

PORTLAND REJECTS ARBUCKLE'S PLEAS

Custard Pie Gladiator Meets Down-Turned Thumbs.

HAYS' ACTION REGRETTED

Return of Slap-Stick Comedian to Filmland Regarded as Big Mistake in Judgment.

With Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle filling the role of the dying gladiator and the people of Portland, as represented by a score of representative citizens, cast as the Roman populace, it seems to be a case of "thumbs down" for the obese comedian who is now attempting to regain the right to live in popular favor.

"Fatty" is not wanted as a film actor, prominent representative citizens said yesterday. Even though the law does not interfere and forbid the presentation of his productions, the supreme and final judge, the general public, will deal the death blow. Fatty is thought, not only in Portland, but throughout the entire country, was the opinion expressed.

According to information current on film row, Arbuckle pictures produced before the Virginia Rappe affair and awaiting release at the time that the fat actor was dragged off to a San Francisco jail on a charge of manslaughter, will not be released until next fall. The producing companies intend to withhold statements until after the atmosphere clears a bit.

Opposition is Strong. But the general public, as represented by the representative citizens and citizens' committees, heads of women's clubs, school officials, have already made up their minds. In the fashion of the Roman populace, they have turned their thumbs down to the piteous appeals of the fat man for a chance to live theatrically.

Some shuddered at the painful duty and stated that they had no desire to pass judgment on a man who has been stamped as regenerated and returned to the public overlord of filidom. Others were bitter in their denunciation of the commercial interests which are attempting to foist Fatty back on a long-suffering public—a public surfeited with custard-pie and mortar-trough histrionics.

"Fatty" will not and cannot live, was the judgment—the public is forever through with the central figure in the nauseating "party" staged in San Francisco a year ago Labor day.

Club Woman Makes Statement. "I certainly disapprove of Will Hays' action in putting Arbuckle back in the motion-picture world with a clean bill of health," said Mrs. Alexander Thompson, president of the Portland Federation of Women's Clubs and a member of the city censor board.

Arbuckle was acquitted, after three trials of the charge of the Virginia Rappe, but he was convicted in the public mind of the grossest immorality. As a member of the city censor board, I will oppose the showing of any Arbuckle films in the city on the grounds that such a showing would be a violation of those provisions of the ordinance which forbid the exhibition of any picture detrimental to public morals.

Of course, I am only one of three of the board, and even if the whole board rules against the pictures, the exhibitors have the right of appeal to the city council.

"I consider Mr. Hays' action in restoring Arbuckle to grace in the film world a direct affront to public morals and the decency of the American people."

Perhaps it was the Christmas spirit; perhaps it was the scriptural injunction against judgments on others that prompted Rev. Ward McHenry, head of the Portland Ministerial association, to leave the personal Fatty Arbuckle out of the discussion and to consider only the public phase of the matter.

Hays' Action Regretted. "I could not sit in judgment on this man. If he has reformed, I am glad to hear it," the minister said. "But I regard Mr. Hays' action as regrettable—a step backward. It seems to me that in these times, the motion picture people would take more pride in themselves and try to present cleaner characters to the public. From my conversations with others, I do not think that the general public will patronize the films. They are the final judges. If they do not care to see this man, his career will be ended despite all that other motion picture people may do."

"I wouldn't go to see Fatty Arbuckle pictures," said Mrs. Ernest Crosby, president of the Progressive Women's league. "His reformation" would make no difference. His past life was so revolting and so disgusting. There are so many things that we can see that are clean and entertaining that I see no reason for resurrecting such a person as Arbuckle to amuse us."

D. A. Grout, superintendent of public schools, thinks that the fat comedian will go down in his own weight.

"I don't believe that there will be much to Mr. Arbuckle's renaissance, despite Mr. Hays' action," said the school head. "The majority of the people will not patronize his films. Arbuckle's character and the fact that there is nothing but horseplay in his works will soon kill his attempt to come back."

Mrs. Kelly Charitable. Mrs. D. B. Kelly, president of the Parent-Teacher council of the city, is another who is inclined to deal leniently with the personal Arbuckle, but who does not care to see his pictures return to the screen.

"I don't care to pass judgment on the man," said Mrs. Kelly. "I would not care to see his pictures myself and I wouldn't care for any of my family to see them. But there are so many things that children should not see in the theater that I believe that if parents would study up on the matter of film productions, that we would soon be getting a better grade of motion pictures."

"I think we should be charitable and just in dealing with Arbuckle," said Mrs. F. O. Norbrup, president of the Portland Women's Research club. "but I don't think that his pictures will be patronized by the public. I don't think they can last, the public is against Arbuckle's appearance. Of course, a few will go to see them, but they will be so few that their attendance at the theaters will not pay the costs."

The Portland Women's club has already gone on record against the showing of Arbuckle pictures and passed a resolution to that effect at

Moving Picture News

HAROLD LLOYD in "Dr. Jack" decided to spend Christmas in Portland at the Majestic theater. When he smilingly began his engagement there four weeks ago even the most optimistic did not believe he would ring up the record-breaking business that he has. The feature is now in its fifth week. Lloyd has turned out some rollicking comedies, but none to compare with his present vehicle. There is snap and action to this feature, combined with a charming romance. It will be a merry Christmas week at the Majestic.

Blue Mouse Theater. Mary Pickford, in her new production of "Tess of the Storm Country," is the current attraction at the Blue Mouse theater. Naturally, this feature completely outclasses the previous offering of the same subject, as Mary Pickford then made her first serious attempt at the screen art, and she has steadily developed her talents during the intervening years. And also there is to be taken into consideration the marvelous improvements technically, photographically and directionally during those years.

This screen event marks a vital epoch in photoplay history inasmuch as it is the first instance in which a great star has resurrected from the past the picture which won her a permanent place in the photoplay hall of fame and produced it for a second time on an elaborated scale, taking advantage of all the progress the film-making industry has made in the intervening years. It was just eight years ago that Miss Pickford portrayed the lovable character Tess before the motion picture camera and this artistic triumph of hers was so all-encompassing there is no way of determining how many millions of people in all the civilized nations of the world saw it.

As a matter of fact, this photoplay was exhibited continuously until every print was worn out and the negative lost its power to reproduce. During the last two years Miss Pickford has been the recipient of thousands of requests to once more offer herself in this masterly story.

Newspapers and magazines of many countries have joined in the clamor for this new production. As a consequence, "America's Sweetheart" has responded by making a greatly improved version of the play. Critics everywhere declare it to be her most artistic achievement and the consensus of opinion seems to be that it will live through posterity as one of the foremost

meetings held last Friday. But two dissenting votes were heard when the matter was put to vote.

Public Deaf to Appeal. And so it goes—the public turns a deaf ear to Arbuckle's pleas for another chance. Prominent citizens, representative citizens, plain, ordinary citizens show no interest in the pitiful fat man who wants to come back. The mails are deluged with letters from "Vox Populi" and "Pro Bono Publico" who wish to make public their indignation at the return to filmland of the notorious Mr. Arbuckle.

It is an engrossing drama—an interesting spectacle production in real life.

In the arena is the dying custard-pie gladiator. He has been sorely wounded by public opinion. Will Hays, czar of filidom, is by his side, pleading for Fatty's chance to live in screen land.

On the benches is the populace—the representative citizen, the prominent citizen, the plain ordinary citizen, Vox Populi and Pro Bono Publico. They are unanimous in their gesture—thumbs down for Fatty.

CLUB CEREMONIAL READY

MULTNOMAH TO DEDICATE TABLET THURSDAY. Squad of Marines to Assist in Ceremony in Honor of World War Dead.

Ceremonies in dedication of a bronze tablet, a memorial to the 26 members of the Multnomah club who lost their lives in the great war, will be held at the club Thursday, December 28, at 8:15 P. M. An invitation has been extended to ex-servicemen and the general public to be present at the affair.

XMAS DANCE TONIGHT

Broadway Hall. Fleming 10-Piece Orchestra.

Merry Christmas to All! ARONSON'S Washington St. at Broadway

COMMUNITY HOUSE CORNERSTONE LAID

Impressive Ceremony Marks Occasion in Sunnyside.

BUILDING WORK RUSHED

New \$35,000 Structure Begun in September is Expected to Be Completed by March 1.

Children and adults alike of the Sunnyside community will share in the gift of the splendid new community house, which became an official reality when the impressive ceremony of laying the cornerstone for the new edifice was held yesterday morning.

Screen Gossip. It is beginning to look as though "Fatty" Arbuckle's "come back" is not going to be such a grand reception as he may have imagined.

Director Allan Dwan and a company of Paramount players have gone to Miami, Fla., to make exterior scenes for "The Glimpses of the Moon," a pictureization of Edith Wharton's novel by E. Lloyd Sheldon.

The players who have the principal roles are Bebe Daniels, Nita Naldi and David Powell, who are supported by a strong cast, including Rubby de Remer, Maurice Costello and Charles Gerrard. All these will appear in yacht and seashore scenes, to be made in the south. Several carloads of equipment and costumes were shipped ahead of the players.

Talk about "Tess majeste" being rough to those in high authority. Here's Bert Lytell, just a mere buck private in the ranks of Hollywood post, American Legion. And here's Walter Long, the high and mighty commander of Filmland's coterie of ex-soldiers.

And just look at 'em! About all Bert does is mess up Walter and Walter draws his pay check every week for allowing Bert to sock him on the chin and way places. It's got to be kind of a habit lately, greatly improved version of the "To Have and to Hold," and now again in "Kick In," the new George Fitzmaurice Paramount picture featuring Betty Compson, Bert Lytell and May McAvoy.

rison will speak in dedication of the tablet. Dr. Stuart McGuire and Jane Burns Albert will sing. H. A. Saragol, president of the club, will preside.

GROWERS GET BIG PLANT

Umpqua Broccoli Exchange Will Have New Loading Station. ROSEBURG, Or., Dec. 24.—(Special.)—A receiving and loading station has been procured by the Umpqua Broccoli exchange, which has leased the south half of the building occupied by the Roseburg Ice company. The new quarters will greatly facilitate the loading and unloading of cars and will make a decided reduction in operating costs.

The broccoli crop will come on early this year, probably during the early part of February. There are between 400 and 500 acres of broccoli in the county, and it is expected that 150 or 200 carloads will be shipped out.

Camp and Mills Open.

CENTRALIA, Wash., Dec. 24.—(Special.)—The Winlock Construction company's camp and the K. K. mill at Winlock have resumed operations following shutdowns caused by the snow. The Western camp and Menefee mill will not run again until after the holidays.

Read The Oregonian classified ads.

\$1.00 COAL COUPON

Rock Springs Nut Coal \$14.00 the Ton, or present this coupon and pay \$13.00 the Ton. (If ordered before Jan. 15, '23)

Rock Springs Lump Coal \$16 the Ton or present this coupon and pay \$15 the Ton. (If ordered before Jan. 15, '23)

1/2-Ton R. S. Nut Coal, \$7.50 1/2-Ton R. S. Lump Coal, \$8.50 The crowd will rise and snuff the flame from a candle. Taps will be blown by a marine bugler while his comrades stand rigidly at present arms.

Colonel W. S. Gilbert, chaplain of the Third Oregon, will deliver the memorial address. Rev. A. A. Morrison will give the invocation.

DENNIS MERCANTILE CO. 91 E. LOMBARD STREET WASHINGTON FEED, COAL AND BUILDING MATERIALS

Note—Clip this Coupon and Save \$1.00. Only one Coupon accepted for each order.

\$1 COUPON \$1 COUPON \$1 COUPON

erected east of and adjoining the church will cost approximately \$35,000 and will be of similar construction and design to that of the church building proper. Facilities will be provided for a swimming pool, gymnasium, social club rooms, Sunday school rooms and an auditorium where motion pictures will be shown.

Completion of the new structure is expected to be accomplished about March 1, and dedication services are being planned for the early part of that month. Construction work was started about September 1, the basement has already been completed and the superstructure is now being erected.

Members of the building committee through whose efforts the new edifice has been made possible consist of Dr. W. H. Ewin, P. J. Ely, F. M. Phelps, O. E. Harriman, Herbert Gordon and J. A. Harrison.

GIRL, HIT BY AUTO, DIES

TOT, CRUSHED, IS LEFT ON CURBING BY MOTORIST.

Police Determined to Find Heedless; Family of Victim Is Grief-Stricken.

Nine-year-old Sarah Goodwin Rockwood died early yesterday morning from a fractured skull. And as her life slipped out grief clamped down on the hearts of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Rockwood, 715 Twenty-fifth street North, her eleven-year-old brother John, and her twin sister Adelaide, and more, a fearful load was dropped on the conscience of the heedless and cowardly autoist who struck her at East Twenty-sixth street North and Fremont street at 1 o'clock Saturday night and then left her to lie crushed against the curbing.

Police were set yesterday to bring more than an itching conscience to the driver but indications were that he would never be apprehended. John could not describe the car which came up behind him and his sister so stealthily as they walked along the street that night. He remembers only that he did his level best to drag her from its path.

He said yesterday that because the sidewalk was muddy he and Sarah chose the street to walk in but kept very close to the curb. He knew that a machine was approaching behind him, he declared, but he did not realize until too late that its driver, heedless of what his excellent lights must have revealed, was likewise keeping to the curbing.

Then Sarah was hit. She was taken home and died five hours later. Marks on her coat indicated that a wheel of the machine had passed over her.

Rockwood is a valuation engineer for the P. R. L. & P. company. The child was enrolled with her brother and her twin sister at the Alameda school.

G. A. R. Post Elects. HOOD RIVER, Or., Dec. 24.—(Special.)—Officers of Canby post, Grand Army of the Republic, were elected yesterday as follows: Jonathan Johnson, commander; H. B. Leonard, senior vice-president; James H. Cash, junior vice-president; Sanford Smith, chaplain; S. F. Blythe, adjutant; R. F. Frasier, quartermaster; G. R. Castner, officer of the day, and Thomas Goss, officer of the guard. James Jarrett and N. W. Hardman were elected delegates to the annual encampment of the Oregon department to be held at Grants Pass next summer.

Olds, Wortman & King RELIABLE MERCHANDISE — RELIABLE METHODS. MERRY CHRISTMAS Important Notice SEE TOMORROW'S NEWSPAPERS Containing Big Double-Page Advertisement of Our Annual Clearance Sale



INSPIRED by the warmest spirit of appreciation for the splendid patronage of Butter-Nut bread and our other products by the people of Portland and surrounding territory, the United States Bakery extends its heartiest wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

