

SALARIES OF ACTORS.

POOR PAY AND SHORT SEASONS THE RULE NOWADAYS.

The scale of salaries all through the profession is much lower than formerly—actors who cannot save money to tide them over the idle season.

"How tall are you?"
"Five feet nine."
"Turn your profile."
A moment of silence followed, while a young man, turning a clear cut, regular profile to the view of his companion, stood at a frame of theatrical photographs on the wall of a manager's office.

"Stand up and let me look at you."
The young fellow arose with some slight embarrassment. His two years' experience had not placed him in just this position many times before, so he flushed a little as he got up. But he remembered well enough what was just then necessary—to throw back his shoulders and stand as high as his straight, slender legs would allow him.

"You'll do," the manager said, with some reservation in his tone, "and you're one of the ones in which the photograph did not lie entirely. But if I give you a part, you dress it?"
"What is the part?" the young man asked, determined to say he could dress it whether able to or not, whether it took a frock coat and a dress suit or a Roman toga.

"Oh, it's a very pretty part," the manager said. "It's the leading one, and the only costumes you need are two colonial uniforms, one fatigue and the other full dress. You ought to be able to do it for \$50. The part's that of a young captain, and it's a very good one."

"What are you paying?" asked the young man, with as much decision in his mind if not in his tone as there had been when he inquired about the costumes he would have to wear. It was a reputable firm of managers, and there was the prospect of making a contract immediately, so it seemed to him that whatever the amount might be he would accept it.

"We are paying \$35 for a season of 30 weeks," answered the manager. "You are certain of employment through all that time, and you know our reputation"—here he smiled grimly—"and you are not likely to lose your time in working for us."

Thirty-five seemed a small sum even to that eager applicant, and he was busy with mental mathematics the moment he heard the amount. For his young wife and child it would take at the least \$10 a week in New York or wherever they decided to live permanently. It was out of the question for them to travel. On the road he could not live for less than \$15 a week. There was \$5 a week to be paid for costumes, to make up the cost of \$150 for the 30 weeks. That left \$5 a week for a period of 28 weeks during which he would be unencumbered. It seemed a desperate enough

outlook, but it was sure. There were the wife and the baby, and there was a living for them out of that sum. Other offers might not come, and they might be no better when they did come. These reflections passed rapidly through his mind, and he decided quickly.

"Come in tomorrow to sign the contract," said the manager, "and I'll be able to tell you then about the rehearsals. We'll probably have four weeks of it here."
The actor thought of this with a pang, but it disappeared in the satisfaction of having settled his plans for the winter. It was true that the results had not been brilliant. It had taken unusual physical endowments to get the place, and his ability in his profession had been established, else he would never have been asked to come to that manager's office and talk business.

This case was one used to illustrate the claim that the salaries of actors are not so large as they were several years ago, in spite of the stories frequently heard of popular leading men who receive such sums as \$200 a week, popular comedians who get equally large rewards, and other favorite performers who are paid in the same proportion. That these stories are exaggerated has often been believed, but it was never thought that there had been any such diminution in pay as recent cases indicate.

"When Laura Keane paid William Blake, a popular actor of old men's parts, \$100 a week, and George Jordan, called the handsomest man on the stage at that time, \$120 a week, the newspapers spoke of those figures as very high. They were indeed for that time," said an old actor to a Sun reporter. "The salaries generally ranged from \$40 to \$60 for the best of the actors of that period, but these figures were larger for that time than the high salaries of today are. The cost of living was very much cheaper. The year's engagements were longer. At the most a month's holiday was given to the actors, and sometimes they were not idle for more than two weeks. Now the longest period of work that an actor can get under any circumstances is a season of 34 weeks. During the other 18 he is compelled to live on what he can save in the season. The salaries paid do not afford much surplus for that. The average actor's salary today is not so much as \$40 a week. It is, in fact, considerably under that sum. In the past actors would live with their families in the town in which they were acting. Now they must pay the expenses of their families as well as their own when traveling. Years ago I got \$60 a week in Chicago and was able to save money, besides supporting my wife and child, but if I had been compelled to travel as well as pay the advanced prices of living of today I never could have done so."

"The actor's pay has not advanced in proportion to the compensation paid to other employees. In many cases it has declined. The sums paid to leading men, say 15 years ago were larger than any paid today. Charles Thorne received between \$175 and \$200 during his greatest popularity at the old Union Square theater, and Montague got \$200 at Wallack's. Now, one of the best known leading actors got last season \$125, another receives \$75, and a third gets \$100, not they are in exactly the places occupied by the men who in the past received salaries nearly twice as large. The same change has taken place all the way down the line, and, while the salaries paid to young men may not actually be smaller in amount, they are in result, for prices are everywhere much higher. I know from my own experience that two-fifths of the actors on the stage today are dependent for their support during the summer on relatives or friends. This is not the result of improvidence in many cases, but is due to the fact that salaries have been reduced to a figure which makes any saving, even with economy, out of the question. There are, of course, exceptions to this rule, but they include a very few people, while what I say is true of the rank and file of the profession."—New York Sun.

Bailstorms Dispersed by Explosives.

Recent experiments in Syria on the breaking up of bailstorms by the firing of guns have met with remarkable success. M. A. Stiger, burgmaster of the city of Windisch-Felstritz and proprietor of extensive vineyards, having replanted a part of his land on the Schmitzberg, took the following precautions to preserve the young plants from hailstorms, to which this region is exposed: Over an extent of about six kilometers (3.7 miles), at elevated points, he built six iron structures, each holding ten large mortars. At some distance from each of the structures he located a hut to be used as a powder magazine.

M. Stiger then organized a body of volunteers composed of the inhabitants of the neighborhood, so that each post could in case of necessity be manned by six persons. In the course of last summer the residents of Windisch-Felstritz were able to make their first experiment. Masses of black and threatening clouds approached from the neighboring mountains. At a given signal the discharge of the 60 mortars began. After some minutes the clouds could be seen to pause, break up and disperse without letting down either hail or rain on the protected region. The experiment was repeated in the course of the same summer, taking place six times and always with the same success. The efficacy of the discharge extended over about one square mile.—Literary Digest.

A Vienna Mother.

A medical weekly paper published in the city of Vienna says that Mrs. Marianna Hehn, the wife of a spinner of that city, though only 40 years of age, is the mother of 32 children—namely, 26 sons and 6 daughters. These children were born as follows: Four, three, four, two, three, two, three, two, three and three, or 11 births in all. The mother has nursed the whole of her children, and they are still alive. Mrs. Hehn was herself one of four children, born together, and her mother had 33 children. It is a remarkable circumstance that this woman from her fifteenth year to the present time has suffered almost every week from an attack of epilepsy, but none of the children up to the present time has been afflicted with the disease.

Far, Far Away.

"Once upon a time," says the Boston Herald, "Senator Cameron called upon President Lincoln at the White House in behalf of an applicant for a consulate who was a particularly pestiferous person to him. 'Where do you want to have him sent?' asked the president. There was a large globe in the room. The Pennsylvania senator put one arm around it as far as he could reach and said, 'I do not know what my finger is on, but send him there.' And he was sent."

MONTREAL, July 20.—A sensation has been caused in political circles here by a letter received from ex-Mayor Beaugrand, in which Sir Wilfrid Laurier's course in England is held up to ridicule. Mr. Beaugrand saying that Laurier's plaudits would never have been attempted by a conservative, and he adds that the liberal party appears fated to be conducted by weak men.

VANCOUVER, July 20.—As a result of Dominion neglect to place customs officers at the passes into the Canadian Yukon, big quantities of produce are being imported free from the States, instead of being bought in Canada. The purchasing agent of the British Yukon Company, to which the Dominion lately gave a very valuable charter, is thus buying stores in Seattle, and Canada's trade and revenue are suffering severely, as a result of this Government procrastination. It undoubtedly represents a free trade policy, but an un-sanctioned one.

The Montreal Star remarks that the United States Senate having decided to impose a duty of \$2 per thousand feet on pine lumber, we imagine the Canadian Government will lose no time in imposing an export duty on logs. One of the last and best things Parliament did last session was to authorize the Governor-General-in-Council to impose on pine Douglas fir, spruce fir, balsam cedar, elm and hemlock logs and pulpwood an export duty not exceeding \$3 per thousand board measure. Under the present circumstances, even the Cobden Club could scarcely object to the power being exercised.

ASSIGNEE'S NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of the deed of Assignment from Messrs. McLeod & Jardine, of Mount Stewart, Merchants, bearing date the third day of May, A. D. 1897, I hereby give notice to all persons claiming to be creditors of the same assignors, to furnish to me at the office of Messrs. McLeod, Morson & McQuarrie, Solicitors, etc., Charlottetown, P. E. Island, on or before the twenty-fourth day of July, next, a statement of the amount claimed to be owing from the said assignors to such creditors, respectively. And I hereby give notice that any creditor failing to furnish such statement within such time, may be precluded from participating in any dividend from said estate, pursuant to the terms of such assignment. Dated this sixteenth day of June, 1897. JOHN J. McQUARIE, Assignee.

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Falling Walls at Fires.

Mr. Charles T. Hill contributes to St. Nicholas an article on "The Perils of a Fireman's Life," in the course of which he says:
There are several kinds of falling walls, and the fireman of experience knows them well and what to expect from each. There is one kind that breaks first at the bottom and comes down almost straight, somewhat like a curtain. This makes a big noise, but is not very much to be dreaded. Then there is another that bulges or "buckles" in the middle at first and makes a sort of curve as it descends. This is a little more serious than the first and has caused many fatalities. Then there is one that breaks at the bottom and comes straight out, reaching clear across the street and remaining almost solid until it strikes, and, as an old time fireman once remarked, "That's the kind you want to dodge."

This kind of "falling wall" has caused more of the deaths in the department than any other danger the firemen have to contend with. It has killed horses as well as men and destroyed apparatus, and it is so rapid in its descent and covers so much space that to escape it the men have to be quick indeed.

New Ornament.

Mrs. Aristocrat—Did you hear what Mrs. Nouveau Riche said to me at the concert this afternoon?

Mrs. Wellborn—No, my dear. Do tell me all about it.

Mrs. Aristocrat—Well, she informed me she had decided to have a non de plume in her hat.—Harper's Bazar.

The Fall of Rome.

The extravagance of the Roman ladies of high rank was one of the prime causes of the fall of that mighty empire. Lolla Poppa, who cut a wide swath in Nero's time, was the happy possessor of a gown said to cost nearly \$1,000,000.

Eye Don'ts.

DON'T attempt to read in a reclining posture.
DON'T read with the light shining in your face. Place it so that it comes from behind.
DON'T use glasses without having your eyes properly examined.
DON'T forget that I am qualified to do this for you.

G. F. HUTCHESON, Jeweler & Optician

QUEEN STREET.

Sure-Footed

and well shod wins the race. Oxford ties have the call now. We have men's, Women's and Children's. The kinds that fit properly and give good honest wear. Just opened, Girls' and Children's ankle strap slippers in Chocolate and Oxblood.

W. H. STEWART & CO.,

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We make it comfortable for our patrons by selling the cheerful shoes. Ours are that kind. Soug, trim looking attractive shapes that are liked immensely as our sales show.

Men's Lines of Colored Shoes for Summer wear

Our Ladies, Oxfords are marvels of beauty and good value. Misses' and Children's in all styles. Men's Bicycle Shoes, a complete assortment of all staple lines. Great variety. Low prices.

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Child's Picnic Shoes



In Oxblood and Tan. Just the thing for this hot weather.

COFF BROS

BURGLARS WANTED.

To the Burglar who entered our office and broke the Handle of Safe we extend an invitation to call again, promising him a free entry into the safe, and thereby saving him the use of the Stillson wrench. We will not insure his easy exit, but will be on hand with an ambulance and undertaker.

At the same time we give the Dairyman a guarantee for one year with our twelve gang Cheese Presses. Nearly all that were imported here in the past required to be repaired within a year.

Our improved Cheese Vat is the most popular in the market.

Our Babcock Testers never break the bottles.

The press hoops are right for eighty lbs of curd.

And best of all the "ALPHA de LAVAL SEPARATOR" is on f t h i away ahead of all others.

Write for prices. Terms made to suit customers.

Our Pumps are winning a name for themselves at prices to beat any im

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Refrigerators, Lawn Mowers, Ice Cream Freezers, Green Wire Nets, ring Door Hinges, Garden Trowels, Gold Paint, Rubber Hose.

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"When three months old my boy was troubled with scrofula. There were sore places on his hands and body as large as a man's hand, and sometimes the blood would run. We began giving him Hood's Sarsaparilla and it soon took effect. When he had taken three bottles he was cured." W. H. GARNER, West Earl, Pennsylvania.

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Hood's Pills cure Sick Headache. 25c.

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Yours truly,

(Signed) EDWARD FISHER
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