

# HERE AND THERE ON STAGE AND SCREEN

## Reviews of the Week

By Thespian

### AMATEUR

Cold weather and a comparatively small crowd failed to prevent the Theatre Guild from giving a very creditable performance of the "Red Robe" at Winnetka last Saturday night. The "Red Robe" is listed as a tragedy, it was written by Eugene Brieux and produced in France for a number of years. Later it was used in New York with Lionel Barrymore and Doris Rankin under the title of "The Letter of the Law."

The story concerns a French custom of bestowing the coveted red robe upon the public official whose record of convictions in criminal cases is preeminent. The frantic desire of an Examining Magistrate to fasten the guilt in a murder mystery onto one Etchepare starts the plot on its way. Mr. Dean, director of the Theatre Guild took some liberties with the story as written and eliminated many of the abuses of the French political and judicial system. The changes worked for smoothness in the action.

A cast of thirteen people was necessary for the play but many of the parts were short ones, appearances being made frequently in only one of the four acts. The really difficult roles were in the hands of Perry Dunlap Smith, Sam C. Smart and Mrs. Dudley Cates. Mr. Smith, while not the cunning, crafty prosecutor modern drama has some times portrayed, gave a creditable performance in a hard part. Mr. Smart, as the tired and discouraged prisoner, showed to good advantage, while Mrs. Cates has never been better than she was in the role of the wife of Etchepare. Her climax at the end of the second act was particularly impressive. Mrs. Leslie Parker, and Mr. Abram Mendenhall displayed ability in the shorter parts.

"The Red Robe" is not an easy undertaking for the Theatre Guild or for any other amateur organization. Congratulations are certainly in order on the creditable way it was presented in this case.

Not to mention the "mock trial" which was given at the Annual Dinner of the Congregational church last Wednesday would be to overlook a splendid bit of amateur work. Many a similar affair has bored an audience almost to tears but here was a more or less impromptu affair that was exceedingly funny. Mr. Roswell Mason was the Judge, Mr. Charles Eastman the Clerk of Court, Messrs. Janney and W. C. Boyden, Jr., the attorneys, Mr. Merritt Lum, the prisoner and Mr. James White and Mrs. Merritt Lum, the witnesses. The audience of over 400 was exceedingly generous in their praise of the effort.

### "THE LULLABY"

With Florence Reed

Illinois Theatre

This is Edward Knoblock's play which he dedicates to "The women that men have forgotten." It is the biography of the love affairs of Madelon, presented in ten scenes and covering the chapters of this woman's life from the cradle to the brink of the grave.

It provides an excellent opportunity for the star, Miss Florence Reed, to exhibit her versatility. One finds her forced from home because of an affair that went too far, sees her living in Paris with an American painter and later with a Count. Twenty years later she is a harlot in Tunis, killing a young sailor who has approached her because her own son, whom she would not know by sight is also in the navy.

The play tears off the mask and reveals the experiences of this unfortunate woman without any hesitation. It stirs the emotions but never to the point that sheer melodrama brings them. It is brutally frank at every turn and the type of play that used to be advertised in moving picture circles as being for "adults only." Much like "The Lady" current here not so long since but excellent that entertainment in many ways.

Without Miss Reed I hesitate to say what might happen to the play. She is responsible for a remarkable piece of dramatic work even in face of the fact that many of her lines are not always entirely audible. She has a part to play and how she does play it. Tragedy, pathos, love and all the other emotions that enter the life of such a woman as this, are faithfully revealed and all without the slightest overplaying.

The Lullaby is well written and well directed with the additional asset of having a cast which, with one exception, is remarkably good. It is probably the strongest of the sex plays that have been presented here.

### SCREEN

"A WOMAN OF PARIS"

Directed by Charles Chaplin

Orpheum Theatre

Mr. Charles Chaplin, temporarily exchanging his cane and mustache for pen and megaphone, wrote and directed this picture in which he does not appear.

The result is an unusual piece of screen work.

Not that the story is remarkable; it is a most conventional one and might have been written by the prize pupil of a scenario school. It concerns a country girl who through several unfortunate and unavoidable incidents loses her lover, leaves for Paris by herself and goes "wrong." It doesn't end in the conventional way, there is no "hokum" and none of the usual moving picture "burlesque" methods are employed.

Chaplin developed his ideas so simply and with such accurate knowledge of human emotions that he has made a common place story take on the aspects of a great picture. His characters live real lives and act as human beings really act.

Miss Edna Purviance proves her ability as a fine actress. She and her Parisian bachelor friend, portrayed by Adolphe Menjou, have a number of scenes together which are handled in a manner so natural as to almost shock one. Carl Miller as the young lover is also good.

If you would like to see a different kind of motion picture, where human beings act as you or I would act, and where they register their emotions with no apparent thought of a possible audience, go to see this!

### "FLAMING BARRIERS"

Paramount Picture

McVickers Theatre

What won't they do for a moving picture story. Here is a built-to-order melodrama, illogical, apparent and jerky. It concerns the inventor of a fire truck who unsuccessfully tries to sell it. His beautiful daughter does her best to help him. The bank notes are due and no money in sight. The Fire chief's convention is their big chance. Enter the villain who commits everything but murder to thwart them. And then there is the great forest fire and a lively hero to help furnish the proof of the ability of the new fire truck. And all ends well.

Antonio Moreno is good as is Jacqueline Logan but Walter Hiers has some rather sad comedy moments. It would certainly take a better scenario than this to drag me out at present temperature readings.

### "TWENTY-ONE"

First National Picture

Chicago Theatre

An interesting and well executed picture largely because of the most excellent work of Richard Barthelmess as the young man who is almost of age. He is the son of rich and indulgent parents, (especially his mother,) and falls in love with a good, though poor, young lady. Threatened by his parents with an annulment should he dare marry before he is twenty-one, he leaves home and secures work as a taxi driver, later being able to save his father from a band of thugs. A reconciliation all around is the final result.

The Barthelmess fans will rave about him in this picture and rightly they

may. Here, ably assisted by Dorothy Mackaill, he attempts a quite difficult part and handles it exceedingly well. The shortcomings of the story are more than overcome by his work.

### VAUDEVILLE

As the winter wears on the vaudeville bills appear to improve and those at the Majestic are no exception. Last week saw Jimmy Kemper and his company present a most interesting group of songs and instrumental numbers that were quite out of the ordinary. Able assistance on the program was given by Wallace Galvin, a good magician, and by the Two Rozellas who have been showing their wares for many years but are always worth seeing and hearing.

### Neighboring Theaters

#### NEW EVANSTON

Mabel Normand in "The Extra Girl" is providing Evanston patrons with genuine entertainment this week. The picture will continue over the week-end. A Spat family comedy affords additional activity for the fans.

Beginning Monday the New Evanston offers "To The Ladies," a James Cruze production starring Theodore Roberts, Edward Horton, Louise Dressler and Helen Jerome Eddy. This drama has enjoyed record runs on the legitimate stage and is said to lack none of its interest in the pictures.

#### ADELPHI

Wesley Barry, in "The Country Kid" is showing at the Adelphi this week-end. Other bright juveniles are found in this picture. It is the story of orphans, a miser and a pair of sweethearts.

"The Call of the Canyon" is the Adelphi picture for Sunday and Monday, February 3 and 4. "East Side, West Side" will be seen on Tuesday, February 5. "Gentle Julia" is promised for Wednesday and Thursday of next week. Pictures booked for the early future include "Pleasure Mad," "To The Ladies," House Peters in "Held to Answer," "Little Old New York."

A specialty attraction to be witnessed soon is "Around the World" in "The Speejacks."

#### HOWARD

"This Freedom," a film interpretation of the A. S. M. Hutchinson novel of that title is being shown at the Howard this week-end. Fay Compton and a brilliant cast are seen in this production which endeavors to answer the question "Can a wife win freedom and happiness and disregard her home duties?"

"Cupid's Fireman" will be seen at the Howard on Sunday, February 3. Marion Davies in "Little Old New York" will be the Howard attraction for four days next week beginning on Monday, February 4.

Early showings at the Howard will include: "The Meanest Man in the World," "Guests of Broadway," "The Song of Love" and "Fashion Row."

## Income Tax Facts

Official Information, Bureau of Internal Revenue

In computing his net income for the year 1923 a taxpayer may deduct from gross income all losses, incurred not only in his business, trade or profession, but in any "transaction entered into for profit" not compensated for by insurance or otherwise.

To be allowed, losses not incurred in trade or business must conform closely to the wording of the statute. For example, a loss incurred in the sale of a taxpayer's home, which at the time of purchase was bought without intention of resale, is not deductible, because it was not a transaction entered into for profit.

Losses sustained in the operation of a farm as a business venture are deductible. If sustained in the operation of a farm operated merely for the pleasure or convenience of the taxpayer, such losses are not deductible.

### 200,000 IN CZECH SCHOOLS

Nearly 200,000 students attend the 1,646 industrial and technical schools of Czechoslovakia. These schools include Czechoslovak, German, Magyar, Ruthenian, Czech, and Czech-German schools. They differ widely in the type of instruction offered, for the subjects taught range from architectural and electrical engineering to basket making, lace making, and embroidery. One group of schools prepare its students for trades working with wood, metals, glass, stone, clay, and textiles.

—School Life.

### HOW TO SLASH DRESS-MAKING BILLS

Ladies! There's an Ad in our paper offering a Canton Crepe dress for only \$15. It cost \$40. Think of what a shock it will be to your husband when you finally tell him what you paid for it!

### GIRL SCOUT TRAINING

Girl Scout leaders are trained in regular courses at about 90 institutions for higher education in 27 states. More than half of these courses are given by instructors under the supervision of the education department of the Girl Scouts (Inc.) and the rest by regular faculty members or by representatives of local Girl Scout troops. In the courses offered by the Girl Scouts the classes are conducted, as far as possible, in the form of scout-troop meetings.

## THE NEW EVANSTON

"The Big Pictures First"

NOW PLAYING

Mabel Normand

in

"The Extra Girl"

also

THE SPAT FAMILY

STARTING MONDAY

The

James Cruze Production

"To The Ladies"

with

Theodore Roberts, Edward Horton, Louise Dressler and Helen Jerome Eddy.

MATINEE

2 to 5:30

EVENING

7 to 11

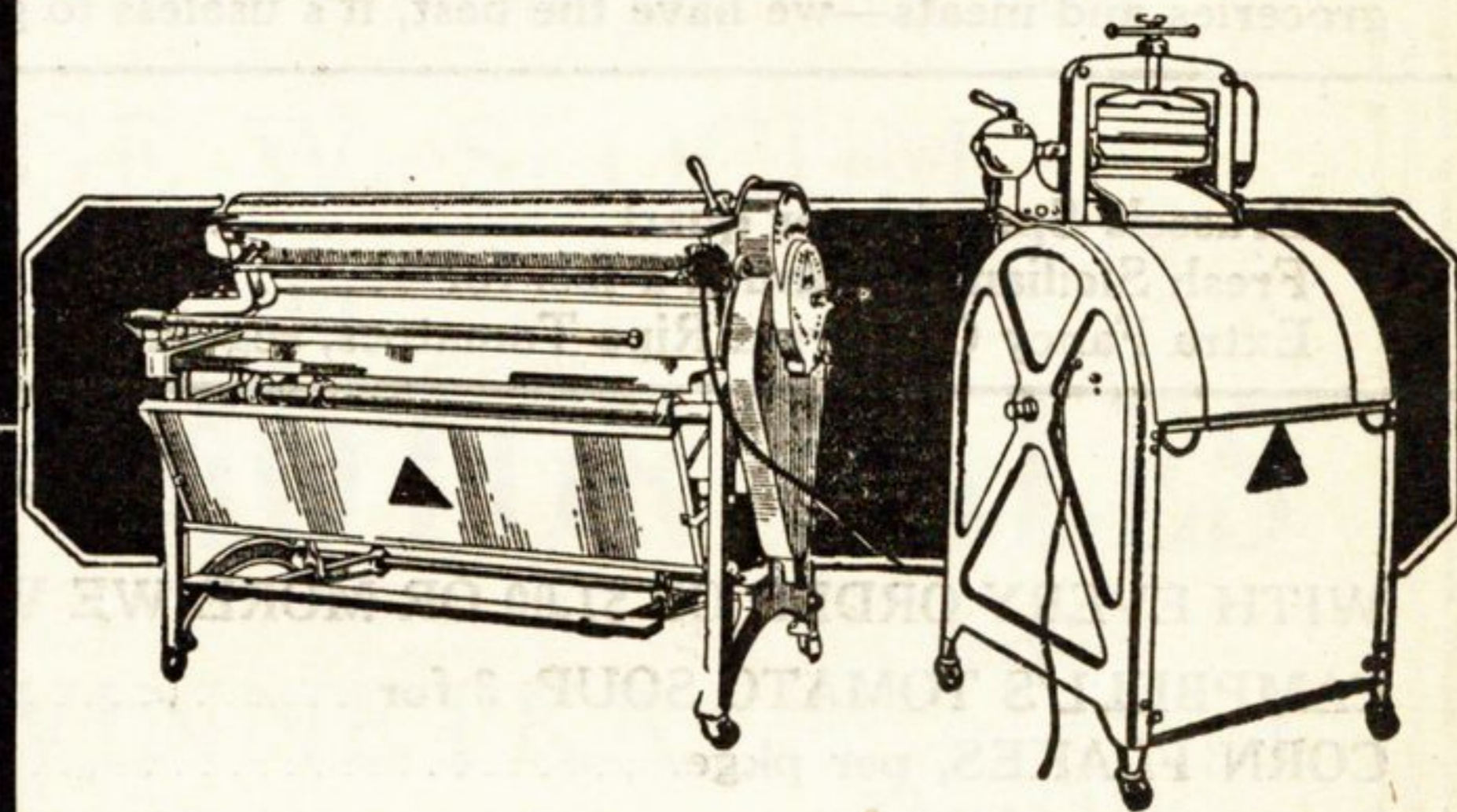
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TOM MOORE  
"BIG BROTHER"

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WESLEY BARRY  
"THE COUNTRY KID"

Sunday and Monday  
ZANE GREY'S  
"THE CALL OF THE CANYON"

Tuesday  
EILEEN PERCY  
KENNETH HARLAN  
"EAST SIDE, WEST SIDE"  
BABY PEGGY  
"SUCH IS LIFE"

Wednesday and Thursday  
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