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—IN—

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A Metro Drama of Hot Blooded Mexico, and Charlie Chaplin, and Fatty Arbuckle together in "Oh, What a Night!" A one-reel scream. Last Showing Today.

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PHONE RATES UP IS NEW ORDER

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION RULES ON LA GRANDE.

After a lengthy study the Public Service Commission has issued an order which changes to some extent the rates and practices of the Home Independent Telephone company. For city service in La Grande the change consists of an increase in residence service of 25c per month and 50c per month on two party business service, while the rate on main line business and extension service remains the same as heretofore. There are also some changes in rural and switching service and a new schedule of toll rates is provided.

That toll lines should carry their own load and that exchange patrons should not be taxed in the way of high rental charges in order to make up a deficiency caused by low toll rates is one of the underlying features of the order while another is that the war burden should be borne both by the company and the patrons. The commission does not claim that the new rates provided will provide an adequate return upon the investment under the present unusual conditions but that they are based upon conditions existing prior to the war and what may reasonably be expected after affairs become somewhat more normal.

The order in itself is a quite lengthy affair consisting of twenty-two pages, covering a mass of detail. The value of the property of the company considered used and reasonably necessary in the service of the public is found to be on August 1st, 1918, \$286,567.95. Based upon appraisals for 1918 the return on this investment is found to be only 3.7 per cent, therefore the order goes on to say that "It cannot be expected of the company that it forego returns to such an extent as to effectively restrain its ability to provide for reasonable demands of the public in the development and extension of the project."

The change in exchange rates became effective February 1, but owing to differences between the toll schedule adopted by the state and the one ordered into effect by the government the company is pending a settlement of these differences, still charging its old schedule on the toll rates.

SHERRY'S

BERT LYTELL BREAKS

RECORD IN NEW PLAY

"Hitting the High Spots," the Metro play starring Bert Lytell, which was shown to a record breaking audience yesterday at the Sherry theatre is an adventure story of daring and gripping intensity.

It is a play which gives the clever young actor full scope for his many talents, and his forceful, virile delineation of the role of Bob Durland met with enthusiastic approval.

His Mexican adventures are many and thrilling and this athletic young star shows that not only he is acting that of the finest but that he is a trained athlete and fighter as well. The romance, which comes to a successful close to the life in the country of rebellious quietude, is a fitting ending to an altogether splendid and gratifying performance.

On the same program Charlie Chaplin and Fatty Arbuckle in "Oh, What a Night!", a one-reel scream. Last showing today.

Have the label, which stands for fair working conditions, put on your job printing. The Observer is one of the two shops in town observing union principles. Phone Main 37.

ITALY ASKS RETURN OF BOOTY CARRIED OFF BY AUSTRIANS

TREVE, Feb. 3.—The sack of Rome is dwarfed by the pillage of Udine, Belluno, Vittorio, and Conegliano. The robbers went to war with the sole and tremendous object of conquering the world. The first steps were so easy the rest was taken for granted. Italy was not considered. Times have changed, however, and what was taken will have to be restored. An inventory in this place would not be possible. To enumerate some of the most precious articles:

The finest ornament of the Amalienhof which forms part of the Royal castle of Vienna is composed of a series of twelve Arras tapestries, estimated to be worth 20,000,000 lire (\$4,000,000). Not so long ago they were in the castle of Mantua. One day Austria, without the least justification, seized them and took them to Vienna. At the time Italy was nobody and could not protest. It protested afterward through diplomatic channels. It stressed the illegality of possession; but at the time we were weak and despised, so that the action of our diplomacy, as was foreseen, went for naught, and the tapestries remained in Vienna. They should be returned before a pseudo democratic government turns them to profit.

Passing to recent happenings. In the University of Vienna are whole libraries taken from the houses and the palaces of our invaded provinces. At present since the University is itself in replying to the charges of Vienna newspapers, professes to hold them only as a simple depository, it is difficult to see why they are not returned to their original owners in Italy.

Public Square Denuded of Statues.—During the war, Innsbruck felt the loss of many objects of the greatest historic and artistic value. Among them was the celebrated library of Baron Salvotti of Mori. Austria held out her hands; resorted to one of its numerous hypocritical pretenses; professed its eagerness to save works of art from the perils of invasion; and with that paternal motive ordered the requisitioning of all the works of art remaining in the Trentino in private hands. The order was carried out with so much zeal that whole train loads of cases filled with stolen property were soon leaving the freight yards at Trent.

Thus among other things the busts of the poets which used to ornament the Piazza Dante were removed to Innsbruck.

It does not seem as if the young Tyrolean republic would want to sanction the methods of a government which it cannot help abhorring; and would seize the first opportunity to return all the documents belonging to us in its possession as well as other articles about which it might easily refresh its memory.

Celebrated Collection Taken Away.—Returning to Vienna always in the imperial castle, we shall find treasures upon treasures which were taken from us at different times by the same means. They include the celebrated collection of Marquis Obizzi which Francis Ferdinand carried off from the famous villa called Il Castello. The first editions belonging to the library of the Certosa at Pavia, the collections of arms; the ancient Graeco-Roman statuary, the pictures, the jewels and goldsmith's work, millions upon millions. All should be brought back to Italy, the creator of the beautiful and of wealth.

In the castle of Konspitz in Bohemia to construct which Francis Ferdinand destroyed ten villages with the only object of creating an immense park with rich hunting preserves are to be found most of the treasures stolen from the Catala, while the priceless collection of ancient musical instruments, belonging to Marquis Obizzi is at Vienna in the new wing of the Imperial Castle. Medicinal Furniture Found in Vienna.—Two-thirds of the exhibits in the Kunsthistorisches Museum are composed of Italian art objects; and it would not be worth while to find out how they ever got there. It is not worth while to revive old questions already debated fruitlessly in our art reviews when Italy slumbered and besides did not know anything except the diplomacy of timidity or prudence.

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