

CORT BACK FROM THE EAST

Completes Bookings for Northwest Theatrical Circuit and Arranges for Tours of Mme. Calve and Florence Roberts.

Says Mrs. Fiske in "Leah Kleschna," Was Best Thing He Saw—Seattle Theatre to Be Burlesque House.

John Cort, general manager of the Northwest Theatrical Association, and manager of the Grand Opera House in Seattle, returned yesterday from New York, where he has been for nine weeks, booking attractions for next season for the theatres in the circuit he manages, arranging for the Mme. Calve and Florence Roberts tours, and securing attractions for the Seattle Theatre, which the syndicate will take over September 1. He was accompanied by Mrs. Cort and his niece, Miss Geoffrey.

"Of all the fine attractions I saw in New York I consider Mrs. Fiske in 'Leah Kleschna' the best," said Manager Cort. "Her play this season is the best she has ever appeared in. It is great. Next in importance, I think, was David Warfield in the 'Music Master,' 'Heir of the Hurrah,' 'College Widow,' and among the musical novelties, George Cohn in 'Little Johnnie Jones.'"

Fine Lot of Attractions.

Mr. Cort says he has booked for the Northwestern circuit the best attractions that travel. He promises Seattle playgoers a season of amusement that has never been excelled. The business of the Association has grown to such an extent that he found it necessary to open a permanent New York office, on the tenth floor of the New Amsterdam Theatre, placing E. A. Weil in charge.

"My trip was delayed longer than usual," said Mr. Cort, "because of the uncertainty as to what prominent managers would do, many being in Europe looking for novelties and not returning until June 5. The bookings therefore were not completed until that time."

The books and the contracts made in New York were sent out by express and have not arrived here. The Times will, on Sunday morning, announce the full circuit bookings for next season.

Florence Roberts' Tour.

Mr. Cort, who will manager Florence Roberts this season, has secured for her the Paul Armstrong problem play, "Ann LaMont," which is full of strong situations. Armstrong is the author of "Heir to the Hurrah," an attraction that has been playing to big business at the Hudson Theatre, New York, for the past six months and will probably remain all summer.

Mr. Cort says he is having a new production made in New York at a cost of \$5,000. The popular star will be supported by Max Figman, H. S. Northrop, Robert McWade and a complete metropolitan company.

The season opens conference week in Salt Lake City, October 2. From there the cities of the Oregon Short Line will be played, followed by Portland, up Sound to Tacoma and British Columbia cities, reaching Seattle for four nights, then to St. Paul, Minneapolis, Omaha, Kansas City, Salt Lake City and the large cities of the South. From New Orleans the company will play north to Denver, west to Los Angeles and will close the second week in March at the Columbia Theatre in San Francisco. From there the company will be taken to New York to open a long engagement Easter week.

Calve Tour Arranged.

All arrangements for the American tour of Mme. Calve, to be managed by Mr. Cort, have been completed. The great singer is now at the Opera Comique in Paris. She will arrive in New York October 5 and will open her engagement in Toronto, October 12, followed by Montreal, Boston, New York and other large cities of the country. She will reach Seattle January 22 and if the new Moore Theatre is finished by that time, Calve will open it. Calve is to give forty concerts in all, and thirty-four of this number have been guaranteed. The success of the tour, financially, is already assured.

While in the East with S. Kronberg, his partner in the Calve tour, Mr. Cort signed contracts with Damrosch and his orchestra for a tour of twenty-five concerts prior to his annual New York engagement. The orchestra will come no further west than St. Louis. The following season it is expected to bring him to the Coast.

To Play Burlesque.

The Seattle Theatre will be opened under the management of the Northwest Theatrical Association on August 27, and will be devoted entirely to burlesque. Mr. Cort arranged with the Empire Burlesque Circuit, comprising the leading burlesque attractions of the East, to extend the burlesque wheel to the Pacific Coast, taking in Butte, Spokane, Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, Salt Lake, Denver and Kansas City. There are forty theatres in the circuit in as many cities, and the tour makes it possible for companies to open simultaneously in each city and then gradually move on around the wheel. This means that there will be a new burlesque company at the Seattle every week for forty weeks. Popular prices of 75c to 25c will prevail. Each company carries from thirty-five to forty people.

After the three nights' engagement of the Frawleys, at the Grand, the middle of next month, that theatre will remain dark until the opening of the new season, September 1. Wilton Lackaye in "The Pit" will be the offering for the first production of the new season.

Mr. Cort says his trip was one of the most pleasant he has ever taken, although he was very busy every day of the time he was gone.

Well Known in East.

"I was surprised," he said, "to learn that so much is known in New York of the theatrical business of the Coast. The main surprise came in the fact that there was a general clamor all the time for big companies to reach this circuit. They are appreciating more than ever that the Northwest brings good business and the big chain of theatres managed by the association makes it possible for a company to remain in this section, with short jumps, for a period of from two to three months. The importance of the association and what it means to the theatregoers of the Northwest is as well, if not better, known in New York than it is right here in Seattle, where the association was formed and where its business is done."