

NEW SWANSON FILM MADE ON CATALINA

A company of almost two hundred persons headed by Gloria Swanson and Director Raoul Walsh, spent three weeks at Catalina Island and aboard a tramp steamer off the coast of Southern California, filming exterior scenes for "Sadie Thompson." Miss Swanson's second independent screen offering under the United Artists banner, which will be shown at the Elsinore theater beginning today.

The wharf sequence of the picture, depicting arrival of "Sadie Thompson" and other characters of W. Somerset Maugham's well-known story at Pago Pago, was filmed at the Catalina Island lighthouse. The shore line on either side of the wharf was transformed into a complete tropical setting under direction of William Cameron Menzies, art director, with the result that swaying coconut palms and native huts caused visiting tourists to rub their eyes in disbelief.

In addition to the tramp steamer "Chilapas," two sailing schooners were chartered by Miss Swanson's company to lend necessary maritime atmosphere to the exterior scenes. Among the extra players taken on location was an entire company of Marines, many of whom were actually former members of the service, and a group of Samoan natives headed by a chief whose home is within a few miles of Pago Pago, the locale of the story.

"Sadie Thompson" has been hailed everywhere as the picture that is destined to establish a new peak in Miss Swanson's career. Its story, detailing a terrific battle for supremacy between a social outcast from the byways of San Francisco and Honolulu, and a reformer of almost despotic power in the South Seas, is the most dramatic vehicle the producer-star has ever presented.

FLAX INDUSTRY WILL BE ON PROFITABLE FOOTING

(Continued from page 1.)

that encourages our farmers to rotate. They have found when this crop is grown on a five or six year rotation that it gives increasing returns to other crops. The crop requires and demands good farming. It requires a well drained soil built up to a high state of fertility. Farmers who grow this crop from year to year are gradually bringing their soil up to the required condition.

Last year this crop averaged \$65.35 per acre gross. The largest return made by any one farmer was \$160 per acre.

Heretofore an effort had to be made to get sufficient acreage to take care of the requirements of the state flax industry. During the past year we were obliged to refuse more acreage than we were authorized to contract for. This in itself is an indication of how profitable the crop is. This coming year there will be a substantial increase in the acreage over 1928.

Interesting Problems
The management in the harvest of this crop has been an interesting problem to work out, because it is essential and desirable that the crop and its operations be kept under absolute control. Our field operations are divided into four areas. These four areas are re-divided into fourteen districts and the districts are subdivided again into units. During the harvest each district is in charge of a field man and each unit is in charge of a temporary state employee who operates a state flax puller.

When the pulled flax starts to come in to our mills we have as many as 125 loads a day passing over our scales, some of these loads weighing as much as ten tons. We try so far as possible to segregate the good straw from each farm, because there is a variation in the qualities of straw and the fiber content.

Before the hauling is over the threshing begins in our number two flax mill. This plant can easily handle 100 tons of straw and about 500 bushels of flax seed each day. Many of you have seen our threshing mill in operation and probably have noted that fiber flax straw must be threshed with-

out injury to the straw, and because of this it is threshed through what are known as whip-pers.

Then the Retting
The next operation is to put it into the retting tanks which are now running to full capacity, the capacity is 132 tons of threshed straw each week. After the straw is taken out of the tanks it is wig-wammed in the fields for drying. Within two days after it has been wig-wammed it is turned so that both sides will have an equal bleach. I would like to explain to you the system under which we ret our flax, because I have found a misunderstanding about this important feature of our work. All our retting is done in wooden or concrete tanks. The straw is put into the tanks two bundles deep in a vertical position and packed in as tightly as possible. The tanks are then filled with pure water that is heated to 80 degrees Fahrenheit. After twenty-four hours the circulation system is then started. This permits the water to circulate from the bottom upwards through the straw with an overflow that carries the water off and back into our circulation tanks. One of the objects of this circulation is to obtain an even ret throughout the tank on the same principle as if the flax were immersed in a slow, sluggish stream.

We Have "Soft" Water
We use pure fresh water which is practically all melted snow from the mountains. This water is almost entirely free of iron, lime or other substances that are injurious to the flax fiber. No chemicals of any kind are placed in our water. After the straw has been submerged twenty-four hours in this water the bacterial action starts and this action gradually neutralizes the pectin gums that adhere to the fiber to the shive of the straw. The time the straw remains in the water is to a large degree governed by the temperature of the water. The average time for the straw in water held at 80 degrees Fahrenheit would be between four and five days.

Our retting season in this part of the country usually lasts about five months. Once the rainy season starts in the fall we have to discontinue our retting until it clears up again in the spring. Up to this time no successful method has been evolved for artificial retting or drying fiber flax straw, notwithstanding that millions of dollars have been spent in an effort to do this kind.

Remarkable Scutching
When the straw is thoroughly dried it is banded up and taken into our retted straw warehouse where it is required to season for some time before going into the mills for further processing. From that department the straw goes to scutching, that is, the fiber and spinning tow is recovered from the straw. About eighteen months ago this plant was turning out about 900 pounds of fiber and about 400 pounds of spinning tow. Next month this same plant will be turning out 4400 pounds of fiber and 2000 pounds of spinning tow per day.

We have recently installed what is known as an all-through scutching machine. This machine replaces hand labor at a greatly reduced cost and gives a higher yield of fiber from the straw. A year or two ago it was costing the state about 6 cents a pound to scutch the fiber. Today the hand scutching costs 2 1/2 cents a pound. This scutching machine produces a better quality and a higher yield of fiber at 1 cent a pound. It is remarkable how simple the principle is under which it operates. When we purchased this machine we expected a maximum production of about 700 pounds during a 7 1/2 hour day. As a matter of fact this machine has produced during the past week as high as 1157 pounds of fiber in the same time, and in one day running two shifts it produced 2056 pounds.

All Machine Scutching
We propose to abolish all hand scutching at the earliest possible date and replace it with these "all-through scutching machines." The fiber from these scutching machines gives a larger yield in hocking because the fiber is not torn or broken to the extent experienced from hand scutching. Hand scutching must vary according to the man who is doing the work; whereas the work of the machine is uniform at all times in every respect. During the eight days' recent operations the scutching

Now at Capitol



Scene from "WE AMERICANS" with GEORGE SIDNEY and a UNIVERSAL PRODUCTION

machine operated with seven men produced 11,612 pounds of long fiber, and the hand wheels operated with approximately 45 men produced 14,621 pounds. The yield of fiber is much larger from the machine and with very much less work than over that of hand scutching. We plan to install five more of these machines before the first of the year. When this installation is completed we will be producing five to six tons of high grade quality every day the mill is in operation.

Will Support Institution
Our plans now provide for expanding this operation up to 8,000 acres. When this acreage is reached the annual turnover from the flax department will reach approximately about a million dollars. When this objective is reached, during the next three years, the whole situation should be on a self-supporting basis.

Progress made in the flax industry now warrants private capital investing in flax mills. Several districts have been waiting for two or three years for this condition to arrive. I make this statement for the following reasons: You are now able to pull your flax by machine, and every subsequent operation can be handled by machinery. The time has arrived when small flax mills may be organized and operated in centers where it has been proven that fiber flax can be grown profitably. These plants in my judgment will have to be operated under a cooperative scheme, and they will have to have experienced and progressive management. I would further advise any person or groups of persons going into this industry to keep in close touch with our state flax industry, the managers of which will be glad to give them the benefit of their experience.

In Great Demand
In regard to markets you are in a very happy position. We have established a demand for our flax in Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York states. We have shipped approximately three hundred tons of fiber and spinning tow to Ireland and Scotland. Our local mills will require between three and four hundred tons of fiber annually. From this you will see we have got to move along from now on

Allow Profit Basis
Summing up the whole situation, we find our flax industry

'MAD HOUR' OPENS AT OREGON TODAY

Elinor Glyn, world's most popular authoress, has discovered still another chronological title to glory in "Mad Hour," Robert Kane's first National picture, which opens its local engagement at the Oregon theater beginning today.

True, Mrs. Glyn did not name the story originally "Mad Hour," but it was adapted from "The Man and the Moment," which occupies sufficiently satisfactory space of time.

Elinor Glyn, whose books have sold into millions, has made use of the time element in almost all her works, as the titles attest: "Three Weeks" made her world-famous. "Six Days" followed soon after, with such titles as "His Hour," "One Glorious Moment" and similar stories of chronological nomenclature in sufficient number to make it a recognized custom.

To keep pace with the demand of the market we have opened up. On several occasions during the past year we have had to refuse for as much as one hundred tons for the only reason that we did not have the fiber to fill the orders.

Another pleasing feature has been that we have never received one word of complaint on any flax fiber that we have shipped outside the state of Oregon. On the other hand we have received several letters advising us how satisfactory our fiber was and inquiring as to when further shipments would be available.

On Paying Basis
In connection with the manufacturing end of this development, the prospects for a vast industry look very promising to me. The first mill built here—by the Miles Linen company—is manufacturing shoe threads and seine twines, and very shortly they will be knitting their own fish nets. Their product is meeting with favor among the fishermen and other channels of trade in competition with firms that have been established for generations. They have orders enough ahead to keep their mill in production during the next seven months, and I am informed from reliable sources that the mill is now operating at a profit.

The Oregon Linen mills, the second mill, built to spin yarns and to manufacture linen cloth is gradually working towards a desirable condition. This mill has at present about eighty employees working two eight-hour shifts. It spins wet, damp and dry spun yarns in counts of from 7 1/2 to 25 lea. The quality of the yarns is entirely satisfactory. Very shortly we expect to start weaving crapes and glass checks, and we will find a ready market for all such goods purchased, in the Pacific northwest. You will be interested to learn that this mill will be on a profitable operating basis by the first of July next.

Allow Profit Basis
Summing up the whole situation, we find our flax industry

running on a profitable basis both to the farmers and to the state, and our spinning and weaving mills working out also towards a profitable investment. To make this development a greater contribution to our state is now only a question of expansion. I can see no reason why the industry cannot be made to expand and to be brought to such proportions so as it will replace many millions of dollars worth of linen yarns and woven linen goods that are now imported into our country.

In order to carry out the plans suggested in my address to you today, action will be necessary at the next meeting of the legislature to provide increased working capital to purchase more acreage adjacent to our present fields for wig-wamming the flax, and to erect buildings to store the flax straw in. We are very much in need of a fiber warehouse for conditioning our fiber. This is something that has not been provided for up to this time. We believe that the public is beginning to realize and appreciate the necessity of the state flax industry being carried on in a business like manner, and functioning likewise in conserving every angle of the vast interests we all hope that it will represent.

Fess Gives Keynote
When the roll call is completed Senator Simeon D. Fess, of Ohio, will deliver the keynote address of the convention, the clarion call of a political party about to go into an election. Senator Fess, while not a delegate, is a close friend of President Coolidge and was one of the original "draft Coolidge" men.

Then each state delegation will name its members of the credentials platform, permanent organization and rules committees and the convention will adjourn for the day.

But meanwhile the committees will be busy. The credentials committee must pass on the eligibility of a block of delegates from the south which the national committee has already awarded to Hoover. Mrs. Mabel Walker Willebrandt, assistant attorney general, is chairman of this committee. She is a Hoover supporter.

Platform Body Faces Task
Reed Smoot, another Hoover man, heads the platform committee, which faces the task of bringing out a party declaration harmonizing conflicting views and which will hold hearings for those who wish to present their views. The rules committee will bring in the rules, and the permanent organization probably will name Senator George Moses, of New Hampshire, another Hoover man, as permanent chairman.

Meeting at 11 a. m. Wednesday to receive committee reports, the convention will go ahead with nominating speeches if the platform committee report, always a subject of oratory, is not ready. If this procedure is followed Hoover's name probably will be the first to be placed in nomination, Alabama, a Hoover state, is expected to yield to California on whose behalf John McNab, of San Francisco, will present the name of the secretary of commerce.

Lowden Next Up
Next on the list will be Lowden of Illinois, who will be placed in nomination by Otis F. Glenn of Illinois, and so down the line of candidates in the alphabetical order in which the name of their state appears.

Before the balloting begins the platform must be adopted, and the party leaders hope the platform fight will be concluded by Thursday. If that can be done, a nominee be chosen on the same day, and the hope has been expressed that the vice presidential selection may also be named that day, to end the convention. The probability, however, is that another will be needed to finish up the work.

Hall Capacity 15,000
The convention hall which will ring with praises of men and the party within the next few days has a seating capacity of 15,000 persons, including delegates, spectators, and newspapermen, and the blare of music and oratory which will center there will be broadcast to all parts of the United States and probably will reach nearly every part of the world.

Spic and span and ready for what awaits it, the auditorium flag-bedecked along with the rest of the city, has been strung with telegraph and telephone wires, which, with the radio, will carry an amount of information to the nation such as has never dreamed of when it was erected within 90 days to house the convention which nominated the commoner.

Last Steps Completed
The party managers are laying their plans, appointing the necessary committees, arranging for hearing delegations who dispute the right of other delegations to sit in the convention, fixing up the party declaration of princi-

ples, and generally smoothing things out so that at the right time the nominee may be named, the business closed and the convention closed.

To this end the plans call for the opening of the convention with a prayer and music. Then William M. Butler, chairman of the national committee, will rap for order and call the roll of the assembled party stalwarts, wearing their badges and massed with the standards of their states and candidates among them.

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pledged with politics, speculations, questions as to what Coolidge is going to do, bands, parading throngs, all waiting for the big show which will open at 11 a. m. tomorrow rain or shine.

EXPECT MELLOW WILL SUPPORT MR. HOOVER

(Continued from page 1.)

reading the statement to nearly a hundred newspaper correspondents in a dimly lighted hallway, he was asked what he would recommend.

"That depends on developments," he said.

The senator declined to comment on the statement issued earlier by Senator-elect William S. Vare of Pennsylvania declaring that at the caucus of the Pennsylvania delegation tomorrow he would use his influence to have the delegation endorse Hoover's candidacy.

Senator Reed, spokesman for the secretary, frankly stated that Mellon still wanted to know whether President Coolidge would accept the nomination and that question was holding up the answer to his vote.

How any further word could be received on the availability of

President Coolidge during the night was not made clear.

"We will arrive at a decision on that in conferences," he said.

"Conferences with whom?" "Ourselves."

"Do you expect President Coolidge to send any message to the convention?" he was asked.

"Yes, certainly," Reed blurted and then added, "of course he will send some kind of greeting to the party at least."

MEMORIAL PARK PLANS SHOWN TO COMMISSIONER

(Continued from page 1.)

will be installed for irrigation. The roads are laid out in artistic curves.

The tract is a half mile out from the junction of Liberty road with the Pacific highway. Part of it includes the old Cunningham place, noted as a loganberry planting.

to



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