

## TRICKS OF THE CAMERA SAVE A FILM CRASH AT HOLLYWOOD

Hollywood, Jan. 14.—The movie public has many illusions that are carefully created by trick photography and the versatility of engineers.

These secrets of the trade conserve millions of dollars annually in the budgets of producers. The directors point out, however, that they are not evolved to deceive the theatre-goer, nor primarily with the idea of saving money, but often are necessary because it would be impossible to stage the actual scene demanded in the script.

In the photographic tricks the most indispensable perhaps, is the "glass ceiling" illusion. This is a device of painted glass placed slightly above the camera lens. On the sheet glass, ceilings, domes or roofs are painted to correspond with the actual set.

This glass work is necessary because of the lighting demanded by the camera. The roofs or upper parts of the set are not constructed. Instead, strong flood lights are placed there.

Wrecks of ocean liners are enacted in a small tank in the studio. Howling gales are provided by mechanical wind machines. The "ocean" is lashed to fury by paddles, and the toy liner, perhaps ten inches in height, is tossed about on the waves by wires in the hands of studio assistants.

If the story calls for an explosion to sink the boat, a dynamic cap aboard is exploded at the proper time and the miniature crank sinks beneath the waves with exciting realism.

A second example of miniature illusion was enacted in a picture of monstrous pre-historic beasts. On the screen they appeared to weigh tons and moved with life-like ease. Before the camera they were models 18 inches high, composed of rubber and paper mache, their movements manipulated by invisible wires.

When the movie spectator sees actors struggling perilously near the brink of a precipice or on the cornices of a tall building he may be witnessing a scene "shot" in two different places. The fight may have taken place on the studio floor and the cameraman may later have photo-

graphed the precipice or roof corner on the same strip of film.

Fogs are formed in the studio by a huge atomizer, which feeds cold vapor on the scene through perforated pipes concealed about the set.

Adept with high explosives, the engineers set a blast to wreck a dam, releasing a rush of logs and water to destroy a populated valley. Or they burn an actress at the stake with so little harm that she may be the belle of a party the next evening.

One engineer has patented a powder that burns furiously on the furnishings of a luxurious apartment. When the cranking stops, the furniture is found unharmed and is moved to the next "social" set.

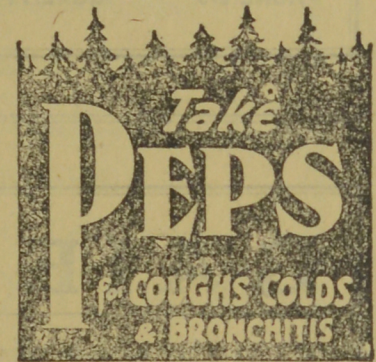
Even Hollywood scarcely knows these technical men whose exploits make "the filming of the impossible."

### DECLARATION.

I love you, dear, please do not doubt my love  
For it is fixed like heaven's brightest star  
And everlasting like the skies above  
Or any mountain peak, so there you are,  
But, darling, do not pout or push or shove,  
I will not teach you how to drive the car!

Hubby—The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.

Tired Wifey—Suppose you rule the world awhile.



## EXTRA CURVES ON A CHECK MAY CAUSE EMBARRASSMENT

(New York Sun)

An indignant citizen whose bank had protested a small check because of some trifling variation from his regular signature, is threatening to compose a code of etiquette for the regulation of the behavior of banks in their relations with good fellows. He contends that banks themselves ought to act like good fellows.

He points out that any good fellow nowadays is liable to vary his signature a bit, according to the prevailing quality of the beverages obtainable under the restrictions of the Volstead law, and he argues that a fellow's bank ought to make allowance for that fact.

In the case that excited his indignation he declares the variation in his signature was a very slight one, and that the bank admittedly knew the signature was his. Yet, in conformity with a slavish routine, it protested the check, thereby causing embarrassment all around.

### Tellers Going by Rote

A friendly banker to whom this sorrowing good fellow poured out his tale of woe tried to convince him that in seeking to make banks conformable to the code of good fellows he was contemplating too great a strain on the nerves of paying tellers and other functionaries.

And on the other hand, added the banker, clinching the argument, the attempt by banks to live up to the code of good fellows would open up a promiscuous path before the feet of the professional forger in view of which there is small likelihood of banks relaxing the rule of strict adherence to the sample signature that every depositor hands in when he opens an account.

Some men evolve a complicated signature and the more complicated it is the more likely the man is to vary it at times when he is busy being a good fellow. A more modern, matter of fact tendency is merely to write your name with no more effort at ornamentation or significance than you give to the writing of the date or the amount.

Even a dull fellow sometimes experiences a certain mystical thrill in signing his name. As a gesture, the operation might be more dramatic if it could be done by pressing one's thumb print at the foot of the check or document that would have something of the theatrical value of the tyrant signing a death warrant with his signet ring.

Monarchs of the Middle Ages could not write and their signatures were made with monograms devised for them by their clerical scribes. Sometimes the monarch would trace a stroke or two of the monogram, but at other times the clerk did it all. The Emperor Justin was one of these monogrammed ignoramuses and King Theodore of the Ostrogoths was another.

Charlemagne adopted a monogram signature and all the French kings from him to Philip the Fair followed his example. And later, when written signatures became the style, people used to follow them with a figure of complicated flourishes called by the French a "ruche" or beehive. Old editions of Dickens had their covers decorated with the author's very illegible signature followed by an elaborate "ruche."

## A FISH WITH HEAD AND TAIL LIGHTS

New York, Jan. 16.—Fish in foreign waters observing the traffic rules in the approved New York manner were shown on the screen by William Beebe at the thirty-second annual meeting of the New York Zoological Society last night at the Waldorf. There were fish with headlights and tail lights, and some with a globe of light suspended over their heads.

These fish and others—some of which threw out smoke screens—were picked up by Mr. Beebe on his recent scientific expedition to the Galapagos islands. Some of the fish had practically no eyes at all and others had eyes almost as large as their bodies. Some surrounded themselves with a nebulous illumination and others had "indicator lights" to show to which tribe they belonged. There were some only a fraction of an inch in length and others eighteen feet long.

The meeting also saw a moving picture of the struggles of the Beebe party with a ray weighing one ton which had been drawn up at considerable risk over the side of the Arcturion, the vessel used by the expedition.

### Says Shark is Maligned

Mr. Beebe defended the reputation of the shark, which, he said, is not so dangerous as it is generally supposed to be. While he and other members of his party were under water to a depth of fifteen to twenty feet, wearing bathing suits and copper helmets, he said, sharks of a size, ordinarily called "man eating," swam about not far away without making any attempt to attack.

Men in many parts of the world who know the habits of the shark and to whom he had talked, Mr. Beebe stated agreed that this creature has been maligned. The shark, he said, was not nearly so dangerous as the barracuda.

Mr. Beebe told of visiting a shack on Cocos Island, which for twenty years had been occupied by a man searching for treasure hidden by pirates there. To his great surprise he met this man by chance on the streets of New York after his return.

## SCATTERED HIS ASHES OVER FOOTBALL FIELD

Berkeley, Cal., Jan. 18.—Andy Smith's last wish is fulfilled, and his ashes fluttered from the sky to find a permanent resting-place in California memorial stadium, scene of his triumphs as football coach for the University of California.

An army aeroplane piloted by Lieut. John R. Glascock, former California football player under Smith flew above the stadium and scattered the ashes over the field.

Teacher—A transparent object is something that you can look through now Johnny, can you name something that is transparent?

Johnny—Sure. A doughnut.

"What is mixed foursome, pa?"

"Two talkers and two listeners, son."

## SCIENCE REACHING OUT FOR DATA AS TO DAWN OF LIFE

Chicago, Jan. 16.—Science is going back farther than ever to fix the dawn of life and is reaching out farther in locating influences affecting this planet.

### First Plant Life.

Back as far as 200,000,000 years ago this world was part of a spiral nebula, says Prof. Forest Ray Moulton head of the astronomy department of the University of Chicago.

And 200,000,000 years ago 10,000,000 years earlier than previous evidence showed, there were microscopic forms of plant life, scientifically known as algae, in Minnesota, Prof. John W. Gruner of the geology department of the University of Minnesota has discovered.

### Grand Canyon Find.

Comparatively recently, as years of multiple cipher endings go, the earliest land vertebrate, an amphibian ancestor of the frog or salamander, stalked across the mud of what is now known as Grand Canyon. Its foot was four inches in diameter, and it sank an inch into the slime. Its footprints have been found and plaster casts made of them by R. Milton Fuller, Montclair, N. J., a Princeton senior.

The algae began to flourish immediately after the earth in cooling got below the boiling point. Its form is much like seaweed, and it thrives at a temperature of 95 degrees centigrade, Dr. Gruner says. He found the traces imbedded in iron formations of the Vermillion range near Lake Armstrong, Minnesota.

### Affects Radio.

Solar explosions millions of miles away have noticeable effects—those

on the surface of the sun probably having a distinct effect on radio reception, Prof. Moulton believes.

"When explosions occur on the sun," vast balls of fire and stupendous rockets are shot out into space for distances ranging from 60,000 to 175,000 miles. The effect is felt for millions of miles farther causing even deviation of the magnetic needle on our planet."

He deprecates the suggestion that solar explosions would have any serious effect on the earth's climate with in any future time concerning living persons today.

### No End of World.

The end of the world in the sense of the universe running down, he can not conceive. Contrary to the theory that matter disintegrates and is wasted, he considers that there may be three time cycles in the changing of matter—its formation, its disintegration and its synthesis, including the possibility that it may be concentrated into new suns. The period of time for the formation of such new suns would be trillions of times longer than any period heretofore considered.

### Traces Iron Deposits.

Most of Minnesota's iron deposits are due to the algae, thinks Dr. Gruner. The growth has the property of extracting iron from sea water and making of it a solid shell with which to surround itself. Accumulations of these iron shells through millions of years have been imbedded in rock formations, forming the iron ore.

Slices of rock, a thousandth of an inch thick, were examined under microscopes in the search for the algae

## FINANCIAL PAPER SAYS CANADA IS NOT IN NEED OF AN AUCTION

(Financial Post.)

An auction sale? Bidding for office—no matter what the price!

Is this what government in Canada has come to? That is certainly what Canada is getting—an auction sale when it needs an election.

Every few days we read or hear about the utter lack of leadership in Canadian public affairs. Every few days we are told that the government of the country is no better than the people themselves make it. Are these expressions really trite and commonplace? Have they been made so often that the words lack meaning? Surely we have not come to such a pass.

But after all is it not too true? Here we have in Canada today a situation of which everyone who thinks of and loves his country might well be ashamed. No country in the world is so well situated to stand out among the nations of the world as a model of vigor and enterprise and contentment. No country in the world is so well equipped to give the lead in eager earnestness on the part of its people to work and prosper. The very measure of our difficulties is our opportunities. It seems as though we have stopped thinking. Canadians are allowing their country to drift. Hard times have not taught us, our lesson; diminishing population has not brought home to us the need of the hour. The dissipation of our wealth and vitality seems to mean nothing. What sterner lessons must we receive?

Every seeing eye in Canada is directed toward Ottawa. Every hour the inquiry is made what will Ottawa do? What Ottawa will do is

what Ottawa has so often done—follow the easiest line.

The government is in such a weak position that the speech from the throne on the opening of parliament was a re-distillation of election talk with a little more added for good measure to capture or hold Progressive support.

The amendment of the Conservative leader was a "no confidence" motion that merely started anew the old game of the "ins and outs."

The fourteen points presented by the Progressives as the price of their support are nothing but the selfish demands of a group of men who can think only in terms of a quarter section in Western Canada.

Instead of a policy from the leader of any one of the three groups that would inspire Canadians to work and as well to make Canada a country worth working for, each one in turn proposes something that will make the other fellow work.

Where is it all to end?

The answer seems to have been given by a cartoonist, who pictures a Progressive member approaching a small eating establishment. He scans two rival bills of fare, and extends himself with the remark: "I don't care where I eat, just so long as I eat." That is the measure of almost every member in the House of Commons today. Every one will see to it that the session lasts the minimum of fifty days required in order to qualify for the full indemnity of \$4,000.

Fifty days at \$4,000, \$80 per day. Not a big price to pay for leaders, for executives. But a big price to pay for fiddlers. A big price to pay for fiddling when an election is needed to attempt the definite result the last election failed to give.

London, Jan. 17.—For the first time in more than a generation a snowplow was operated in London today. It was used in the West End to push paths through the several inches of snow which fell during the night. The snow continued to fall today and traffic moved with difficulty.

The storm was general throughout the country, which lay under a heavy blanket of white from Lands End to John o' Groats, with low temperatures prevailing. In parts of southern England the thermometer went to 11 degrees above zero, which for this season is exceedingly cold.

We have met several prominent middle-aged liars in the course of the last three or four days who always sleep with all the windows wide open even when the thermometer is 6 below zero and there's a high wind.—Ohio State Journal.—And don't they get up at 6 o'clock and take a cold plunge?

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