

WHAT KINGSTON THEATRES OFFER NEXT WEEK

TAMEO KAJIYAMA TROUPE CHRISTMAS ATTRACTION

New Array of Talent With the Celebrated Japanese Mentalist.

Patrons at the Grand Opera House will remember the famous mentalist who was here with the Culture Vaudeville last season. He is to be here again shortly with the Classics of 1924, a company of international artists gathered from all parts of the world.

Liane d'Veve, who, in private life is the Countess d'Veve, who comes here direct from the Coliseum, London, brings with her a full stock wardrobe of Parisian gowns which were entered by the United States customs officials as worth fifty thousand dollars.

Batenourt, a native of Havana, Cuba, brings a novelty and highly developed acrobatic act of great merit.

Yet another attraction is Eunice Noel, a mime, hails from the leading London, Eng., vaudeville theatres, delineating in charming fashion Dutch and English character sketches.

WHOLE BLOCK BURNS IN FILM SPECTACLE

Alice Calhoun and Percy Marmont Narrowly Escape Death in Flames.

One of the most stupendous fire spectacles ever offered will be seen at the Capitol Theatre Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. It is one of the sensational scenes in the highly dramatic Vitaphone super-production, "The Midnight Alarm."

In "The Midnight Alarm" is shown the destruction by fire of an entire block of buildings, including a six-story structure. This was one of the most costly structures ever built for the sole purpose of destruction, and was in keeping with the policy of David Smith, Vitaphone director, that nothing be shown unless it was realistic and that fakes and the like be barred.



Scene from "The Midnight Alarm," at the Capitol Theatre Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

S-T-R-A-N-D STARTS MONDAY "CHILDREN OF JAZZ" With EILEEN PERCY and THEODORE KOSLOFF

studio owned by the Vitaphone Company was devoted to the erection of a metropolitan business district. The set reached across the width of the studio grounds and consisted of a street and a group of buildings from three to six stories in height.

picked guards and police kept the throng within bounds. The chief danger was the menace of onrushing fire apparatus.

Nine cameramen protected by safety shields in vantage points cranked as the flames progressed and the film fire brigade battled it. With the flames licking their clothes, the firemen mounted ladders and rescued the persons actually imprisoned in the burning buildings.

Alice Calhoun and Percy Marmont, leads in the picture, were in grave peril when the ladder hoisted to take them to safety caught fire in spite of the streams of water playing on it. In desperation, they were forced to plunge to fire nets that were hurried to the scene by the Los Angeles fire department.

Extra pumping engines were drafted to force water through extra pump lines from the studio reservoirs.

Through the night the firemen worked to extinguish the blaze. They were menaced by the falling timber of the structures, and many of them sustained cuts and bruises. The filming of the fire was based on all sides as one of the most gigantic feats ever accomplished for the screen.

"Children of Jazz" Coming. The Paramount production of the play, "Other Times," by Harold Brighouse, with Theodore Kosloff, Ricardo Cortez, Robert Cain and Eileen Percy in featured roles, comes to the Strand Theatre for a three days' run commencing Monday.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE TO-NIGHT REX STOCK CO. PRESENTING "CHEATING CHEATERS" REX NEXT THURS. FRI. SAT. ZANA Oliver Morosco's Great Comedy "OVER NIGHT" VAUDEVILLE BETWEEN ACTS PRICES: Evenings 10c, 20c, 30c, 50c. Sat. Mat. 10c. and 25c.

GRAND 3 NIGHTS COMMENCING Monday, Dec. 24 MATINEE CHRISTMAS DAY AT 2.30. TAMEO KAJIYAMA THE CELEBRATED MENTALIST, PRESENTS THE CLASSICS OF 1924 An International Revue—The Season's Greatest Surprise Great European Stars—Gorgeous Gowns—Elaborate Scenery—Superb Music and an Entire Company of International Star Artists Gathered From all Parts of the World—Introducing LIANE D'VEVE (Countess d'Veve) Anglo-French Comedienne. LA TERPSICHORE—From the Scala Opera House, Milan, Italy. Interpretive Dancer. PALO AND PALET—Instrumentalists from the Ziegfeld Follies Broadway's Latest Sensation. BATENOUCOURT—French Cuban Novelty Artist. EUNICE NOEL—English and Dutch Character Delineator. ART SORENSEN—Pianist, late of Dumbells Company. PRICES—Evenings and Christmas Matinee 25c., 50c., 75c., \$1.00. SEATS NOW ON SALE.

FIRE!! WITH A CAST OF STARS HEADED BY ALICE CALHOUN CULLEN LANDIS PERCY MARMONT JOSEPH KILGOUR "THE MIDNIGHT ALARM" HEART INTEREST DRAMA! SENSATIONAL THRILLS! BREATHTAKING SUSPENSE! THE BIGGEST SMASH PICTURE OF THE YEAR. CAPITOL THEATRE Starting Monday

BOOKS A PRAIRIE YEAR. "The Turn of the Year," by Frederick Philip Grove. Illustrated by C. M. Manly, A.R.C.S. 227 pages. McClelland & Stewart, Toronto. To confess that one usually experiences a slight misgiving on discovering that a new book is by a Canadian author is to convict oneself of gross prejudice. But for an attitude the hurrah methods of our publishers are at least partly responsible. So many "great Canadian" books have turned out to be very labored productions indeed when judged by artistic rather than nationalistic standards. The pleasure is therefore all the greater when one finds a book by a fellow-countryman which stands sturdily on its own bottom without needing to use the adjective Canadian first as a lure and then for an excuse. Such a volume is this collection of nature essays by Mr. Grove, illustrated with eight drawings from the pen of Mr. Manly which are not quite the equal of the text. The author happens to be the High School Principal at Rapid City, Manitoba, but in the book you find him a man to whom "nature is the one great experience of life." With him you watch old winter torn loose from his six months grip on the earth and live with him through the ensuing sixteen weeks of blazing and passionate life till the heralds of winter race down again out of the Arctic. That is all, but when you close the book

RECOLLECTIONS OF A PRIVATE SECRETARY By J. L. PAYNE

Early Newspaper Days and Men—Sir James Edgar's Trained Political Choir—The Private Secretary, His Duties, Painful and Otherwise—Civil Service and Patronage.

(ARTICLE THREE) Sir MacKenzie Bowell came to Canada a poor boy, nine years of age, and won his way to the highest post in the gift of the Canadian people. He provided his own equipment as he climbed the long ascent. In a large sense, greatness was thrust upon him; for it had never been his ambition to become Prime Minister of Canada. He told me so—not once but many times, and he was not the kind of man who talked insincerities. His final flight to high place grew out of a long series of promotions; yet the play of circumstances had more to do with his reaching the peak than anything else. He became the logical legate of Sir John Thompson's mantle by right of Cabinet authority, rather than by commanding merit in a free field.

and at Christmas we always have MOIR'S CHOCOLATES At Christmas one is entitled to taste of life's best, so naturally MOIR'S is the choice. Each delivery is wrapped in that incomparable chocolate coating for which MOIR'S has always been famous, and as you taste each intriguing centre you'll agree every morsel is a gem. Of course, for the family gathering the 5-lb. assorted box is indispensable. MOIR'S for the Holidays

inefficient as the head of a department of Government, without suffering loss of prestige; but mediocrity must toil or fall. If I were asked to sum up in a few words Sir MacKenzie Bowell's justification for having been a Cabinet Minister for eighteen years, and Prime Minister of Canada for fifteen months of that period, I should say it was to be found in his rugged common sense, his unswerving integrity, and his great capacity for details.

A few months after I joined him, Sir MacKenzie became the head of the newly constructed Department of Trade and Commerce. He built it up from the ground, choosing his own material. In doing so, I know that he deliberately selected men upon whom he could depend rather than men of exceptional ability. Was he not right in so doing? How hard it is to get men who can be counted on under all circumstances! One of the first things he did was to plan for the markets.

The mission to Australia grew out of that purpose. It took place in 1893. Sir MacKenzie did not select some one for that important piece of work. He went himself. I had moved about a great deal with Sir John Carling; but I now realized, as never before, the compensation which a private secretary receives for rather slavish work in the privilege of travelling. All my dreams of seeing much of the world came true during my service with six Cabinet Ministers. But this trip to the Antipodes, carrying us through the South Seas, was the most wonderful of all my meanderings abroad.

The Pacific Cable. The Pacific cable grew directly out of that mission to Australia. Sir MacKenzie took with him Sir Sandford Fleming, who had conceived that great project, stuck to it through years of discouragement, received from the various Australian states rather chilling answers, and finally carried it to victorious achievement. He was a man of conspicuous ability and infinite patience, joined to sweetness of character. That combination is more or less rare.

The Colonial Conference, held at Ottawa, in 1894, was another outgrowth of the mission to Australia. I had the honor of being official secretary of that important gathering, jointly with the late Douglas Stewart, who was the private secretary of Sir John Thompson. My colleague's part in the matter was, however, honorary. The work fell on me. In the following year the Newfoundland Conference took place, and on that occasion I also was given the post of secretary. Both these international assemblages gave me the privilege of contact with many men of eminence.

Bowell As Premier. The tragic death of Sir John Thompson at Windsor Castle, on 12th December, 1899, opened the door for Sir MacKenzie Bowell to become Prime Minister. He was the senior member of the Cabinet. He was at the moment acting Prime Minister. He was the sole survivor in office of the Macdonald Ministry of 1878. He was therefore the logical choice. It was an emergency, and there was not time to call a party caucus nor to weigh the claims of others. He had a clean name and a good record. Whatever may have been their esoteric feelings and wishes, his colleagues agreed to accept him as their leader. Not to do so would have made trouble, both within and without. Expediency prevailed, and when Lord Aberdeen called upon Bowell to take the Premiership, he accepted. That he had misgivings and suspicions, he revealed to me long af-

terward; but at the time he was silent. From December 21st, 1894, until 27th April, 1895, Sir MacKenzie Bowell was at the head of the Government of Canada. He made no changes in the Cabinet on taking the helm. How did his elevation affect him? In one sense, not at all. In another sense, very much. He remained the same affable, approachable, jaunty, sincere man he had always been. But his responsibilities weighed upon him. They were naturally and unavoidably heavy, and he lacked in some important respects the capacity to bear them. If, however, he was having any trouble with his colleagues, he concealed the fact from me. Communicative to a fault about other things, I never heard him utter a syllable about what went on within the Privy Council Chamber. Later, he opened his heart to me unreservedly.

Crash of 1896. Early in January 1896, came the crash. To myself it was a bolt without warning. Seven of Sir MacKenzie Bowell's ministers resigned in a body. They were: Hon. Messrs. Foster, Hargart, Ives, Montague, Dickey, Wood and Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper. Such a thing had never happened before in the political history of the country. The Liberal Oppositionists saw in this event the debacle of the Conservative party and an early ending to their own eighteen long years in the wilderness. To a friend in Parliament, Sir MacKenzie said, "I have been living in a nest of traitors," and the phrase stuck. Anxious days followed. Sir MacKenzie made a statement to Parliament, then in session, and asked time for reconstruction. In such crises it transpires that mediators play important roles, and this occasion was not an exception. The success of these go-betweens necessarily depends on diplomacy carried out of sight. I may now say that this important duty fell on two exceedingly competent members: Lord Strathcona (then Sir Donald Smith) and Hon. Sir Frank Smith. They brought about the understanding which restored a functioning Cabinet.

What lay at the bottom of this most distressing episode in our political evolution? For the first time since it occurred, I feel free to speak authoritatively. Sir MacKenzie took occasion to dictate his version of the matter to me very fully, and authorized me to publish the statement if, in my judgment, it ever became necessary to do so. I interpreted that instruction to mean if it ever became necessary for his personal vindication. No such situation has arisen, and it is not, therefore proposed to here give that statement. It would do no good. It would but open old sores; for it was tinged with the bitterness of personal disappointment and angry suggestions of betrayal. I was also made the confident of at least three of the bolting ministers, and know their point of view.

Reason For Desertions. Five of the actors in that melancholy drama are dead. I can, therefore without violation of trust, make an epitome of the reasons which impelled the desertions of 1896, and thereby perhaps do something to shed light on an otherwise ugly situation. The Conservative party had held the reins of government for nearly eighteen years. A general election had to take place soon. Signs of disintegration within the party were in evidence; for it is the inevitable fate of all party administration to defeat themselves in time. Bowell was felt to be a weak man. He had never been a campaigner, and was therefore not well-known throughout the country. He was utterly lacking in organizing genius. He would not appeal to popular imagination. He had been accepted more or less as a makeshift. An exceedingly strong man, whose very name and fame would become a rallying force, was urgently

needed. That man was felt to be Sir Charles Tupper. But how to get him? That was the question.

Afraid of Tupper. However it may be understood, let me say that at that very moment the answer lay within my own breast. Sir MacKenzie Bowell had not deceived his colleagues; he was better than his colleagues knew. He was the best of his kind. As the general election drew near, he many times told me of his dread. With the utmost frankness and sincerity he spoke of his desire to resign; "but," he asked, "who in the Cabinet would be acceptable as my successor? Sir Charles Tupper might be willing to take my place; but I cannot approach him. I am afraid of him." He always spoke that way of Sir Charles. He did not say "distrust;" but "afraid." The impression he made on my mind was that he did not like Sir Charles, and felt unable to cope with him in a contest of wits.

Sir Charles Tupper was then High Commissioner in London. I can now say something very definitely, which will show how easily the situation in 1896 could have been composed. Sir MacKenzie Bowell would have cheerfully exchanged places with Sir Charles Tupper, as a means of escaping from a position for which he felt himself unsuitable—not unsuitable in a general way, but in view of the approaching election. I can say that with the utmost positiveness, because he told me so a few months prior to the resignations, and also made it a part of the statement he entrusted to me. But he had not taken his colleagues into his confidence, and in panicky efforts to find a way out they simply struck. Swiftly succeeding events showed that at the same time they also committed suicide; for in the election which followed in June the Conservative party was overwhelmed.

As I look back on those dark days, my heart aches. I was exceedingly fond of Sir MacKenzie Bowell. He was the most considerate man I ever knew. Brusque, and blunt as he often was under irritation, he had a heart of gold. If he ever wounded by his hasty words, he could not rest until he had poured balm on the hurt. He was more particular to do so if the injured one was a man in humble circumstances. He was too proud to confess his weakness, and therefore stressed the fact of what he called "a cabal." His resentment was directed chiefly against one or two of his colleagues, whom he regarded as ring-leaders in the matter. He had an affectionate attachment for Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, and, strange to say—having regard to the outcome of the affair—he completely excused him from blame.

I must reserve for a later sketch several stories and observations which it is assumed will illustrate the character and peculiarities of the man as he was revealed to me. They will bring out the human side, as separated from the official; and that is what I believe my readers will desire to see. It might be explained at this time, however, that Sir MacKenzie was born at Rickeng-

DODDS KIDNEY PILLS