

MOVING PICTURES AS MEANS OF ATTRACTION

Great Actors Have Taken to The Film and More are Realizing Its Great Popularity

That moving pictures are becoming more popular every day is a fact acknowledged now by even the most fastidious who were strongly opposed to them at their innovation. Famous actors are gradually realizing this state of affairs and one by one they are dropping their various careers of appearing personally before the footlights and are instead, taking their places before the camera.

In addition to the amusement afforded to the movie-loving public the advantages of the film is being recognized as a great means for education. "Take for example," says one well known educationalist of this country, "the day school and the Sunday School. How difficult it is to attract the young element and maintain their interest, once they have been persuaded to make regular attendances. Suppose instead we could assure them that they would be shown a picture show, what would be the result? Why we would find nearly all such places for the young would be filled to over capacity."

In support of the argument it was stated that the movement is on foot to use the movie camera as a means of showing in the day school practical instances of what is being taught and in the Sunday School, the old old stories such as grown-up people nowadays were told when they were young. "We remember them even in the telling," added the educationalist, "and how much more therefore would our children remember them if they saw them in pictorial form."

The suggestion that objections might be made to this form of entertainment on Sundays was looked upon by the speaker as very narrow-minded. He referred to several well-known people of all countries who have greatly altered their opinions as to the value of the "movies" and it is in this connection that we mention the following few instances which show how the picture-loving public may be expected to be catered for as this great form of entertainment develops.

Mr. Robert Mantell is one of the greatest living exponents of Shakes-

peare but he has at last made up his mind to portray his beloved characters for the camera.

Mr. Mantell says:—"I have no fault to find with the public. They have supported me loyally these many years and they have given me this home. But to-day there is no general public for the actor, no matter whether he be tragedian or some other type. The general public is now found in the motion picture houses.

The last two seasons pictures have come in so strongly that I found that I was not getting the same patronage that I did four or five years ago. The gallery was gone. When I began to note that I saw the handwriting on the wall. There were times in the old days when I could always count on 800 or 1,000 boys in the gallery.

Recently I played to as many as ten and twelve. Then we began to depend upon the schools and colleges for patronage, but they, too, began to slip away from us, at last conquered by the lure of the motion picture.

"Within the past two years there have been plenty of good dramatic plays that opened and then closed immediately, which would have run indefinitely ten years ago. The stage has stood still while the motion picture has gone on. The pictures are now occupying the centre of the world's stage.

They have come to be so great and are so good and so cheap, that we of the \$2 lot have either to retire or go in with them. I recall the days, not so far back, when it seemed as if all the automobiles in the cities where I was presenting Shakespearean roles were parked at the theatre where I was playing.

But that day has gone. Few automobiles were seen around the theatre where I was playing during my last two seasons. Down the street you would see them parked around the motion picture theatre.

Ten years ago I would have despised even the thought of going into motion pictures. But to-day they have become so artistic; they have increased in the value of artistry at least 1,000 per cent. The greatest

people are going into them and why should I not do so?"

As Mr. Mantell talked, his wife, Genevieve Hamper, sat beside him and entered into the conversation with lively zest. Miss Hamper also has signed a contract to work in pictures, and she, too, shares in every respect the ideas of her husband.

Surely He Is.

There has come to numerous film companies recently a mimeographed letter from one Gerald Luisi, who is sure he is the champion motion picture actor of the world. Luisi, according to his autobiography, has been serving as a private detective and secret service agent for many years, and he knows everything about crime that is worth knowing.

"During the course of my experience," he writes, "I have impersonated capitalist, lawyer, doctor, nurse, burglar, surveyor, tramp and dope fiend. I was kidnapped, poisoned, almost asphyxiated, stabbed, and assaulted many times, and at the present time I carry six bullets in my body."

Luisi wants a motion picture job, and he will throw in the bullets for good measure.

A Famous Dancer.

When asked to explain her motives in accepting the Universal's offer to become a photo-player, Anna Pavlova, the distinguished dancer, answered:

"At best I can appear even in America in only a score of the metropolitan cities, aside from London, Paris, and a few great Continental cities I have never appeared at all. In these and other war-stricken nations, including my own country, I am unable to face the public in the flesh under the appealing conditions now existent; hence I welcome the God-given new art which enables one to leave records of her artistry for all time.

"The great moment to embrace this ennobling art is when one's career is in its zenith. It was the goal of these perpetual film records and what they would mean when my gifts are less than now that determined me to harken to the call, and I am convinced, after some days in this amazing, new environment, that my art will be immeasurably enhanced.

"Truly, I hope to increase my vogue with the public tenfold, while those who have admired me on the stage will marvel at the grandeur of this spectacle which a new science has made possible."

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INTERFERENCE WITH POLICE IS SERIOUS

Incident at Timmins Draws Warning From Magistrate as to Future Cases of This Kind

"There is a good deal of interference with the Police of this Town when they go to arrest a man, especially among foreigners and I want to say right now that this is a very serious offence and will be very seriously dealt with in future."

Such was the substance of comment made by Mr. T. M. Wilson, J.P., at the Timmins Police Court on Monday afternoon when, accompanied on the bench by Mayor W. H. Wilson, a case of a Russian charged with interfering with P. C. Craft in the execution of his duty was gone into.

From the evidence of the officer, he was taking a drunken Russian into custody between two and three o'clock in the morning and the prisoner followed on the way to the Police Station. Here he endeavored to persuade the officer to let his charge go and, it was alleged, laid his hand on the policeman.

It was only because the Bench thought he had no intention of actually interfering but rather thought he might use some persuasion in getting his intoxicated friend free that the charge against him was dismissed, the warning recorded above, being given. The man who was drunk paid a fine of \$25 and costs.

Must Use Notes and Not Gold

London, Aug. 12.—In view of the importance of the strengthening of the gold reserves the Treasury has instructed the post-office and all public departments making cash payments to use notes instead of gold whenever possible, says a Press Bureau announcement to-day.

The public is earnestly requested in the interests of the nation to cooperate with the Treasury in this policy by paying all available gold to the post office and the banks, and in making payments whenever possible in checks and notes instead of in gold.

A Few "Reels."

Life, seemingly, is just one reel after another.

Why not an educational film on the dangers of the safety razor?

Here's a parody: "The movies ha' the gift to gie us To see oursel's as ithers see us."

Many a god movie of the days when Knights were hold has been hr when knights were hold has been spoiled by an eight day clock.

Now another expert predicts that the war's crisis will arrive next spring. That's nothing—a crisis occurs every day in the movies.

Victor Potel has needed only one thing to make his make-up complete in the Snakeville comedies, and he obtained it—a bald head. He used some preparation labeled "Hair Tonic," and it took every bit of hair from his head. He is now using another tonic to coax it back.

The latest addition to the string of stage stars now signed for appearances on the screen under the Kessel and Baumann banner is Mary Boland, for many years leading woman for John Drew in Frohman attractions. Miss Boland's most recent starring engagement was in Joseph Brooks' production of "Mr. Lady's Dress."

The wild animals housed in the Sells jungle-zoo recently opened at Los Angeles, Cal., are of every description, ranging from elephants to guinea pigs. The wild animals alone are valued at \$300,000. To feed the animals the Sells company orders each day two beehives, fifty gallons of milk, a ton of hay, twenty-five bushels of oats, three sacks of bran, 850 loaves of bread, three bunches of bananas, and a wagon load of vegetables. The Sells jungle-zoo and park are composed of forty acres. In the park are the large dancing pavilion and picnic grove. The landscape gardener who designed the park was paid \$20,000.

Exhibitors and motion picture followers have often said that Mary Pickford attained her greatest screen triumphs clad in rags, so it is particularly interesting to note that the title of the next Mary Pickford release of the Famous Players Company bears that name. "Rags" is from the pen of Edith Barnard Delano, and was written especially for Miss Pickford.

WILL THIS SPILL TEACH A LESSON?

To Auto Drivers of Reckless Inclination in the Gold Camp District

Attention has been drawn in The Advance at one time and another to various narrow escapes in the gold camp through motor car accidents, in some cases the occurrences being purely accidental while in others, due to reckless driving.

A spill which took place late on Sunday night last, whether due to recklessness or otherwise was, by all accounts, one attendant with miraculous escapes on the part of those involved and, if the details so far as can be learned, are correct, it is a wonder how one or more of them were not either instantly killed or fatally injured.

The report is that a well known Timmins driver, with a car full of passengers was proceeding to South Porcupine when, at the bottom of Rea hill where the turn lies, the car, travelling at a high rate of speed was overturned and the driver with a companion in the front seat were thrown out.

The assertion is made that those in the back seat were practically held in prisoners by the top of the car which went over into the ditch. All concerned, however, are reported to have escaped without even a broken limb.

Above is the report so far as can be gathered authentically but whether the incident and the narrow squeak will prove a lesson to this driver remains to be seen. One fact is predominant that the same kind of driving as is carried on by him in this district if even attempted in a city or large town would meet with very quick attention from the authorities where a policeman is stationed at nearly every corner and proceedings result with a probable loss of license. In cases of this description the safety of the driver and passengers are not the only factors to be considered—the public have a right to be protected.

The inquest into the death of Pte. Leonard Bellamy, drowned while on duty on the Welland Canal on the night of July 24, was concluded yesterday. The jury believed there was foul play but could not fix the responsibility.

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