

OPPORTUNITIES FOR 'MOVIE' MEN AMONG 'DARK PEOPLE' OF SIBERIA

FRIENDS of Russia residing in America, who desire to do something worth while for that country, should organize, with the help of chambers of commerce and Protestant churches, an educational and relief expedition composed of three to five Red Cross nurses, two physicians, three Russian lecturers and translators, and two cinema experts, equipped with medical and surgical supplies, a large assortment of educational films, the necessary books and maps, and commissary supplies for a year's travel.

The benefits to America from such an expedition would be large, and ten or a dozen expeditions should be sent from America. The field is vast and the need is in proportion.

Below is given a (heretofore unpublished) report, similar to many others, of a road film outfit of the United States Committee on Public Information, Siberian division, which accompanied the Graves expedition during the war, showing the effect of the motion picture upon the "dark people" of Russia. They cannot endure our comedies and tragedies, without revision to suit the Russian psychology. They were seen weeping over the "persecution" of Charlie Chaplin and "Patty" Arbuckle, as they interpreted the scenes, and they groaned in disgust when the hero and heroine failed to die at the finish.

Siberia is a rich new field for the American motion picture industry. Study this simple report.

The motion picture road outfit of the film division, United States Committee on Public Information, in Siberia, completed its winter tour in the Olguinsk county on Feb. 3, 1919.

The following villages were visited: Shkotovo, Romanovka, Petrovka and Novo-Nieshino.

During 22 days (from Jan. 13 till Feb. 4, 1919) 27 performances were given.

The numerical data is given below:

Shkotovo	1306	609	2007	3	1	4
Romanovka	526	437	957	7	1	8
Petrovka	411	511	1123	6	2	8
Novo-Nieshino	504	443	947	5	2	7
Shkotovo	171	123	201	177	500	33%
Romanovka	413	234	293	228	101	102
Petrovka	370	234	273	122	91	47
Novo-Nieshino	209	137	271	142	32	86

Each performance lasted from two hours, for children, to four hours, for adults. On the average each performance lasted not less than three hours.

Before the beginning of each performance an introductory lecture was delivered about Zemstvo and motion pictures.

All the film was divided into five classes: industrial, agriculture, mining, entertaining and scenic. Each

picture was accompanied by explanatory remarks of the lecturer.

A. P. Dutny, mining engineer, was giving supplementary information about the mining pictures, while P. P. Nikolaev was explaining all pertaining to other pictures.

Special lectures about subjects which held peculiar interest for certain localities were delivered on some occasions.

The population regards the motion pictures very favorably, as can be seen from the slips dropped in a special box.

The total number of such slips is 124. We are giving below those which deserve attention as being more characteristic.

"The best picture I liked was about the school, where children walked from the school. I liked because it was so nice. Ten-year old boy."

"She Liked New York Scenes"

"I was in your motion picture place three times for the last three days. Of all the pictures I liked best 'New York City,' perhaps because I have never seen big and populous cities. I liked its abundance of parks and monuments, wealth of inhabitants and their ways of entertainment. The second performance held not interest to me except the sight of the mountains and waterfalls. I have seen the manufacture of paper and silk before. Today I enjoyed the Hawaiian Islands. In general I like these motion pictures because of variety of program and good condition of each feature. Eleven-year old girl."

"To the managers of the film section: The students of the fourth class of the grammar school express their opinion about the motion picture demonstration during all performances. We students are thankful to you for coming over with the motion pictures; we received a great entertainment as well as education and therefore we ask you to visit us again. Fourth class."

"Thank you very much. I liked all the pictures, but I am sorry could not see a new embroidering machine for dresses. Ten-year old girl."

"Long live the American motion pictures for the educational work. Later on we shall create anything ourselves, let Russia get settled politically."

"Exceedingly thankful to the lecturers for their great work. I hope that with your cooperation we will

"I liked all the pictures, but best of all was that about alcohol, because I suffer myself from it, but nobody believes that drinking is a disease. Continue your good work, thanks very much. Vorobiev."

"At last the dark Russian people are becoming educated by this, even though foreign motion pictures. At last the peasants see the world which was not known to them before. 19 years."

"Educational moving pictures are very beneficial to the large masses of the people since they make it possible to acquaint the Russian people with these inventions and methods in technic unknown to the Russian people and also gives practical lessons in using of various farming implements, which together with explanations by the lecturers will bring good results. Wife of Station Master, Novo-Nieshino, February 1, 1919."

"Having attended to the first and second performance of the motion pictures, I was impressed most favorably. I wish we would reach the same degree of civilization that is flourishing in America. For that reason the pictures bring much benefit because they give much valuable information which together with the excellent remark by the lecturer do much good. Station Master, Novo-Nieshino."

"Dear Light for First Time."

"Yes, the pleasant has seen light for the first time and this will bring good results, the education will leave a deep trace in the souls of the dark people, who watching the pictures, dream of what he saw and heard. But he people forget, and you do not remind them of it, that it is not enough to listen, we must work, act, sweet-voiced vultures sop and drink the blood of the people."

"Hearty thanks to you and Zemstvo for the benefit and wholesome entertainment afforded by these performances. It would be very desirable to have these outfits come more frequently and also see some pictures about cattle raising and farming methods which could be afforded by our peasants. Much of the farming machinery cannot be afforded by the Russian peasant because of absence of long-term credit."

Anathema by a Youth.

"Long live education, motion pictures and socialism. Let Koliczak, Senenoff with his followers and other scoundrels be drowned in the blood they are shedding. Eighteen years old."

"From the chairman of the Shkotovo District, Zemstvo. To the manager of the film division: Hereby I express my sincere gratitude to the Zemstvo for organizing road motion picture shows, also appreciation to the lecturer for explanations given to the pictures."

"My sole wish is, and it coincides with that of the majority of the citizens of village Shkotovo, that more frequent shows be given dealing with life of farmers abroad."

"Yours sincerely, (signed). January 18, 1919."

Education Greatest Need.

All these notes serve to illustrate the earnestness with which the population views the performances and it readily may be seen how badly the rural population needs wholesome entertainments as well as education.

In a number of private discussions with the lecturer which took place in order to get an exchange of opinion, it could be readily concluded that there exists among the population a conscious longing for education as well as a desire to analyze critically their own forms of life with the object of uplifting themselves to a higher degree of civilization.

The organization of the film work has to be made wider and permanent and for that purpose will be required not less than two outfits for the county with the object of visiting the villages periodically.

NOTORIOUS TRAIN ROBBER KILLED

Jack Kennedy, Last of Daring Western Holdup Men, Is Caught in Trap.

RIVAL OF JAMES BOYS

Spectacular Looting of Mail Cars Anticipated by Post Office Inspectors, Who Wait in Ambush for Him.

St. Louis.—Jack Kennedy, the "quail hunter," notorious train robber and rival of Jesse James, has fallen. Death accomplished what civilization failed to do—ended the career of the West's last notorious train robber. With Kennedy on his last holdup was Harvey Logan, who also took the long trail as a result of his adventure.

Always Ready.

Jack Kennedy combined boldness and cunning in his daring attacks on mail trains. When the law by chance captured him, he tried the jury with a crafty smile and an impervious alibi, winning his freedom despite suspicion.

After years of marauding, sometimes alone in a ghostly costume, the "quail hunter" was sent to the Missouri state penitentiary in 1900. He regained his freedom in 1912, returning to the world upright, unscathed and unafraid.

For several years he lectured as a reformer and acted in motion pictures. But the old craving for outlawry and excitement found him again several months ago. His movements, his frequent quail-hunting trips down wild stretches of railroad track, which he made for reconnaissance, attracted the attention of post office inspectors.

After weeks of preparation, involving the purchase of more than \$1,000 worth of dynamite, weapons, ammunition, masks and flashlights, the "quail hunter" made his return to crime by holding up and robbing a south-bound Frisco train running from St. Louis and Memphis.

Escaped in Locomotive.

Although fifty-four years old and "rusty" with long idleness, he sprang into the locomotive of the train while a confederate occupied the mail cars and held the mail clerks at bay. With singular skill he operated the engine, picking up the two mail cars and detaching them from the train. After

robbing the registered mail pouches he steamed along into Wittenberg, Mo., where he and his companion ran for their motorcar, which they had cached in the brush nearby.

In the moonlight six post office inspectors, three special agents and two deputy sheriffs saw the bandits. Eleven guns flamed. The "quail hunter" and his companion reached for their revolvers. The guns of the posse flamed again. With his revolver clutched in his hand and his grazed, bleeding face turned to the moon, the last of the guerrilla bandits fell.



Eleven Guns Flamed.

LEADS GRANDMOTHER ASTRAY

Granddaughter Takes Blame When Woman Is Arrested for Shoplifting in New York Store.

The story of an elderly woman led astray by her fourteen-year-old granddaughter was told in a New York city court, but did not have the grandmother from a sentence for shoplifting.

The defendant was Mrs. Helen Diontas, sixty years old, accused of stealing goods from a department store. Her granddaughter, Neta Jerlamatos, fourteen, arrested with her, sought to take the blame, saying she induced the grandmother to act as a screen.

Neta is awaiting trial in children's court, while the grandmother was fined \$50 and sent to the Tombs for one day.

THE CALENDAR

By MARTHA B. THOMAS

THE calendar is a curious human document when you stop to think about it. Just an easier way of reckoning than the counting of moons and suns, and a very important matter it is, too. A calendar is the director of man's affairs, the "consulting engineer" always to be interviewed before arranging life, whether it is a dinner or business appointment, a siege with the dentist or a trip abroad. It is the grand reference book; a silent, inanimate thing composed of twelve pages or sections with black marks on them. Probably no other book, large or small, has as many readers or commands the respectful interest enjoyed by its unimpeachable reputation.

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LINCOLN'S PROPHECY

I do not pretend to be a prophet. But though not a prophet, I see a very dark cloud on our horizon. That dark cloud is coming from Rome. It is filled with tears of blood. It will rise and increase till its flanks will be torn by a flash of lightning, followed by a fearful peal of thunder. Then a cyclone, such as the world has never seen, will pass over the country, spreading ruin and desolation from north to south. After it is over, there will be long days of peace and prosperity, for popery with its Jesuits and merciless inquisition will have been forever swept away from our country. Neither I nor you, but our children, will see these things. A. LINCOLN.

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