

## SCREEN GOSSIP

Max Sennett, who is responsible for "A Small Town Idol", is a Canadian by birth, but of Irish extraction. He was born in the village of Danville, Quebec, in 1880. Both his father and mother were born in Ireland, and migrated to Canada in their youth. So the comedy king is Irish in every racial impulse, tendency, and sentiment. As a boy the future purveyor of screen humor was possessed of a voice of radiant beauty, and when age robbed his tones of their limpid soprano quality, found in generous substitution a baritone of great range and expressiveness. This decided tendency towards music carried Mack Sennett into the conventional experiences of choir boy, and later into musical comedy and vaudeville.

Reginald Denny has been temporarily laid up through an accident. After an exhaustive search, Carl Laemmle has been able to secure a successor to Denny in the part of "Kid" Roberts, in the person of Billy Sullivan, a nephew of the famous J. L. Sullivan. When the studio folks took up a home projector and miniature screen to Denny's bedroom, just to show the invalid how Sullivan, his successor, was doing, the former "Leather Pushers" hero wired Carl Laemmle: "I want to express my heartiest approval of the new hero of 'The Leather Pushers', and I congratulate you on signing the best man for the role."

According to a New York paper, the Methodist church in the United States has taken up moving pictures in a very serious way. It is at present actually engaged in producing short subjects for showing in the various parish halls throughout the country. Later on feature pictures may be made. The church people have found the showing of movies to be a wonderful way of getting the young people to become churchgoers.

"Secrets", which Norma Talmadge believes to be her best achievement, was adapted from the play, and directed by Frank Borsage. The story opens with Miss Talmadge at the age of 73, and as she nods to sleep over her diary, reveals four separate episodes in her life. It is difficult, after seeing Miss Talmadge in the flaming desert film, "Song of Love", to imagine her anywhere near 70, even with make-up.

According to a recent announcement "Bill" Hart will make no more pictures for the Famous Player-Lasky Company. Bill's ambition is to make a film based on the life of Patrick Henry, but his employers couldn't agree with him on that among other things. Mr. Hart, owing to matrimonial difficulties, income taxes and general expenses, is seriously thinking of returning to the stage, from whence he came some fourteen years ago to the films.

Chauncey Depew is one of the motion picture "stars" who has been appearing at some of the New York theatres. Mr. Depew, who is only 90 years of age, is the first great living American to appear in the De Forest Phonofilm. He was photographed and his voice recorded while talking about his personal experiences with Abraham Lincoln.

Myron Selznick has sailed for England to make a picture called "The Passionate Adventurer". Mr. Selznick, among other things, produced "Rupert of Hentzau" and "The Common Law". This, however, will be the first picture he has ever made in England. He hopes to meet the Prince of Wales in person.

Marcus Loew declares that he is determined to make a moving picture based on the novel "Bread", written by Frank Norris. Mr. Loew is in a strategic position, inasmuch as he has not only the facilities for making a picture but owns or controls several hundred theatres to show it in.

John R. Bray has gone to England to discuss the forthcoming film productions based on "The Outline of History" with the author. Mr. Bray is a specialist in a cartoon type of picture, and if he can secure the consent of H. G. Wells will film "The Outline" in that form.

The interesting question as to what colors are at the top of the world will be answered by the cinematographic record of the Mount Everest expedition of 1924. One of the most impressive results of the film of this hazardous climb up the world's highest mountain is expected to be the revelations of the colors seen at the top of the world, as Mount Everest is called in the East. An arrangement has just been made by Explorers' Films, Ltd., with Spectron Films, Ltd., whereby the color process invented by Mr. Claude Friese-

Greene will be used in photographing many of the beauty spots high above the habitations of man.

A great historical film, "Becket", from Lord Tennyson's historical play, is being produced by the Stoll Productions in London. The murder of Thomas A. Becket, at the order of Henry II., is history; but the story behind that murder might have been fiction, so full of drama and romance is it. The Stoll Picture Production of "Becket" is based on the play written by Alfred, Lord Tennyson, which proved such a vehicle for the art of the late Sir Henry Irving, and the picture reproduces on the screen the drama and romance that history and the play provide.

Something like \$750,000 is being asked by John Golden for the motion picture rights to "Lightning", "Chicken Feed", "Thank-U", and "Seventh Heaven". What's more to the point, he is apt to get it. The Warner Brothers, a most progressive group of young men, are said to be probable purchasers. The Warners paid enormous prices for "Daddies", "Main Street", "Baby Face", and "The Gold Diggers", but it is doubtful any of these pictures will prove as popular as "The Marriage Circle", which cost them practically nothing.

Reginald Barker has chosen two of the screen's greatest character actors for leading parts in his new picture, "Cape Cod Folks". They are Frank Keenan and Joseph Dowling.

## HINT TO THE HOUSEWIFE

How to drive a nail without effort: Ask your husband to drive a nail. He will inquire: "Where's the hammer?" Tell him it's where he left it the last time. He will inquire: "Where's that?" Ask him how you should know. He will reply: "Well, who should?" Ask him if he married you so that you might keep track of hammers. He will answer: "Darned if I know what I married you for." State that neither do you. This will hit the nail on the head. If necessary, repeat.

## EARLY FARMING IN NOVA SCOTIA

The first settlement to leave its permanent impress on Nova Scotia was that made by the French at Port Royal in 1605. In this year and at this spot was grown the first wheat ever raised in America and here in the same year was erected the first water-wheel to turn millstones for the grinding of wheat on the North American continent. From this time until 1775, the French population was practically the only European population in Nova Scotia. It is noteworthy that these French people selected lands that are today the highest priced in the Maritime Provinces, such, for example, as the Annapolis Valley and the marshland areas along the headquarters of the Bay of Fundy. They were not, like the later British settlers, ready to win farms from the forest, but preferred to utilize these marsh lands which they could wrest from the sea by means of dykes similar to those their forefathers had learned to construct on the Bay of Biscay. With the exception of a few cattle landed on Sable Island in 1518 and others brought out by Cartier in 1541, which were subsequently destroyed, the first permanent introduction of domestic cattle into this continent was at Port Royal, where, in 1606, Poutinacourt brought some cows. By the middle of the 18th century the early French settlers had gathered together many thousands of cows, oxen, sheep and hogs.

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THE ACADIAN  
Wolfville, N. S.

## Wants to Be Serious



Ben Turpin, famous comedian, met, and the St. Anne Basilica now in course of erection.

"YES!" Ben Turpin is permanently cross-eyed, though his feet are not the monstrosities they appear when made up for the screen. Quebecers who discovered this when he and Mrs. Turpin stayed at the Chateau Frontenac recently were also surprised to find them a most retiring, modest, quietly dressed and devoted couple, quite unlike the movie people one imagines.

The manner in which Mr. Turpin has risen supremely over the handicap of these famous eyes is an example of the courageous turning of an impediment to good account. "I love serious acting," said Mr. Turpin when interviewed on the Canadian Pacific en route to Montreal, "and long to play tragic roles, but, of course, I haven't the looks. So I do the next best thing—I make people laugh. Moreover, it's a pretty hard job being funny all the time. Often I feel more like crying. But I've got to make 'em laugh or my head will be chopped off."

Ben is an American of old stock but Mrs. Turpin is a French Canadian. Hence this was not by any means the first visit of the comedian and his wife to Quebec, but the trip on this recent occasion was somewhat in the nature of a pilgrimage from Los Angeles to the Shrine of St. Anne de Beaupre.

St. Anne de Beaupre will again this year, be the Mecca of thousands of pilgrimages. The new Basilica, work on which is being hurried as much as possible will not be ready for occupation for some two or three years yet, but the little wooden church which, since fire destroyed the old Basilica, has housed the shrine, is serving a useful purpose and this summer will no doubt see many sticks and crutches added to the pile within its doors.

## WHY PLANT TREES?

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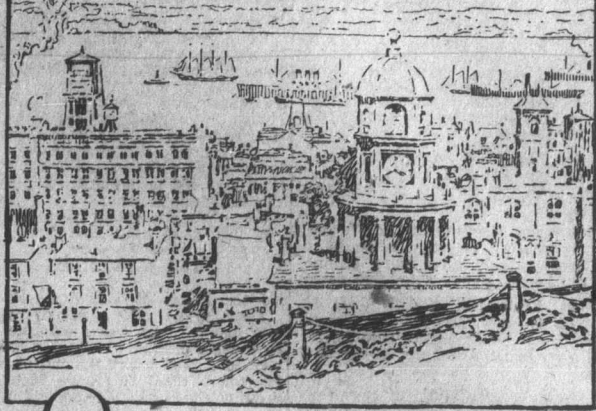
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G. S. Stairs,  
Town Manager.

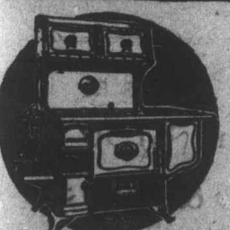
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