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MISS ROSELLE KNOTT MAKES ANOTHER HIT



Cousin Kate grows upon one.

It can well be seen more than once and each time it is seen, the discerning theatre goer will discover new beauties in its airy, goosamer like structure. For know ye all, that it is one of the sweetest, prettiest and daintiest little plays that have ever been brought to us, and the talented artist who offers it for our delectation is Roselle Knott, one of the brightest stars on the stage today, a Canadian woman and one whom her country should delight to honor.

Miss Knott first came to us as rollicking madcap Mary Tudor, in When Knighthood was in Flower. Her triumph in that is a matter of recent history. Now she returns to us in a modern comedy—a piece as different from Knighthood as the wood violet from the matured rose, both beautiful in their own way, but totally different in construction, fibre and charm.

Have you ever viewed a charming piece of scenery just as the first rays of the morning sun are whipping it with faint golden lashes, while the rosy hues of early dawn are gradually flooding the eastern skies? The birds are waking and softly twittering in the trees. The flowers, dew spangled, fanned by the gentlest of breezes, are being aroused to the day, while over all hangs the delicate perfume of the grasses and blossoms. Do you remember how the soft insinuating beauty of it all held you spellbound and you vowed you had never seen its like before? That is how Cousin Kate holds with its delicate and delightful humor, its sympathetic tone and sparkling and epigrammatic dialogue.

There is more talk than action in this three act comedy, in fact the first act might even be said to be "talky," but one does not weary of it.

To all intents and purposes there are but two people in "Cousin Kate"—Miss Roselle Knott, who has the title role, and Ernest Hastings, who appears as Heath Desmond, a rollicking, care-free, sunshiny Irishman, with a delightfully natural brogue. The other parts are but feeders to these principals.

The company is a small one and the play so delicate in construction that in the hands of any but a first class company it would lose its charm. As produced by Miss Knott it is a pleasant dream—produced by the ordinary repertoire company it would become a horrid nightmare.

Its story is simple and plain but clothed in such language as to make it charming; the scenery—well there is no scenery to speak about.

Cousin Kate is a bachelor girl novelist who confesses to having seen her 29th birthday, and charmingly she does it too. She is at the time the story opens, untattooed, she has had many suitors but as yet, her affinity has not appeared and she has not gone out of her way to find him. She has been invited to the wedding of her cousin Amy, who is to marry a young Irishman, Heath Desmond. A few days before the wedding Desmond and Amy quarrel over a trivial matter and Desmond takes a brief trip to London. He does not apprise Amy of his intention and his sudden and unexpected disappearance throws the household into a flutter. They fancy that Amy has been cruelly deserted and that the wedding will not take place. Desmond returns from London on the same train with Kate who makes his acquaintance in an unconventional manner without being aware of his identity. It is a clear case of love at first sight as is made manifest at a subsequent meeting. Kate learns the identity of her "affinity" and at once prepares to sacrifice herself rather than take Desmond from Amy. This, however, is not necessary as Amy's feelings have undergone a change in the interim and she finds that Rev. James Bartlett, who is "locum tenens" of the parish has supplanted Desmond in her affections. Consequently Amy gets Bartlett. Kate finds no obstruction to her love for Desmond and when the curtain falls two weddings are moral certainties.

Despite the fact that the plot in Cousin Kate is as slender as can be, yet the piece offers much to think about and affords Miss Knott limitless opportunities. The character she delineates is a complicated many sided one.

An impulsive, brilliant woman, who in her writings takes a cynical and decidedly unpleasant view of marriage, and of men, but whose soul is yearning for a partner, for some kindred spirit, the affinity, without whom her life is incomplete, and who, when in Desmond she recognizes that for which she has waited, is willing to sacrifice herself and her happiness, that her cousin may be spared even the semblance of pain. It is a beautiful character typical of the highest form of pure, all conquering love, unhampered by social conventionalities or limitations, a character whose impulses spring from the heart rather than the head, a delightful womanly woman, such as Miss Knott is naturally and temperamentally, especially well qualified to play. And she did play it excellently. Her work while of a more subdued tone than in Knighthood, showed her wonderful faculty of expressing diverse emotions with fidelity and in the second act particularly she carried her audience by storm. In fact cold and critical as a St. John audience usually is, Miss Knott melted their reserve with her first appearance on the stage and from that to the close of the play she had their complete sympathy.

Mr. Hastings, as Heath Desmond, was a typical Irishman. Natural and graceful at all times, finished in his diction and technically perfect he brought to the part just the proper quality of sunny geniality and whole-souled optimism to make him a fit life partner for the charming heroine.

Mr. Alexander as Rev. James Bartlett, gave a very satisfactory performance of an interesting character. He was the narrow minded type of clergyman to a nicety. Master Wilkes, as Bobby, showed himself to be a very clever boy, while Miss Odrington as Mrs. Spencer, Miss Winthrop as Amy and Miss De Remy as the maid were all satisfactory. Of course, Miss Knott was the centre of attraction and her work stood out clear and unapproachable above the others. And this is the natural result of her great talent, for she has no desire to monopolize the centre of the stage and it was noticeable last evening, as in "Knighthood," that all the curtain calls were participated in by the other members of the company.

Both matinee and evening performances were attended and thoroughly enjoyed by very large audiences and on the merits of the star and the productions this patronage should be continued during the entire engagement, for to see Roselle Knott in "Cousin Kate" is a privilege and a pleasure not to be overlooked.

MUNDAY KNIGHT.

THE PICNIC AT GAGETOWN

Conservatives Had Good Time
Yesterday and Listened to
Clever Speakers.

Nearly three thousand people attended the political picnic at Gagetown yesterday, conducted by the Conservative workers. Six steamers were chartered for the occasion.

Arrived at Gagetown the wharf presented a busy appearance. The ladies of the Tabernacle Baptist church, who had charge of the catering department in the court house, were busy early supplying the wants of the first comers and it was not until after two o'clock that the space in front of the court house, where a temporary platform, began to fill.

The Carleton Cornet Band, and the Marysville Brass Band, played a number of selections before the proceedings commenced, and between the speeches.

On the platform were S. L. Peters, president of the Queens County Conservative Association, Senator Wood, A. A. Broder, ex M. P. for Dundas, (Ont.); R. Pope, ex-M. P. for Cookshire, (Que); J. W. Daniel, M. P., G. W. Fowler, M. P., Donald Morrison, M. P., B. Frank Smith, M. P., P. Parker Glazier, M. P., R. Maxwell, M. P., W. W. Hubbard, organizing manager of the party; Warden H. W. Woods, E. R. Chapman and Councillors A. T. Camp, Duncan Case, A. Mott, Arthur Abernethy, O. B. Nickerson, of Queens county, and others. Mr. Peters expressed his regret that R. L. Borden had found it impossible to leave Ottawa to be present and dwelt briefly on the marvellous prosperity of Canada, which was due, he said, not to the liberal party but to the policy of the late Sir John A. Macdonald. Mr. Peters then introduced Dr. Daniel, M. P., as the first speaker.

Dr. Daniel said the occasion was his first political picnic. In referring to the absence of Mr. Borden, he said the leader of the opposition was the ablest parliamentarian in the house at Ottawa.

Turning to the past attitude of the Liberal party, Dr. Daniel referred to the opposition raised by the C. P. R., which had opened up the west and done so much to increase the welfare of Canada. The Liberals had paid the Atlantic Trading Co., \$5 a head to bring to the west Galicians, Doukhobors, Buckskinians and other strange people whose only idea of government was the lash, and had given them free lands. They would not, however, give free homes to the Canadians who had fought in South Africa. Dr. Daniel quoted extracts from the auditor-general's report on articles supplied to the ice breaker Montcalm and ridiculed the expenditure as extravagant and unnecessary.

A. Broder, M. P., followed and in a witty and characteristic speech said he had always been in the opposition. He would rather address the people as a farmer and knew of no class of people that received so much gratuitous advice from people knowing nothing of the business. He assured his hearers of Mr. Borden's disappointment at being unable to attend, and referred in glowing terms to his ability as a man and politician.

The Liberals, he said, adopted their opponents' policy on coming into power, and after promising free trade, had invited British preference. He ridiculed the idea of Hon. Sydney Fisher being termed a farmer. He had examined Mr. Fisher's effort in the chicken business. He had spent \$18,000 and got back \$8,000 which was a nice object lesson for a farmer to hold up to his sons and daughters.

The first duty of his hearers, Mr. Broder went on, was to put the Grtts out; the Liberal-Conservative party would look after the rest.

Senator Wood said the prosperity of Canada had little to do with the government. The population had increased half a million in the last five years and agricultural products had risen from \$50,000,000 in 1895 to \$93,000,000 in 1905. These things were largely due to the farmer.

The Liberals had not carried out free trade or any other of their numerous policies put forward while in opposition. On coming into power they adopted the policy of their predecessors, and all the features put forward in 1897.

Senator Wood also commented on the American Trading Company and the increased rate of taxation under Liberal rule.

The chairman then introduced A. W. Baird, who delivered a patriotic reading.

Mr. Pope, ex-M. P., caused some amusement by alluding to the extreme generosity of his Liberal friends who had given him a vacation. After paying a tribute to R. L. Borden, Mr. Pope said their opponents had been living for the past eight or nine years in glitter and circus, but the time was coming when the Conservative party would prevail.

Mr. Hazen, as leader of the local opposition, was greeted with cheers. He spoke strongly against the highway act and promised to repeal it if returned to power, giving the municipal councils a law which would give them a larger control. He also condemned the agricultural policy of the local government and claimed that more money had been spent in lawyers' bills than had been expended on agricultural societies and dairy and cheese factories in the province.

The boats started for St. John about 6.30 p. m., the first steamer reaching Indiantown at 10.05. Before leaving her wharf at Gagetown some trouble was experienced on the Victoria with a passenger from St. John who became embroiled with another man in a fight on board. Police Sargent Baxter and Policeman Semple, who went up with the steamer, handcuffed him as he was for a time unmanageable, but before the boat left he was allowed to go on condition that he went ashore.

Mrs. T. B. Flint, of Ottawa, was at the Royal yesterday.

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