

Screen Studio Revival Comes To Cheer View

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Feb. 12.—(L. N. S.)—While the closing of large industrial plants in the East in the last few months has been felt in many ways in the economic world, resulting in some communities in business depression, the temporary curtailment of production in the large motion picture studios here is said to have a beneficial effect and to have served a long desired need.

Inquiries at the largest plants today showed that the lull which set in about two months ago is almost over, with most of the big organizations working at least 50 per cent of the time, and with some of them working full time and some overtime. It was denied that large numbers of persons are out of employment as has been reported in news dispatches supposed to have emanated from this city.

W. J. Reynolds, secretary of the Motion Picture Producers' association, said: "The motion picture industry, like other great industries, was forced to curtail its output when the recent business depression began in many parts of the East. The curtailment was gradual, however, no huge number of people being left without work as I understand was reported. Many actors suffered slight cuts in their salaries and there was a weeding out of all but the best help in the large organizations."

"One of the splendid results of the recent slump—for it is now about over—will be the elimination of cheap offerings which have often been so objectionable to state censorship boards."

Cecil B. de Mille, director general of the Famous Players-Lasky corporation, said: "The motion picture industry was never on a sounder business basis than at the present time. Such retrenchment as there has been in the last few weeks has been along the line of heavy curtailment in wasteful and extravagant production methods and has differed little from the corresponding retrenchment in all industrial lines."

Overproduction during the year of 1920 was responsible, in a measure, for the recent lessening of production activities. But this has now been adjusted, and the motion picture industry is facing the era of its greatest prosperity. Production activities of the Lasky studio alone at the present moment exceed the mark set at any time during the past six or eight months."

Joseph Engel, in charge of Metro's Hollywood studios, said:

"Recent reports that big studios are closing down and that armies of players are unemployed are absolutely untrue. Such reduction of production as has taken place has occurred in no gradual manner that there has been no serious shock to the industry."

"There was a maximum of production of motion pictures last year, with the result that a certain percentage of the films made have not yet been assimilated by the exhibitors. This, too, has operated to keep down the number of new pictures made."

"But, with a reduction of the quantity of productions, the quality is raised correspondingly. Obviously, the use of the same organization to make fewer pictures, with the greater length of time devoted to each production, will result in a better product."

Irving Thalberg, of the Universal organization, said:

"Groundless reports that the industry has been in hard straits have come in most cases from small, irresponsible producers who have gone into business on other people's money, and have been forced to suspend operations when their loans were called in."

"I can say for Universal that it is busier now than at any time during the past year."

Shubert Vaudeville Organized in East; Capital 20 Million

The first definite announcement that the Shuberts will enter vaudeville has been made by Lee Shubert, who said that at the beginning of next season the new circuit of high class vaudeville will come into existence with the operation of theatres in over 20 of the leading cities. Coinciding with the announcement comes word that the Shubert Advanced Vaudeville company had been capitalized at \$20,000,000. The directors are: Lee and J. J. Shubert, Paul Block, F. J. Goddard, Jules Mastbaum, E. C. Potter, William Kline, Edward J. Bowes and Joseph L. Rhinock. The principal cities so far included in the new circuit are New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, Newark, Brooklyn, Pittsburgh, Detroit, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Louisville, Atlantic City, Buffalo, Washington, Baltimore, New Orleans, Kansas City and St. Louis. The further extension of the circuit is well under way.

Famous Play Screened
"The Heart of Maryland," a film version of the famous stage play of the same name by David Belasco, has just been completed by Vitaphone.



JOSEF
HOFMANN
NEILG THEATRE, FEB. 16
Direction Steers & Coman
Prices 75c, \$1, \$1.50, \$2, \$2.50
Plus 10% war tax.
BOX OFFICE
SALE TOMORROW

ME. MINNA NIMER-OVA, whose real name is being kept secret until she has made some of her local friends guess a bit.



Many Portlanders will recognize "Madame Minna Nimerova," who will make her first appearance at the Liberty theatre this week, but for all of that Manager Paul Noble declines to reveal the real name of his newest local musical "find."

Noble explains that his new "star" is using her maiden name for the time being, but may be induced to appear with her proper name after the introductory week.

"Suffice to say," says the manager, "that Mme. Nimerova can sing very beautifully and will prove her capacities with a group of selected solos this week." The new voice will be heard Sunday in connection with the Keates Sunday concert, which will include "American Patrol," "The Rosary," "Les Patineurs," and the first Hungarian Fantasia, in addition to the solos aforementioned.

Censors File Annual Report Screen Terrors Are Rejected

WHY is a board of censors?

The question is answered, at least in part, by the Portland board of motion picture censors, composed of Mrs. Alexander Thompson, C. S. Jensen and Dr. Jonah B. Wise, who late in the week presented to Mayor Baker a complete report on the board's activities for 1920.

The absolute condemnation of several pictures released for local exhibition is explained by the board and its reasons for passing other film offerings to which viewers had objected are set forth.

The first important session of the board in 1920 came when it was called upon to review "Burnt Wings," "The Tong Man," and "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," which had previously been condemned by viewers appointed by the board. "The Tong Man" had been condemned by a previous board and was exhibited in spite of that condemnation. The new board sustained the ruling of its predecessor.

In the case of "Burnt Wings," the board admitted a low moral tone existed in the picture, yet it was neither actually vulgar nor indecent. "It was immoral, rather than immoral," the board declared, and was passed. "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," presented a quandary, according to the annual report. The board finally reversed the decision of the viewers and gassed the picture overlooking its gruesomeness because of its high moral lesson and the fact that the dual role was presented by such a star as John Barrymore.

"Treasure Island" had been condemned because of gruesome and brutal scenes. The board ordered the elimination of a number of such scenes and Robert Louis Stevenson's famous story was passed on to picture patrons.

"Dangerous Hours," condemned by viewers, was barred by the board from local exhibition, and was so bad that very little discussion of its evil was needed to reach a decision. "At the Mercy of Men" was not permitted to show here because it was decidedly immoral and had been condemned by a previous board. "Dollars and Sense" contained an obscene moment or two, was passed by the board over the objection of viewers because the immoral scene was true to life and the villain was finally redeemed, while the ending showed "the triumph of right over wrong."

"Fixed by George" was the subject of a viewers' disagreement that was settled when Mrs. Thompson and Jensen ordered the elimination of a sub-title

"Wife in Name Only," and a twin bed scene, and passed the film. A comedy, "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," was condemned by the viewers late in the year and the condemnation was approved by the board. Early this year the board barred "Paying the Piper," from local screens.

The present board will be succeeded either by the appointment of a state board, which is the object of bills before the legislature, or by appointments Mayor Baker has promised to make should the proposed state legislation fail of passage. In concluding its annual report the present board says:

"We, the members of your board, have discharged the duties of the office to the best of our ability. We are busy people, but we have been glad to render this service to the public, without compensation, as a matter of community pride and interest. We appreciate the confidence reposed in us by the appointment to this important work, and we sincerely trust that our humble efforts have met with your approval."

Chinese Reveal Their Imagination

"Anyone who thinks the Chinese lacking in imagination should see them at a motion picture show," said Elsie Ferguson, who recently returned from a world tour. "They are very much interested in pictures. They sit on long wooden benches and raise a most barbaric din as the films are run off. In the motion picture theatres their orchestras help to create the bedlam. Apparently, the whole family turns out and has a good time. They seem to like melodrama best of all, but 'slapstick comedy,' both American and Chinese, goes with excellent effect. They laugh themselves into fits over our comedies, beat their wooden benches and make no end of racket."

Ashland Folk Pictured
Ashland, Feb. 12.—Local stars staged a movie, "The Romance of the Lithia City," in front of Hotel Austin Tuesday. Representatives of a California motion picture company have been spending several days in Ashland taking pictures of the park and buildings together with teachers and pupils in the public schools.

Portland Boxer Edits Film for Sennett Studio

FISTICUFFS and films proved a valuable combination for Allen McNeil, Portland youth, who was formerly well known here as a featherweight boxer and who is now equally prominent in screenland as film editor for Mack Sennett comedies at Los Angeles. McNeil literally punched his way into the motion picture industry, and the story he tells of his invasion is interesting.

McNeil was boxing in Southern California under the management of Roscoe ("Fatty") Arbuckle, who gives to the time he can spare most of the direction of pugilistic energy most of the time he can spare from his comedies. Finding himself greatly interested in film making, McNeil went to work in the Sennett studio and there, after a time, found his interests so thoroughly centered that he has given up boxing altogether, being unable, he says, to do justice to fighting and filming at the same time.

For the last three years McNeil has edited all the film released from the Sennett lot, including not only the brief comedies, but the five reel productions, such as "Yankee Doodle in Berlin," "Married Life," and others. He re-edited the production of "Mickey," while at the same time trimming and cutting the two reels.

Just prior to the short vacation he is at present enjoying, McNeil finished editing Sennett's "A Small Town Idol," and he recently re-edited parts of "The Mark of Zorro," Douglas Fairbanks' latest product. McNeil writes that when he returns to work he will devote his entire time to editing "Heartbalm," a big dramatic film production that marks Sennett's debut into the film drama.

The cast for "Heartbalm" includes such players as Ethel Gray Terry, Ben Deely, George O'Hara and Noah Beery. McNeil is only one of several well known athletes on the Sennett staff, and as a fighter has been in some of the Sennett comedies personally. Others known in the realm of sport are Kala Pasha, Eddie Gribbon, Abdul the Turk and Bert Resch.

Goose Featured Player
Eva Novak will divide title-role honors in her next picture with a trained goose, "Pussyfoot." "The Girl and the Goose," her forthcoming feature, is a serio-comic story of a show girl who travels the road of adversity accompanied by a trick goose.

'See How Far We Have Come,' Screen Director Cautions

Lloyd Ingraham, director of motion pictures, is quick to resent attacks upon the motion picture as an institution. Says he:

"I said five years ago that when the housecleaning came the reformers and censors were so vociferously advocating, it would be done inside the industry and by the people running it, and not by outsiders, and so it has proved to be. The housecleaning in here, healthy ideals and prevailing, vision is enlarging, inefficiency and waste are being eliminated, business methods are being applied, commonplace mediocrity in production is giving place to artistic excellence, and men are now seeking permanence. The picture of the future will be a picture made with a purpose, embodying the virtues of art and drama and having in it an active element of helpfulness. Of course, there has been much the matter with the picture, but give the pictures a chance. They are very, very young, but look how far they have come in 20 years."

The stage is 2500 years old—nay, it is more likely 25,000 years old—and yet every year sees it improve. In all justice, let the critic consider how far we have come, not how far we have to go. What was the picture 25 years hence? It would be a poor prophet who could not see their glory and growth as viewed in the light of their past progress. It is said that the first motion picture ever made was a simple scene of a horse eating hay."

Frank Mayo is planning to sail for Europe next August, at which time he will make a picture in England.

FRIENDLY CHATS

"The stage is on a much higher plane than 20, or even 10 years ago. The 'movies' have helped to bring about this condition in several ways, but one of the principal ones is to compel managers of the so-called legitimate houses to actively compete with successful film offerings." So says Robert H. Mantell, popular stage star.

Samuel Goldwyn says: "We want our authors to give the same time and care to their photoplays that they give to their books and spoken plays. Progressive writers have come to realize that the screen furnishes a distinct medium of artistic expression as varied and powerful as that of the written page or the spoken play."

"It is not good business, aside from the question of ethics, to make unclear pictures," believes William D. Taylor. "In the early days some foolish producers thought otherwise but the ultimate failure of their salacious product drove home the truth that 'family trade' is the basis of the motion picture business, because 'father' will not bring 'mother and the kids' to a dirty photoplay."

Samuel Merwin, popular author, believes in the original story for the screen as a better means of picture story telling than the adapted story. "The trouble with the adapted story lies in the fact that the adaptation is made by someone with an entirely different mind from the one that originally conceived the story," he said. "The scenario writer does not see the story in the way the author sees it and consequently complications arise. The changes made, many times, are not in the spirit of the story, although I have seen instances

where the scenario writers have put in touches that have greatly improved the original."

Henry King, director, says: "Theatre patrons as a rule are not interested in plays whose characters and scenes represent mental processes to which they are strangers. An occasional classic subject or costume spectacle from abroad may provide an exception, but it is only life that comes within their own ken in which Americans are interested. What will entertain Europeans won't appeal to Americans."

"Simplicity is the keynote of all beauty," says Agnes Ayres. "This obtains not only in matters of dress, but in every phase of human life. Beauty is more often marred than accentuated by redundancy and while there are certain occasions when elaboration is advisable, in ordinary walks of life the woman who adopts a simplicity of style in dress and manner will appear nearer the ideal than one who adopts an exaggerated form."

Theatre Is Planned For Chehalis, Wash.

Chehalis, Wash., Feb. 12.—J. D. Rice, owner of the Dream theatre, plans to build his new \$50,000 three story theatre building this summer. The present theatre is located in the Washington hotel building, which Rice owns. He is a pioneer of Chehalis. His proposed new theatre will be erected on the choice business lot across Market street from the St. Johns garage. It will be of the latest type, with greatly enlarged facilities. He is also planning the erection of a fine bungalow residence on the choice property he owns at the corner of Pennsylvania avenue and Gertrude street.

MAX LESTIC

Direction of Jensen and Von Herberg

TODAY! "THE TRUTH ABOUT HUSBANDS"

A First National Attraction
Adapted from "The Profligate," by Sir Arthur Wing Pinero.
A sensational expose of the life that husbands hide—of the secrets that every wife wants to know about.
It's a great big picture that is not afraid to tell the truth—a picture that every husband—every wife—and every fiancée certainly ought to see.

From the lips of a life-scarred woman: "The truth about husbands is that they have all sinned. But a wife must be broad enough to understand and forgive."

The Husband

The Wife

The Other Girl

CECIL TEAGUE
at the Wurlitzer and in concert today at 1:30 p.m.
PROGRAM
"AMERICAN PATROL" Mescham
"AT DAWNING" Cadman
"GOING UP" Hirsch
"FAUST" Gounod

TODAY! DOUBLE BILL TODAY!

PEOPLES

Work near Washington — Direction JENSEN & VON HERBERG

She who dances must pay the piper.

ANITA STEWART

in "HARRIET AND THE PIPER"

A FIRST NATIONAL ATTRACTION
GREENWICH VILLAGE—BOHEMIA—ARTISTS' MODELS—FREE LOVE—SOCIETY—LOTUS BLOSSOMS—
It was a weird medley of empty pleasures and mistakes that came to pretty Harriet Field when she started out to play in New York's Garden. She danced—but she paid the piper. An amazing story—full of thrills—but with a real love entwined.

JOHN R. BRITZ
—offers this week as Intermission Concert with his big orchestra, the first of a series of original interpretations of popular numbers. He plays each number in both ballad and dance style—and demonstrates some new ideas in the possibilities of popular music.
PLAYING THIS WEEK

LARRY SEMON
KING COMEDIAN, with a harem full of girls, in his latest and liveliest feature comedy
THE SPORTSMAN
A funny tale of a harem and a jungle.

"Colleen O'Mine" and "MARGIE"