

## FRANK CRAVEN

*The First Year.* (Not yet available.)

Frank Craven was born of theatrical parents; both his father and his mother were playing with the Nat Goodwin-Eliza Weathersby company when Mr. Craven was born. Young Mr. Craven played his first part in "The Silver King" when he was three. From the ages of five to eighteen he worked on and around a farm in New England and attended school. At eighteen he went back to the stage, curiously enough in "The Silver King". His great stage success came in 1911 in the role of Jimmy Gilley in "Bought and Paid For".

The first plays he attempted to write were not successful; but his current success, "The First Year", in which he is himself acting, is considered by many persons to be one of our finest native comedies. When Mr. Craven closes that play he intends to retire from the speaking stage and devote his time to the writing and producing of plays.

"Quietly, modestly, with none of the preliminary boasting which is so often the work of the weaker psychologists of the theatre, a little homespun comedy sneaked into New York this season and established itself overnight as one of the best, if not the best, ever written by an American. It is called "The First Year" and is the work of Frank Craven. He has fashioned for himself a piece so unpretentious, so true, and so charmingly amusing that it will find a response and welcome in every American town that is big enough to have a theatre at all."—Alexander Woolcott, *EVERYBODY'S*. February. 1921.

### REFERENCES:

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- Sketch. *THEATRE MAGAZINE*, September, 1917.
- Interview. *NEW YORK DRAMATIC MIRROR*, September 30, 1916.
- Work of Frank Craven. W. P. Dodge. *THEATRE*, June, 1914.