkin is a newcomer to Regina. He possesses a splendid voice which he uses to advantage as "Dick Edgecombe" in "The Mystic Light."

Mr. C. W. O'Malley, who made his first appearance before Regina audiences in "The Geisha." He has a big comedy part in "Pike" in "The Mystic Light," which gives full scope to his abilities.

Full Cast of "The Mystic Light"

The first musical comedy to be composed, written and produced in Regina will make its initial bow to the public next Wednesday evening. The following is the full cast:

ACT I—Gardens of the Hotel Europea, Akra-abra, Egypt, somewhere on the Nile.

ACT II—Interior of the Hall of Mummies, Temple of Horus.

Act III—Gardens of the Hotel Europea.

Time: the present. The whole action of the play takes place in nine hours.

CAST

Silas Washington Mervin, of Mervin's Matchless Mixture fame—J. J. Polson.
Pike, his valet—W. C. O'Malley.
Dick Edgecombe, alias Samar, Keeper of the Temple,—M. R. Parkin.
Lord Elpas Slater, a peer (guest of Mervin)—Chas. H. Shrimpton.
Bertie Burlingham, his chum (guest of Mervin)—P. A. Bishop.
Cyril Cunningham, guest at the hotel—A. A. Gemmill.
Pinkah, High Priest of the Disc Worshippers—A. Leslie Martin.
Professer Graufelstein, of the Egyptological Observatory—Karl Laubach.
Osmos, an Arab guide—J. Ladler.
Ruth Mervin, Mervin's daughter—Mrs. J. Max Merry.
Lady Gwendoline Marbleton (guest of Mervin)—Mrs. R. K. Scarlett.
Miss Poppy Cecelia (guest of Mervin)—Miss Tessie Parsons.
Miss Marjorie Mandant, guest at the hotel—Miss Beatrice Baker.
Libby Green, Lady Marbleton's maid—Miss Doreen Marshall.
Myrmentia, a mummy—Miss Kathleen Nevin.
Ansata, chief dancer of the Temple—Miss Molly Kearney.
College Girls — Misses Beatrice Baker, Bessie Dickens, Hilda Fletcher, Mollie Atkinson, Minnie Casey, Molly Kearney.
Temple Maidens—Misses Ena Dawson, Inez Kohlman, Jessie Hunter, Edna Brethour, Freda Grant, Nellie Greenstreet, Eileen Nevin, Mollie Atkinson.
Egyptian Ladies—Misses Ena Greenstreet, Marion C. Rigby, Merle C. Rigby, Pearl Hunter, Mabel Harbour, Marie G. Rigby, Cecely Williamson, Elizabeth Brake, Agnes Fletcher, Gladys Halbrite, Maude Quirke.
Temple Guards—H. H. Fletcher, August Mueller, J. Ladler, C. C. Owen.
Arabs—W. E. Cass, J. Atkinson, C. Davidson, R. R. Edgar, V. K. Gill, D. S. Hindle, J. Butterfield, F. E. Parkin, G. H. Flower, Fred Laubach, W. C. Dibley, W. Scarr, J. Preece, C. Scarr, E. R. Gill, V. F. B. Burton, A. W. Martin.

Miss Kathleen Nevin made her bow before a Regina audience in "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch" some thigs years ago. As Myrmentia (the mummy) in "The Mystic Light" she has a splendid stage for the delineation of a dramatic role that is admirably suited to her undoubted histronic abilities.

an established musical production, the audience must remember that this is a newly created musical comedy, that even with a company of professionals, handled by the most expert of professional producers, the first performance would be an occasion of fear and trembling for all concerned. Above all whatever the result, let credit be given for the courage displayed, for the hard and unceasing work done, and for the measure of success obtained (whatever that success may be) under the most adverse circumstances.

One thing is sure—the performance of "The Mystic Light" will be worthy the attendance and patronage of every citizen of Regina, during the four days of its presentation.

NEXT POLICE COMMISSIONER.

New York Mayor Endeavors to Get Col. G. W. Goethals.

NEW YORK, Jan. 23—Mayor Mitchell made a statement this afternoon carrying the suggestion that Col. G. W. Goethals, chief engineer of the Panama Canal, is to be the next police commissioner of New York City.

"From the beginning," said the mayor, "I have wanted Col. Goethals to head the police department. Recently Mr. Perkins urged him to accept the post. I am to have a personal interview with Mr. Perkins and until that time I can make no statement. Mr. Perkins was in Panama early in the month and had a conference with Col. Goethals. If I can persuade Colonel to accept the position he will be necessary for him to retire from the army."

Mr. J. J. Polson is also a prominent member of the Winnipeg Operatic Society, with whom he played several leading roles. He has a big reputation as a comedian, and as "Silas Wshington Mervin" in "The Mystic" Light he has a part that will further enhance his reputation.

A Word for the Audience.

If on its first appearance "The Mystic Light" shows imperfections, if there are portions of the libretto, the music, or the acting which do not quite measure up to the standard of not however before she causes many an uncomfortable moment. Ruth and Dick Edgecombe, are, of course, rewarded, and everything ends happily.

It would be premature here to dwell to any extent on the acting of the various principal parts. Time must be reserved for the public performance, which will be the real test of the ability of the actors. This, however, can be said. Messrs. Laubach and Shrimpton have been fortunate in their selection of people for the leading roles. Mr. Shrimpton himself shows real ability as an actor in the part of Lord Elpas Slater. Mrs. J. Mac Merry is a charming Ruth, whose singing and acting are both already well known here. Mr. A. Leslie Martin, as Pinkah, the High Priest, has a part which suits him well, and his ability needs no recommendation to Regina people. Three other male roles stand out prominently, namely, those of Mervin, the American manufacturer, Dick Edgecombe, alias, Samar, keeper of the Temple, and Pike, Mervin's valet. J. J. Polson as Mervin suits the part to a hair. Dr. M. R. Parkin has a voice which is a genuine treat, and he is provided with songs which display it to advantage, while W. C. O'Malley as Pike, has a comedy role of which he takes full advantage.

There are too many in the cast to mention them all here, but the personals below show that two of the feminine roles will be "hits." Miss Doreen Marshall's daintiness and charm were well displayed in the comparatively small part she had last year in "The Geisha." As Libby in the present production she has a much more ambitious role, and she fully measures up to it. Miss Kathleen Nevin, as the mummy, has a part in which she can, and does, display considerable dramatic power.

Training the Chorus.

A word must be said also for Miss Molly Kearney. Miss Kearney has been of the greatest assistance to the producers in organizing and directing the chorus work. She has devined most of the chorus drills and dances, and in the part of Ansata, chief dancer, of the temple, she performs a delightful and original dance, which is entirely her own conception, and which is additional to the dances already arranged, is very well executed.

These few advance words on what may be expected on Wednesday night are merely the impressions obtained at a single rehearsal. The members of the cast mentioned will certainly give a good account of themselves. There are several others, not mentioned here, who will fill their parts well. What the chorus as a whole will do cannot be foretold. Let this be said as a final word, however:

"EXCUSE ME, MAN WANTS MONEY"

NOVEL METHOD OF TRAIN ROBBING ON MICHIGAN CENTRAL

CHICAGO, Jan. 23—With the assistance of two reluctant but badly scared porters a bandit today held up four passengers on the rear sleeper of the Michigan Central passenger train due here from Detroit at 1.30 o'clock this morning. It was a semi-comic affair which netted the bandits something near $200.

The robber entered the train at Jackson, Michigan, and left it about 15 minutes later when Louis Thomlo, one of the porters signalled for the emergency brakes. T. Morritts, porter of the car attacked, was the first to view the robber who pointed a pistol at him and handed him a slip. "Here," said the intruder, who was dressed in a black and white check suit and wore a cap pulled down over his eyes, "you go ahead and wake the passengers. Tell 'em there's a robber wants their money. No monkey business. I've got them guns with me."

Morritts took the hint or hint, he is not sure which, but thinks it was a hint, and shook the first occupant of a berth he came to.

"Excuse me," said the porter, "but there's a man here who says you are to give him your money."

"Ah, what's up? Quit your kidding and let me sleep," came the angry reply from the berth.

"Tell him I'm a real robber with a gun," interposed the robber, who poked the weapon between the curtains whereat there was a tinkling of coins falling into the receptacle in the porter's hands.

From A. M. Todd, of Chicago, the robber got $125. From Herman Marks, of Detroit, $100, and from F. Palmer, of New York, an unknown sum.

Later it was learned that the fourth passenger robbed was L. J. Hodes, of Chicago.

"When the porter told me a gentleman wanted some money I told him porters usually did. The robber pointed a gun, but he got only a few dollars from me."

The conductor of the train was authority for the statement that the bandit was alone. The porter thought there were four. The conductor said that so far as he was able to learn the bandit's comrades existed only for the purpose of impressing his victims.

RETIRED FARMERS DO THIS.

Problem of West as Explained by Rev. Hugh Dobson.

WINNIPEG, Jan. 23—Rev. Hugh Dobson, Regina, field secretary of the social service work of the Methodist Church, speaking at Wesley College today, said that retired farmers in the West were presenting a serious problem. Farmers retired and went to live in towns and cities but did not sell their farms. The result was that there is a steady increase in the number of idlest farms, the tenants of which, on account of having no permanent stake in the community, took little interest in the well-being of the community. They did not want to bear any more burdens than they had to, with the result that schools were not given the best support and the land was impoverished. The only cure for this tenancy being to get as much as possible out of the soil in the shortest time.

NEW YORK, January 23—Compulsory vaccination for school children was upheld by the appellate division of the court today in a decision affirming the conviction of Hagbard Elmold for violation of the compulsory education law.

How To Get Rid Of Drink Habit

The irresistible craving desire which drives all drinking men on and ultimately wrecks them physically, mentally and financially, can be removed by the Neal Drink Habit Treatment in three days, without the use of hypodermic injections. Don't ruin your life. Don't let your husband, son or father become a hopeless drunkard. Act at once and investigate the Neal Treatment. It is a safe, sure, vegetable remedy that has made thousands of sober men out of hopeless drunkards. Call and get proof and references, or write or phone for book of information. The Neal Institute, New Address: 3124 Victoria Ave. W., Regina. Phone 1158.

DRUG HABIT SUCCESSFULLY TREATED.

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