

AT THE LOCAL THEATRES

Timely Film on the Double Feature Bill At Cartier Theatre

Ralph Byrd and Lorna Grey in "Drums of the Desert."

The two pictures on the double feature programme at the Cartier Theatre Friday and Saturday this week, April 11 and 12th, are "Drums of the Desert," with Ralph Byrd and Lorna Grey, and "The Range Busters," with Crash Corrigan, Dusty King and Alibi Terhune.

One of the most timely and exciting films of the current season, Mongogram's "Drums of the Desert" will be at the Cartier Theatre on Friday and Saturday, April 11th and 12th. A French Foreign Legion yarn, it is everything its title implies and more.

A pulsating story of forbidden love in the tropics, the film runs the gauntlet the thrills, breath-taking suspense, and rapid-fire comedy.

The story begins with a shipboard romance Paul Dumont, special advisor to the new parachute troops of the Legion, falls in love with the beautiful Helene while en route to his new post. However, the two decide to separate when it is revealed that the girl is the fiancée of Raoul, Paul's best friend and fellow officer.

In a surprise attack by the Arabs, Raoul is seriously injured and only through the efforts of Paul, is he able to escape with his life. But the wedding date has to be postponed and Helene and Paul, left to each other's company, find it impossible to hide their true feelings.

They agree to one last tryst, and meet in the tent of Hassan, a fortune teller. Unknown to them, the tent is the storing place of arms and ammunition belonging to Abdullah, an Arab leader determined to avenge the death of his brother Ben Ali who was executed after the first unsuccessful revolt.

Abdullah finds the romantic pair and they are overpowered. Things look pretty black until Raoul, determined to locate his wife and her lover, sets out with the parachute troops to find them.

The thrilling climax, in which troops rain from the sky, breaks up the revolt and provides an unusual solution to the triangular romance.

Iron-jawed Richard Byrd, formerly Dick Tracy of the screen, comes through with an excellent performance as the dashing Paul Dumont. Lorna Grey, a promising young starlet is excellent as Helene, torn between the love of two men. Peter George Lynn completes the triangle.

Others in the cast are Mantan Moreland, as the humorous Sergt. Williams, William Castello, Jean Del-Val and Ann Codee.

George Wagner directed from the screenplay by Dorothy Reid and Joseph West. Paul Malvern pr. luced.

Technicolor Film At Palace Theatre Exciting Thriller

Zane Grey's "Western Union" Will Be Popular Offering.

Forest fires in the movies are staged with all the precision of a ballet routine. The players follow a course through the flaming woods that has been charted as carefully as a danceuse's steps.

"If the actor loses his way, he's in serious trouble," explained Otto Brower, one of Hollywood's top thrill directors. "An assistant sounds the alarm and the firemen rush in with hoses to throw a wall of water around the player."

"That seldom happens, though, since we go through so many rehearsals that each knows exactly where he is going."

Brower, who has filmed earthquakes, simoons and other catastrophes for the movies' most exciting scenes, directed a spectacular fire scene during the filming of Zane Grey's "Western Union" in technicolor at 20th Century-Fox.

For the fire scenes in "Western Union," which comes to the Palace Theatre Friday, Friday midnight and Saturday, April 11th and 12th, a 15 acre forest was built. The trees were real. Scores of Los Angeles property owners who want to clear trees out of their yards telephone the movie lots every week. The studios, if they are in need of a forest, do the excavating free.

"We give the players asbestos clothes for the scenes where they're working within a foot or two of flames," said Brower. "Even at that it's dangerous. Robert Young lost his eyebrows in one scene. The heat singed them off before he realized what was happening. Dean Jagger and Randolph Scott also suffered minor burns."

Special effects men can tell within inches just how far away the flames are going to leap from a burning tree. They have perfected a chart which takes into consideration the wind, humidity and type of timber.

Burning wagons almost rolled into the cameras and blazing pines fell within inches of players on the set, but technicians planned it that way. With emphasis on realism, the dangers will look natural in "Western Union," but every little detail and precaution was worked out in advance by a crew of 120 men who "built" the forest fire thrills as an architect would a house, blueprints and all.

Also featured in "Western Union," which was directed by Fritz Lang, are Chill Wills and Barton MacLane. The exciting screen play was written by Robert Carson while Harry Joe Brown was associate producer.

Plan Big Thrills to Bring Comfort for Ills of the Times

On This Idea Was Built the Drama of "The Range Busters," at the Cartier This Week.

At the Cartier Theatre on Friday and Saturday of this week there is a double feature programme which includes "The Range Busters," and "Drums of the Desert," the latter starring Ralph Byrd and Norma Grey.

"Give 'em thrills and still more thrills!" said Roy Luby, director of the first of the new George W. Weeks series of Western thrillers, "The Range Busters," which comes on Friday and Saturday, April 11th and 12th, to the Cartier Theatre. He was talking to a newspaper reporter who had wandered on the lot while the feature was in production, and his comment was in answer to a remark made by the scribe with regard to the great popularity of outdoor adventure pictures.

"If you think it over," said the director, "you'll realize that it's just this sort of entertainment that figures as a cure for mental depression and other ills to which our flesh is heir. Big-thrill stuff, with a dash of mystery, such as is provided by the night-prowling killer-phantom in "The Range Busters," has an edge on all other kinds of films and creative fiction. There never has been a period in which sensational literature has not been outstanding. Always there has been the stage and fiction, to which are now added motion pictures and the radio, and each medium must concentrate on thrill-diet."

"Probably this so-called intelligentsia would ridicule this statement. But if it wasn't true, would the fast-action Westerners draw crowds like they do? Watch the faces of an audience enjoying the dash and excitement of adventure films, women and children, they're all living in make-believe land, with the everyday world forgotten, as well as their worries. The straight thrill-stuff is the greatest asset of the motion picture market!"

Ray (Crash) Corrigan, John (Dusty) King and Max (Alibi) Terhune are featured in "The Range Busters." Luana Walters fills the heroine role. John Rathmell wrote the screenplay. The feature was photographed by Ed Linden.

"Did Mr. Brower sing a popular song at the concert?"

"Well, it had been popular before he sang it."—Exchange.

Prospectors Must Be Kept on the Job Says J. D. Murdock

Suggestions for Reviving of Prospecting.

If Canada wants to forge ahead as a mining country, its prospectors should be constantly on the job in Canada's Hinterland and on the quiver for surface indications sufficiently encouraging to attract developers to probe for mineral wealth. Many of the old-time prospectors are getting no younger, and if they do not go out with parties of younger men, who thus gain experience and catch the urge which keeps that pioneer search continuously active through the years, then the post-war years may bear the brunt with a smaller metal output than is possible, says The Globe and Mail.

J. Y. Murdock, a the annual meeting of Noranda Mines Limited, stressed the fact that it is of the greatest public interest to keep alive a class of men who must be depended on to bring in future mines which will replace the major producers of today when in the course of time they are depleted. The largest producers bring as much wealth and provide as much work for a large number of small mines. The latter are worthwhile because our biggest mines were small once, and their present size unforeseen, but the small mines will have to be brought in by the score in order that development of these will uncover the occasional big producer. As Mr. Murdock points out, our mines were a tremendous asset in helping Canada dress the economic wounds of the last Great War. New mining camps leading to new mines in tens and scores will be needed greatly when this war ends.

What Killed Prospecting; Now Revive It!

Mr. Murdock found the causes for "prospecting being killed in this country" to be "unfair taxation, ill-advised regulations and too many of them, and a constant change of laws and regulations."

This department is entirely convinced that Mr. Murdock is correct in his view that freedom of action is needed in a very large degree to spur prospecting. This department also recognizes, as does the Prospectors and Developers' Association when it asks for freedom to make their own dickers, that it is desirable in some way to restrain the initiative and enterprise of fly-by-night operators because they only subtract from the wealth of the people and throw a doubt on every honest endeavour as well. How find the golden mean! "The finding of mines is a precarious, arduous and uncertain task," as Mr. Murdock stated, and it needs a pioneer and even a gambling spirit among those with money to spare. But how assure the speculators a run for their money!

I asked many mining men yesterday, one after the other, what they thought of this whole matter. Some would sweep away every vestige of securities fraud and blue sky legislation, depending on efficient administration of the laws against theft and misrepresentation to prevent abuses. Others say that goes far too far; they think that Dominion profits, taxes and exchange restrictions have done more harm than Securities Act restrictions and that it is hard to interest people in mining properties or stocks while markets are low and inactive.

Another, said that the eighty-six paying mines in Canada could do a grand work in prospecting and give outstanding leadership if each put up \$5,000 and backed competent prospecting. The Dominion Government could

British Isles Neither Fortress Nor Blockaded

It is customary to speak of the British Isles as a fortress under siege. In reality, however, the continent of Europe is more accurately described by that phrase in the opinion of J. W. T. Mason.

Great Britain is not besieged because it is open to shipping from the western world and the Orient. The European continent, however, is locked within itself, unable to maintain commercial intercourse with the rest of the world because of the British navy's control of the ocean traffic lanes.

Claims by Germany that British control of the seas has been destroyed can have been made only to stimulate home morale. There is not the slightest room for believing the axis can break down the British blockade under any future condition now foreseeable.

Certainly, as conditions exist today, the British navy has command of the sea and the axis is held within the continent of Europe, unable to break through to the outer world. With a speed-up of American ship-building for British account, Herr Hitler must have small hope that he can crush the British mercantile fleet.

Exchange:—Would be suicide—"Don't rescue me: I want to die." Swimmer:—"well you'll have to postpone it—I want a life saving medal."

speed such a desirable process by giving tax credits, it was further urged.

Get Grubstakes and Prospectors Together

Another said that prospectors should get better acquainted with possible backers. He recollected that some of the best prospecting in Canada had been done by men who were financed by groups of citizens who knew the prospectors and their abilities personally, and were willing to grub-stake them. Back in 1911 this writer remembers meeting some Buffalo newspapermen who told me they had pooled \$10 a week each from their salaries and were maintaining an experienced prospector in Northern Ontario. I do not know the results but old mining men tell me the method is sound.

The bill to amend the Securities Act now before the Ontario Legislature, in the view of many, is making some real adjustments likely to benefit the prospector and developer. Hon. Mr. Conant, in a speech summarized elsewhere in this issue, told of how vendors stock pooling requirements had been relaxed to help the "pick and shovel men." He feels that the granting of appeals to men primarily affected by Commission rulings will meet the criticism that applicants were previously at the mercy of one official without recourse.

But this still leaves untouched the situation constantly referred to on the street as an outgrowth of war policies. As long as the speculative spirit is discouraged on principle at Ottawa, prospecting will be dead, these men say. They also think "too much grandmothers at Ottawa as well as in Provincial capitals.

Suspended Sentence for Man Who Passed Worthless Bill

Plea by Lawyer Saves Man from Term.

"On a charge of attempted theft by trick, John D. Harrison, 107 Cedar St., Schumacher, had a conviction registered against him and drew a suspended sentence after his attorney, Greg Evans, had made a strong plea for consideration for his client as the victim of circumstances rather than a law-breaker.

First witness called by the crown was J. R. Lapointe, a local taxi driver. He said that on Sunday morning about 3:30 or 4 o'clock he had driven Harrison from Schumacher to Timmins and had brought him to an alleged bootlegger on Maple street north. His fare had presented what he thought was a twenty-dollar bill for payment. He had only eight dollars and a half on him so he gave it to the man and told him that he could pick up the rest of his change at the taxi stand. He then returned to the stand and handed the twenty-peso note in to change, and it was discovered that the bill was no good.

The clerk at the taxi stand then called the police and the call was answered by Constables Guolla and Beaulne. They went to the house where the taxi driver had left, the man and they found him there drinking a bottle of beer.

Constable Guolla then took the stand and testified that he had answered a call from the taxi stand and when he got to the house where the defendant was he had taken him into the lavatory and searched him in the presence of Constable Beaulne. In the man's pockets they found eight one dollar bills and some small change. He then asked the taxi driver what change he had given the man and the taxi driver told him that he had given the man eight one dollar bills and a fifty cent piece.

Constable Beaulne then testified saying that he was present when Constable Guolla had searched the defendant and was also present at the police station when the man had been further questioned. He remembered the man saying that he had changed a fifty dollar bill earlier in the evening at another bootlegger and had received the Mexican twenty in change and wasn't going to get stuck with it.

Harrison then took the stand in his own defence and stated that he had been steadily employed at the McIntyre for the past three or four years and that he had come to Timmins earlier in the evening around seven o'clock. He had visited several beer parlours and had acquired more friends as he went along, he said. He finally got to a bootlegger's on Balsam street and had changed a fifty dollar bill there. He said that it was possible that he had been given the Mexican twenty there.

Magistrate Atkinson then said that he had no doubt that the accused knew that he had a phony bill and was just

trying to stick the taxi driver with it. At that point Greg Evans, Harrison's attorney, made a strong plea for leniency, saying that the man had never been in trouble before but that in his travels that night he had been given the worthless bill without knowing it was valueless. He asked the magistrate to make the sentence a suspended sentence if he felt that he had to register a conviction.

Crown Attorney Caldbick was agreed to a suspended sentence, but asked that the accused pay the court costs and give the taxi driver his money back.

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Sudbury Bartender Given Two Years in Death Case

At Sudbury last week Mr. Justice Kelly sentenced Raymond Turcotte to two years in Kingston penitentiary after a jury had convicted him on a charge of manslaughter. The jury added a strong recommendation for leniency as the accused man had suffered much provocation before he entered the fight that was found by the jury to have resulted in the death of Simon Hunter, a Sudbury school principal. The evidence suggested that Hunter and a companion had annoyed and provoked Turcotte until the latter accepted their challenge to go outside and fight. Turcotte knocked the fight out of the two men who were apparently under the influence of liquor. Hunter, unfortunately, was knocked down, striking his head on the sidewalk and sustaining a fractured skull from which he died.

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