

THEATRES

RIVOLI TODAY GREAT FOX SPECTACLE "QUEEN OF SHEBA"

"Queen of Sheba," the William Fox super-spectacle which was the film sensation of New York during its spectacular run at a prominent Broadway theatre, is booked at the Rivoli Theatre, beginning today.

through which it was being made, but audience and critics expressed admiration as well as delight over the result.

As a spectacle the picture is calculated to be unsurpassed, and as the love story of the most beautiful woman and wisest man the world has known, it is described as a photographic masterpiece.

Something tremendous was expected when "Queen of Sheba" opened in New York, for many stories had been published in the course of the year of the production, which was directed by J. Gordon Edwards. Betty Blythe plays the queen of Sheba, Fritz Lieber

King Solomon and Neil Craig the Princess Yashti, Sheba's opponent in the chariot race.

The picture came in for high commendation, and the chariot race cheered on by a crowd of 5,000 was received with acclamation. By a special device involving the employment of batteries of cameras, close-up pictures of the race were taken.

PROFESSOR WORKS FOR STANDARDIZED ACCENT.

BY THOMAS C. WATSON,
International News Service Staff
Correspondent.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—A plan is being pushed for a standardized English pronunciation, in this country a man is judged by his accent. There is no other test of caste than accent, and all the democrats here who object to the caste system for the inequality of all classes is to do away with its most distinguishing sign—the accent.

There have just been a pronunciation commission set up in England to correct the private college pronunciation, and that is common to all those wealthy enough to attend the private school.

According to Professor Jones, who is head of the department of phonetics at the London University, there is no accent so uniform as the private college accent.

It is the only pronunciation common to all parts of the country. It is even used by the Scotch aristocracy, yet the Glasgow man talks about the accent of his aristocratic countryman as an English dialect.

"Australian English" is different again, while American English is unlike any English spoken in Great Britain. Moreover, a London elementary schoolboy might not be able to understand another elementary schoolboy from Edinburgh or Newcastle-on-Tyne, each speaks the local dialect with the local intonation.

Professor Jones believes that a common accent can be taught throughout the country by means of phonetics, which is simply the science of the formation of speech sounds. Any accent can be acquired. By diligent study a Covent Garden porter—who speaks the most representative and frankest of accents—could be made to mimic the words, trim his "r's," aspirate and intonate like a young lordling from Oxford University.

But Heaven help him if he tried to do so unprompted, on his colleagues! Imagine Alf Perkins, with his newly acquired Oxford accent, sailing gently through the avenues of equestrian barrows in Covent Garden and meeting his friend, "Arty" "Awkins, struggling with his barrow of fruit. Says "Arty to Alf: "Wotcher, me old Alf! Ain'tcha gonna lend a hand?" put an "and wiv 'is blessed' barrow?"

In response, Alf intones exquisitely:

"Certainly, dear old thing, with the greatest possible pleasure—charged to, I am sure. 'Lor! 'lsoe voluptas!"

Should such an incident occur there could only be one ending. It would be a good scrap while it lasted. George Bernard Shaw says it is possible anyone speaking with an Oxford accent might possibly get knocked down to a nishing village. That would

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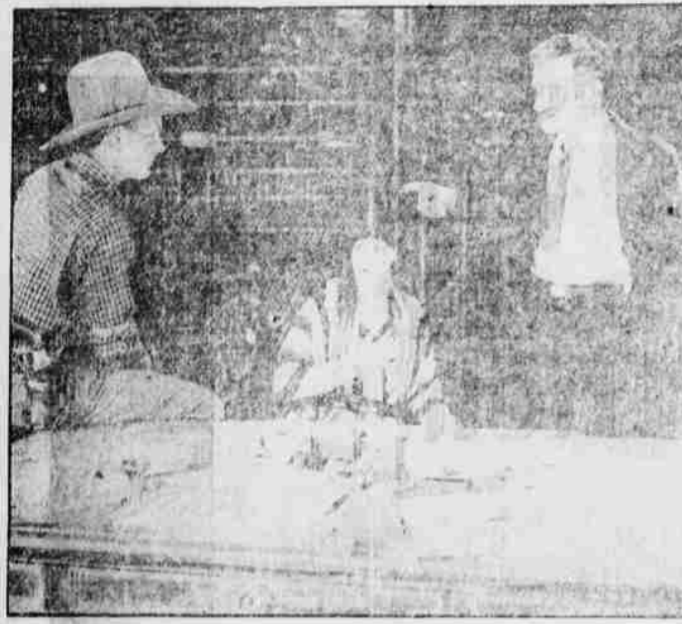
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Show Starts Afternoons, 2 p. m., 4 p. m. Evenings, 7 p. m., 9 p. m. Come Early