

BIRTH OF A NATION SCORES TRIUMPH

Reprint of Famous Picture Being Shown First of Week at Loew's.

VAUDEVILLE PLEASURES

Seven years ago when it was first filmed "The Birth of a Nation" was adjudged the wonder picture of all time.

Showing as an entirely reprinted picture at Loew's theatre yesterday "The Birth of a Nation" scored such a triumph as to proclaim it as a wonder picture. And this in comparison with the many wonderful spectacles of more recent years.

The picture, as directed by the master producer, D. W. Griffith, touched a responsive chord in the heart of every member of the audience, which taxed the theatre to capacity.

Pressing not on the heels of the picture for the favor of the house was the vaudeville act styled "A Night in Spain." The act, which it is claimed is the highest paid vaudeville act ever to have appeared in London, embraces really classical Spanish singing and dancing. There are four men and five women whose dancing is seen only to their striking beauty. The richly colored costumes and beautiful foot drops also contribute to the gorgeousness of the act. "A Night in Spain" will remain at Loew's for the entire week.

As produced by Mr. Griffith from "The Clansman," by Thomas Nixon, the story of "The Birth of a Nation" needs little or no comment here. It would be superfluous to say that the popularity of the picture is the all-star cast, including as it does such favorites today as Lillian Gish, Mae Marsh, Miriam Cooper and Henry B. Walthall. At the time the picture was taken Miss Gish was just out of school and scarcely 16 years old. Miss Marsh had just graduated into the movies from being a cash girl in a department store at Los Angeles. Miss Cooper and Walthall, too, had yet to make a name for themselves. Other lesser lights in the picture are Mary Alden, Josephine Crowell, Spottiswoode Aitken, Ralph Lewis and Howard Gaye.

"The Birth of a Nation" is a "heavy" picture requiring real emotional acting on the part of the principals, of whom there are four or five. The picture is not alone spectacular and thrilling, it is graphic and gripping in the extreme.

The repeated production, incidentally the first ever to be so reproduced in the history of moving pictures, certainly went over big and after all the audience constitutes itself the final and acid test as to the "bigness" of a picture. The size of the house and the enthusiasm it displayed combined to form a magnificent triumph which none better, possibly, could be paid the picture.

The two vaudeville acts on the bill in addition to "A Night in Spain" were Frank Shields, cowboy rope artist, and Coffman & Carroll, comedy singing and dancing. Miss Coffman treated the act to a delightful number in singing "Love Sends a Little Gift of Roses" in a voice, the sweetness and range of which was decidedly above the average.

A Hal Roach comedy, "Street Pyramids," comedically strong as to picture and vaudeville, is quite the best seen at Loew's for some time. It is a show that is well worth seeing and one which should not be missed.

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NAVIGATION ON LAKES WILL CLOSE DEC. 14

American Locks at Soo To Remain Open Till the 18th.

Canadian Press Despatch. Port Arthur, Dec. 8.—Official notification of the closing of navigation was posted this morning by Captain Seagel, harbor master, to all mariners, as beginning December 14, when the Canadian locks at the Soo will close. The American locks will remain open until December 18.

Asked concerning the closing of the lights and fog alarms, Captain Seagel said that the light at Otter Head was closed on Friday, at Michipicoten and Quebec harbor the lights will close December 10, Isle de Paristen light December 12.

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LONDON DRAMA LEAGUE PLAY IS REMARKABLE PRODUCTION

First Presentation of Season Greeted by Enthusiastic Audience.

CAST IS GOOD

In "Just Suppose" presented last night at the Patricia Theatre, the London Drama League gave to the public a remarkable production, and in Miss Kathleen England and G. Basil Morgan introduced two new actors, who stood out in the play as stars. A well-filled house greeted this, the first presentation of the season.

Although the drama was played before members only, that membership has become so large that it has been necessary to change from the collegiate institute auditorium to a regular theatre to meet its need and the needs of an expanding acting body.

The play, which was presented under the personal direction of Vincent Perry, was a finished product. Called a dramatic comedy, the interpretation given to it last night by Miss Kathleen England and Leon Adams, as the girl and the prince, was brought with pathos, that at times it bordered on a tragedy. Not that it lacked its moments of fun and lightness. For it possessed the two chief attributes of a masterpiece production; it kept its audience in laughter and tears.

Miss England stars. Miss England, who appeared for the first time before the league, proved that she has remarkable dramatic talent. Although she is very much an amateur in experience on the stage, so cleverly did she carry her audience from merriment to tears, that she might have been a professional in the act.

She played the part of "Linda Lee," a charming southern girl, with perfect naturalness. At no time was her acting forced. Her ability to give a convincing characterization of the key, happy spirit of youth, weathering a violent storm, and then coming out bravely the victor, was almost faultless.

To love the Prince, heir to the British throne, and then to give him up in the face of his own desire to which the whole show was the lot of Linda Lee. And Miss England did it across wonderfully.

Leon Adams made an admirable Prince. He looked the part, especially in his naval uniform in the last scene.

He was very boyish as the prince must have been several years before when the scene of the play is laid. His acting was adequate, and he played up to Miss England in the romantic scenes in a dignified and restrained manner, befitting a prince.

G. Basil Morgan, as "The Marquis of Karnaby," was an outstanding actor in the play. His work shows an almost professional finish and gives evidence of his training at the Hart House theatre, Toronto. His character work as the old diplomat, Karnaby, was some of the best work in the play. And it was with delight that the drama league members heard that he was about to produce a play later in the season.

Cast Plays Well. Reginald Farnon as the English aristocrat and friend of the prince, was seen in some very fine dramatic work. Arthur Nicholas as the old colored servant appeared in a character part which he had apparently studied well and played with great success. W. F. Doye as Kingsley Stafford, Miss Myrtle Tors as Mrs. Stafford, the grandmother, and Frank Adams as Monty Warren, were all well-acted and played their roles to perfection.

Vincent Perry received the congratulations of the members when they greeted his play with a storm of applause. The fact that they seemed loath to leave the theatre, at the final curtain, was tribute in itself.

Col. Francis Ware, president of the league, announced that this initial production would be followed by plays of a similar excellent character as the season advanced. The plays would be produced in a theatre, following the initial venture, by Mrs. Arthur Brickenden, J. Stanley Meredith, Kenneth Greene, Sydney Sims and G. Basil Morgan.

Judgment was reserved yesterday afternoon by Judge Macbeth in the \$500 assault case brought by Arthur Bradley against Arthur N. Coleman. Both men are Londoners. Coleman being fined in police court last May by Magistrate Graydon over the same case that Judge Macbeth listened to yesterday.

"There is nothing on either side to justify an assault," declared the court after hearing the evidence. Neither showed the slightest inclination to avoid it.

Coleman in the witness box stated that Bradley had been the aggressor in the fight. Bradley in the witness-box yesterday morning, claimed that Coleman had assaulted him in the Sherlock-Manning Company garage at 5 o'clock on the afternoon of May 19 last and injured his left knee to such an extent that he was not able to work for six weeks and that even yet his knee had not recovered from the injury. Bradley said that Coleman threw him to the ground, twisting his knee. He was forced to stay in bed for seven days.

"The defendant states that your knee had been hurt before. Is that true?" asked Howard Cluff, counsel for plaintiff.

"Not my left knee," replied witness. "My right knee was kicked by a mule in France."

Evidence for the defence will be heard this afternoon.



LEVI GENERAL

Six Nations Independence party leader, whose property near Brantford, it is reported, will be seized by the sheriff to pay his debts. Levi is in Europe, trying to get the ear of the League of Nations on behalf of Indians who demand independence.

ALL NEW STUNTS IN LLOYD COMEDY

"Hot Water," Now Showing at Capitol, Proves Real Gloom Chaser.

Harold Lloyd, in "Hot Water," at the Capitol for the first half of this week presents a real gloom chaser. Harold made a wonderful picture along similar lines at the beginning of this year called "Girl Shy." This is every bit as funny, and the stunts are all new and original as they usually are with Harold. It can safely be recommended to anyone who has forgotten how to smile.

"One of the funniest adventures in the play is when Harold meets the ghost of his mother-in-law, whom he believes he has killed. The children who saw it yesterday screamed and laughed so much when the ghost and Harold were about to meet that the orchestra was drowned. As always, Harold has chosen a pretty little girl, Jobyna Ralston, to play with him, and the picture is in every way well worth seeing.

Jack Dempsey appears in one of the series of "Flight and Win," during which he stages a little set-to with a band of society swell mobsters, which lasts all the way down a long staircase, and which should at least keep the champion of the world in training. He loses everything but his trousseau in the melee and seems to enjoy it.

Comedy, which is the keynote of the program, is continued with a clever picture, "High Gear" with Bobby Vernon. This is the story of a driver in an international auto race, and provides plenty of opportunities of a kind which the genial Bobby can make interesting and funny. The program includes a Camera Rumble in British Columbia among the Siwash and their totem poles, and a pen and ink comedy sketch.

NAME NORWAY'S CAPITAL TO BE CHANGED TO "OSLO"

Associated Press Despatch. Christiania, Dec. 8.—It was announced today that after January 1 the name of the capital of Norway will be changed from Christiania to Oslo.

STOCK COMPANY AGAN DELIGHTS

"Smilin' Through" Presented by Majestic Players—Lyle Clement Stars.

"Smilin' Through," Jane Cowie's comedy success, opened at the Majestic theatre last night, and for the third time the Majestic Stock Company players touched a responsive audience with a splendid presentation of a popular play.

While "Smilin' Through" is a comedy abundant with laughs it is by no means all foolscap. It has its serious moments, and whether the author had any intention of moralizing or not, he has left a message or two in the book which might be worth some consideration.

The play is given forcefulness by the convincing strength of character of John Carteret, whose love for the lost bride never lagged throughout fifty years. There is an appealing sentiment in such a thought. It is almost refreshing in these days of alimony. But just as it marked strength so did it show a weakness. It was a love so strong as to be unreasonable. For it possessed the role well. He doubts effectively. As a blustering old man he is all that could be desired.

Peggy Courtyard has a winsome part. Mooneyan Clare, a happy, lovable Irish girl who knows just how to bring old men and young men to her feet.

Edward Cullen as Kenneth Wayne plays opposite Miss Courtyard. They provide no little humor and a few dramatic moments as are usually supposed to follow in the course of true love.

Malcolm Arthur is seen in the role of Dr. Owen Harding, lifelong friend of the crusty John Carteret. The setting is truly all that one could ask for. The lighting effects are beautiful.

"Smilin' Through" is sentimental, but the Majestic Players make it worth while.

Water Bates sang "Roses of Picardy," "I Love You" and "The End of a Perfect Day." We have heard better singing.

Astor's Picture Will Come Down

Portrait Will Not Hang in House of Commons.

Associated Press Despatch. London, Dec. 8.—Lady Astor's portrait is not to hang in the House of Commons, at least during her lifetime. The portrait, which was painted by Sims, occupies a place on the wall of one of the staircases, but it is covered with cloth, and now will be removed, because the Conservative party, like the previous parliament, finds it "undesirable as a matter of principle that pictures or statues of living persons should be accepted for the House of Parliament."

The hanging of Lady Astor's picture in the House raised a little storm among the members, and for some weeks there has been a vexed dispute about the story of the removal of a picture of a man who was a member of the House of Commons originally with the approval of the government then in power.

MAN FAINT FROM HUNGER, KILLED BY FALL ON WALK

Canadian Press Despatch. Montreal, Dec. 8.—The fall that caused his death was due to the fact that he had not eaten for so long that he could no longer stand, according to a finding made by the local coroner who investigated the death of Joseph Buquette, aged 35, who died from a fracture of skull, sustained when he fell to the pavement and struck his head while walking on the street last Thursday.

BRILLIANT CAST IN GRAND PICTURE

"The Woman On the Jury" One of Best Films.

One of the most remarkable casts in point of ability and numbers, which has ever appeared in motion pictures, is included in "The Woman on the Jury," a First National picture which is the current feature at the Grand theatre for the first half of this week.

Generally the cast of a picture play consists of six to ten principals, but in "The Woman on the Jury," there are 18 players whose names are familiar to almost all motion picture fans. This huge cast of brilliant actors and actresses is ably supported by three excellent vaudeville acts and a Larry Simon comedy which constitute the remainder of the program at the Grand. Harry Fiddler was well applauded at last night's performance in his act which brought forth clever mimicry and imitation. An acrobatic hand ball act, in which two clever athletes perform a series of difficult gymnastics bears the main position of the vaudeville turns.

The story is intensely interesting throughout and the picture is unstinted in settings, filled with drama, and is a perfect guarantee of an evening's enjoyment.

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It is seldom that a picture has possessed such a gripping and thrilling plot, and it is not surprising that the picture is being seen in the same manner, and has narrowly escaped the same fate at other houses.

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TWENTY-THREE LOST WHEN VESSEL BURNS

Many Passengers Reported Missing After Destruction of Steamer.

Special to The Advertiser. Port Louis, Mauritius, Dec. 8.—Twenty-three passengers of the steamer Cicala are missing in a fire which broke out on the ship while it was in the Indian ocean. According to survivors, there were several sharp explosions, in which a number of passengers were killed. Other passengers jumped into the sea.

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JUDGMENT RESERVED IN \$500 ASSAULT CASE

Judge Macbeth Declares Participants Had No Cause To Quarrel.

Judgment was reserved yesterday afternoon by Judge Macbeth in the \$500 assault case brought by Arthur Bradley against Arthur N. Coleman. Both men are Londoners. Coleman being fined in police court last May by Magistrate Graydon over the same case that Judge Macbeth listened to yesterday.

"There is nothing on either side to justify an assault," declared the court after hearing the evidence. Neither showed the slightest inclination to avoid it.

Coleman in the witness box stated that Bradley had been the aggressor in the fight. Bradley in the witness-box yesterday morning, claimed that Coleman had assaulted him in the Sherlock-Manning Company garage at 5 o'clock on the afternoon of May 19 last and injured his left knee to such an extent that he was not able to work for six weeks and that even yet his knee had not recovered from the injury. Bradley said that Coleman threw him to the ground, twisting his knee. He was forced to stay in bed for seven days.

"The defendant states that your knee had been hurt before. Is that true?" asked Howard Cluff, counsel for plaintiff.

"Not my left knee," replied witness. "My right knee was kicked by a mule in France."

Evidence for the defence will be heard this afternoon.

SMITHERS ESTATE PROBATED. Associated Press Despatch. London, Dec. 8.—The estate of the late Sir Alfred Waldron Smithers, who was chairman of the Grand Trunk Railway, now merged in the Canadian National Railway, and who died August 22 last, has been probated at £40,000.