

# SEVEN MILLION WILL BE SPENT ENSUING YEAR

### Electric Light and Power Companies Plan Huge Expenditure in Betterments, Expansion.

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—(Special)—The electric light and power companies, it is estimated, will expend \$700,000,000 during 1931 for new construction, extension and betterment of facilities, according to a statement by Paul S. Clapp, managing director of the National Electric Light association. "This figure is based on telegraphic information from electric light and power companies in all sections of the country," he stated.

"Budgets are now under preparation. Factors affecting expenditures will be resumption of industrial power demand, the general investment buying of securities and the assurance of a sufficient return upon the investment to attract requisite capital."

"During the past year \$850,000,000 was expended by the electric light and power companies for new construction, extension and betterment of facilities. This compares with \$753,000,000 during 1928 and \$853,000,000 in 1929. The expenditures last year were approximately 70 per cent for transmission and distribution facilities and 30 per cent for power houses. This construction program involved large expenditures for both labor and materials and spread generally throughout the country so that almost every locality benefited. Although construction programs were accelerated to sustain employment they were carried out as part of a carefully engineered, long-range development program."

## In Craterian Hit



MARIE DRESSLER

The poignant struggle between mother and foster mother over the fate of a child, a thing often seen in our law courts, is the theme of "Min and Bill," which is now playing at the Fox Craterian theater and proved to be one of the most interesting of this year's crop of comedy-dramas.

No little of the fine qualities of the new Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer picture is due to the brilliant acting of Marie Dressler and Wallace Beery in the respective title roles. It is Miss Dressler's first venture into straight acting, since her memorial achievement as the hugg in "Auntie" in the present instance she is seen as Min, keeper of a waterfront dive and foster mother of Nancy, played by Dorothy Jordan. Beery depicts a good-natured though sometimes belligerent ship captain, whose bunter and quarrels with the hotelkeeper are the comedy interludes of what is primarily an intense and touching tragedy. An outstanding performance is also contributed by Marjorie Rambeau as the disreputable Billa, real mother of Nancy.

## Star of "Sunny"



Sparkling in its comedy and filled with the personality of Marilyn Miller, "Sunny," the First National and Vitaphone version of the stage play, opened yesterday at the Holly theater. From the lines of Marilyn Miller fans at the box office there seems to be but little doubt that this picture will be an even greater success than "Sally."

"Sunny" is something distinct as a picture type. It follows no conventional lines. Taken from Miss Miller's famous stage success, which ran for three years, "Sunny" on the talking-screen is essentially a comedy-romance. It is built around the personality of Miss Miller, who as the hardback ruler in a little circus at Southampton is loved by all, but loves Tom—Lawrence Gray—whom she has met in past years. He is in society and is just sailing from Southampton with his fiancée.

The story then moves on, in a delightful manner that is half serious and half tomfoolery, to a transatlantic liner, "Sunny" smuggles her self aboard by mistake. One of the highly entertaining sequences is the dock scene, where Miss Miller is in overalls and is mistaken for a stevedore. It is a fine bit of clowning, and proves a deft touch to be a comedienne of the first water.

The picture introduces to the public a new screen name, that of Joe Donahue, brother of the famous Jack. Joe is as Irish as his name implies. He, of course, goes to America on the same liner as does O. B. Henzie, "Sunny's" really father and manager of the circus. Joe marries Marilyn just to oblige her and to help her get into the United States. Joe is a splendid dancer, and makes a very able partner for Miss Miller in a couple of tap dances and an adagio.

The music of the picture is by Jerome Kern, America's foremost master of this kind of music. Several new pieces appear which were written especially for the screen version, and were not in the stage production.

The picture is splendidly cast throughout. Inez Cooney, a Broadway favorite, gives a splendid performance as a comedienne in the role of "Weenie." Clyde Cook is as entertaining as usual. O. P. Heggie, of course, stands out in his role. He is without doubt one of the cleverest character comedians in pictures.

## Gloria Is Coming



Gloria Swanson, starring in "What a Widow," a United Artists Picture.

Gloria Swanson's latest screen offering, the talking and singing comedy, "What a Widow," the United Artists picture which comes to the Holly theater on Sunday, is not only the star's first comedy in several seasons, but is also one of the most costly productions of her career. Her wardrobe affords a fashion show in itself. Modernistic sets, by Paul Nelson of Paris, are of a type entirely new to the screen. And in addition, Miss Swanson sings three songs written for the picture by Vincent Youmans, librettist of a number of Broadway's outstanding musical shows.

The supporting cast of "What a Widow," which was directed by Allan Dwan, includes Owen Moore, Lew Cody and Margaret Livingston.

## Edmund Lowe Stars in Rialto Feature

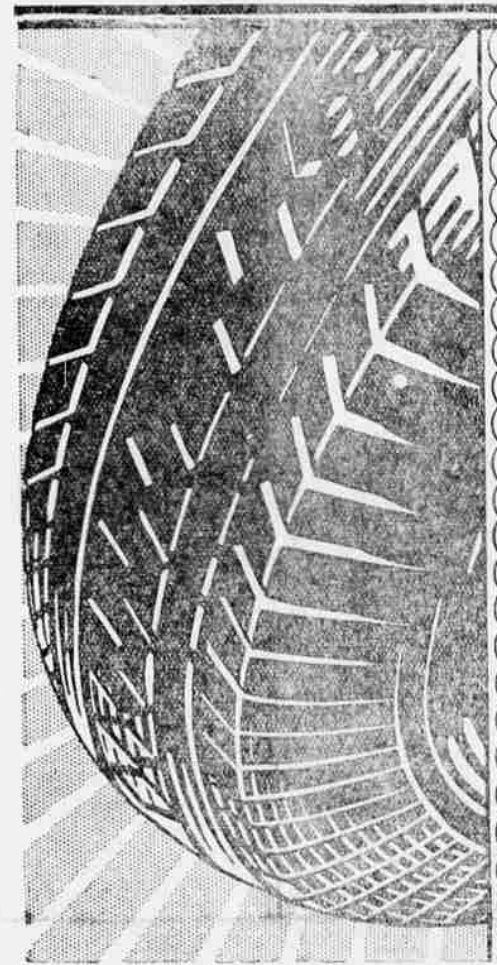
"Part Time Wife," may and thoroughly entertaining Fox movie-tone comedy remains opened at the Fox Rialto theatre yesterday, proving that a golf course is the best path to a lady champion's heart. Plenty of laughs and human interest assure this picture a highly successful run.

Mr. Muldoon, portrayed by Ed-



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## RELIGIOUS WORKERS TO SPEAK AT REESE CREEK

REESE CREEK, Ore., Jan. 2.—(Special)—Reese Creek Sunday school held annual election of officers Sunday. The year just closed has been one of the most successful in this section. The school was organized ten years ago by the American Sunday School Union, but during the past three years regular church work has been carried on.

## Wm. Ladd Dies

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 2.—(By) William M. Ladd, 75, retired capitalist and for many years leader in Pacific northwest business affairs, died yesterday at his summer home at Oak Hill, Clatsop, after a long illness. Heart attacks caused his death.

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