

# BELASCO DEDICATION GIVEN

## *Producer Expresses Wish for Success of New Los Angeles Theater Opening November 1*

A dedication to the new Belasco Theater, Hill at Eleventh, which opens Monday evening, November 1, with Edgar Selwyn's production, "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes," has been written by David Belasco, America's greatest dramatic genius, as follows:

"The spoken drama is one of the lodestars of civilization. It is a great inspiration to mankind. Since the drama was given to the world by Thespis, the ancient Greek, it has been one of the greatest methods of expression for humanity. It is a great pleasure and really an honor for me to say a few words in dedication of the new, beautiful Belasco Theater—another splendid edifice to be devoted to the spoken drama.

"I have a warm spot in my heart for California. It was the Golden State that gave me birth. It was in California that I spent my childhood and began my life's work. In all sincerity I do not believe that the people throughout our great country realize that, with the exception of New York, Los Angeles now has become the foremost producing center for the legitimate stage. We should realize that a larger number of successful stage plays have come out of Los Angeles than any other city in America except New York.

"The environment, combined with the natural elements of the Golden State, are conducive to highly creative and artistic endeavor. The climate, the surroundings with the intangible sense of inspiration, are responsible for this creative spark.

"I feel highly honored in having this artistic new playhouse named for me. My brother, Edward, could have no greater incentive for a theatrical

career than to be associated with a group of stage idealists, who are seeking to further the prestige of the spoken drama in Los Angeles. Since the days of the immortal Greek dramatists—Eschylus, Sophocles, Euripides and Aristophanes, down to the present time, the drama has been one of the great forms of human expression. Great plays have lived perhaps longer in proportion than the other forms of literature. The plays of the world's three greatest dramatists—Sophocles, Shakespeare and Moliere—are living today with perhaps greater honor and memory than when they were first given to the world.

"I consider it an honor that my plays are to be presented in the new Belasco Theater. There is no one who wishes greater success for the new theater and its managers, my brother, Eddie, Fred Butler and Gerhold Davis, than myself. It is with the building of beautiful theaters like this throughout the country that the dramas of the spoken word are being appreciated with splendid and renewed enthusiasm.

"I congratulate the people of Los Angeles on having this magnificent playhouse. Long live the drama!"

### EDITS UNCLE'S POEMS

Walter Tennyson, motion-picture actor and nephew of the English poet, is now editing a new American edition of his uncle's writings which will be published soon.