

THE LONDON ADVERTISER, MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1922.

DIBS AND DABS

—BY HARRY MOYER

CRY TO CLEAN UP MOVIES
FAILS TO GAIN RESPONSE

Suggestion To Drop Certain Stars From Roll Goes by Unheeded—Wallace Reid Scandal Again Brings Up Question of Necessary Action in Matter.

FEAR OF LOSING MONEY HALTS WORK

By FOREST WHITE.
Special to The Advertiser.

Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 18.—Several months ago a group of clean, high-minded and conscientious men in the motion picture world, under promise of co-operation by the men in control of motion picture production in Hollywood, made an earnest effort to clean house from the inside.

They conducted a painstaking investigation of the private lives and habits of the members of the film colony in Hollywood, whose names are prominently linked with the industry. As a result of this they prepared a list of "unsafe" persons, chiefly actors or directors, then in motion pictures. The list contained 117 names. This list was to be directed to the attention of the heads of production with the recommendation that the persons named therein should be denied further employment at the studios.

Confident in the promise of co-operation so readily given when the matter of reforming the motion picture industry from the inside was broached, the members of this committee approached the head of production of one of the larger motion picture concerns. He received them smiling, took the list and glanced at it; then a frown replaced the smile. "You men should know that we are asking the impossible," he said. "Why it would mean at least a two million dollar loss to us to do a thing like that in the case of this one man."

"We are willing to do our part," he said, "but a thing like that would be suicide. We must remember that we are practical men and business-men."

The name at the head of the list was that of Wallace Reid. The reason given for placing his name on the list was that he was a drug addict, and was known to use seven kinds of narcotics.

Fail to Gain Co-operation.
The members of the committee, wiser than when they came, took back their list and departed. Failing to gain the co-operation of such a powerful figure in motion picture production as the man they had gone to first with their list made their efforts hopeless. The list was filed away for safekeeping.

Today the country is talking about another scandal in Hollywood. Wallace Reid, one of the most popular actors on the screen, is a fallen idol. Newspapers throughout the world are playing up the news that his physical collapse, which has brought him almost within the shadow of death, is due to the use of narcotics.

The fact that Wallace Reid was

addicted to drugs has now been news in Hollywood for more than two years. He was a good fellow, though, and his own worst enemy, and no newspaper man who knew Reid was willing to "break" the story. But now that the truth has found its way into print, it is just as well that the full truth should be known, and how the present scandal could have been avoided through far-sightedness and a higher regard for moral fibre than for mere dollars on this part of the men who control the making of motion pictures.

Wallace Reid's name has been checked off on the list of unsafe persons prominent in motion pictures production. He is making a hard and game fight to come back free from the drug and liquor habit, and deserves all sympathy. But will he again take his place as an actor for the screen? Probably not.

116 Names Remain.
That leaves only 116 names on the list of unsafe ones in motion picture production, with only 116 potential scandals in store to blast further reputations among screen players, directors and producers, and reflect upon the entire industry. Probably any call boy in the motion picture studios could rattle off at least twenty of these names at the first asking.

Only 116 names on the list, "hopeless" "chances" and the person of bad habits and worse associates, persons lacking in moral responsibility and all liable at any time to bring disgrace to motion picture industry—all listed and catalogued.

But are they money-makers for the producers? Aye, there's the rub. Most of them are, and, under present conditions, will have to kill themselves off through scandal and loss of earning power before they disappear from the motion picture industry. Will there be a change in conditions?

Will Hays, ruling head of the motion picture industry, indicate his opinion in Los Angeles right now. He was on the ground when one of Hollywood's scandals broke right under his nose, and he is not at all happy about the present situation.

The Reid scandal caught him unaware. It was put up to him. He has been quoted and misquoted and charged with many things that he really said when the matter was first brought to his attention was that there was nothing for him to say except that he was not going to help in hoping that Reid will win back his health and be himself again.

Quebec Railway MAY BE LIQUIDATED

President Predicts Move Unless Substitute Bills Are Passed by House.

Special to The Advertiser.
Montreal, Que., Dec. 18.—The Gazette this morning publishes the following: "E. A. Robert, president of the Quebec Railway, Light, Heat and Power Company, told the private committee of the Quebec legislature, that unless the substitute bills be passed before that body are passed, the system of which he became the head last spring, would have to go into the hands of a receiver, owing to its inability to finance."

That will be a striking piece of information for shareholders and the public in general, who ever since the present administration took hold, have been led to believe, through official and semi-official information, that the Quebec Railway was becoming a very attractive proposition. And from the statements shown these assertions seemed to have a certain degree of substance.

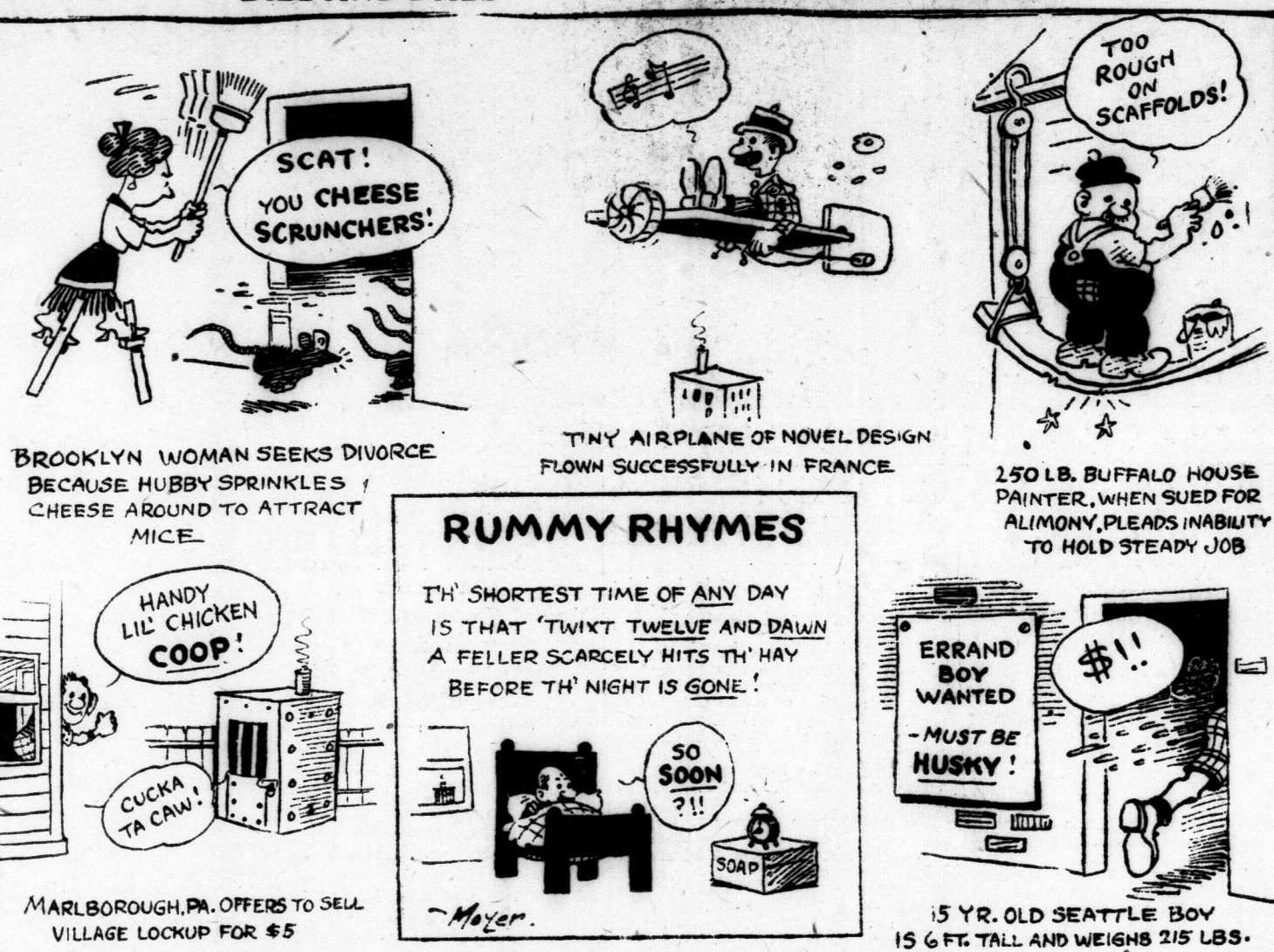
"What is to be concluded?" "Prior to any talk of segregation of the three companies, Mr. Robert had publicly expressed his belief in the Quebec Railway. He caused to be issued a statement of earnings, showing the company to be making very favorable progress. Now he says that unless these bills pass the company must go into liquidation. There is a growing disposition on the part of the public to demand more enlightenment as to the corporate conduct of companies whose securities are placed before them in the markets."

This is a justifiable inclination, particularly in the case of public utilities, and the present Quebec railway developments are adding confusion to a situation, which was already rather confused. The province of Quebec securities of all classes enjoy the general confidence of the public, and that confidence would be enhanced, if any skeletons were drawn out on this occasion and steps taken to lay them finally to rest.

The income bond situation, for one thing, needs explanation. And this is something that in no way reflects upon the present administration. There are many who saw with no little justification, distinct possibilities for the Quebec Railway Light, Heat and Power Company, as it stands at the present. Included among the latter, according to his own statements, was Mr. Robert, unless he had the ultimate passage of the bills in mind, when he expressed himself. And before the bills are finally passed it seems very likely that the legislators will insist upon knowing in detail just how this new scheme is going to bring improvement.

ST. MARYS RESIDENT DIES ON TRAIN IN U. S.

Special to The Advertiser.
Buffalo, N. Y., Dec. 18.—T. J. Stillman, 45 years old, of St. Marys, Ont., died Tuesday morning on Erie passenger train No. 475, while it was a few miles out of Attica, N. Y., en route to Buffalo. Stillman's body was taken from the train and sent to an undertaking establishment in Attica. With Stillman on the train were his two brothers, Robert and David Stillman of Campbellton, Ont., near St. Thomas. The cause of Stillman's death had not been determined last night. He leaves a wife and two children in St. Marys.

ATTACKS ATTITUDE
TO UNEMPLOYED

Labor Member Declares All Should Have Right to Petition King.

London, Dec. 18.—Canadian Press Cable.—George Lansbury, the Labor member of the House of Commons for Poplar, speaking in Trafalgar Square after the unsuccessful effort of the unemployed to present a petition to the King, said that every individual had a right to approach the King by letter or petition.

They had not the right to go in a crowd and attempt to get into Buckingham Palace, he said, but the King was no more inaccessible than the mayor.

"We have come to a pretty tight pass," Mr. Lansbury declared, "if the prime minister is regarded as sacred. Then the King is to be prevented from receiving your petition. I want to say to Mr. Bridgeman, secretary for home affairs, and the authorities of Scotland Yard, that they are destroying the power of the Labor leaders to preserve the constitution. There was never a time in the history of the labor movement when the police were so active with provocative agencies."

MONTREAL GREEKS SING MASS FOR DEAD OFFICERS

Montreal, Dec. 18.—There was a gathering that crowded the Greek Orthodox Church yesterday morning, when a solemn requiem high mass was chanted, under the auspices of the Greek Constitutional Society of Montreal, for the repose of the souls of the ex-members of the Greek cabinet, who were recently executed at Athens.

The mass was sung by His Grace Archbishop Germanos Troinos of Monemvasia and Sparta and of New York, assisted by the Archimandrite, Arsenios Pallikaris, pastor of the parish.

Rev. John Farthing, Anglican bishop of Montreal, attended the service. He did not wear his episcopal robes, nor take part in the service, but was given a place of honor in the sanctuary.

SAW SMOKE BEFORE FIRE, BUT DID NOT RING ALARM

Windsor, Ont., Dec. 18.—Fire Chief C. J. Deifel and Deputy Provincial Fire Marshal Burnett, who conducted an investigation into the fire which destroyed the McGregor Block on the morning of Dec. 10, wiping out the Molsons Bank, a branch of the United Cigar Stores, two auto supply companies, and a billiard parlor, have decided that the blaze was caused either by an overheated furnace or burglar who broke into one of the places of business.

It was brought out at the investigation that several citizens smelled smoke, and one even saw smoke issuing from the windows of the bank an hour and a half before the alarm was turned in, but took no action to notify the fire department.

Will Not Ever Find Murderer of Blanche Garneau Is Belief

Foster Parents Hopeless of Bringing Criminal to Justice — "It Is Too Late!" They Say.

Special to The Advertiser.

Quebec, Dec. 17.—"The murderer of Blanche Garneau will never be found," thus spoke Michael Barbeau, the girl's foster-parent, to The Advertiser, and his aged wife nodded her corroboration.

A strange couple these two. The advertiser met them in the home where Blanche Garneau had lived, in Stadacona, a suburb of Quebec, on a narrow street lined with ramshackle houses. They owned the top floor of a two-story structure more pretentious than the other dwellings, painted, and with storm windows.

The Barbaus are old, and show it; Michael, heavy-set, clean shaven, pale cheeks freckled with red veins; his wife small, with face bronzed and wizened, one eye whitened, with sight destroyed, one eye black and piercing. And they are fatalists.

Blanche Garneau is dead. The police couldn't discover the murderer. Why all this reawakened sensation? Why the formation of a royal commission? Why the interest of Premier Taschereau? Why the declarations of Sauve and Lavergne? It is useless, say the Barbaus—the criminals will never be caught.

In Ten-Foot Room.
When The Advertiser talked of the murder of the young girl, it was in the largest of the Barbaus' four small rooms, ten feet square. Barbeau paced between a stove and a cupboard, three steps, and back again. His wife sat huddled in a chair, the unseeing eye wide open, the other half closed in reverie.

"How do you know that the criminal will not be caught?" Barbeau was asked. "Are you one of those who say that the government did not do its duty and did not search as it should?" He stopped his pacing.

"What of the government?" said he. "It is the police. They have searched well and found nothing. How do I know that the murderer has escaped? I don't. I just feel it."

"It was said," we reminded, "that the sons of members were mixed up in it, and that you had been given money to be quiet."

"That's all wrong," he replied. "I never got money from anyone. And those men had nothing to do with it."

Who Is Murderer?
"Have you any idea who is the murderer?"

He resumed his pacing, but, stopping suddenly, said: "No, I cannot tell. They had two men for it. But that was two years ago. It is too late now." "Yes, it is too late now," Mrs. Barbeau had come out of the past. Her eyes were moist with memories. "It is too late now," she reiterated. "They can never catch anyone." Then they spoke of the girl. The Garneau had been their distant relations, and they died while Blanche was young. The Barbaus had adopted her. They had given her an education, and then she had gone to work in Rousesau's tea store. She was a quiet girl, and good. She didn't go out much, and she had no boy friends.

"What of Martin Griffin, the lame boy, whom the police questioned?" "He was dismissed with a wave of the hand. Blanche Garneau just knew him."

Special to The Advertiser.

Constantinople, Dec. 18.—At least twenty-five persons, including three children and their mother, were drowned, burned or crushed to death in the disaster to the French hospital ship Vinlong in the Sea of Marmara Friday, in which American gobs played a heroic part as rescuers of survivors.

The American destroyer Bainbridge, Commander W. A. Edwards in command, was quickly at hand following the first outbreak of flames on the French vessels, which was crowded with refugees. Seeing the Vinlong's peril, Commander Edwards shoved the Bainbridge bow amidships of the Frenchman and held her there; a terrific explosion followed. Passengers on the hospital ship were in a panic. In forty minutes the crew of the Bainbridge had saved 482, despite the terror and confusion.

The formation of persons jumped from the Vinlong to the deck of the Bainbridge, one being killed and several injured in this manner. American gobs performed many acts of heroism, two diving into the water to save five persons hanging to a hawser, one of the latter proving to be the wife of the French admiral, commanding the Beyrouz squadron.

Feared Foul Play.
From the first they had feared foul play. They called the police. Then they called the gobs. Mrs. Barbeau began to weep when she spoke of this. The body was so decomposed they could hardly recognize their girl. They prayed that the men who did this thing be caught. They prayed that they be punished.

"But it is two years and a half," continued Mrs. Barbeau. "And they have no one, and that is why I say they never will find anyone. But Premier Taschereau has formed the royal commission. He is a powerful man," said Mr. Barbeau. But to him such a commission was something vague. Mr. Barbeau might have been from Missouri. He had to be shown. He could understand a policeman in uniform arresting a man, but a roomful of men arguing was different. Arguing that the government had done its duty and the government had not done its duty was just a roomful of men.

"Duval confessed that he knew who killed the girl, and he was brought before the commission. So did Binet," replied Mr. Barbeau. "But he said it was a lie, and they let him off. I tell you, there are lots mixed up in it, but you cannot say who murdered my girl; no one can tell; they'll never find the murderer."

"They'll never find them." Again Mrs. Barbeau repeated her husband's words, for this belief is held in common.

EXPLOSION OF POWDER KILLS 2 IN COAL MINE
Drumheller Alta., Dec. 18.—Wm. McKinnis, fire boss, and Harry Reece, a miner, were killed at Gibson Syndicate Mine last night when the powder magazine exploded while they were inside getting powder for the shift about to go on duty.

U. S. NOVEMBER EXPORTS ESTABLISH NEW RECORD
Washington, Dec. 18.—Exports for the month of November established a record for 1922, the department of commerce announced today. The value of exports totaled \$533,000,000, or \$12,000,000 greater than October, which was the best previous month for the present year.

November's exports were \$90,000,000 in excess of November, 1921. Exports for the eleven months ending November totaled \$4,903,450,750, compared with \$188,352,983 for the corresponding period last year, or a net decrease of \$698,451,233.

PERU SAYS "COERCION" PERMEATES PARLEY
Santiago, Chile, Dec. 18.—The Chilean foreign office has received a note from the Peruvian foreign office in which Peru accepts "in principle" an invitation to a Pan-American conference. Peru, however, reserved final acceptance, declaring a Peruvian delegation could not attend until certain "coercion" was eliminated. Such "coercion," the Peruvian government claims, is being exercised by officers of the Chilean army and by local police against Peruvians residing in Chile.

MOVE TO AID RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURE WORK
Ottawa, Dec. 18.—To encourage greater agricultural research the Canadian Society of Technical Agriculture, a Dominion-wide organization, with branches in each of the nine provinces, has decided to establish at least five annual scholarships of \$500 or \$600 each to be given any candidate holding the degree of bachelor of science in agriculture or its equivalent, who wishes to take further specialist training, and who otherwise would be financially handicapped.

14 STRIKES IN EVIDENCE THROUGHOUT NOVEMBER
Ottawa, Dec. 18.—The time loss due to industrial disputes was less during November than during either October, 1922, or November, 1921. There were in existence at some time or other during the month 14 strikes, involving about 2,190 work people, with an estimated time loss of 52,044 working days, as compared with 17 strikes, involving 3,223 work people and resulting in a time loss of 54,602 working days in October, 1922, and 13 strikes, 3,254 working people and 73,143 working days in November, 1921.

