

BETTER REGULATIONS RE PICTURES FOR CHILDREN ARE PROPOSED

I.O.D.E. Film Committee Take Up the Question of British Films and Pictures in General

More British pictures and better films for the children, the latter to be shown on Saturdays was the idea contained in a report presented at the annual meeting of the I.O.D.E. here yesterday by Mrs. John Davidson of Rothesay, N. B.

Mrs. Davidson's report was discussed and during the discussion it was stated that those films were not shown by the picture houses was because they were not popular with the picture goers.

It was pointed out that in Quebec province children under sixteen years of age were not allowed to go to the pictures while in New Brunswick fathers and mothers sent their children to pictures to get rid of them.

The suggestion was made that a clearing house affiliated with our department of Education be established and that the pictures be labelled Adult and Universal.

The paper is as follows: Madame President and members of Provincial Chapter I.O.D.E.

I beg leave to present the following report on Films for the year 1936-37.

Weekly attendance at Films—220,000,000 altogether, with \$0,000,000 in the United States alone. World capital to extent of \$2,650,000,000, of which \$2,000,000,000 is invested in U.S.A.

Victor Hugo said the Theatre audience consists of three groups: 1, the thinker who demands character; 2, the crowd who demands actors; 3, the women who demand emotion. The stage has special theatres, each catering to its own type of audience—so far, the motion picture tries to gather them all in. The average picture involves team-work on the part of about 3,000 people.

Besides being a medium of entertainment, we are beginning to realize its possibilities in Education. It is a potent instrument not only for instruction in the narrower sense, but for the formation of opinion and the moulding of the nation's mind.

His Excellency Lord Tweedsmuir, tells us in the foreword to the Report of the National Film Society of Canada, which he helped to form, the following: "In Britain we have a flourishing Film Institute, recognized and assisted by the Government. Most countries have a film institute to act as a clearing house of information to assist film societies in their work. The National Film Society's report in Canada was made possible by a grant, given by the Canadian Committee of the Carnegie Corporation. It reviews what has been done in other countries to develop the use of the cinema as a factor in educational and cultural development, and points out what must be painfully obvious to everyone who considers the situation, namely, that in this connection, Canada has lagged hopelessly behind. The Report deals at some length with what has been done in the production and distribution of films in Canada by Gov. Motion Picture Bureau; the National Museum of Canada, the Ontario Government Motion Picture Bureau, and the University of Alberta. In conclusion the report recommends the establishment of a clearing house for information on the films in education—such an establishment to have affiliated with it those departments of education, those schools and colleges, and those societies and institutions which plan to make use of the cinema. It is suggested that the National Film Society of Canada, assisted by a number of directors from educational institutions throughout the country, who could join the board, be constituted such a clearing house, co-operation would thereby be made possible with Great Britain, United States and other countries. Local film societies would call upon it for assistance and Provincial Edu-

cation could use it to advantage."

The next important topic is "Children and the Films." In Quebec the children under 16 years of age cannot go to the cinema. And, as the children are allowed in New Brunswick, it is up to the mother to consider carefully what she sends her child to. Very often a mother will send her child to the cinema to get rid of the child for the afternoon, without stopping to consider what type of picture is to be shown. Where as, the theatre manager will have a special programme for children. To help mothers who do care, the Provincial Chapter has humbly requested the Censor Board, through the Chairman, Mr. Owens, to have all picture shows labelled either Adult or Family in advertisements in the daily papers.

British Films

The year has been a disappointing one for the British Film industry financially. 'Shepherd's Bush' studios are closing, but Gaumont British will produce with General Film Distributors and pay one-half the costs. They will produce four films at Pinewood Studios, and four at Gainsborough, and continue sound news making. Alexandra Korda and Max Ostrer will still be giving us results. Beverly Baxter in MacLeans, tells us why he thinks Gaumont British came to an impasse, tells us of a new producer, Schach, a German-Jew. Schach's idea was that London should become the centre of European production, and so brought to London many of the most famous figures on the Continent. United Artists made Schach a co-producer and Mr. Baxter became chairman of one of his four companies, and director of the others. Two of the first films made were Richard Tauber in 'Pugliacci' and Elizabeth Bergner in 'Dreaming Lips.' Schach appears to be another Korda.

The British films have a better market in Canada and U.S.A. than ever before. In Canada, all first run theatres play a great number of the British films, and some cities have an entire British programme—such as His Majesty's Theatre in Montreal where the Technicolor Film, 'Wings of the Morning' has been playing for nine weeks. This film has Annabella, the lovely little French actress, whom Hollywood allowed to slip through its fingers.

The 'Silent Barrier', the romance of the C.P.R. and the Rockies, had its first showing in London, before Queen Mary, its premiere in Canada in the new Snowdon Theatre in Montreal, and in New York in 'Radio City.'

The Film, 'Fire Over England' has created a sensation by being unanimously awarded the Paris Gold Medal by the Comité Internationale, representing 52 nations. It is a Korda production.

Films in U. S. A.

Reciprocity between Britain and U.S.A. in their exchange of actresses, screen material and appreciation of the best in each other's industry. In the last twelve months, the British Treasury received \$890,000 in duties on motion pictures imported from other countries, mostly from the United States. Two Hollywood actors won the prizes for the best characterization of the year. Paul Muni in 'Louis Pasteur,' and Louise Raynor in 'The Great Ziegfeld.' 'Romeo and Juliet,' 'Mr. Deeds Goes to Town' and 'Dodsworth' were great successes.

Films in New Brunswick

Your Convenor has sent out cards of notification of film dates to all the chapters—five dollars being contributed yearly by Regal Films and one dollar from the Provincial Chapter; visited Regal Films and Empire Films and Mr. Owens, chairman of the Censor Board—all of whom were most helpful and courteous. Regal

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN CHINA IN 1936

An analysis of conditions in China during 1936 provides for the first time in some years real grounds for hopefulness concerning the future economic outlook, writes H. A. Scott, Canadian Trade Commissioner in Shanghai, in the forthcoming issue of the Commercial Intelligence Journal.

The total value of the foreign trade of China in 1936 amounting to \$1,651,314,000 Chinese (1 Chinese dollar equalled 36 cents Canadian in 1935 and 30 cents in 1936), represents an increase of 10 per cent. over 1935. The larger volume of foreign trade is due to an increase of exports from \$576,298,000 to \$706,791,000, which represents a gain of 22.6 per cent. Imports, on the other hand, measured in terms of Chinese dollars, rose from only \$924,695,000 to \$944,523,000, or 2.1 per cent.

In connection with the increase in imports, allowance must be made for the currency depreciation through the adoption of a managed currency system on Nov. 4, 1935, but even after taking into account this depreciation which is equivalent to approximately 16 per cent. if the average exchange rates for the whole of 1935 are compared with the average for 1936, it will be evident that the volume of exports rose considerably. Conversely, the depreciation of the Chinese dollar implies an actual falling off in the volume of imports during 1936.

Any conclusion regarding the merchandise balance of trade must necessarily make allowance for the volume of smuggled goods not recorded in the import figures. However, based on the official returns, the unfavourable merchandise balance of trade was lessened appreciably in 1936, as the excess of imports over exports declined to \$235,808,335 compared with \$343,402,262 in 1935.

reports 90 British Films shown in the province; while Empire Films report 22 for the half-year. British films are shown in all the towns. All the Film-Convenors asked their theatre managers to purchase 'Corona 16,' which Regal Films distribute. The Picardy Chapter reported British Films shown in Fredericton of a more interesting nature than formerly. The Royal Standard Chapter, the DeMonts, Lady LaTour, Royal Arms, Victor Hatheway, Governor Carleton and Carleton Soldiers Memorial Chapters all report their efforts for British films.

The Barrington Memorial Chapter sponsored a British film and raised money for the Endowment Fund. The Duke of Rothesay Chapter bought a projector for the Consolidated School at Rothesay, N. B. The Lord Sackville Chapter, through Mrs. West's efforts, procured 16 m.m. films from Dominion Government Picture Bureau and showed the mon Empire Day to the school children. The Central Advisory Board have been arranging children's programmes in Fredericton.

Recommendations to Film Convenors

Mrs. Angus, your National Convenor, thinks films might be used in connection with Empire study. She says films are generally and steadily improving in quality, as producers sense the temper of public opinion; and it is by a sufficient number of representative people demanding, patronizing and praising films of this type that they will be produced and released in greater numbers. The question of British films is still a very important one, and though much has been accomplished, much remains to be done, while there still continues to be localities in the various provinces where theatre managers will not have British pictures. It is in this field that our work lies. This is the work for the film convenors of the various Chapters, to ask the theatre manager to give a British picture a fair trial, especially now that there is excellent British material on the market, which should not be refused in preference to foreign. We want in Canada the atmosphere and influence these pictures will bring.

Educational work should be continued along the lines of protecting children from unsuitable films, for guidance of well-intentioned parents, advertisements of films should carry the classification of the Censor Board. Another point for film convenors to keep in mind is a check of the percentage of British and Canadian news on news reels. In some provinces 50 per cent. British news is required, 25 per cent. of which must be Canadian. She concludes by saying, "I think we of the Film Committee should feel it a great privilege to be in a position to use our influence, and that of the Order for good in such a practical manner; and I trust this may be an inspiration to guide us through the coming year."

Respectfully submitted,

ELIZABETH A. DAVIDSON.

N. B. Film Convenor, I.O.D.E. I move that the Film Convenors ask their Theatre Managers to procure 'Fire Over England' from Regal Films.

SPECULATION AS TO WHO NEW BRITISH MINISTERS WILL BE

Duke of Windsor's Income Discussed --- Rearmament Advantage---A Heavy Burden

LONDON, April 8.—Four vacancies in the Order of the Garter will probably be filled when the Coronation Honors list is announced. As a rule the members are drawn from the peerage. But exceptions are occasionally made, as in the case of Sir Edward Grey before he went to the House of Lords and Sir Austen Chamberlain. In both cases the distinction was conferred in order to mark public approval of their foreign policy. It is suggested that Mr. Baldwin will receive the Garter, either with or without a peerage, but I suspect he would rather have the Order of Merit, of which Mr. Lloyd George is at present the only political wearer. Its latest recipient, H. A. L. Fisher, was a politician for a time, but he earned the award as a historian.

New Ministers

Speculation as to the Ministers likely to go when Mr. Baldwin retires is naturally accompanied by guesses as to their successors.

Among the names I hear mentioned are those of Lennox Boyd and Mr. Mabane; if the new Prime Minister decides to include a woman in his team, Miss Horsburgh is the obvious choice; and, personally I should like to see Austin Hopkins's engineering gifts and his strong views on profiteering applied to the Defence program. But his party ties are perhaps not regarded as firm enough.

I do not expect any of the former Ministers—Mr. Churchill, Sir Robert Horne and Lord Winterton—back on the Treasury bench, with the possible exception of the last-named who though he is little over fifty, has been in the House since 1904, having been elected when he was only 21. I think Lloyd George, Colonel Grettton and Mr. Speaker are almost his only seniors.

Duke of Windsor's Income

Since the King's message regarding the Civil List makes no mention of the Duke of Windsor, it is believed that the Select Committee will have no power to recommend a grant to him from public funds.

Mr. Lloyd George has declared his intention to raise the matter, and though he may refer to it, when the bill comes to be discussed, he will be unable to make any proposal. It may be assumed that the arrangement now adopted has been chosen for the express purpose of preventing controversy.

It is understood that the will of King George V made no provision for the Duke, since he was the heir to the Throne, but he is believed to have come into a considerable inheritance from Queen Victoria, and his life interest in Sandringham and Balmoral, which has been acquired by the present King, must be of substantial value.

Lessons from Spain

Reports of the fighting in Spain are palpably unreliable; but if there is an element of truth in them, the achievements of Italian arms in that country are not of a description to give much backing to Signor Mussolini's bombastic exhortations to the Moslem world.

Doings in Spain are just as widely reported via Morocco, throughout the Mohammedan bazaars of Asia, as they are in the press of Europe, and unless General Franco's foreign volunteers bring him success quickly, it is not likely that the Moslems will be much impressed by the Duke's assurances of Italy's desire to be regarded by them as their protector.

In point of fact, Italy's non-official participation in the Spanish adventure has proved by no means unhelpful to British policy. Apart from the repercussions it may have in the East, there is now little doubt that the Spanish affair is the main cause of Germany's more moderate attitude. Of late Germany has certainly suffered some loss of faith in the supreme quality of her military equipment by the poor showing made by it when tested out under actual war conditions; but there is reason to believe that she is still more disappointed in the discoveries she has made as to the staying power of Italy's war machine.

When to this is added the fact that mutual suspicions are growing between Germany and Italy over Austria, it is easy to believe that there is little that is binding in the dictators' entente of a few months ago. At present those who are most sincere in their efforts to preserve the peace of Europe, will best serve that end by guarding against any action calculated to force the two totalitarian states into overlooking the misdeeds of one another.

Heavy though the burden of our rearmament is, and deeply though the necessity for it is deplored, it has one positive advantage. Providing the money is wisely spent, under proper supervision, and with the best expert advice guiding policy, our equipment two or three years hence will be the most up-to-date in existence.

This applies alike to ships, guns, tanks, planes and the whole costly paraphernalia of modern warfare. Much of the equipment with which other powers, in Europe and elsewhere, have furnished themselves,

during the years when we were making our futile disarmament gesture, is already becoming semi-obsolete.

We are starting where the others left off, and our material will, other things being equal, be proportionately more modern and efficient. It might have been awkward for us had we been caught napping during our quiescent period, but if serious trouble comes a year or two hence, we shall be second to none in up-to-date scientific equipment.

Royal Ambassador

Hopes are entertained in diplomatic circles here that the visit of King Leopold to London may pave the way to some better general understanding for Western Europe. In official quarters in Brussels it is not disguised that His Majesty was here upon a political mission.

Though King Leopold has already shown that he takes a leading hand in the conduct of Belgium's foreign policy, it is a pleasing discovery to find that he means to be his own ambassador. This being so, there is no cause to doubt that the question he wished to discuss with our ministers was that of Belgian neutrality.

It is a subject upon which our government will welcome discussion, for it is upon the basis of a better understanding regarding the neutrality of Belgium that British diplomats are now striving to bring about an agreement for the appeasement of the present tense relations between the western European powers.

The quiet little formality of presenting his field marshal's baton to King George VI will not take place until May 4. It will be performed at Buckingham Palace by His Majesty's granduncle, the Duke of Connaught, three days after that veteran soldier doyen of our field marshals, keeps his 87th birthday.

The ceremony has been fixed for a date which will not necessitate the Duke making a special journey to town from his winter resort on the south coast. The Duke has now performed this same ritual for three English Monarchs—or all being well

"EAGLE-EYE" PENNER PENS A LETTER

"Gene Austin and I walked into the Brown Derby last Sunday night after our programme," writes Joe Penner from Hollywood. "It's the place where you used to be able to see your favorite movie star at all times. Now, for the same menu-price, you can see your favorite radio star, too. Over in one corner were George Burns and Gracie Allen. At a table close-by were Milton Berle and his mother. Across the aisle, Parkyakarkus was nibbling a sandwich. Jack Benny and Mary walked in a few minutes later. And, as you stroll by the tables, and listen closely they'll be talking as much about the Crossley reports and auditions as they do about box-office takes and 'rushes.'

"What got me," Eagle-Eye Joe continues, "is that two or three years ago everybody used to say if you're in radio, you're not in show-business. But take a look around here now. Boy, how times have changed!

"Movie producers have begun to realize one thing: a radio name is something more than an entertainment asset to a picture. It means a guaranteed return at the box-office."

"For instance," continues Joe, "consider the cast of my new picture 'New Faces.' You have to blame radio for whatever I am today, Milton Berle, who is one of the 'New Faces,' reached Hollywood because of the popularity of radio's 'Community Sing.' Parkyakarkus, another, is with us because of the kilocycles."

So impressed have the RKO heads become with the power of a radio build-up that they have cast Berle's comrades-in-comedy, Tommy Mack, Bert Gordon and Jolly Gillette in the picture, Joe added.

will have done so after May 4—King George V, King Edward VIII, and our present King George.

There is a strong strain of longevity in our Royal house. The Duke, his sisters—Princess Louise and Princess Beatrice—and Lord Strathmore, between them represent an aggregate of 339 years—not a bad score for only four lives.

Central Kingsclear

The people of this vicinity who tapped their maple trees early saw the wind had dried up the flow of sap and they are looking forward to a good heavy rain to help out their making syrup and sugar. They claim the sap is much sweeter than in former years.

We are sorry that Guy Anderson who had an accident with his arm a few months ago was called back to hospital for treatment.

Mrs. Hedley Kilburn and son Ralph and her brother E. P. Cliff of Saint John spent the day at Queensbury the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Cliff. Mrs. Kilburn had not visited her uncle's old home for over fifty years. She found a great improvement in the home and surroundings.

E. P. Cliff of East Saint John, is spending a few days with his sister Mrs. H. W. Kilburn of this place.

We are sorry to learn there is no improvement in the condition of Alex Martin who has been very ill for some time.

Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Anderson are rejoicing over a baby boy born to them on Saturday night, weight 8½ pounds.

Our school is progressing nicely under the instruction of our present teacher Miss Irene Goodine.

George Gallagher who had the misfortune of breaking his arm some time ago, is gaining rapidly.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Kilburn spent Sunday afternoon with Mr. Kilburn's mother.

Mrs. Walter Gallagher and little daughter Ruby spent the afternoon at the home of R. G. Kilburn one day this week.

Bennett McKeen spent Sunday afternoon with Douglas Kilburn.

The ice in the river seems very firm and they are still crossing on foot at McNally's Ferry, also there was a team crossed over and back on the ice yesterday.

Ralph Kilburn gave a maple candy party on Saturday evening in honor of his uncle who is visiting here for a few days. Some of the nearest relatives were invited in and Mr. Kilburn turned off the lovely clear maple candy and treated them to all they could eat and gave them some to take home. After spending a very pleasant evening they returned to their homes about midnight.

W. T. Sinton, of Amherst, N.S., is a guest at the Queen Hotel.

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