

THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1924

NEWS NOTES GATHERED FROM THE WORLD OF STAGE AND SCREEN

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE FILM
BROOKS CRITICISM AND PRAISE

Drama Written by Pittsburgh Housewife is Put Into Pictures.

(By Jack Jungmeyer)

Hollywood—Unusual attaches to "Judgment of the Storm" because it is the first picture produced by students of a photography school. It was written by Ethel Styles Middleton, a Pittsburgh housewife, and is heralded as an example of what amateur scenarists may hope to do by a correspondence course in movie technique.

For that reason "Judgment of the Storm" warrants perhaps more than a casual critical scrutiny.

Appraised merely as a product, irrespective of its authorship, the picture is a rather ordinary movie. Considered as the effort of a novice working out a screen equation from the "thirty-seven fundamental" dramatic situations, it commands more praise.

Rather Technical.
Its failure to achieve more distinction lies in the apparently mechanical approach to a concern with plot and formula, cramping inspiration and individualism, as was perhaps to be expected from talent shaped by a course of printed instruction.

Superficially it is well handled, with a realistic snow storm as the dominant element. Mrs. Middleton has evolved an interesting exposition of the sacrifice theme. But logic and sound motivation have been warped to fit a combination of the thirty-seven arbitrary dramatic situations.

The Story Told

The drama of this photoplay inheres in situations arising from discovery by a young collegian that his mother is the proprietor of a gambling house, where, accidentally, he has been introduced. He is shot, and the hero's melodramatic decision to serve as farm hand to the girl's family, robbed of the heart-winning son, as he feels, by fault of his mother. Renunciation of his mother, apparent loss of his sweetheart's regard, and the gallant treatment for her embittered folk constitute his Quixotic martyrdom as the farm servant.

It is in the family's inconsistent reactions to his voluntary servitude that logic is most wanting and that motivations leave one most unconvinced. The ethical sub-structure is very seamy. Sympathy for the characters sloughs away, so that even "Judgment" by storm, evoked to overwhelm frail human judgments, doesn't in the happy end quite requicken it.

A Worthy Cast

This isn't the fault of the principals in the excellent cast—Myrtle Stedman, mother of the hero, Lloyd Hickson, the youth, Lucille Rickson, the girl, George Blackthorn, the young brother, Claire McDowell, the farm woman, and others who give good individual performances. It is the subordination of other elements to plot, an intrusion of mechanics upon the humanities.

The feeling of artificiality is further heightened by a device of what might be called the benevolent convenience of circumstance beyond human control.

Nature solves all Mrs. Middleton's scenario problems, an hour of frostbite dissolving the divers misunderstandings, showing perhaps how susceptible the soul is to chill rather than to warm heart's blood.

The tested tenets of melodrama may be imparted by correspondence course, by word of mouth or by stage observation—obviously. The requisites of character drawing, motivations and arresting treatment which make that supplement plot for memorable motion pictures are not so easily conveyed.

And so in the case of "Judgment of the Storm" the mechanical merits lack the clinching force of dramatic fervor and inspiration.

SAYS TROUBLE DUE TO RACE ENMITY

Rev. Dr. Clarence T. MacKinnon, principal of Pine Hill College, Halifax, in an address before the members of the Y. M. C. A. yesterday took as his subject the Problems of the World today and attributed them all to racial grievances. The problems, he said, could not be solved by scientific methods, he said, but only by a condition of things such as might exist in science were developed to such an extent that it could preordain the physical qualities of man. The result of this would be, he said, that one nation would be developing a class of titans, which they would hurl against the giants of another nation, and war, bloodshed and suffering would go on.

Chief Justice H. A. McKeown, who presided at the meeting, thanked Dr. MacKinnon for his talk, which, he said, pointed clearly to the way in which the problems of the world and the nations could be solved. Rev. Dr. S. S. Poole led the devotion exercises and invoked the blessing at the close.

TUXIS BOYS TO RACE

Arrangements have been completed by the Boys' Work Board here for the annual skating races for Tuxis boys and Trail Rangers this week. It was announced this morning. The events will take place on the East End rink. On Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 7 and 8 o'clock the Tuxis Boys events, for lads 15 to 18 years old, will be skated, while the Trail Rangers, 12 to 15 years old, will have their races on Saturday afternoon. Keen interest is being displayed by the boys.

BREAKS LEG TOBOGGANNING

About 8:30 o'clock Saturday evening while Miss Francis Johnston, daughter of Mrs. Edward Johnston, 41 Broad street, was tobogganing at the Lily Lake slide she received an injury to one of her ankles. She was conveyed to her home where it was found that the right leg had been fractured. After being attended by Dr. J. R. Nugent Miss Johnston was taken to the St. John Infirmary for further treatment.

Claims Marriage Was Fake; Actress Asks Annulment



MYRTLE STEDMAN

FELL IN LOVE WITH MISS PICKFORD HERE

Owen Moore, Now Seriously Ill, was in St. John for Three Months.

Press reports state that Owen Moore, former husband of Mary Pickford and at present enjoying wide popularity as a screen star himself, is lying at death's door from blood-poisoning contracted through an automobile accident injury in California.

Mr. Moore, it is not perhaps generally known, was a resident of St. John for three months in 1918.

At that time talking pictures were popular in the United States and the little company of play people to talk the movies from behind the screen. One of these companies came to St. John and Mr. Moore was included in its membership. While few will remember having seen him (not identifying him with the novelty for itself), thousands certainly heard his deep resonant voice.

Mary Attracts Him

It was while in St. John that Mr. Moore was first attracted by the charms of Mary Pickford. The Biograph Company was then beginning its wonderfully fine pictures, which eventually revolutionized the silent dramatic art. David Wark Griffith was the man who, through Biograph, introduced the heroic-sized figure, the close-up portrait, fade-outs, and reflective switchbacks, as if one were recalling the past.

Little Miss Pickford came to the front (from Toronto) as an ingenue type of player and also for child parts. Owen Moore, himself an embryo player, was smitten with the winsomeness of the girl and confided to friends that if it were within the range of human possibility, he expected to meet that little some day. The opportunity evidently arrived quickly, for shortly after Mr. Moore had left town a Biograph production came along showing the talking picture actor in a scene as a burglar, and subsequent pictures

RUTH RENICK, CALIFORNIA FILM AND STAGE ACTRESS, AND (INSET) WELLINGTON N. BELFORD, FIGURES IN "HYPNOTIC WEDDING."

San Francisco, Feb. 6.—Men had never interested Ruth Renick, film and stage actress, until she met Wellington N. Belford, whom she believed to be a U. S. army major. He was a brilliant conversationalist, was clever with magic tricks and claimed to possess hypnotic powers. The romance was short and snappy. Marriage followed quickly. In fact, it all happened so mysteriously that relatives of Miss Renick investigated. As a result, Belford was arrested by Oakland police on a charge of impersonating an army officer, and of having arranged a fake marriage ceremony.

He got out on bail and has not been seen since. In the meantime Miss Renick is trying to have the "marriage" annulled, but the courts tell her they can't annul something that never happened.

They Are Married

The inevitable resulted—they married, but, contrary to the tale they have not had lived so very happily ever after for separation papers were exchanged after a few years and Mrs. Moore has since become the wife of the illustrious Douglas Fairbanks while Mr. Moore ventured into the matrimonial field the second time as well. Friends of the Irish-American actor, who is also the brother of Tom and Matt Moore, are hoping for his quick recovery, among whom are a circle of St. John people, including Imperial Theatre staff-members of long service, with whom Owen was hailed fellow well met.

HERE'S ROW OVER NAME FOR BABE

German Officials Refuse Margot Because it is of French Origin.

Ludwigsburg, Wurttemberg, Feb. 11.—This little town which, in its palmy days, was the seat of the old kingdom of Wurttemberg, has been split in two by a dispute among the residents and officials over the question of a baby's name. So far as Ludwigsburg officials

CORINNE GRIFFITH IS ELOPING WIFE

Is Secretly Married to Son of Oliver Morosco, Theatrical Producer.

Hollywood, Cal., Feb. 11.—Hollywood had a new bit of matrimonial gossip today—the secret marriage of Corinne Griffith, screen star, and Walter Morosco, son of Oliver Morosco, the theatrical producer.

It is authoritatively reported here that the couple were wedded in Tijuana nearly two weeks ago, credible persons having seen the names on the license register.

The blond picture star, who has just finished a film here, is neither in Los Angeles nor Hollywood, it was stated at her studio.

Morosco is "on a hunting trip," having left some time last week, according to announcement from his father's home.

Miss Griffith, who recently secured a divorce in Texas, has been seen with Morosco frequently during the past two months, and the film capital gossips have had them engaged several times.

TWO LINERS BRING 1,100 PASSENGERS

The Canadian Pacific liner Melita, arriving in port Saturday afternoon, about 5 o'clock, with 889 passengers, the liner Montrose, of the same line, reached port early yesterday morning with 528 passengers and also a total of 1,417, and with the exception of a few who have been held over by the immigration officers, all went to different points in the west by special C. P. R. trains Saturday night and yesterday. The Melita sailed from Antwerp on Jan. 30, Southampton and Cherbourg on Jan. 31. Her list was composed of 91 cabin and 496 third class passengers. The ship also brought 1,683 tons of general cargo and 128 bags of mail. The first special train with cabin passengers got away from Sand Point about 9 o'clock Saturday night and the third class passengers yesterday morning.

Among the Maritime Province passengers were Mrs. M. Brochart and daughter, of Glace Bay, N.S.; E. Steinhilber, Church Point, N.S. Others on board were Dr. and Mrs. W. A. Riddell, two sons and daughter en route to Montreal; Rev. E. Everett, of Wellesey, Mass.

to accept on the ground that it was of French origin and unacceptable to him on that account.

The mother and father have refused to change the baby's name merely to suit a whim of the registrar, and all their friends have rallied to support them in what has been referred to as Ludwigsburg's warmest town row in several generations. The parents contend that residents of the free town of Ludwigsburg may name babies as they see fit, and that such a personal matter is none of the business of the city fathers or any of their clerks who apparently don't know the war is over.

On the other hand, the registrar has been upheld in his stand by the burgomaster and the majority of the town deputies and their political followers.

Coughing

Tires the old, lowers their vitality. The best standard family cough medicine for old and young.

CHAMBERLAIN'S COUGH REMEDY

Good for every member of the family

is concerned there is a little girl baby here who has no first name at all—her parents insisted upon registering her as Margot. This name the town registrar refused point blank.

MONDAY PALACE TUESDAY

Adolph Zukor presents
THOMAS MEIGHAN
in the PETER B. KYNE story
Homeward Bound
A Paramount Picture

You'll want to be on deck when Tommy comes sailing home. It's a bracing yarn of the world of ships—swift as a gale; mighty as the sea. With the "Good Luck Star" as the stalwart skipper, Lila Lee as best mate, and a crew of favorites.

REGINALD DENNY
IN THE
"Leather Pushers"

STAR MONDAY—TUESDAY
NAZIMOVA
IN A
"DOLL'S HOUSE"

A picture for every woman, young or old; for every man, married or single. A clear portrayal of woman's duty to herself.

Last Episode of the
"Adventures of Buffalo Bill"

Grand opening of our new Serial Story
"THE OREGON TRAIL"

A dandy finish to a dandy serial.

With
ART ACORD
Thrills, Adventure.

Two Other Reels
WED.—TOMMY MEIGHAN

CONCERT TUESDAY
Imperial Orchestra
and Doreen Gray of London.

CARROLL OPERA HOUSE
MATINEES—TUES., THURS., SAT.—2 P.M. EVENINGS 8 P.M.

ST. JOHN'S GREATEST AMUSEMENT VALUE
ALL THIS WEEK
A SPECIAL COMEDY ATTRACTION

"CHARLEY'S AUNT"

(From Brazil Where the Nuts Come From)

FEATURING
JAMES W. SWIFT
A comedy drama sparkling with mirth. Every one should make an effort to see it.

ORDER YOUR SEATS NOW!
Box Office Open from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Phone M. 1363

Subscription Seats and Phone Orders held until 7:45 only.

COMING—
Myra Marsh in "Woman Against Woman"

Queen Square
TODAY and TUESDAY

After Three Years Absence, Our Old Favorites Return.

H. WILMOT MARJIE
YOUNG - ADAMS
COMPANY PRESENTS

"Dora Dean"
A Modern Cinderella.

7 Big Vaudeville Acts.
Price—Aft. 2.30—10c, 25c
Box Office Open 10 a.m.
Phone M. 880.

JAZZ ORCHESTRA
Night 8.15, Rush Seats 35c
Reserve 50c

Matinee—Mon., Wed., Sat. 3 Changes a Week.

SOCIETY WOMEN IN FILM

New York, Feb. 11.—The Famous Players-Lasky studio in Long Island City last week was the scene of a gathering of women of society. Before they left the women received instructions from Thomas Meighan, the actor, on the fundamentals of film acting. They are to be further instructed in preparation for their appearance in a picture to be taken at the Hotel Plaza on February 13.

The picture is to be taken as a part of the motion picture carnival. Dick Rossan will direct the production.

EYE CUT PLAYING HOCKEY

While enjoying a game of hockey on the Lily Lake Saturday afternoon about 2:30 o'clock, Harold McCarrall, son of N. J. McCarrall, Clarendon street, was accidentally struck over the eye by the puck or a stick and a severe wound was inflicted. Fortunately there was a doctor on the lake at the time, who attended the lad. It required three stitches to close up the wound. After the wound had been dressed the boy was conveyed to his home in an automobile.

Asks \$150,000 For Taxicab Accident

New York, Feb. 11.—Myrtle Ross, an actress, has filed suit for \$150,000 against the Fowler Manufacturing Company for injuries alleged to have been sustained when a taxicab in which she was riding was in collision with a truck belonging to the company. The collision occurred, she says, at Sixth avenue and Fifteenth street on November 7, and since that time she has been unable to earn her living. She was forced to give up an engagement with the "Passing Show," and since coming out of the hospital in the latter part of December she says she has been forced to use crutches and has been informed by her physicians that it may be six months or more before she is able to work at her profession. She says she has no income and no means of support and is living on the charity of a Helen Atkins, with whom she shares an apartment.

COMBINE CHURCH WITH THEATRE

Brooklyn Pastor Will Preach from Pulpit on Stage on Sundays.

New York, Feb. 11.—Alliance between stage and church, which recently had a conspicuous illustration at St. Mark's-in-the-Bowrie, is spreading. The latest instance is the Fourth Unitarian Church of Flatbush, which is planning to have a stage and full equipment in the church auditorium for the presentation of plays by the church dramatic organization. The Rev. Nelson Junius Springer, pastor of the congregation, said it is intended to provide the most adequate theatrical equipment possible for the dramatic group. They are known as the Beverly Players. The original church structure, at East Nineteenth street and Beverly road, burned down two weeks ago.

It is in connection with the rebuilding of the church that Dr. Springer and the building committee entertain more ambitious ideas for linking the influence of theatre and church. He said that the aim was to use the church auditorium "for a perfectly respectable service on Sunday morning," with the pulpit on the stage. On week days it would be used for theatricals. He said that in their last two dozen offerings the Beverly Players had been hampered by small space and lack of facilities in the old church.

"Our aim," he said, "is to further the understanding of human life by bringing the theatre closer to the church. Some persons have derived the idea that we are maintaining a commercial theatre. That is not our aim. Others think that ours is the traditional church amateur society—of which we would have none. It is distinctly an art theatre."

Among the plays which the society has performed under the direction of Sylvia Woodbridge are Dunsany's "The Glittering Gate," "The Maker of Dreams," "The Philosopher of Butler Biggin," "Wapping Wharf," "Will of the Wisp" and "The Wonder Hat."

GETTING READY FOR BIG RACES

Events for the International Championships are Announced.

The events for the International indoor skating championship to be held at the Arena here on February 25, 26 and 27, were announced yesterday as follows:

Seniors—220, 440, 880 yards, three-quarter mile, one mile and 3 mile races.

Junior—18 years; 220, 440, 880 yards and 1 mile.

16 years, 220, 440, 880, and mile.

14 years, 220, 440, and 880 yards.

12 years, 220 and 440 yards.

The 18 class is open only for those who have not passed their eighteenth birthday. This same applies to the 16, 14 and 12 year classes.

Entry forms are now ready and can be had at the office of D. J. Corr, secretary, 124 Prince William street. The entries close on February 21.

NORMAL SCHOOL WINS FIRST GAME

Defeats High School Team in Interscholastic League Fixture.

Normal School basketball team defeated the quintette from the local High School in an interscholastic League fixture played at the Y. M. C. A. gymnasium last Saturday afternoon by a score of 24 to 18. The line-up of the teams and the scores made by the individuals follow:

Normal School. High School.
Forwards.
Wittinen (7) McFarland (6)
Barker Wiley (6)
Centre.
Humphrey (6) Jamieson (10)
Defence.
Brown Garland
Ewing Lewis
Spares.
Plumpton (5) Hershey
Referee—Hutton.

WILL STUDY PORT WHILE IN ST. JOHN

"You know that we know a good deal about St. John harbor, but I am glad to be here for a few days during which I will have an opportunity to study better port conditions, facilities and the like," said Paul G. Petersen, average adjuster in marine claim cases, of Copenhagen, said last evening. He arrived from Europe yesterday and will spend a few days at the Royal Hotel here before proceeding to New York.

Of the business which was to detain him in the city Mr. Petersen was reticent, saying, however, that it was of no great importance.

NOVELTY SHOWER.
A delightful novelty shower in honor of Mrs. M. A. MacLeod was given at the residence of O. H. Tracey, 3 Carleton street, on Thursday night. Upwards of 100 guests were present. There were music and games and refreshments were served. Mrs. MacLeod who is unusually popular among a large circle of friends is about to leave the city for Halifax, where her husband has taken a position. Mr. MacLeod left St. John a week ago. They take with them the best wishes of many residents of this city.

Eighty eruptions of Mount Etna have been recorded, resulting in the death of more than 100,000 persons.

Permanent head-boards in pullman cars, to increase privacy during the day, are a recent innovation.