

Copy of Letter and Notes received from Lt.Col. C. Gordon King , Februray 21. 1987 re : Movies and Theatres.

Dear Percy : I have come upon some more info. which may be of help to you. Vic Hall Opera House was at times used for movies. I have found negative and positive evidence of this as I researched Vic. Hall activities.

Cob. World- May 8, 1908 - in Town Council news. No moving pictures are to be allowed in the Opera House at Present, and Mr. Wark, the caretaker, is requested to remove the wires."

C.W.15 July, 1910- The Town Council gave A.F.Perks license for a moving picture show. The King George ? Likely. (The K.G.was where the Bank of Montreal is to-day.

C.W.-15 Dec. 1911- The Town Hall insurance will decrease with the new heating system installed, but will increase if a motion picture cabinet is put in. (In Town Council News).

C.W. 9th Feb. 1912 p4. Town Council debate re movies in V.H.O H.-1 Col.+.

C.W.Nov. 1913 p.1.- Talking pictures at the O.H. Thurs. & Fri. Nov. 20&21. The Kinetophone, Thomas A. Edison's latest invention.

14 Nov. 1913- ditto- prices 25, 35 50. Matinees 25.  
The greatest amusement novelty ever shown.

C.W. 13 Feb. 1914 pl. - in O.H. Mon. 16th Feb- Thos. A. Edison's Kinetophone. Genuine laughing, singing, talking pictures - Evening 25, 35, 50c.Matinee 25c.  
- A war drama "The Deaf Mute"+ comedies farces, dramas.

C.W. Mar 12, 1915 pl. T.C. will receive tenders up to Apr.1st next for leasing of the O.H. for a term of five years. Moving Picture shows are not allowed.

C.W. 25 Feb. 1916 & 3 Mar. 1916- "Birth of a Nation" to be shown in the O.H. on Mar. ~~XXXXXX~~ 9 & 10. -- big ad and item.

(14 April 1916 - the term"Victoria Theatre" is used.)

C.W. 9 Mar. 1917 - in V.O.H.- Wed. Mar 14- "Canada in Khaki"- 6000 Ft. of film with scenes of personnel from 3rd. Military District- Trenches, bayonet fighting, Field Artillery firing, etc. -- None of the horrors of war (Percy, it must have been a bloodless training film). It was sponsored by the 235th Battalion. Wilmot Young, a noted actor and lecturer was the commentator as the picture was shown.

C.W. 13 Sept. 1918 - The Town Clerk was authorized to rent the O.H. for movies during the Tractor Demonstration week, against the town by-law forbidding this. The new wiring was in and Mr. Skidmore said it was now safe. The lesee had to pay the extra \$30. insurance besides the regular fee.



Re : Bijou Dream- Gem- King George theatres.

C.W.- 31st Jan - 1908 -- The moving picture theatre, Bijou Dream is to be in Mr. Willis stand, one door East of the Post Office.

C.W. 22 & 29 Dec. 1911 -- Ads re pictures - one is "the Life of Christ", (Gem) another "Uncle Tom's Cabin" - (these are on Page 1 & P. 8.)

C.W.- 19 Jan . 1912 - The Gem put on a benefit show for the Cob. Hospital proceeds \$25.00.

26 Jan. 1912 - To close during the hockey season to 16th of March.

12 April 1912 The Gem to present "Uncle Tom's Cabin" + Vaudeville( ar/ad.)

C.W. ~~XXXXX~~, 21 Mar. 1913 - ad for "The Battle of the Long Sault." evening - 10 and 15c. Matinee - 5 & 10c. at the King George.

C.W. 9th April - 1914-p8. Moving pictures at the K. G. Theatre on the 16th and 17th showing Ford cars being made from raw materials to finished product-- in connection with free demonstration of Ford cars by F.M. Smith of the Ford factory -- Afternoon and Evening.

C.W. - 12 Nov. 1915 - Notice of a new theatre to be built across from the Dunham Hotel -

C.W. 2 June 1916 - Page 8. Mitchell and Perks have commenced a complete renovation of the King George theatre (4 " Item.)

C.W.- 20 April ,1917 P.1. "Birth of a Nation" coming to the K.G.Theatre. Tuesday April 24th. ( Grace says this was the first movie she ever saw. She used to sit on Archie Perk's knee as he sold tickets. )

C.W.- 11 May 1917 - A new picture show on the Commercial Hotel property, plus a new printing ship for The world just West of it(correction East) is being worked on by Martin Jex and Company.

C.W. 30 Nov 1917 p.8 - A picture ad for the King George theatre "The Deemster" plus Goddring's Orchestra in attendance. Children-15, Adults 25c.

C.W. 12 July 1918 P.4- K.G.Theatre front painted; details of changes in old Commercial Hotel.

C.W. - 6th Sept 1918 - P 1 & 8. - K.G.taken over by James Drompares as of Monday Sept. 9th. (Note by Climo- I believe this was done to provide extra and special entertainment during the Tractor Demonstration week.)

C,W.- 20 Dec. 1918 - K.G.Rented by the Salvation Army for twelve months.

When Mr. Mitchell finally sold the building he gave the seats (Folding) to the Cob. Drama Club and they were installed in the room now housing the Town Council, the top floor, East side of Vic. Hall.

(The note sheets to be returned to Gordon ) Re the Kintophone productions in V.H.- I have searched the next three papers in each case and found no references to the performance. I just searched up to 1918. I have somewhere a picture of Archie Perks in front of the K.G. but I cannot find it. See the one on the wall in the Bank of Montreal.

Typed Feb 22, 1987.