



A Weekly Newspaper, sanctioned by the Officer Commanding, and published by and for the Men of the E. T. D., St. Johns, Quebec, Canada.

Vol. 1. No. 41.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 1918

5 Cents The Copy

“MOVIES” at the E. T. D.

SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT OUR MOVING PICTURES.

By Sergt. H. Davis.

The kinematograph or moving picture is as familiar to the average person as the automobile but the probability is the average person has more knowledge of the inside of a ‘bonnet’ than he has of the mysteries of the ‘movie’ machine.

In this article it is not intended to go into any details but just to give a brief outline of the workings of the film runner.

It is usual in an article of this kind to give the historical end a fair show by way of introduction, a sort of ‘pardon me’ and er er of the practised orator. We will just do our little stunt by saying that the moving picture was invented by the Chinese about two thousand years ago. That’s an ‘ell of a long while, but you’ve got to believe it or it’s no use reading this article. The Chinese called it the Wheel of Life, the apparatus was simple in conception but the effect produced was practically the same as we get today. We were present at one of their shows and paid our honest ‘nickel’, so we know of what we write. A round hollow box with a handle attached underneath formed the wheel; vertical slots were cut all around the box at regular intervals, and

inside the box was placed a strip of pictures, each picture coming over over an opening. A slight difference in the pictures together with a quick rotation of the box, held so that the slots came level with the eyes gave the moving effect. Just a one man show but fairly smart you will admit.

Today, with the aid of machinery and electric light we get a production of moving pictures along the same lines but so that many can enjoy the result. The machine of today is a wonder of mechanical perfection and defies description in an article of this type, but a few remarks as to the pictures themselves might be worth while.

After years of careful experimenting it is made possible to produce a long strip of celluloid film on which the picture is photographed in the negative and the positive for projection on to the screen is developed from this. By means of a shutter a series of separate pictures are taken showing every movement. This negative film is then placed inside another machine and the positive film produced by exposure to light in the same manner as printing ordinary photos. Great care is taken to keep everything scrupulously clean during the process of development, the slightest dust giving rise to spotted pictures on account of the highly magnified projection on to the screen, a speck of dust being reproduced to the size of a piece of



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