From Neglect to $1700 a Week

Special Correspondence.

LONDON, May 6.—W. Somerset Maugham's experience ought to gladden the hearts of would-be dramatists, whose number is estimated at about one-third of the total play-going population in England and America. They say that "Mrs. Dot," which was produced here by Charles Frohman and Arthur Chudleigh at the Comedy theater on Monday night, with Marie Tempest in the title role, had been kicking about in managers' pigeon-holes for three years until it had become so disreputable looking that it had to be re-typed. Yet its success was assured from the first ten minutes. The first-night audience forgot to look bored and critical and 'ha-ha-d' unrestrainedly, because it couldn't help itself. After it was all over the audience refused to go until the playwright himself had come out to bow his acknowledgments.

This "dark-complected," saturnine, no-romantic looking man of thirty odd now has three comedies going in fashionable London theaters, and all of them big successes, and another announced by Lewis Waller; whereas, a year ago, he was almost unknown. One play of his called "A Man of Honor," had been produced and had attracted a little attention among the young "intellectuals," but had not been a financial success. It was a grim, sordid, powerful, disagreeable play containing some real life and some real drama—enough to make the managers so afraid of him that although he turned his hand to light comedy no one would take a play of his.

Finally, through some lucky chance, his "Lady Frederick" was put on as a stop-gap at the Court theater last autumn, with Ethel Irving in the principal part. It is safe to say that Maugham could have had half-a-dozen contracts to sign the very next morning if he had been so disposed. The play outlived its allotted term at the Court and moved on to the Garrick, where it also out-lasted its lease, and on the same night when "Mrs. Dot" was produced at the Comedy, "Lady Frederick" moved a third time to the Criterion and apparently is going strong as ever. A few weeks ago "Jack Straw's Castle" by Maugham was put on with Hawtrey in the principal part, and this likewise made an instantaneous hit. "Lady Frederick," contracted for when the author was unknown, probably brings him only five per cent of the gross receipts or perhaps a little over—say $400 a week net to the author. "Jack Straw's Castle" probably nets him at least $600 a week and "Mrs. Dot" will certainly yield him $700 a week—a total of $1,700 a week from London theaters alone. American rights will soon be bringing him as much more, and the English provinces, Australia, and the continent will presently add their quota. The publishers are after the lucky dramatist also for book-rights of his plays. I believe J. M. Barrie once had three plays, all making money at once in London, but with this exception Maugham probably breaks the record.

With the exception of "A Man of Honor," which failed, none of the Maugham plays pretends to be anything more than entertainment—witty, polished and deft. If the author were to write another play now as sincere and sound and thoughtful as "A Man of Honor," there would be almost no question of its immediate acceptance. It might not make so much money at first as "Mrs. Dot," but it would be remembered for more years. It will be interesting to see if Maugham has the courage or the ambition.

* * *

Herbert Beerbohm Tree, greatest of English actor-managers and producers has just celebrated his coming of age as a manager "on his own." Twenty-one years ago he opened a season at the Comedy theater with Outram Tristram's play, "The Red Lamp"—which he still retains in his repertory, reviving it no longer ago than last spring—and so big a success did it prove that he was able out of the proceeds to take a lease of the Haymarket. Nine years later he built his present home, His Majesty's, with the backing, it is said, of the Rothschilds.

At the time of his first launch into management, Mr. Tree has been a professional actor for nine years and an amateur actor for some considerable time before that. He was 33 years of age and had already made a name for himself. The parts—Macari in "Called Back," Baron Hartfield in Jim the Penman," and the title part in "The Private Secretary"—widely differed in their character and gave a taste of the versatility which was to prove the outstanding feature of the actor's subsequent career.

I suppose one of Tree's greatest distinctions is the fact that he has made Shakespeare "pay." Even Sir Henry Irving came to the conclusion during the management of the Lyceum that it was necessary, in order to furnish the funds for his gorgeous Shakespearean productions, to alternate them with something of the nature of popular melodrama. But at His Majesty's the bard has filled the coffers and modern authors have occasionally almost emptied them. In his courage, his almost unlimited ambition and his praiseworthy subordination of the considerations of the box office, there is a striking similarity between Mr. Tree and the late Richard Mansfield.

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Some of the London newspaper men have been trying to get Tetrazzini to say something disparaging about her reception in New York, but the Italian singer is much too foxy to do any such thing, even if she were so disposed. She knows where her bread is buttered. As a matter of fact I gathered the impression from what she told me and the rest of the men who called upon her at the Cecil that, while she was very grateful to London for its reception of her last year, the English metropolis was of secondary importance as compared with New York.

"I have been engaged for 21 performances," the prima donna told me in speaking of her plans, "but I hope to appear more often than that, especially if I am received with the enthusiasm that marked my last visit here. I believe the role of 'Lucia' is my favorite, but during my London stay I hope also to appear in a revival of 'La Sonnambula,' which I think is especially suited to my voice." It is impossible to secure a seat for either of the two performances at which she is already announced to appear.

* * *

The busy and versatile Cosmo Hamilton, at Charles Frohman's bidding, rushed through his adaptation of the French farce, "Boute-en-Train," at almost record speed for production by Cyril Maude at the Playhouse Wednesday night. The public insists that Maude shall appear in 'silly-good-fellow' parts, and refuses to support him whenever he does something a little more serious, as in A. E. W. Mason's play, "Marjory Strode." The new farce, which has been christened 'Pre Tem,' is a noisy, bustling, rollicking story of a brainless youth who was mistaken for a prince and got into trouble enough to keep the audience well amused for three acts.

CURTIS BROWN.

Orino Laxative Fruit Syrup is best for women and children. Its mild action and pelasant taste makes it preferable to violent purgatives, such as pills, tablets, etc. Get the booklet and a sample of Orino at F. J. Hill Drug Co., "The Never Substitutors."

COUNTESS SZECHENYI'S PRESENTATION GROWN SENSATION OF LONDON.

(Continued from page fourteen.)

haired, with the coloring that you never find out of Ireland, Miss Redmond attracts attention wherever she goes.

"Every stitch of my trouseau is to be made in Ireland," she says. With that object in view she has just gone to Dublin with her step-mother and sister. According to present arrangements the wedding will take place at 6 a. m., an hour which Irish people often select for their marriages. After the wedding Doctor Powers and his bride will go to New York where they will make their home.

TALENTED DAUGHTER.

Mr. Redmond's second daughter, Miss "Joey" Redmond, although barely 20, is a dramatist and several of her Irish plays have already been performed. Like the rest of her family she is ardently patriotic and to have to live for a part of the year in London is one of the many grievances which she treasures up against the hated Saxon. She is a good horsewoman and is often seen in the Row in the early morning taking her canter.

THE CHARLEMAGNE TOWERS.

We in English society are delighted to hear that the Charlemagne Towers are expected in London for a brief stay during the coming summer. Berliners whom I have met say that Mrs. Tower is the cleverest American woman in Europe and we are all looking forward to meeting her. From all accounts she, and not her husband, is the American ambassador to Germany. She runs the embassy as well as Yankee society in the big German capital and at the same time is on intimate terms with that more than exclusive lady, the kaiserin.

Until the arrival of the Towers in Berlin it was truly a dull spot for Americans, who hitherto unless of great social standing, were left out in the cold. Like our own Edward, William of Germany has a great penchant for the rich. The Towers spend money royally. They run the embassy on a more expensive scale even than any of the imperial palaces. Moreover, they are decidedly cultured people and their contributions to hospitals and the kaiserin's pet charities are most lavish. Everyone of importance who has lived in Berlin knows that the empress has some philanthropic scheme everlastingly on hand and if her friends want to remain her friends they have to shell out every other week or so. Many of her charitable enterprises are private affairs. She hears perhaps of orphans in need of assistance, of a family which through some accident has come to grief and off she goes and makes collections for them. In cases of this kind the Charlemange Towers always come out in the big-hearted manner which characterizes them so that their uses to the imperial lady cannot be over-estimated.

LADY MARY.

Mrs. S. Joyce, 150 Sullivan St., Claremont, N. H., writes: "About a year ago I bought two bottles of Foley's Kidney Cure. It cured me of a severe case of Kidney trouble of several years' standing. It certainly is a grand, good medicine, and I heartily recommend it." F. J. Hill Drug Co., "The Never Substitutors."

NEW BRITISH PRIME MINISTER.

The Right Hon. Herbert Henry Asquith, recently made prime minister of Great Britain, is the first lawyer who has held the position since 1812. He is

now in his fifty-sixth year and is an Oxford man. He has been in office for many years, has been married twice and is the father of seven handsome daughters.

CONSULAR AND TRADE NOTES.

A report from Sydney, Australia, under date of March 1, places the exportable surplus of wheat from the commonwealth at 15,657,000 bushels, a reduction of 20,000,000 bushels as compared with the exports last year.

The London Iron and Coal Trades Review says that "a strong control is exercised by Chinese interests over the available supplies of tin both in Europe and in the Federated Malay states," and that "the price is likely to be forced much higher."

The decrease in shipbuilding in the United Kingdom is the greatest, according to the London Financial Times, in a quarter of a century. The tonnage now under construction is 101,000 less than at the end of last quarter, and 459,000 less than that of 12 months ago.

The United Kingdom and Germany have just published the text of an agreement respecting commercial travelers' samples, under which, when properly marked by the customs officials of one country, on exportation, they will be admitted without special examination into the other country.

Consul George N. West of Sydney, states that two new companies have been formed at Louisburg, Nova Scotia, for deep-sea fishing. They will start the season with four vessels, each of about 50 tons net register. The 15,029 men engaged in the fisheries of Nova Scotia in 1906 received $99,519 in bounties from the government.

Consul-General Ethelbert Watts forwards a pamphlet just issued by the Bureau Commercial des Expositions Societe Co-operative), under the official patronage of the Brussels exposition of 1910, which indicates the object of the bureau—for the convenience, information, and assistance of exhibitors, etc. The pamphlet is filed with the bureau of Manufacturers.

Consul Milo A. Jewett, of Trebizond, quotes the statement of a Turkish journal that the stock of flour at Constantinople was 100,000 sacks on February 29, against 40,000 12 months previous. On account of the temporary lowering of the duty, foreign flour was imported heavily, the stock on February 29, having been 50,000 sacks, against 15,000 one year previous.

The First National Bank of Brigham City, Utah.

This is the people's Bank of Box Elder County. It owns its own home, is managed by men ripe in banking experience, who have stood the test in the trying times of 1893 and 1907 and made good in each instance.

The bank is one of the strong concerns of the northern part of the state. None of its stock is on the market.

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Lorenzo N. Stohl is president and John D. Peters is cashier. The directors are Oleen N. Stohl, John L. Edwards, James Nelson, Peter M. Hansen, S. N. Lee and L. A. Snow.

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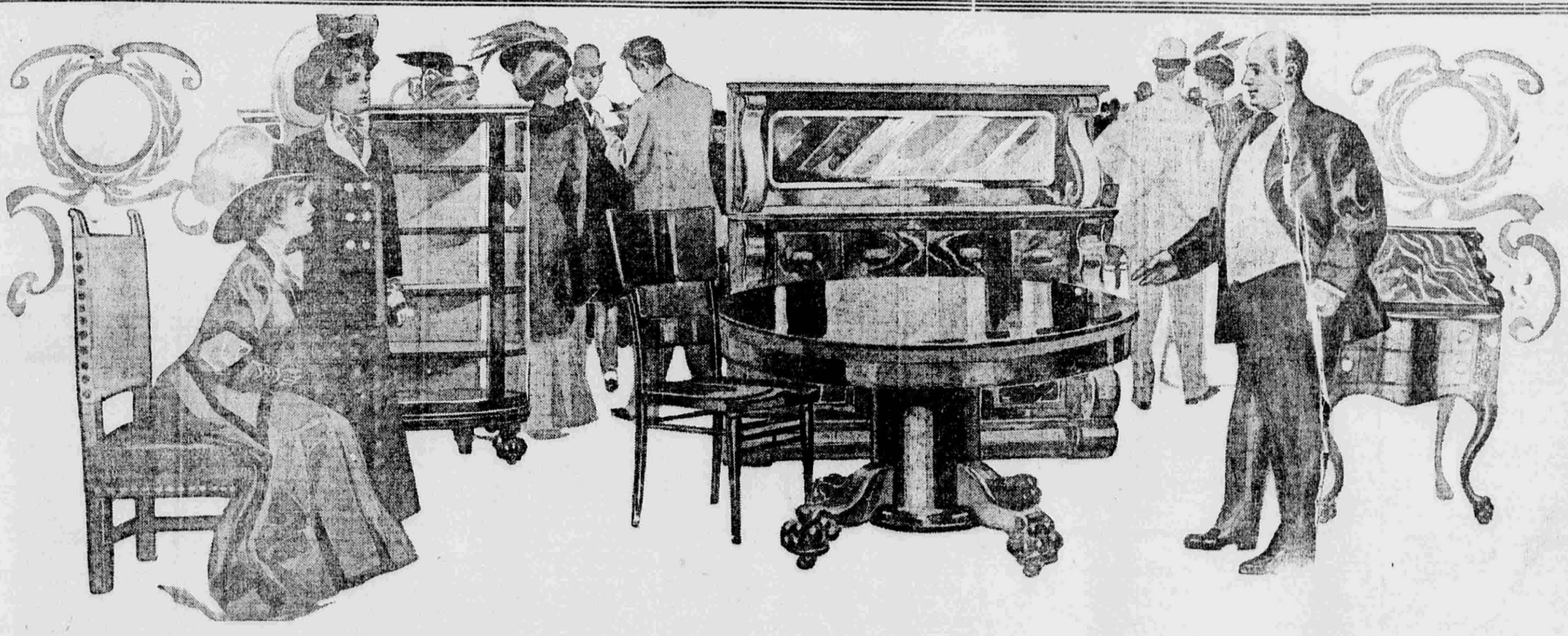

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