

# ROTARIAN COMEDY STIRS ALL NYACK

**Mayor's Arrest in Bride's Finery  
Furnishes Publicity That  
Packs Theatre.**

## 'THE WOMANLESS WEDDING'

**Justice Tompkins Officiates as Stage  
Clergyman and the Show Is  
to Be Repeated.**

*Special to The New York Times.*

NYACK, N. Y., April 18.—Nyack was planted four square on the theatrical map of the United States tonight when every seat in the theatre was jammed, hundreds were turned away and arrangements were hastily made for another performance tomorrow night of the side-splitting comedy, "The Womanless Wedding," presented by the local Rotarians for the benefit of crippled children.

The oldest resident here, as he hobbled slowly down to his seat in the front row, said that never had he seen any theatrical company create such a furor.

Behind the scenes as they saw the crowds pouring into the theatre, Robert E. Prew, the bridegroom of tonight's play, and A. S. Rossborough, manager of the telephone company, chuckled with glee as they saw the excellent result of the publicity given their conspiracy of yesterday when Mayor Theodore Odell was left stranded in the middle of the town dressed in his bride's finery and was then arrested on a charge of impersonating a woman.

The arrest of the Mayor and the resultant publicity brought such a demand on the committee for seats for tonight's performance that shortly before noon every seat in the schoolhouse, where the show was to be given, was sold. The requests for seats continued to pour in during the afternoon and before night it was decided to switch over to the theatre. The school seats only 400, while 1,500 can be accommodated at the theatre.

Before 8 o'clock tonight the theatre was sold out, restaurants had their kitchens and pantries wiped clean by hungry visitors, and automobiles were parked for six blocks on either side of the theatre. Rotarians came from New York and New Jersey, determined to see their fellow-Rotarian who was such a good fellow that he did not mind being arrested by his own policemen, if it was in the cause of charity.

The announcement that the performance would be repeated tomorrow night was greeted with great applause by those who were unable to secure seats for tonight's performance.

Through all the excitement Mayor Odell remained in strict seclusion and locked himself in his office at the Rockland Light and Power Company, denying himself to all callers. Not so with the half-dozen middle-aged Rotarians who later in the evening were the flower girls at "The Womanless Wedding."

As the arrangements called for their appearance in sleeveless dresses and baby socks, befitting little flower girls, they wended their way in a body to the drug store and bought out the druggist's whole stock of hair remover. Then with legs and arms beautifully whitened, as soft as any chorus girl's, they arrayed themselves in their finery.

Supreme Court Justice Arthur S. Tompkins was the officiating clergyman at "The Womanless Wedding," and the cast included nearly 100 prominent citizens of this and near-by towns.

Despite anything that any dramatic critic may say to the contrary, the show was a success. The Mayor said so, the Chief of Police said so, and the 1,500 persons who paid real money to see it laughed all through the performance, so it is believed they thought so also.

## AUTOPSY ON MRS ALLISON.

**Death From Criminal Operation Is  
Indicated, Says Dr. Norris.**

Dr. Charles Norris, Chief Medical Examiner, performed an autopsy yesterday on the body of Mrs. Anne Allison of 1,280 Dean Street, Brooklyn, for whose death at 114 West Seventy-first Street on Sept. 29, 1923, Henry Lee Mottard, alias "Dr. Henry L. Green," is a prisoner in the Tombs under \$25,000 bail on suspicion of homicide.

Dr. Norris announced that no report on the autopsy would be made until after a chemical analysis. The death of Mrs. Allison was attributed to a fall down an elevator shaft in the report filed with the Health Department. Dr. Norris said that the autopsy indicated that she died as a result of a criminal operation.

Acting District Attorney Ferdinand Pecora later in the day issued a statement, which said in part:

"I have been told that there is no indication of any fractured bones, such as would follow from a fall of such violence to cause death."

Mottard again was arraigned yesterday before Magistrate Frederick B. House in the Homicide Court, but the hearing was adjourned and the suspect remanded back to the Tombs until April 20.