

# FEARING DETENTION BREAK ENGAGEMENTS

## War Affects Theatrical Performers Booked for Canadian Towns

### DONKEY BARRED TOO

## But Foot and Mouth Disease Outbreak Was Responsible

Two actors at least—one of them a donkey—found it necessary or advisable to remain outside the borders of Canada during the past week, although they had been booked to appear at different Toronto theatres.

One of the two, the man, refused to fulfill his engagement to appear at Shea's Theatre this week because he is an Austrian by birth, and had not been in the United States long enough to take out naturalization papers, providing he had desired to do so. Instead of coming to Toronto he jumped his contract after playing last week at Toledo, and proceeded direct to New York city, where he claims to have been engaged for the coming Winter Garden show.

It was no fault of Jerry Shea's that the man was booked to appear at the local vaudeville house. He was booked by a New York agent and the stage name he supplied was Joe Jackson—which might indicate any nationality or color. The man's real name is Jirane, and because of his origin he feared that the Canadian military authorities would take him as a prisoner of war.

### Donkey Was Stopped.

The donkey in question, and his name wasn't Maud, was stopped by the border officials last Sunday. The show manager couldn't get a pass or a bill of lading or whatever would be taken out for a donkey for love or money because of the strict regulations in force during the foot and mouth epidemic among animals in the Middle States. The poor donkey was made the goat for the simple reason that the officers at the border are not allowing the entry of cattle or horses into Canada during the disease scare. The donkey was to have been used in the performance at the Star Theatre.

Last week the burlesque company which came to the Gayety Theatre lost its musical director because Canada happens to be in a state of war. In this instance, however, the orchestra leader was a Russian reservist, who was afraid that, as soon as he placed foot upon Canadian soil he would be forced to return to the Russian army. Accordingly he threw up his position and remained in the States.

### Fill Out a Form.

Enemies, neutrals or friends, however, the members of the theatrical profession are receiving every consideration at the hands of the Canadian border officials, The Daily News was told to-day. As soon as an actor or actress who is entering Canada proves his or her mission, the immigration inspector simply requires the person to fill out blank form, on which information as to the stage name, real name, place of birth, destination in Canada, length of stay in Canada, destination after leaving Canada, etc., is required. This form is sent on to the authorities at Toronto, if the company is headed for a local theatre, and frequently these lists are checked up by a local official. Then, before the end of the week, the paper is forwarded to the border point where the company will leave and the lists are again checked. If anybody is left behind because of sickness or other reason, a formal investigation is made.

Manager A. McArdle, of Shea's Hippodrome, told The Daily News that no difficulty was being experienced by any members of the profession who were booked to appear at his playhouse. All nationalities were allowed to appear without hindrance. The same statement was made by Manager Reinstein of Loew's Winter Garden Theatre, who declared further that he believed that there was not a single actor or actress on the Marcus Loew Circuit who would be stopped or who would not put on their act at the local house.

### Shows Not Changed.

"The shows which are staged at the Gayety Theatre are not altered to suit Canadian tastes because they do not have to be changed," also declared Manager Henry of the Gayety. "The fact is that the managers of some of the shows on the Columbia circuit have considered whether they should change their performances when they are given in certain American cities. For instance, it was believed for a time that

the audiences in Milwaukee would not stand for 'Tipperary' because there are so many Germans in Milwaukee, but it is sung there as freely as in any other place. No less than thirty-eight of the forty-five odd shows in the Columbia circuit are staging 'Tipperary' all over the United States and Canada, and it is a fact that I am beginning to wish that they would discard the song, because the people are beginning to get tired hearing it so often."

Manager Henry also pointed out that a great many in the profession are not really natives of European countries, but were born in the United States of foreign parents, so that they could not be considered really alien enemies. Quite a number in the burlesque field are of Russian parentage.

Aerobic or bicycle turns are very often included in the programmes for the various local vaudeville houses, but the "athletes" in many cases are Englishmen, although Germany has been considered the home of acrobats.