

WEEK-END PROGRAMME AT THE NICKEL!

"Hearts and Diamonds."

A Vitagraph two-part comedy drama. John Bunny plays professional Ball.

"The Struggle Everlasting."

A gripping and interesting two-part melo drama.

"SLIPPERY SAM AND THE FORTUNE"—A side-splitting comedy.

"SO SHINES A GOOD DEED"—A Western drama.

Howard Stanley Sings, "I Cant Stop Loving You Now."

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SOME SPLENDID PICTURES

FRIDAY NIGHT, GO AS YOU PLEASE CONTEST

1st Prize, \$5.00; 2nd Prize, \$3.00; 3rd Prize, \$2.00. Lots of names this week and lots of fun.

THE CRESCENT PICTURE PALACE

Big Week-End Feature Bill

"THE OLD OAK'S SECRET."

A Vitagraph Drama. Killed in the war he leaves his estate to a young man, a grasping relative endeavors to confiscate it. The old oak and an old negro foil him and the two young lovers are made happy.

"THE BEAR FACTS"—Sunny Jim goes hunting for Bears and finds them. Bobby Connolly the boy actor is great in this.

"THE GIRL AT THE CURTAIN"—an unusual dramatic attraction in 2 parts by the Essanay Company, featuring Francis Bushman.

"HE SAID HE COULD ACT" and "MISTAKEN CONFIDENCE" are two excellent comedies.

The usual Extra Pictures at the Big SATURDAY MATINEE. Send along the Children, the Crescent will take care of them.

Weakness of Diplomacy

Secrecy Leads to Jealousies and Jealousies to Intrigue

Arguments for Open Agreements and Restriction of the Power Vested in Foreign Secretaries

One of the most marked defects of the present traditional system of diplomacy, that is to say, diplomacy carried on in secret by individual Ministers and their representatives, is the shifting and ephemeral character of alliances. The ally of one decade may be and often is the enemy of the next. There is no sort of security of substance or permanence. How, indeed, can there be when a Minister in forming an alliance acts entirely on his own responsibility and with unadvised discretion on behalf of a government which is to-day and out to-morrow, while he himself may be exchanged for another individual acting in an equally unrepresentative manner and with possibly different motives and objects in view? While treaties, agreements, and commitments can be concluded without any consultation whatsoever with the people, it is impossible to secure the stability and durability which alone can come from popular sanction, and it is equally impossible to avoid the fluctuating insecurity which comes from fear and jealousy by which individuals can be so easily infected, more especially if their intercourse is conducted in private and their decisions kept hidden from the public gaze. Secrecy means intrigue; intrigue leads to the creation of "special friendships," and therefore special jealousies; allied groups of nations are formed and this is the foundation of the policy of the Balance of Power, which in its turn is followed by inevitably as night follows day by competition in armaments and war. We are not likely to get much

change in this diplomatic conception of international relations, except perhaps a variation in the pawns which form the groups, unless the people become guarantors of alliances and their open confidence in their fellow-men of other nationalities takes the place of the continual suspicion which governments, ministers, and monarchs invariably retain for one another in present conditions. If, therefore, we desire to see in Mr. Asquith's words—"the substitution for force, for the clash of competing ambitions, for grouping and alliances, and great-ones against, of a real European partnership"—let us make up our minds early that success in this direction will depend largely on the extent to which popular control of foreign policy is substituted for the present un-restricted and practically autocratic power vested in the Foreign Secretary. The Concert of Europe has been ridiculed in the past because of its incapacity for action. It existed during the worst period of Abdul Hamid's cruel oppression of his Christian subjects; it was revived for a short period during the Balkan War of 1912, and an attempt was made at the eleventh hour to bring it once more into being a week before the outbreak of the present war. It would seem, therefore, as if in moments of danger even statesmen believed in the efficacy of Concert as a preventive agency in the direction of peace. In Turkey it accomplished very little; in the Balkan War it produced a settlement which proved to be no settlement. But its merit does not rest on its activity,

which is admittedly restricted, but on the very fact of its existence. With the Concert in being, quarrels and conflicts in the Near East, however much they may indirectly affect the interests of the Great Powers do not lead to European war. No war can be attributed to the existence of the Concert, whereas many wars in the past have been the direct outcome of attempts to maintain the so-called Balance of Power. And now that the most disastrous war the world has ever seen can be directly traced to this same origin, is it too much to expect that Ministers will abandon the worship of what John Bright described as "the foul idol—fouler than any heathen tribe ever worshipped?" The very expression, "Balance of Power," is a bit of diplomatic hypocrisy. Neither group attempts or desires to maintain a balance. Both sides endeavour necessarily to see how far, without oversteering the whole machine, they can tilt the scales down in their own favour. Hence the continual tension, suspicion, jealousy, preparation, and the gradual creation of an atmosphere favourable only to eventual explosion. The folly of it seems too obvious for argument; and had the people been informed and consulted as to our general policy during the last ten years a strong body of opinion would have been created to dispute its wisdom. But even in the House of Commons the protests of those who foresaw danger have been disregarded and ignored. Because under our present system you may discuss the administration of the New Hebrides, Chinese railways, Persian oil, and Panama tolls, but a debate on our general European policy or the governing principles of our international relations is not considered relevant or proper.

But those who are wise enough to begin at once the study of these great problems of reconstruction will see at the outset that European unity or co-operation between the Powers should no longer be an emergency policy to be adopted at the caprice of a Minister; but that measures should be taken to secure it as the normal and permanent foundation of Europe. This can only be done by the establishment of an International Council on which all the Powers

great and small, should have representation. While all judicable disputes between nations can be referred to The Hague Court, that is to say questions capable of treatment by arbitration, as, for example, the interpretation of a treaty or questions of international law, the graver disputes, out of which serious differences are more likely to arise, and which are only capable of treatment by mediation or conciliation, should be referred to the International Council. The Powers should therefore bind themselves by treaty so to refer all such disputes, to resist from hostile action while the Council considers them, and to abide by its decision. If having consented to enter into this arrangement, which amounts to a mutual guarantee for their own security and integrity, as well as for the security and integrity of other States, they fail either to await the report of the Council or to abide by its findings, they would cover a large united body of opinion against them. The signatory Powers would be prepared by diplomatic or economic pressure, or if the cases were grave enough possibly by force, to maintain the authority of the Council; and the very existence of so large a corporate body of international opinion would deter any would-be recalcitrant State from pursuing an aggressive line of action, as in such circumstances it would obviously defeat its own national interests. By this means negotiation over an international dispute would be greatly simplified, and would be conveniently concentrated. The machine to deal with it would not have to be called into existence, but would be ready at hand, for the Council would be a permanent body. Moreover, the valuable period of delay would obviate the precipitate action which invariably leads to war.

The confused tangle of diplomatic intercourse, as illustrated by the complex negotiations preceding the present war, with its double line of communication between each capital, its interviews, despatches, and telegrams between ambassadors, ministers, chancellors and monarchs, is not only hopelessly unpractical and unbusinesslike but is calculated to produce a degree of confusion and misunderstanding which can only have the effect of widening the scope of the dispute and enlarging the area of the conflict. If this degree of permanently united action can be established between nations—and the proposal errs more on the side of moderation than of excessive idealism—one notable result would be the elimination of the motive for ever-increasing expenditure on armaments. For in order that the people of Europe shall no longer continue to be crushed down under this burden in time of peace and that the certain danger which the existence of vast quantities of munitions of war has now positively been proved to create shall be avoided in future, it is not an ingenious scheme for limitation that is wanted but a fundamental change in the underlying motives of Governments. We are confronted with a great failure, a catastrophe that has shaken the world. There are two ways of facing it. We can either say the war is solely and entirely due to the pernicious machinations of an unscrupulous enemy attempting to satisfy his lust for dominion by aggressive and provocative action and dishonest and immoral diplomacy; that only by the complete defeat and humiliation of the enemy can Europe gain peace for a time; accordingly military victory is the one and only object to which our entire attention must be turned; the rest is a matter for statesmen to deal with afterwards. Or we can say: Neither the disputes of Balkan States nor an arrogant policy of aggression promoted by any party or any individual in any State should be allowed to result in the peace-loving peoples in Western Europe killing and maiming one another by the hundred thousand and their countries being financially and economically ruined; that the fault lies primarily in the method and the medieval machinery of diplomacy and in the fact that policies are arranged behind the backs of the people, that we must work without pause not for the complete subjugation of one nation, because that only means, as experience has shown, the domination of another nation, not for triumph—the pleasure of fools—not for vengeance—the call of cowards, but for the establishment of concerted action and co-operation between all countries; and that this can be brought about by an immediate and

In Memoriam Thistle--Oxford

(Editor Mail and Advocate.)
Dear Sir,—I would appreciate space in your esteemed paper to record the death of two of our young people. After suffering many months from that long and lingering disease Consumption they were young, and bright, and full of life.

Maxwell Thistle, son of Mr. Thomas and Lydia Thistle, who was 16 years of age; also Naoma Pearl Oxford, aged 13 years, daughter of the late Archibald and Olevia Oxford.

They are safe in that land with many a loved one. But we shall never forget them, we cannot forget their loving and welcome smile. We would not forget them, it helps us to think of the land where it's all one long day of friendship with loved ones gone before us.

May God whisper words of comfort to the sad hearts of the bereaved ones. We cannot lose any real good friend pass from our sight. But our lives are the stronger and more beautiful for that friendship. Efforts and achievements are forgotten, but the long ago struggle, and the victory won, are armours for new contests to-day. Happiness lives on as sweet memories. Self sacrifice abide as unselfishness, whatever of good we have known is in our lives as long as we love the good.

"Sleep on beloved, sleep and take thy rest.
Lay down thy head upon thy Saviour's breast.
We loved thee well but Jesus loved thee best.
Good night, good night."

—A FRIEND.
Little Bay Islds., April 14, '15.

Union Parade at Little Bay Islds.

(Editor Mail and Advocate.)

Dear Sir,—Little Bay Islands Local Council held their sixth annual parade Monday, April 12th, which proved a thorough success. The weather was beautiful. On leaving the hall at 3 p.m. we proceeded on the march round the harbor amidst hearty cheers for the President and Union.

Arriving at the hall again after an hour and a half walk we re-entered and sat down with appetites which did ample justice to the splendid repast prepared by the ladies. We were then entertained for two hours with speeches by some of the prominent members, and songs and recitations by the young people in which the young ladies figured largely.

Meeting closed at 10.30 p.m., everybody thoroughly satisfied and wishing long life to the President and every success to the Union.

—CORRESPONDENT.

full consideration of reforms of method and proposals for international deliberation, and more especially by securing means for a fuller expression of the national mind through the assistance of the people for the better security of international friendship and the control of the people over all national obligations.

This latter attitude of mind would seem to be the wiser and the more far-sighted. While for the real men of action to-day no praise can be too high, on those who by thought and reflection and serious mental effort are endeavouring to prepare an adequate compensation not only for this country but for humanity as a whole for the lives that are lost, no blame should be cast, but to them on the contrary every encouragement should be given. The man, however, who prefers the first attitude of mind is neither a man of action nor a man of thought, and he is no help to the former and a distinct hindrance to the latter. He is a garrulous patriot and a prolific writer; he never tires of vilification of the enemy and refuses to discuss anything but the war. He declares with pompous unctious that it will be time enough to talk about peace when the victory is won, a phrase he considers the profoundest wisdom, but which as a matter of fact is on a par in its folly with "The best way to preserve peace is to prepare for war."

His talk and writing are like the discharge of firearms loaded with blank cartridges. He is an obstacle to the propagation of sound ideas.

But we can afford to disregard him as the signs on all sides of serious thought and anxiety for some achievements are very encouraging and we ours towards the establishment of a permanent peace by any disparagement or abuse from whatever quarter they may emanate.

J.J. St. John

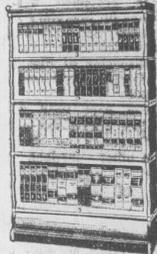
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Notice to French Residents

By Order—All Frenchmen born in 1897 are requested to report immediately to this Consulate, in order to pass the medical examination for military service.

This order applies also to the men born in 1898, 1894 and 1895, whose enlistment has been postponed by previous medical examinations for temporary physical insufficiency.

P. SUZOR,
V. Consul for France,
St. John's. ap1214

FOR SALE—One Skiff
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