

"Dream City."

"It's only a \$20,000 diamond bracelet. Don't bother to pick it up, dearie."

"The waiter needn't get mad. Ten thousand dollars is a big enough tip for a man when he only serves you a baked apple."

—Incidents in "Dream City."

Weber's "Dream City," with Mary Marble and Little Chip as the chief producers, made a big hit with a capacity audience at the Grand Theatre last night. Added to the efforts of these humorists were lots of pretty girls, catchy music, bright songs and handsome costumes that all contributed to make a successful and entertaining musical comedy.

Mary Marble, who revisits Seattle after an absence of ten years, with the same quiet comedy she displayed in the early days, played the part of "Nancy," the daughter of "Hiram Dinglebender," a Long Island truck farmer of German extraction with a chronic distaste for work. Little Chip, who made his name in the Hoyt farces years ago, played "Dinglebender," whose dreamy disposition was the source of the palatial Dream City from which the play takes its name.

There is a semblance of a plot to the piece that holds its thread all the way through, in spite of the strong tendency to vaudeville that crops out intermittently in the first act and continues in the doings in "Dream City" in the last act. "Dinglebender" has a farm that is coveted by one "J. Bilkington Holmes," a real estate agent, who has a plan to make the nearby town of Malaria Center a second New York, on paper. The first act is laid in the back yard of "Dinglebender's" farmhouse. To "Dinglebender" here comes the real estate agent and shows the farmer a plan of the contemplated city, which out-rides Dreamland at Coney Island for tinsel splendor. "Dinglebender" is left studying the plan and falls asleep in a shabby old rocking-chair to dream the city into actual existence.

The second act shows "Dream City" with a Great White Way, upon which "Dinglebender," his family and neighbors, converted into multi-millionaires, with a reckless disregard for money, disport themselves through a farcical travesty of the manners of the newly rich. After a brief life of excitement the exertion of living up to his income falls upon "Dinglebender," and he wishes himself back upon the old farm again. With a tremendous explosion the wish comes true. By a clever series of moving pictures upon a gauzy curtain, Dream City goes up in the air in fragments and darkness settles upon the scene. When the light comes on again there is Dinglebender seated in the shabby rocking-chair in the farmhouse, with the plan of the vanished Dream City lying before him.

Mary Marble's big hit was her song, "I Don't Think I'll Ever Be a Lady," sung in the second act after she has more money than manners. Nobody in the audience cared about her manners if she would only sing on indefinitely. She finally had to box off from further telling her troubles with etiquette. Her drollery, quiet humor and irresistible laugh gained the house for her, and she had plenty of friends, who will welcome her to Seattle any old time.

"Little Chip," who has another name to sign to checks and hotel registers, but never uses it on the stage, got his audience from the start and had them screaming with laughter all the way through the show. He succeeded Joe Weber in the part of "Dinglebender," and does not need any instruction from the star in getting comedy from the role of the German-American farmer. Chip has comedy in his face, comedy in his voice, comedy in his walk, and his legs are a scream. His dancing is imitable, and he made good with several songs, among them "Gratitude" and "In Vaudeville."

Marie Fanchonetti, a graceful and pretty girl, danced her way into favor in the high life of "Dream City."

Robert Harty, as the real estate agent, gave a clever interpretation of the hustling spellbinder who can talk an ear off the hardest-hearted investor. He had several good songs, and, with Johnny Johnson, who played "Beth Hubbs," convulsed the audience with parodies on "Oh, Promise Me" and other popular ballads. Johnson scored in the first act with his song, "The Volunteer Fireman." In the second act, as the quick-rich Robt, he was excruciatingly funny.

Taken all in all, "Dream City" is a good thing from start to finish, and from indications last night will pack the Grand all week.