

are worn even shorter than the sketch, so those of us who are not blessed with

### Pretty Ankles and Feet

will find it necessary to cultivate pretty ones if we wish to look attractive in our sporting garments.

After witnessing the performance of

### "A Message From Mars"

last Wednesday afternoon at the Standard Theatre, I felt as if I had received an illustrated lecture on the "great selfishness of man." It reminds one somewhat of a morality play, and one leaves the theatre deeply impressed with the moral of the story. As the plot of the play is explained



### THE FIRST SOUTH AFRICAN MUSICAL COMEDY

This fact probably accounts for the very generous welcome that has been accorded to the combined effort of Mr. H. Barlow Coulthard and Mr. Lewis Rose Macleod, since, whatever faults may be laid at the door of the South African Press they can never justly be accused of a tendency to over-criticise, and original endeavour is always praiseworthy. On the other hand, in many instances, and particularly in this, those responsible for the notices which have appeared in our daily contemporaries may truly be said to have viewed the production through rose-hued glasses, and in their accounts of the impression which "A Girl from Springfontein" has made upon them, been

To its faults a little blind  
And to its virtues very kind.

We do not wish it to be gathered from the foregoing that the musical play in question is otherwise than good, but we do consider that our contemporaries have been over-lavish in their praises, more particularly as regards the book.

### THE SCORE.

To deal first with the music, since to our mind that is by far the outstanding feature of the production. We are indebted to Mr. Coulthard for some charming melodies, and in parts the refrains are not only catchy and entertaining but the score occasionally borders on grand opera. At all times it is diverting and entertaining, and not infrequently thought engendering in the excellence of its appeal to the musical ear. Amongst the best items of the operetta may be mentioned "My Lady of Dreams," "Love is in Season all the Year," and "I'm Lonely," while there is a lilt about the Adam and Eve duet, the number entitled "Swank," and the two Dutch topical numbers, "Ik denk hij is een slim kerel, eh?" and "Waar krijg je daar de hout?" which is decidedly catchy. Altogether Mr. Coulthard is to be heartily congratulated upon the success which he has achieved, a success which has only been slightly suggested in his previous compositions, but which gives us the hope that at no distant date we may look for something that will reflect credit upon the land of his adoption, inasmuch as it will bring fame to the composer.

### THE LIBRETTO.

As regards the book, it would be unlike a musical comedy were there any plot or any coherence in the situations, and possibly Mr. Macleod bore this fact in mind when writing the libretto. Anyhow, the story of the Dutch girl with an English education, who looks down upon her fellow-Africans and proffers her affection very generously to an imported policeman, is not particularly remarkable for great ability or for cleverness of characterisation. The lyrics are in some instances good and there is a wealth of topical allusion which, judging by the laughter it created, is keenly appreciated by the audience. We very much question whether at the particular moment when the staff officers of the different corps are busy explaining the Defence Act, and endeavouring to induce interest in the new measure, much good will be achieved by the very broad skit upon the college whence the new instructors have but recently emerged, and, while we appreciate and laughed heartily at the idea of old-fashioned Generals, who have earned universal reputations during the Anglo-African War, again going to school, even Mr. Macleod would be amongst the first to admit that in a military college discipline is a necessary adjunct.

### A "STAGE" JEW.

The part of the Mayor of Springfontein, Mr. Solomon Shine, has not been well drawn, and whether the over-acting is the fault of Mr. Hugh Kennedy, who plays the role, or whether he is merely carrying out the conception of the author, the net result is an absurd exaggeration which cannot fail to be objectionable to every Jewish member of the audiences which may witness the production. It is true—and Africa is none the worse for it—that in many of the smaller dorps in this country the Jewish Mayor occupies an important niche in the commercial economy of the place, but to portray him as a hybrid cross between a Petticoat Lane fried-fish vendor and a flash Fagin is an unnecessary travesty upon fact. We can readily call to mind towns which have made their Jewish Mayors, and incidentally it might be worth while recalling that many of these Jewish Mayors have helped very considerably to make the towns over which—at the request of their Christian fellow-citizens—they preside year after year. When we think of Mr. Wasserburg, re-elected year after year for Barberton, Mr. Ginsberg, who occupied the Mayoral chair at Kingwilliamstown for close on a decade, Mr. Landau at Standerton, or Mr. Liberman, Mayor for three years in



elsewhere by our dramatic critic, I will not weary my readers with any further description, but will proceed to describe some of the lovely gowns seen on the stage.

### Miss Freda Godfrey,

who never fails to charm the audience, appeared in a gown of ivory white satin draped *en panier* with ninon, edged with a broad band of silver bugle trimming. With this frock of sweet simplicity she wore a narrow band of silver in her pretty hair. A lovely gown of French grey net richly embroidered, with beads of the same shade and mounted on grey ninon, was worn by Miss Dora Mazeley as Aunt Martha. Miss Mona O'Dowd as Mrs. Clarence, wore an elegant toilette of old gold satin, having a tunic of black silk fish net embroidered with gold beads.

In one of my previous articles I referred to a certain society of men in London who were trying to introduce the fashions of the sixties, and wear coloured coats and side whiskers. Judging by windows of certain smart gentlemen's outfitters, signs of a change are creeping in already. Besides having the daintiest silk socks and ties,

### Buttonholes

of lovely silk roses can now be obtained to match the ties. I was attracted by some lovely dressing gowns of exquisite shades of shot silk, with cuffs and revers of satin and finished off with gold tassels and satin buttons. It is hard to imagine a huge athlete in one of these

### Effeminate Dressing Gowns.

for they would certainly be more becoming to a fragile maiden with a wealth of golden hair. These gowns will be much coveted by the wives and sisters of the "beauish" men of the Rand. PEARL.



succession at Cape Town, we feel that our people are unnecessarily maligned by the presentation of Mr. Solomon Shine in the manner in which he is drawn by Mr. Macleod and acted by Mr. Kennedy.

**THE STAGING AND ACTING.**

Turning from a comment upon the book, it is pleasurable to be able to pay a tribute of unstinted praise to the manner in which the play is produced, and to Mr. Frank Wheeler must be accorded the main congratulations for the success achieved. The scenic artist, Mr. H. Glover, has done admirably, the sunrise over the bazaar in the first scene showing the distant veld in the background, producing a scene which is original and entertaining in the extreme, while in the second act the reception room at Sir Henry van der Grift's was faithfully presented, there being something almost symbolical in the way that when the curtains are drawn aside an over-decorated garish drawing-room is seen, such as is now gradually forcing out the comfortable and refined chambers that we were used to see in the better class of South African homes but a few years ago. The acting, generally speaking, was good, and it was obvious that the members of the Wheeler-Edwardes Company had entered into the spirit of the theme. Miss Beatrice Meredith was in excellent voice, and the beauty of Mr. Coulthard's music was ably presented, while Mr. Tom Payne was as amusing in his wonderful get-up as a Resident Commissioner as he is in every other part which he portrays. Mr. Miles Clifton did the best he could with a small part, and, while playing with the *mouchi* gagged the smartest joke of the play, albeit it was a trifle broad. As General Piet Prinsloo with many grievances, Mr. Donald Campbell showed his possession of marked histrionic ability, though few who remember the genial Donald in his old capacity as a member of the Z.A.R. detective force in pre-war days, would have recognised him in his new role. *Apropos* of the extraordinary uniforms that were worn, we wonder if many who laughed at the joke of the Commandant-General designing his own uniform, would have properly applied it to General Baden (we had almost written "Barnum") Powell, who spent many anxious nights in drawing up sketches of what his precious S.A.P. force were to wear. However, speaking generally, "A Girl from Springfontein" is a charming production, and in view of its topical allusions—not all of them in the best of taste—will doubtless attract fair houses for a time, and it may be that when Mr. Macleod has re-written his book, pruning here and cutting there, that the comedy will be a success. Anyhow, the music is excellent and requires no revision, while the stage production is all that could be desired.

**THE STANDARD.**

The revival of Ganthony's delightful play "A Message from Mars"—for many of our readers will remember its former production—has brought quite an acceptable change into Mr. Leonard Rayne's repertoire, after the strain of the two heavy dramas which preceded it. We would call this present production an allegorical play, similar to "Scrooge," although the similarity only lies in its fundamental idea, as the character of the principal in the piece under review is of a much more "harmless" nature, compared to the former, the hero's principal weakness or fault being his excessive selfishness. It is around this human failing that the whole plot is woven, and a messenger from another planet had to appear to cure one of our fellow-creatures of this most common of human shortcomings. In the first act Horace Parker, the hero of the play, displays the egotistical nature of his character to the fullest extent, aggravating his Aunt Martha and his fiancée Minnie to a "breaking point," so much so that the latter actually breaks off her engagement with him and returns him the ring. The ladies then retire to follow the invitation to a ball to which Horace refuses to accompany them, preferring his cosy room to the snowy night, and his studies of astronomy to their company. He falls asleep, and in his dream the Messenger from Mars appears to him, forcing Horace to follow him out into the cold. The proceedings of the second act represent the tormented man's dream, in which he goes through all the agonies of his guilty soul, showing him more especially the weakness of his character and what this leads him to. Although Horace endeavours at first to resist the beneficial change which the messenger intends to bring about, the latter gradually brings him round, and eventually cures Horace of his selfish ways, when, after the successful completion of his task, the messenger disappears. In the third act Horace awakens from his nightmare and puts to good account the lesson which he has learnt. This is, in a brief form, the plot of the play which delighted patrons of the Standard during the present week. Mr. Leonard Rayne was the hero Horace Parker, which role is in nature the very extreme of other parts in which we are used to see this versatile artiste shine, such as Napoleon, and we might use in connection therewith that great warrior's famous expression, "Les extrêmes se touchent." Still Mr. Rayne was as much at home in this part as he is in any other he represents, and his acting throughout was most convincing and natural. Again Miss Freda Godfrey made a capital second in the delightful way in which she played the part of Minnie, the former's betrothed, and we can only chronicle the fact that this popular actress added another leaf to her

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**GEORGE H. COCH,**

Township Owner,  
78, EXPLORATION BUILDINGS, (First Floor).

We understand that Sunday, December 8, has been fixed for the official opening and dedication of the Orthodox Hebrew congregation's new synagogue. Mr. Gustav Imroth will perform the opening ceremony. The Rev. Steinberg, assisted by a special choir and orchestra, will officiate, and addresses will be delivered by Rabbi Dr. J. L. Landau, Rev. Dayan Friedman, Mr. Gustav Imroth, and Mr. Ch. Kuper (president of the congregation).

Baron von Kress, Minister for War, recently stated there are eighty-eight Jewish officers and 193 Jewish medical officers in the Bavarian Army, and that there are no impediments in the way of Jews becoming officers in that army.



already large laurel wreath. Miss Dora Nazeby made a very convincing Aunt Martha, whilst we have no hesitation in saying that Mr. John Nesbit's "Messenger" is one of the best things he has so far given us. Mr. Harry Paine is always good and thorough, and these two adjectives also apply to his "Tramp" in the fullest sense of these words. All the other minor parts were well sustained and the performance gave every satisfaction. The staging is excellent, the second act being particularly worthy of mention and praise. Our readers should not miss the opportunity of witnessing "A Message from Mars."

**THE EMPIRE.**

The programme at this popular place of amusement is distinctly interesting. It opens with Signor Torti's excellent vocal renderings, and this gentleman is followed by Sterling and Love in an interesting sketch entitled "A Brush Up," which is ably presented. The Doraine Sisters and Woods, who are effectively dressed as North American Indians, give some interesting dancing, and after them Frank Wilson delights the audience with his trick cycling. Maria La Bella still dances with ability and abandon, not the least charming portion of her turn being her beautiful costumes. She is followed by Jeannette Dupre and Jess Felber in "Bits of ragtime musical comedy," and then Mr. Jack Shires gives particulars of his antipathy to labour. The Schwarz company present a remarkably amusing sketch entitled "The Broken Mirror," after which Great and Good give a comedy acrobatic turn which is much appreciated.

**NEXT WEEK.**

Three new turns are promised for the week commencing December 2. These comprise two charming little dancers named the Phillips Sisters, who come from the principal European cities. Then there are the Grays in their speciality dancing, singing, and baton spinning, together with Marie Wilton, who is a soubrette of considerable ability. The following week to that La Pia returns, and she will be seen dancing in flames enveloped with dazzling electrical effects, and at last vanishing away as if burnt to ashes. To secure these wonderful effects special cables have to be laid, and many other alterations made. Judging from these particulars Empire patrons have something to look forward to.

**THE ORPHEUM.**

Last night saw the first appearance of an entirely new company, including Williams and Warden, Irish comedians, whose songs are new and whose patter is entirely original and clever. Frazer and Mac, a musical duo, who are ex-

perts with the banjo and concertina, and introduce some novel and amusing comedy, and Della and Pley, comedy duo, introducing their screaming burlesque boxing act. The picture programme includes incidents of the Balkan War, the Springbok-East Midlands match, and the Cub Reporter—an exciting Edison drama dealing with newspaper life.

**VARIETY COMPANY FOR RHODESIA.**

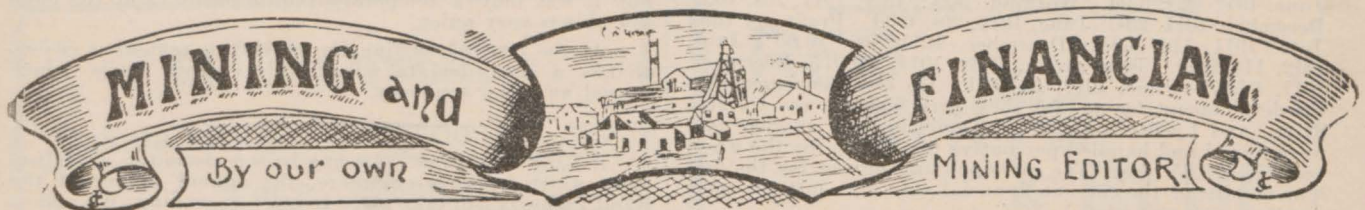
A strong company of vaudeville artistes from the Orpheum-Vaudette circuit is leaving on Saturday night to play Bulawayo and Salisbury for Mr. Paterson's Palace Theatres. The company is a nicely varied one, consisting of Diamond and Beatrice, instrumentalists, who have paid two visits to the Orpheum; Vere and Neldon, comedy duo; Lyal and Bert, acrobatic and comedy duo, a feature in whose act is the performance of "Flip," the canine equilibrist, Billie Butt, comedienne and dancer, and Charles F. Best, known as MacBunker the Mountebank.

**THE GRAND.**

Last night there was an entire change of photo-plays, which now include the Pathe "Gazette" and Springboks v. East Midlands—a very exciting series of the match. The management announce that owing to the plant at the Power Station failure last Saturday night they were unable to show Sarah Bernhardt to the many hundreds awaiting admission, so that in consequence they have decided to screen the picture on Saturday evening next only. Patrons who have not seen this wonderful production should not fail to do so at the end of the week. On Monday Springboks v. Oxford University will be shown. It is further stated that the Empire Theatres Co. have secured a very fine pantomime picture of "Cinderella," produced by the Selig Co. of America. There will be the usual matinee on Saturday at three.

**THE CINEMA**

The programme submitted at this centrally situated bioscope theatre is one of the best that they have yet had, and the manner in which the house is thronged proves that it is appreciated by the large audiences which attend. Last night there was an entire change of pictures, and the audiences were delighted with the manner in which they were thrown upon the screen. Another fact which makes for enhanced popularity for the Carlton Cinema is that the management have decided upon running artistes also, and the first vaudeville company is already in course of combination. If the artistes supplied are as excellent as the pictures, then patrons of the Cinema will have an additional reason for their attendance.



**FORTHCOMING MEETINGS.**

- December 3.—Pretoria Estates and Market Co., Pretoria, 3 p.m.
- December 4.—Nourse Mines, Corner House, 11 a.m.
- December 10.—Matamba Minerals, 37, Winchester House, 11 a.m.
- December 10.—Central News, Consolidated Buildings, 2.30 p.m.
- December 10.—Malgo Developing Syndicate, 37, Winchester House, 11.30 a.m.
- December 12.—Zandrivier Exploration Co., Lewis and Marks, 2.30 p.m.
- December 12.—L. & B. Exploration Co., Lewis and Marks, 2.45 p.m.
- December 17.—S.A. Gold Mines, Jeppe Arcade, special meeting, 10 a.m.
- December 19.—Paardekraal Estates, Transvaal Bank Buildings, 12 noon.
- December 20.—Carolina Asbestos, Consolidated Goldfields Buildings, 11 a.m.
- December 20.—Mlandsfontein Estates, Consolidated Buildings, 11.30 a.m.

**CONSOLIDATED MAIN REEF.**

At the fourteenth ordinary general meeting of shareholders in this company, Mr. W. H. Dawe referred to the satisfactory state of the company. In doing so he said: I am only called upon to refer to the chief points of interest. The profits resulting from milling operations amounted to £94,134 which is an increase on the profits for the previous financial year; the grade milled during the past year showed a slight increase in value, whilst the average working costs for the year gave a reduction of 5d. per ton. From the appropriation account you will see that the credit balance brought forward from the previous year amounted to £15,564, whilst the sum of £12,373 accrued from the owner's share of claim licences, interest, etc.; together these give a credit of £122,071, and after making deductions

for dividends declared, current shaft sinking, profits tax, audit fees and directors' remuneration, we carry forward a credit balance of £22,806. During the year two dividends were declared, No. 7 of 3½ per cent, and No. 8 of 5 per cent., making a total of 8½ per cent. for the year. Of the cash, amounting to £363,188, which became available on June 30, 1909, after the amalgamation of the Main Reef East and Main Reef Deep companies with your company, £169,356 was in hand on June 30 last.

In connection with development during the past year, the principal features were the continuation of good values in the western section of the mine and of disappointing results in the eastern section—although in regard to the latter a much longer stretch of payable leader was opened up on the 19th level than was exposed in either of the levels above. The net result, however, of 7,122½ft. of development in the eastern section was the addition to the reserves of only 11,400 tons of payable ore. Regarding the western section, the general manager remarks that the greater part of the development in this section has been on the Main Reef Leader, which, on the whole, proved most satisfactory—and this opinion is borne out by the fact that during the past year, in spite of the poor results in the eastern section, the ore reserves have been increased by 93,790 tons, to a total of 610,680 tons, whilst the average value has been raised from 6.7 dwt. to 7.2 dwt., over a stopping width of 48in.

Proceeding, he pointed out that the ore reserves above the 20th level, in the eastern section, had been reduced to a low figure, viz., 20,000 tons, on July 30 last. During the months of July, August, September, and October 10,000 tons were drawn from these reserves and 18,000 tons from pillars and from good patches in blocks of ore classed as unpayable. It is estimated that the balance of 10,000 tons, together with the amount which is still to be drawn from pillars, etc., will be exhausted during the next three or four months, in which case the tonnage which is being milled monthly is likely to be reduced about March next, but such