

NEWS NOTES GATHERED FROM THE WORLD OF STAGE AND SCREEN

EARTHQUAKE FICTION FILM FAILS TO INSPIRE FEELING OF REALITY

New Photoplay, "Torment," is Described as a "So So" Picture.

By JACK JUNGMEYER.
Hollywood, Feb. 16.—Directorial inspiration occasionally gives sparkling veneer to the most shop-worn of movie plot and situation. But this inspiration is lacking in "Torment," produced for First National by M. C. Levee under direction of Maurice Tourneur.

The result is a so-so picture which left this reviewer unmoved.

Its false treatment is all the more surprising because one expects something distinctive from Tourneur who has a disreputable for hokum.

The story by William Dudley Pelley, relied too much upon the novelty of an earthquake scene to carry along an ordinary tale of crook regeneration; too much upon the mere situation.

This quake, a well contrived echo of the recent Japanese disaster, imprisons the characters of the melodrama in a Yokohama bank vault. Here, under the influence of a Christ-like Russian prince whose fortune in jewels has lured them, a band of life-long outlaws suddenly becomes transformed.

The self-sacrifice of "Boris," even to death by a thief's bullet, is intended as a reflection of Getsemane. Whatever of malevolence was left in his untamed fellows after the crash of walls above their heads is instantly converted to moral soundness when the pistol punctures the Russian's treachery. And one of the converted renegades is delegated to disburse his wealth to the poor.

Granted that this might seem plausible under the peculiar circumstances, it fails to convince because of the general deportment of the seven persons, technically trapped and apparently doomed. The actors fail to give the necessary indication of terror. They go about their drama quite as if they were in a hotel. There are no apprehensive gestures. No suggestion that cracking earth might at any moment finish them. None of the mental tortures that assail the earthquake anguished.

From this point on the picture failed to interest me because the human reactions were not adjusted to the physical crisis. It was here that Tourneur most decidedly muffed his punch. And the rest of the film, as I have said, is a rather ordinary crook melodrama—mechanically depicted.

I am told that considerable of the director's work has been lost in the editing. That is, the responsibility for its mediocrity of Tourneur's shoulders.

The physical ruin, interspersed with news-reel takes of the Japanese earthquake, is however impressive. With the rumble of orchestra drums or organ pipes, it may well inspire hair-raising illusion.

Bessie Love does a crisp bit of acting as a maid who falls in love with one of the crooks. Maude George makes the character of the wife, allied with the thieves to rob both her husband and the Russian, vital in the early scenes, but lapses toward the end. Jean Hersholt, a talented performer, hasn't much scope with the abnegate prince. Owen Moore, Margaret Wallace and George Cooper, as the crooks, and Joseph Kilgour as the deluded husband, do stereotyped roles.

The story moves swiftly, from Russia to San Francisco, to Japan. It has numerous thrills and may satisfy those who ask only fleeting entertainment from conventional melodrama.

Perhaps M. C. Levee, the producer, was right when he said at the studio preview: "If you critics don't like the picture, the general public probably will." See!

ITALY HONORS LAMOND.
Felix Lamond, director of the Musical Department of the American Academy in Rome, has been unanimously elected an Honorary Academician of Santa Cecilia, the musical institution founded by Pope Pius V, and the composer Palestrina, in the year 1566. This is the first election in eight years, the last having been Richard Strauss. There are only 29 Honorary Academicians in all. Among them in recent years have been Elgar and Paderewski, as well as Saint-Saens and Debussy in their lifetime. Mr. Lamond was elected "in recognition of his talent, his work for accord between Italy and America and his interest in the welfare of Italy."

DATES OF LADIES GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS ANNOUNCED.
Toronto, Feb. 16.—The executive of the Canadian Ladies' Golf Union has definitely decided upon the dates of the four ladies' golf championships directly controlled by that organization as follows:
Dominion, open—Hamilton, Sept. 15 to 20.
Dominion, closed—Mississauga, Toronto, Sept. 22 to 27.
Ontario—Welland, June 2 to 7.
Toronto City—Summit, June 16 and 17.

MAY PLAY IN SUSSEX.
It has been reported that as soon as the Granites of Toronto, who won the Olympic hockey honors arrive in St. John, they will proceed to Sussex where they will play a game with the Kings county team. If arrangements can be made for such an event it will certainly prove a wonderful one for the town of Sussex.

VENETIAN GARDENS TONIGHT DANCING

Does Good Work In Earthquake Picture



BESSIE LOVE

CALVE LEAVES WITH 7 GIRL PROTEGES

U. S. Ladies Off to France to Study for Operatic Stage.

New York, Feb. 16.—Six girls from the United States and one from Rio de Janeiro sailed for Europe this week with Mme. Emma Calve to study for the operatic stage. They went on the Fabre liner Providence.

Miss Edith Scott of Los Angeles, one of the girls, is a new protegee of Mme. Calve, but when reporters sought information from a relative of the girl Mme. Calve signed her to be silent. Others of the girls were Miss Rita de Simone of New York, Miss Emilie Volter, New Orleans, and Miss Blanche Penello.

The seven will be under the general direction of Mme. Calve. She said that she would first show them much of the art of Europe. They will see great paintings, statues and buildings and will visit places in which scenes of operas are laid.

"I believe that young American girls studying music seriously should go abroad and see all the beautiful things and places possible," said Mme. Calve. "They will need to see cathedrals, art galleries and museums—in my opinion, all that goes into the making of a singer, and one can enter into the spirit of operas better if one has visited the scenes."

The Sussex hockey team defeated the Chrystals of Summerside in Sussex last evening by a score of 7 to 1. Sensational work on the part of LeClair kept the visitors from amassing a much higher score. The Sussex goalies were right on the job and although his opponents were frequently in on his net he repeatedly turned shot after shot aside.

UNIQUE THEATRE
MATINEE 2, 3.30, 5.15, 7.15, 9.15
EVENING 7, 8.40, 10.15, 11.45

JACK LONDON'S Sensational Famous Story

"The Abysmal Brute"

Starring REGINALD DENNY Star in "THE LEATHER PUSHERS"

Added Attraction Mile-a-Minute Serial "SPEED"

—MONDAY—SPLendid FEATURES 3

CONCERT

Monday, Feb. 18.—At East St. John Community Club in aid of Edith Avenue Library. Songs by Miss Frances Withers and Harry Shaw. Readings by Mrs. Willis McIntyre and Miss Laura Panjoy. J. W. Flewelling will be chairman. Comedy sketch by Messrs. MacKenzie and Gordon. Club swinging by Mrs. Harry York. Instrumental music by Mrs. H. H. MacMichael, Miss Alicia Heales, Mr. A. Malcolm MacGowan and others. Miss Edith Magee will be pianist. Highland dances by Mr. John Gibb.

Mr. and Mrs. O. J. Lawson will be hosts for the entertainers. Candy sale during intermission. Admission 25c. Children 15c. Space donated by the Foley Pottery Limited.

How Film Costs Affect Prices

Commenting on the fact that, in presenting the Rex Ingram super-film, "Scaramouche" in St. John, a price scale ranging to 50 cents would be adopted, the manager of the Imperial Theatre, in conversation with the Theatrical Editor of The Times, yesterday explained some interesting details in connection with the manner in which costs of films are figured. In breaking a precedent which they had hoped to maintain, he said, the management had done so only under necessity, and even at the proposed scale, the admission price was only half and in many cases only one-third of the admission price asked for the same attraction in some of the larger cities in the U. S. and Canada.

The film situation is a peculiar one in many ways, the manager claims, of which the public is unaware. At the present time there are about a half dozen outstanding productions demanding higher prices and being booked upon a percentage basis. These are not rented outright. Their owners share generously of every dollar taken at the box-office same as a traveling company like the Dumbells. This forces the price-scale upward in order to protect the theatre against loss, but the theatres will never engage a film if it considers unworthy of a raised scale.

The theatres generally strive, at considerable financial risk to adhere to their run of prices but in a case like "Scaramouche" or other pictures considered worthy the variation in policy, it may be necessary to add the little extra. Instances of this kind are of course few and far between as there are not enough pictures in sight to be worthy of "percentage" prices.

In the past the local theatres passed up big pictures because of exorbitant demands of film owners, which demands, if acceded to, would have forced prices too high for St. John's household class of picture lover. The risk was also too much for the theatres to assume, moreover the reaction of such an engagement is considered by astute managers to be harmful to the stability of business and damaging to the faith the public reposes in houses trying to play the game fairly.

ACTRESS MARRIES C. W. MORSE'S SON

Wedding Took Place Last November; Announced Only This Week.

New York, Feb. 16.—The marriage of Miss Alice Owens, leading lady in "The First Year," playing at the Hollis Theatre, Boston, to Benjamin W. Morse, son of Charles W. Morse, shipping financier, became known on Wednesday. The ceremony was performed in Ossining on November 18 by Father C. V. Mahoney of the Catholic church there.

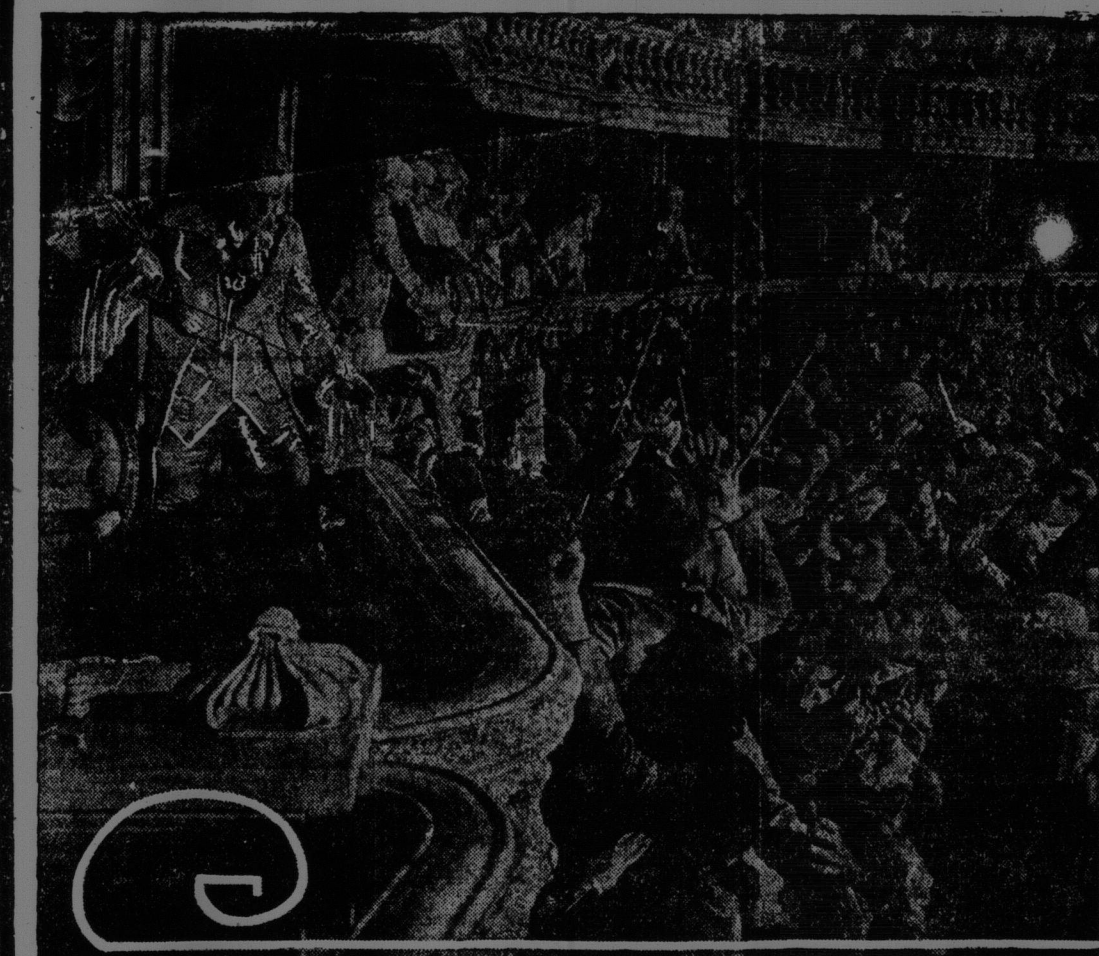
Mrs. Morse plans to continue her stage career. Her father, who is postmaster of Ossining, said that his daughter had known Mr. Morse for several years. The couple are living in Cambridge, Mass.

Mr. Morse as graduated from Harvard in 1908 and was married shortly afterward and later divorced. He has made a fortune by buying and wrecking old ships. His father and brothers have figured much in the courts of late years, the latest case against them being their indictment for conspiracy to defraud the Government in wartime shipbuilding contracts. This affair is for the benefit of five different charities.

QUEEN SQUARE TONIGHT ONLY
YOUNG ADAMS COMPANY Presents "SPOOKS" New York's Latest Sensational Thriller. 7-BIG ACTS OF VAUDEVILLE—7 Prices—Aft. 2.30, 10c, 25c; Night, 8.15, 35c all seats. Monday and Tuesday—"S'MANTHY"

IMPERIAL

Engagement Extraordinary—Starting Monday
Metro Pictures Inc. Present Rex Ingram's
Classic Successor to "The Four Horsemen of The Apocalypse."
SPECIAL PRICE SCALE—35c, 50c NIGHT; 25c, 35c MATINEE



Wild Scene in Great Parisian Theatre When Scaramouche Discovered His Sweetheart With His Arch-Enemy.
Rafael Sabitini's Super-Romance

"SCARAMOUCHE"

The Hero's Gypsy Name When Disguised as Strolling Player.
DISTINGUISHED CAST OF PLAYERS

—Headed By—
RAMON NOVARRO—The World's Greatest Lover.
ALICE TERRY—Personification of Grace and Refinement.
LEWIS STONE—The Most Likeable of All Villains.

HER SPHERE
THE MAD GAIETY of passion against the roar of the Red Terror, flash of swords, rustle of silks, splendor of life at the French court, frenzied mobs, magnificence of human aspiration, hilarious comedy, intense drama; thrilling romance—you have them all in "Scaramouche," acclaimed everywhere as the supreme achievement of the screen. It broke New York records at a \$220 top and has played to capacity at legitimate theatre prices in its pre-release runs in all the leading cities of the country.

HIS SPHERE
THE JOYOUS VAGABONDS took young Andre Louis Moreau to their hearts and into their company. Swordsman, cynic, gentleman, revolutionist, he turned actor and gained fame in the character of "Scaramouche," the clown of the old French comedies, who always set the battle raging—and then fled, laughing. But there was madness in the laughter of this young actor—and burning hate. His dearest friend cruelly slain by the powerful Marquis de la Tour d'Azyr, the courts had refused him justice. So "Scaramouche" laughed—and set the world aflame!

THE ULTRA-EFFORT IN HISTORICAL FIDELITY
ONE MATINEE DAILY, 2.30—TWO NIGHT SHOWS, 7.00 and 9.00.

MAT. 25c, 35c.
EVE. 35c, 50c.

Please Take Notice:
That because of the time required to screen "Scaramouche" there will be only one matinee, starting at 2.30 o'clock. The Orchestra will present a remarkable programme, fully setting forth the moods and whimsicalities of the wonderful picture.

Spanish Princess To Appear in Films

A pretty actress who says she is princess Marie, of the royal house of Bourbon and cousin to the King of Spain, will make her debut in motion pictures in the role of Marie Antoinette in the Cosmopolitan Corporation's new production, "Janice Meredith," adapted from Paul Leicester Ford's novel, in which Marlon Davies will star following her appearance in "Volanda."

She has been in this country for two and a half years and lives at the Ashton Hotel, No. 1312 Madison Avenue, New York. E. Mason Hopper is directing the picture from the scenario by Lillie Hayward.

START NEW SERIES.
Lowell Sherman and Helene Chadwick are to have the leading roles in "The Masked Dancer," the story of which is based on Rudolf Lothar's play, "The Woman With the Mask." This is the first of a series of photoplays to be produced by the newly organized Eastern Productions, Inc., New York, in which W. O. Hurst and Charles S. Hervey are actively interested.

Society movie aspirants have already applied to the Film Mutual Benefit Bureau to take part in the one-reel amateur motion picture to be produced as a feature of the Motion Picture Carnival at the Plaza Hotel today. This affair is for the benefit of five different charities.

Never Rehearses A Film Scene

James Cruze is the only motion picture director who never rehearses a scene. He works on the theory that rehearsals use up the players' energy and destroy the enthusiasm necessary to do convincing work. Mr. Cruze believes in describing a scene in detail as the first preliminary. When he believes the players have visualized the situation he requests them to go through the action. Only when the cameras start clicking does he expect the players to actually dramatize the scene. In directing such players as Ernest Torrence, Mary Astor, Noub Berry and Phyllis Haver, who are featured in his latest production for Paramount, "Magnolia," he depends upon their knowledge of acting to portray the scene as he has described it.



"Of All the Dumbbells, You're the Worst!"

CONSTANCE TALMADGE

Will Convince Patrons of IMPERIAL TODAY

In Her Scream de la Scream

SHE IS A "DULCY" FEMALE DUMBELL

SCORE ANOTHER FOR CONNIE. She rings the bell with "Dulcy." It's the story of a delightful dumb-bell who engages her young husband in embarrassment through misguided ambition to help in his business affairs. Comedy? Yes—comedy enough to sustain convulsive laughter all the way through; and yet a touch of tragedy to win your sympathy and play on the heart-strings. A splendid cast, including Jack Mulhall, Claude Gillingwater, Johnny Harrow, May Wilson, Andre de Beranger, Anne Cornwall and Gilbert Douglas. As a stage play, "Dulcy" was a hit.

ROUND NO. 3—"THE LEATHER PUSHERS"
Billy Sullivan in Whirlwind Boxing Bout

CORKING WEEK-END
With Bomper Matinees COMEDY EXTRA

CARROLL OPERA HOUSE PLAYERS

MATINEES—TUES, THURS., SAT.—2.15. EVENINGS 8.15

NOW That Popular Farce Comedy CHARLEY'S AUNT

NEXT WEEK—A GREAT DRAMA WITH A PUNCH

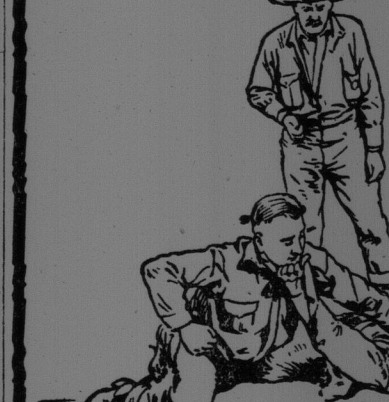
"WOMEN AGAINST WOMEN"

A Powerful English Melo-Drama Filled With Thrilling Moments.

RESERVE YOUR SEATS NOW—Phone Main, 1363
Please come early in the week. Subscription Seats and Phone and avoid the week-end rush. Orders held until 7.45 only.

COMING FEB. 25 "THE ISLE OF DREAMS" Featuring James G. Coats

Palace Theatre
MONDAY and TUESDAY



"The Man Next Door"

By Emerson Hough, author of "The Covered Wagon" and "North of 36," etc.

The sweetest heroine in literature! Bonnie Bell, child of the ranch, pet of the cow-punchers. Her love story! A story that wrings the heart!

Extra—"THE LEATHER PUSHERS"—Extra.

ARENA

Monday Night — Hockey
Abbies vs. St. John

Miss St. John to appear and start Hockey Match. Game starts 8.15 sharp. Doors open 7.30. Come early. Record crowd expected.

Admission 50c., no reserve; boxes 75c.
Phone Arena 5067.

Band and skating Tuesday Night. Special music. Admission 25c. 2-19

IDENTIFIES PHOTO OF ONE OF BANDITS

Gilda Grey, Robbed of \$40,000 in Gems, Gives Police Information.

Chicago, Ill., Feb. 16.—Chicago's rialto thrilled with the report of the robbery of Gilda Grey of the "Ziegfeld Follies" of jewelry worth \$40,000 and \$1200 in cash by three bandits who held her up in the hallway of her Colosseum apartment after midnight on Wednesday.

Miss Grey went to the Detective Bureau next day and identified a picture in the rogues' gallery as that of one of the three men who took her valuables. The man is known to the police as a notorious jewel thief.

The dancer amplified her earlier report, relating that one of the three men threatened to kill her when she hesitated at his command to hold up her hands. In her list of articles stolen she included a \$200 powder puff. Toplis & Harding, Chicago representatives of Lloyds, said that the jewelry had been insured by them for \$38,000.

Detectives questioned practically the entire "Follies" company in the belief the bandits had been informed that Miss Grey carried her diamonds home after each performance.

Miss Grey was married February 10 to Gaillard T. Boag, wealthy New York cabaret proprietor, who left for the East only a few hours before the performance Tuesday night.

REMARKABLE INVENTION.
A young Russian electrician has developed a lighting system which enables him to change with a flash the light appearance of people on the stage and the color and nature of the clothes they wear, states The London Morning Post. At an exhibition of this system the light changed a group of men in evening dress into negro clowns on a plantation, and a man and woman into a pair of riotous and leaping monkeys.

Wild rabbits, which overrun eastern Washington, are being trapped and sent to Alaska for food for foxes.

Concrete Block and Brick for Sale
We have in stock, manufactured by our plant, ready for immediate delivery.

Waterproof Concrete Blocks and Bricks.
Large or Small Orders Appreciated. Prices on Application.

Maritime Construction Co., Ltd.
FAIRVILLE, N. B.

By Order of the Common Council of the City of St. John.

Public Notice is hereby given that a Bill will be presented for enactment at the next session of the Provincial Legislature. The object desired to be attained by this Bill is:

(a) To fix the salary of the Police Magistrate of the City of Saint John at three thousand dollars (\$3,000) per annum.

(b) To provide that the salary to be paid to the Chief of Police of the City of Saint John shall be fixed from time to time by the Common Council of the said City.

Dated this thirteenth day of February, A. D. 1924.

HERBERT E. WARDROP, Common Clerk.

TO LET
Heated Apartments
Germinal, Canterbury and Duke streets.

Houses
38 Garden street \$40.00
67 Hazen street \$50.00
59 St. James street \$85.00

Flats
148 Elliott Row \$25.00
1 Union street \$30.00
21 Millidge Ave. \$16.00
47 Clarence street \$18.00
105 Chesley street \$10.50
191-193 Canterbury street, 89 to 92
188 Prince Edward street, 215 to 216
223 Prince Ed. St. \$15 to \$18
391-393 Main street \$10 to \$15
Collins street, Fairville \$18.00
McKell street, Fairville \$20.00

Stores
10 Erin street \$14.00
222 Prince \$20.00

Offices
Prince William and Canterbury Streets \$15 and up

The Eastern Trust Co.
2-18

NOTICE
Any newspapers, magazines, old clothes, boots, and furniture you value as greatly as providing for the needy. Phone Main 1681 and our truck will call.

EMMON A. WARD, Superintendent Salvation Army Industrial Dept., 36 St. James St.

Our Free Labor Bureau can supply men for all odd jobs. t.f.

DANCING STUDIO TONIGHT