

# THRONGS JAM THEATERS WHEN BAN IS LIFTED

**Orpheum, Alcazar, Curran,  
Hippodrome and Film  
Houses Do Big Business.**

**BIG SUM FOR WAR WORK**

**En-Masse and En Masque,  
City Leaders Renew En-  
joyment of Stage**

Fear of the influenza over, San Francisco crowds took their accustomed pleasure in the theaters and movie houses yesterday afternoon and last night, with a keen appetite whetted by twenty-nine days of total abstinence.

The lean theatrical period ended with a whoop yesterday afternoon when the Orpheum, the Hippodrome and the movie houses opened for their long-neglected Saturday matinees. The Alcazar and the Curran, however, waited for the regular evening performance to celebrate the lifting of the ban by the Board of Health.

The afternoon crowds were good, but there was some hanging back for the evening performances, at which time the theatergoers felt they might more completely celebrate their deliverance.

## **ORPHEUM SOLD OUT**

Then they turned out. The Orpheum was sold out, with one of those tremendous houses in which even the upper boxes were packed. The Hippodrome was jammed continuously all the evening long. The Alcazar stock company opened to a crowded house and the Curran was packed.

As might have been expected after so long an intermission, the audiences in the playhouses and at the high-class film shows were representative of the best of theatergoers. The leaders of the city took the evening for renewed enjoyment of the delights of the stage and the screen.

The movie fans went back to their accustomed diet en masse and also en masque. Masks were de rigueur in all the showhouses, and even the seasoned Orpheum habitués managed to forego their accustomed privilege of smoking.

## **SUBSTANTIAL SUM**

Though no returns were made last night on the amount the United War Work campaign will realize from the proceeds of the opening day in the showhouses, estimates based on the side of the crowds yesterday afternoon and last night were that the sum will be one of the most substantial the drive has realized.

Morris Meyerfeld of the Orpheum figured that his house will turn over to the United War Work fund between \$1000 and \$1500, with perhaps even more, the total being dependent on volunteer donations of their services by musicians, stage hands and performers.

Manager Edwin A. Morris of the Hippodrome estimated the net proceeds he will be able to turn over at about \$500. In addition to this collection taken at the matinee, the evening performances realized between \$600 and \$700 for the United War Work campaign. No figures were available at the Alcazar and the Curran, though there were assurances of a goodly sum in each case.

Fatty Arbuckle and John A. Britton spoke for the United War Work campaign at the Orpheum last night and William H. Crocker handed up a check for \$500.