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R. R. HIND ARCH.

CHANGE IN COMMAND.

Further changes have been made in the higher commands of the British army and the most important of these will come as a great surprise. This is the appointment of Sir Charles Munro to the command of the first British army in France in succession to Sir Douglas Haig, who has been elevated to the position of commander-in-chief. In the early days of the war, and especially as a result of the British retreat from Mons to the Marne there were three names specially mentioned in the records of these movements. These were Generals Douglas Haig, Smith-Dorrien and Ian Hamilton. All these commanders came in for great praise from the commander-in-chief, and Sir Ian Hamilton ranked next to Sir John French as the second soldier in the British army. He was given charge of the Gallipoli peninsula, and in some respects it has proved a disastrous failure. It would be unfair to lay all the responsibility for this with Sir Ian, but he was recalled and his successor was Sir Charles Munro. The latter on his arrival at once advised the withdrawal of the expedition, and his advice has been followed. And now Sir Charles has been withdrawn from the Near East and placed in command of the first British army on the west front. It seems a great step for a man so comparatively little known and untried, and it is significant that it followed the despatch of Smith-Dorrien to German Africa. The terrific strain of the war is making and unmaking reputations, and it is to be hoped that the new men will prove to be the men the hour calls for.

ANOTHER OPINION.

Mr. C. B. Stanton, the miner's leader who succeeded the late Keir Hardie in the representation of Merthyr Tydvil is not of the same

opinion of Mr. Jas. Parker, the Labor member whom the Herald quoted yesterday. It is to be presumed that he has equally as much authority for his statements as Mr. Parker, and at least he speaks the language of common sense. He dismisses as "hypocritical nonsense" the saying that "the British people are afraid of conscription." This is too plain to bear arguing. If there is ever conscription in Great Britain it will be because the majority of the people want it, and because a considerable minority of the men of Britain could not be induced or persuaded to do their duty. As long as there is this minority then Mr. Stanton is right in his assertion that the country is capable of doing infinitely more than it has done. If the men would not volunteer, he declared, they must be fetched. If the country is good enough to live in it was good enough to fight for. This is the essence of the whole question, and Mr. Stanton is to be congratulated on his courage in stating it so bluntly.

THEATRES

DOMINION THEATRE
John Barrymore in His Greatest Screen Triumph as "The Dictator."

The Famous Players Film Company's five-part photo-adaptation of the popular novel and play "The Dictator," by Richard Harding Davis which is now the chief attraction on the Paramount program at Dominion Theatre, affords John Barrymore, the inimitable comedian, and those immediately concerned with him in the production of fun, opulent opportunities to tickle the risibles of a large and thoroughly appreciative audience. He is as dry in his methods as "he" was in "The Man from Mexico" and his other sensational comedy successes. "Are You a Mason?" yet his system of provoking laughter in this subject is somewhat different, too, due to the melodramatic requirements of the story. "The Dictator" is termed a melodramatic comedy, and the fun of the plot emanates from the apparently serious situations in which the star finds himself. For this reason, only a Barrymore, with his knowledge of dramatic principles, could adequately interpret the role so that the humor is preserved.

All the subtleties of the art are brought to bear upon the part he portrays, and suggestion with him simply means fulfillment. Mr. Barrymore has probably never had a role, either on the stage or screen, which equipped him with better opportunities. The photoplay can be said to be full of "Barrymoreisms." As Brooke Travers, who has performed left New York with his valet on a South-bound steamer after a questionable night adventure with a cabman, the star is put through a series of deliciously amusing embarrassments, the sort most happily suited to his personality, emerging first as Uncle Sam's Consul at Porto Banos, and finally as its dictator. For the author, it might be said that Richard Harding Davis, treats South Americans and their chief pastime which is revolutions, in a highly comic manner, and the photoplay on the whole is one of the most diverting subjects produced on the screen in some time.

MARIE DRESSLER AT**THE BIJOU THEATRE.**

For a Merry Xmas and a merry time nothing on this western solere will eclipse seeing Marie Dressler at the Bijou Theatre today and Saturday. The fascinating film artist is to be seen in one of her fascinating productions while she is hitting the high places in her \$8,000,000 limousine with all her thoughts concentrated on "Tillie's Tomato Surprise", the latest and unquestionably the best six-part comedy that ever left the cele-

brated Lubin picture studio.

The spark plug bucked and the bitter tears of apparent disappointment rolled down her peach like face as though they would flood the carburetor and abolish the electric system entirely. But this all happened in the yard of the Lubin main studio in Philadelphia with the result that on today and tomorrow you'll have the pleasure of seeing the wonderful Marie Dressler at her best. Marie, like all other artists, has her troubles and she certainly had hers in producing this exceptional picture, but why should we worry even though she only gained a score of ounces of experience in several weeks and produced one of the most mirth-making pictures ever produced on the Lubin film.

The frivolous and daring young actress says she is tickled to death she is still alive, and all who witness Tillie's Tomato Surprise today and tomorrow will congratulate Miss Dressler and the management of the Bijou on presenting this rollicking and laugh factory and anxiously await to hear when this world renowned artist will be up to some more of her devilment to be produced on a Lubin film. Come, see, laugh, tell others, they will laugh.

KAISER CRITICALLY ILL

London, Dec. 23.—Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany is confined to his bed with a high fever, according to private messages received at The Hague and forwarded here. His three sons have been summoned to his bedside and the usual Christmas celebration has been called off.

WERE NO FATALITIES

London, Dec. 23.—Reuters correspondent at Amsterdam sends the following regarding the powder explosion at Muenster, Westphalia, which, according to some reports yesterday caused the loss of 300 lives. Muensterschen Anzeiger says a great number of windows were shattered and adjoining buildings were slightly damaged but there were no fatalities.

SERBIANS IN HUNGARY

There is a strong Serbian population of long settlement in the south of Hungary, whose villages cover a considerable region in the Magyar kingdom opposite Serbian Belgrade and Semendria, says a war note given out by the National Geographic society. This colony, or, rather these colonies have taken no inconsiderable part in the history of Austro-Hungary and both the colonies and the Austrian crown owe a score of gratitude to one another.

The foundations of the Serbian colony in Hungary were laid following the decisive Turkish victory upon the plain of Kosovo on June 15, 1389. Here the soldiers of Sultan Murat I. finally crushed the independence of the Serbian tribes, though the Sultan himself was killed upon the field of battle by a Serbian knight. The Turks sold the Serbians as slaves in the markets of Constantinople, while the Janissaries stationed in their lands made life unbearable for such as remained behind. Therefore, an influx of Serbians took place across the northern border.

As a consequence of the Serbian settlements and of their value as outpost defenders against the ever-widening dominion of the Turks, George Brankovitch, Serbian despot, was granted fiefs in Hungary and valuable concessions were granted to his people. The Serbian influx increased during Austria's wars with the Turks, 1683-1699, and the newcomers did valiant service under the imperial standard. Emperor Leopold I. granted them political and religious independence in recognition. The relations between the Serbians and the Austrians were generally of the best until the foundation of an independent Serbian state and the Balkan intrigues of Austria, Russia, Great Britain and Turkey, when a final and definite estrangement gradually came about. The old Serbian colonies in Hungary have since come to be looked upon as a Serbia "irredenta."

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NOTICE

The annual meeting of the Independent Order of Rechabites will be held in the Haliburton Street Methodist Church at 7.30 p.m. Thursday evening Dec. 23rd. Election of officers and other important business.

J. W. JAMES, Sec.

NOTICE.

Between hours of 5:30 p.m. and 12 noon all bars, saloons and other places where intoxicating liquors are retailed have been placed out of bounds for all troops in this military district. The order applies to all ranks.

Charley Comiskey said once that he liked his shortstop, Weaver, because Buck had all sorts of nerve. A Detroit writer, after seeing Weaver in his vaudeville act, says "Cammy sure was right about the shortstop having the nerve."

According to the latest figures one person in every twenty-one owns a motor car in Ohio. This is accounted for from the fact that on October 30 there were 180,000 cars in the state. Their total valuation is approaching the \$100,000,000 mark.

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