

# "BIRTH OF A NATION" TELLS A THRILLING STORY OF CIVIL WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION

## GRIFFITH'S DRAMATIC STORY IS FULL OF THRILLS AND REALISM

W. W. Griffith's mighty spectacle "The Birth of a Nation" begins its engagement at the Arcade theatre, January 23 for a two-day run. There will be two performances daily at 7 o'clock in the afternoon and 7:45 at night.

Nothing like this wonderful attraction has ever been seen upon the local boards. It is given here exactly as it was presented in New York city where the big drama broke every record in the stage history of the first city in the country. In addition the piece has piled up record engagements in Chicago, Boston, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

It covers a wide range of American history and touches only the highest points of interest in the great events that led up to and terminated the Civil war. The force that slavery played in producing this crisis is traced from its inception to its abolition. While the basic theme is historical in its foundation its intent is the fundamental one of true drama. The forces which make for these results have been marshalled upon a larger scale than was ever dreamed of before. Where directors of vast spectacle have dealt with hundreds in the past Griffith employs thousands; 18,000 people fill his stage which has a vast territory for its background; 3,000 horses pass before your view in wild dashes over miles of country roadway. The decisive battles of the Civil war are reproduced in faithful details and you see these conflicts fought again just as they were waged 50 years ago. Cities were built up only to be destroyed to lead force and verity to the dramatic narrative. One enormous battlefield is shown stretching over an area of 13 square miles and upon these planes and trenches 10,000 soldiers clash in a mimic warfare that is as real as if you were eyewitnesses of the actual occurrence. Holding the great effects in tether is a story as tender and true as love and romance can be pictured. There are tears and smiles, noble sacrifices and heroic deeds of personal valor. Youthful dreams of love's fruition are rent assunder by the demons of war; home ties snap before the call to arms and suffering such as cannot be imagined is depicted in the crude manner that history is made when men surrender reason to passion and engage in a deal lock of armed resistance.

You see the war start after being shown the causes which precipitated it. You see the great generals of the contending sections playing their desperate games of human pawns moved into the fields of slaughter. Then comes the agreement for peace and Lincoln sets about his superhuman task of healing the wounds by the application of that great love which made him the towering figure of his age. A fanatic's bullet stills the heart which beat so evenly for all humanity. The South is thrown back into a worse fate than war. Their lands are overrun by a hungry horde of venefol politicians and grafters. The poor negro is enojed into a false understanding of liberty and in his ignorance is led into excesses by these scoundrels of fortune. Out of it comes the ghostly crusaders of a terrible era to once more set things aright and return the lands and liberties of peace to their rightful owners and over the land's misere sounds the chorus of brotherly love in an allegorical dream which visions the re-union of the divided sections and the welding of that national spirit which has made this nation so great after its baptism in its own blood.

A wonderful score of operatic music accompanies the narrative. It is all done upon a most stupendous scale. No detail has been overlooked. The drama is outlined and told in the most graphic form that has yet been devised by the brain of man for such purpose. No wonder this work is epoch-making. It has set up new standards which it will be difficult to equal for many a year to come.

## THE WHAT-YOU-MAY COLUMN

### Noses.

The nose is an unnecessary nuisance; one of nature's insults.

And wasn't the middle of the face an awful place to put it! Right out in front where it can catch cold.

But what's to be done about it? Nothing. Absolutely nothing.

If we could wear overcoats on them without being taken for halfbacks; or if they were detachable, so we could put them in our pockets and hook on white rubber ones when we go out in the cold. That would be different. But we can't. Our noses are stuck fast. They're forever getting broken, or smudged, or warty. But they're inevitable.

If they were even equipped with automatic shutouts, like automobiles. Or, better still, if we'd been born without noses in the first place. Solid, decorative knobs would have done as well. Think what a blessing that would have been to cheesemakers.

### Uncalled For Letters.

The list of letters uncalled for in the La Grande postoffice for the week ending, January 12 is:

H. D. Alexander, B. & B. Eating House, Edw. G. Brown, Andrew Beryitt, Club Cafe, Bill Elden, R. E. Evans, Lee Fuller, L. J. Hayse, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Gardner, Grant Haman, Rev. F. G. Hamm (2), Chas. L. Hart, Leroy Hyney, Dr. John M. Jones, J. E. Lane, Pat McEntire, H. R. McKenon, F. M. McMillan, A. A. Mitchell, Jesse Simmons, C. A. Wendler, H. D. Rendell, J. A. Williams, J. C. Wilson.

Mrs. Fannie Beath, Miss Clara Benjamin, Miss Mona Gassett, Miss Pearl Hyney, Mrs. Frances Knowlton, Mrs. Oliver, Mrs. Grace Paxton, Miss L. S. Smith, Mrs. Charles Welker, Mrs. J. A. Williams (2), Miss Lella Williamson.

These letters will be sent to the dead letter office on January 26, 1917, if not delivered before. In calling for the above letters applicants should say "advertised, and give date of list."

Sunday chicken pie dinner at Home Restaurant for 25c. 1-13-17

## Is Your Milk Clean Milk

"Milk is the most universal food used by civilized man; Our lives are largely in the keeping of the milkman."

The late Elbert Hubbard spoke these words shortly before he went down on the Lusitania, and the wizard's remarks held good in La Grande although Mr. Hubbard is dead.

Milk is on most tables three times a day. It is more easily contaminated than any other food. Therefore great care should be exercised in its preparation. Is this vital caution exercised on your milk?

Mr. and Mrs. Milk Consumer, you are invited to call at the P. M. & C. milk and cream depot and see, learn, and inwardly digest valuable information concerning milk, its preparation and safe-guarding.

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## SPECTACLE COMES TO THE ARCADE THEATRE JAN. TWENTY-THIRD AND TWENTY-FOURTH

### One of the Powerful Romances in the "BIRTH OF A NATION"

At the outset of the narrative of "The Birth of a Nation," Ben Cameron (The Famous "Little Colonel") of the play, represented by Henry B. Walthall is in love with Elsie Stoneman (Lillian Gish), a northern girl, whose father is bitter against the cause of the south and who afterwards turns out to be the notorious leader of the "carpet-baggers."

"Stoneman" joins force with the ambitious negro, Lynch, to control the "free nigger" vote and ride into office through the operation.

The cruel war, in which the little Colonel gallantly wira his spurs, intervenes, and four long and painful years are the lovers separated.

Stoneman has always disliked Ben Cameron for his strictly Southern spirits.

Cameron's refusal, later on, to countenance Lynch, Stoneman's pet, futher enrages Elsie's father.

After the unprincipled mulatto, who has been but playing a double game between the white and the blacks, decides he has Stoneman "where he wants him," he attempts to put in execution his possession of

the lovely and helpless daughter. Lynch had always determined to found a "black empire" in the South with himself as "The Emperor", and now, drunk with wine and cursed ambition, he resolves to crown it all with glory by making Elsie the white empress.

His devilish opportunity comes when a sudden dire necessity compels the girl to call at his house in quest of her father.

He seizes her and gives orders to put all in readiness for a forced marriage between them. Stoneman arrives at the house, but is not admitted past the colored guards. He attempts to dictate, but is laughed at. Now he realizes, but he is broken and helpless and absolutely at the mercy of the devilish Lynch, who has the upper hand, with the free niggers and the colored militia back of him.

Nothing could have saved the unfortunate girl at the moment from a fate more distasteful than death but the timely intervention of Leaver Ben Cameron and his fearless Clansmen, who picturesquely bear down upon the rendezvous and break up the repulsive proceedings, occasioning one of the bloodiest fights recorded in the picture.

This brings old Stoneman to his senses and he has no further opposition to Cameron; it also settles all the false pride on lovely Elsie's part, who has been thus saved from such a horrible fate.

Those who witness this telling situation as well as the many others in this great work of works, D. W. Griffith's "The Birth of a Nation," will be moved until their blood fairly leaps in their veins. It is a series of sights to make civilization ooze up in the human breast.

## BISHOP PADDOCK WILL BE IN LA GRANDE SUNDAY

Bishop Paddock will arrive in La Grande on Sunday morning and preach at the 11 o'clock service in St. Peter's church. As this will be his first visit since his return from the east in attendance at the general convention last fall, a large congregation should be present to greet him. While away was for three weeks in the care of a nerve specialist, from whom he received much benefit, and his health which was badly broken down has been thoroughly restored. On Monday evening a reception of an informal nature will be tendered him by St. Peter's Guild, at Honan Hall, commencing at eight o'clock. Not only members of the parish but citizens generally are cordially invited to attend.

### Finley Not to Lecture January 17.

State Biologist William L. Finley will not be able to lecture in La Grande January 17 as the women of the Neighborhood club had hoped but correspondence is now being conducted with Mr. Finley to learn the first

available date that he may come to La Grande. Mr. Finley is an expert student of Oregon birds and his proposed illustrated lecture will be upon that subject.

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H. W. WALTHALL, AS LITTLE COLONEL IN "THE BIRTH OF A NATION"



LINCOLN PRAYS FOR GUIDANCE, SCENE IN "THE BIRTH OF A NATION"

Job Printing Neatly and Quickly Done at the Observer