

"Movies" Defended

YOUR issue of March 30 contained an article entitled, Why Not Supervise Movies for Children? which puts the motion picture, not movie, in a bad light, and not only bad but unjust. The reference to serial pictures is much exaggerated; we all know that serial pictures are dramatic or melodramatic, whichever you choose to call it; but if a serial was not that kind of play it would be a failure. The people who follow serials want melodrama, and that is where they see it. Children as a rule do not care for anything but comedies.

Miss Semple says, "A few years ago the theatre was a place unknown to the average child"; I beg to differ. In Toronto fifteen years ago the house that ran melodrama did a big business with children, both afternoon and evening; and it was the earnest hope of all the children that they could go to see "The Child Slaves of New York," or "Left at the Altar," or "Wedded, But no Wife," and a dozen more. These are actual titles of melodramas which played at this theatre, then known as the "mail house."

Now the children who went to these theatres were not all gutter-snipes; the children of the average citizen were just as fond of these shows as the toughest newsboy on the corner; but the Grand and Princess Theatres hardly ever knew the children. I know, because I was one of the children.

As for the police records, they show nothing convincing. If a boy gets into trouble, he is going to show that he was influenced by someone or some thing, so that his punishment will be light. Children know the antagonism there is to the picture theatre, and, of course, it is the goat. I know of a case where

Native-Born Article Condemned

FROM time to time I have deprecated some of the sentiments expressed in your paper; but the mendacious statement by Candida in this week's issue, saying that Canada is "an Anglo-French bilingual country," makes it necessary for me to remind you that I only took the paper for a year, and to request that you take my name off your list.

Canada is a British country; it is not bilingual, and although the French folk in Quebec make-believe bilingualism, and riot in sedition, the time of their coddling will, I trust, be terminated when the soldiers return from Europe.

CLARA GREENHOW (Walkerville, Ont.)

a boy got into trouble and said he had seen the thing he did at a certain theatre only a few days before; now I am in a position to know that this boy was only in this particular theatre twice, and the second time he was put out for causing a disturbance.

And a certain police magistrate, not a thousand miles from Toronto, once said that "children learned more harm in their own homes and on the street than in a picture theatre."

As for being exposed to danger, think this over. The State prison in Atlanta, Georgia, has its own picture theatre with a sixteen piece orchestra, and they run pictures there every week. The warden says that the pictures are entertaining, educational and morally uplifting, and a great instrument for good. Surely, when pictures are good for condemned criminals, they should not be harmful for children.

If you want to control the children's amusement time or hours, do not let them in a theatre during school hours or after eight o'clock at night, unless accompanied by parents or guardian.

CECIL W. WALLIS (Hamilton.)

Not a Romance At All

LAUGH and the world laughs with you, weep and you weep alone. These lines came flashing through my mind when I read the article in a recent issue of the Canadian Courier, entitled, An Unstaged Canadian Romance.

The article in question does not merit any notice, as it was evidently written by a person whose mind was polluted by reading dime novels. I am a near relative of the respectable young lady whom this article tries to ridicule, and a constant reader of your magazine, and I assure you I was greatly sur-

The Open Forum

CONTRARY views about native-born and equally opposed ideas about motion pictures as discussed in these columns. Strong words on Democracy. Titles defended. A rebuke to the Editor. German language condemned. Mr. Chisholm criticised.

Dear Mr. Editor:—

prised to see such trash appear in its columns. No doubt it was a source of satisfaction to the writer, as it gave him a chance to uncork his bottled-up venom in a manner befitting his ignorance. The article is a tissue of falsehoods, and of the most invidious nature imaginable. I dare not give you the true facts about the case, for the simple reason it would be food for thought, and that is just what the writer is after. Suffice it to say, that the young lady in question is highly esteemed and respected by everyone who knows her, and has sufficient good sense to appreciate the fact that money alone cannot buy those things in life which are lacking in the writer of the article to which I refer.

CITIZEN (Aylmer, P.Q.)

Agrees With Riethdorf

AS one of your subscribers, I saw in your paper of March 30 an article written by Prof. Riethdorf on Reasons for Putting a Ban on German. As a Canadian I have a little interest in the question. To my mind it is time for Canadian patriots all over Canada to unite and help French and English to understand each other in our country. Canada was discovered and established by France. Now it is a possession of England, but there are more than two millions of French-Canadians who boast to be Canadians first, and who are here to live and progress. They claim to have special rights by the treaty of cession and by different acts of Parliament passed in 1774, 1791, 1840 and 1867, as regards language and religion. Why are not these claims recognized in English Provinces? And why do they not treat French and Catholics as English and Protestants are treated by the provincial laws of Quebec?

Tell your readers the true facts of Canadian history. Say to your fanatics that they should change their views if they don't want to be compared with Germans. Why can they not follow the lessons of Canadian statesmen, whose intention it was that the same rights given in Quebec to Protestant minority should be allowed in English provinces to Catholic minority?

F. H. ROY (Montreal.)

Criticizes A. M. Chisholm

I CANNOT resist saying something about the tissue of falsehoods contained in the article by Mr. A. M. Chisholm, entitled, The West Talks to the East. The West (as represented by Mr. Chisholm) in this instance is totally misinformed, and, to use his own words, "does not know beans about Quebec." The facts in his article only show his snobbishness and his very small knowledge (if any) of the conditions and spirit of brotherhood in the Province of Quebec. He says that the people of Quebec are not conversant with the English language, and only read the newspapers printed in their own French language. I am sure that Mr. Chisholm doesn't speak or read French, or he would not speak as he does. The average French-speaking people of Quebec are more conversant with English than any proportion of the English-speaking people in all the rest of Canada are with French. The article was very displeasing to all your readers of the Province of Quebec (and they are now not few). I may add that Mr. Verne DeWitt Rowell's article in the same issue that he knows something about Quebec.

LIONEL LEFEBVRE (Huil. P.Q.)

"Movies" Need Control

MY Canadian manager, Mr. H. Heseltine Gate, has sent me a few copies of your very interesting publication. I am very much impressed with its freshness, frankness and comprehensive survey of so many phases of the life of the Dominion. The articles on the Menace of the Movies are exceedingly well written, and touch one of the most vital questions affecting the citizens of to-morrow. For the past five years I have been giving this ques-

tion much study, both in practice and theory.

So firmly convinced have I been of the magnitude of the peril, especially in the States, where moving picture houses operate seven days a week, that I have added to my list of lectures one on the unfortunate aspects of the moving-picture.

In the first place the average moving picture house is devoid of ventilation, being nothing more than a tunnel with both ends sealed up. It is true, that there are a few well-built houses, but the majority of children attend the cheap and unventilated ones. If it did not seem quite certain that most children have charmed lives, most of them would be dead or suffering from all the diseases known here.

As to the pictures themselves, the first type may be called "crime pictures." They bring to the sensitive child mind almost every scene that can come under the head of crime. If possible, the greater peril comes from the so-called "problem plays," which are produced under the excuse that they teach the results of doing evil and breaking the moral law. While there may be a modicum of truth in that claim, the great evil that is sowing its poison in the minds of children is a thousand times greater than

Native-Born Article Commended

IT is not often that we of Quebec have compliments to make to Toronto people; but, frankly, after reading the article, Shall the Native-Born Control This Country? by Candida, I cannot help congratulating you on the right spirit displayed. I have admired your breadth of view for some months.

Try to learn more about Quebec. They may not be wealthy people there; but they are honest and straight, and are always anxious to learn. Let 25 years elapse, and the Province of Quebec will surprise the Dominion.

A. W. PATENAUDE (Montreal.)

any possible good that could come.

Is it true, then, that the motion picture is a failure and useless? Not by any means. On the other hand it is one of the very greatest factors in the educational world to-day, and may be used almost without limit as to its possibilities, but under certain regulations and strict supervisions.

1. There ought to be a nationwide, worldwide movement to eliminate all suggestive and crime bearing pictures.

2. There ought to be established a nationwide and locally efficient board of censors, composed of mothers who care for their children, a board that will absolutely not permit "problem plays" and "crime pictures."

3. Legislation ought to be secured that will punish to the limit any one producing such pictures or displaying them after they are produced.

4. There ought to be a definite restriction as to the number of pictures shown at a given time. So that the brains of children may not be overstrained.

Wishing to express my appreciation of what your paper is doing to stimulate good citizenship,

RAYMOND B. TOLBERT (Niagara Falls, Ont.)

Fighting for Democracy

MOST of the papers published in Canada to-day do not give any attention whatever to the actual and candid discussion of the real problems facing the country, and are therefore not worth the paper that they are printed on. I am sending you the enclosed, which I hope you will publish.

DO you believe in Democracy? Do you really think that Democracy is worth fighting for? If Democracy is worth fighting for it must be be-