

BUSINESS OF THEATERS BEST KNOWN, REPORT

Chicago Owner Sees No Let Up in Play House and Movie Patronage.

CHICAGO, Dec. 17.—In ancient days every king with weighty problems on his mind had his jesters to crack jokes and play funny antics to prevent him from worrying.

Today the people rule and the jester, the real and reel stage, lift worry over unemployment and reduced wages from their minds.

With industries in all parts of the country slashing wages and letting out thousands of workers, the theatrical and motion picture business is at the height of its prosperity without any sign of a let up, according to local movie and theater owners here. Every theater in Chicago is enjoying full houses, according to Harry J. Powers, veteran theatrical owner. Powers owns a controlling interest and manages five of Chicago's leading theaters.

PLAY TO CAPACITY EVERY NIGHT.

"We never had a greater volume of business," said Powers. "Our houses play to capacity every night and we are generally sold out the day before."

Powers said business depression has not shown any effect on the theater-going public.

"It would be a tragedy if the people didn't have the theaters to help them forget their troubles," he said, "and perhaps that's the reason why we haven't been hit as hard as other industries."

Powers predicted a reduction in theater prices. "But it will be gradual and may be years before it reaches the pre-war price," he said. Top price theater seats here is \$5. Before the war they were \$2.50.

Powers declared theatrical prosperity is general. An instance he cited was the receipts of the Folies in Detroit last week which he said totaled \$44,000. Movies are doing a tremendous business at all prices, according to motion picture men.

HARRY ACQUIRED DURING WORLD WAR

Lon Houseman, who is aiding David Griffith in staging a spectacular production here at \$2 per seat, said the house is being filled at every performance.

"The people were educated during the war to like amusement and now know what a relief it means to be entertained in time of trouble," said Houseman. "I look for continued prosperity in the movie game."

Lesser priced movie owners also said they are enjoying a successful season. Long rows of regular patrons can be found every night at almost any movie.

SOVIET AGENT KEEPS CHEERFUL

Martens Not Downcast Over Decision to Deport Him.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—Ludwig C. A. K. Martens, the unrecognized Russian soviet ambassador, was cheerful, though disappointed, today over the decision of the United States Department of Labor to deport him.

"I'm glad to note that the deportation order is based on the fact that I am the representative of the Russian soviet government, and not on the charge of spreading Bolshevik propaganda here," he said. "You know, I have admitted all along that I was the Russian soviet representative."

Asked what he would do about the deportation order, he answered:

"My first move will be to wire Moscow for orders. It will be for Moscow to decide whether I shall resist further deportation proceedings, by an appeal to the courts, or whether I shall comply with the American Government's request."

Erskine Re-elected Reserve Director

SOUTH BEND, Ind., Dec. 17.—Re-election of Albert H. Erskine of this city as a Class B director of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago is announced. The Chicago bank has jurisdiction over the Seventh Federal Reserve district, embracing parts of the States of Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and Iowa. The directorship term is three years.

Mr. Erskine is present of the Studebaker Corporation.

New Building Body Is Named 'Boosters'

A "boosters" club of 500 members to raise a fund with which to erect a new building for the Chamber of Commerce and other civic organizations in Indianapolis was suggested at a dinner last night by Charles F. Coffin, president of the chamber.

The use of a building by business men's clubs that now assemble at the various hotels and the need of a dining room that could serve 500 guests was urged by Mr. Coffin.

It is reported that a number of persons interested in the plan, provided membership of 500 for the club could be obtained.

Another similar dinner will be held in January, and will be devoted to a discussion of the work being done in the schools toward Americanization.

WAR WOUNDED TO MEET.

All ex-service men who were wounded in service are invited to attend a meeting at 2:30 o'clock Sunday afternoon on the thirteenth floor of the Odd Fellows' building. The meeting has been called by James W. Mellen, a wounded soldier, for the purpose of organizing a local post of the National Disabled Soldiers' League. Attorney Thomas D. McGee and Mr. Mellen will make the principal talks.

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Dresses Chicks

GENEVA, Ohio, Dec. 17.—Mrs. Charles Woodworth believes chickens should be fully dressed during the winter. She has dressed her brood of newly hatched chickens in tiny sweaters.

Stump Evansville Jackson Day Speaker

Special to The Times. EVANSVILLE, Ind., Dec. 17.—Albert Stump, an attorney of Indianapolis, has accepted an invitation to deliver an address at the annual Jackson day banquet on Jan. 8, to be given by the Vanderburgh County Democratic Club in this city.

About 300 Democrats from all parts of the First district are expected to be present at the banquet.

DATE OF CAPITOL'S CONSTRUCTION. The foundation of the central structure of the capitol at Washington was completed Aug. 28, 1818. This central structure and the dome were finished in 1829. In 1835 the early dome was torn away and the present dome was completed in 1861. The two great marble wings were finished in 1850.

SAYS ENGLISH ADMIT FAILURE

Speaker Who Visited Ireland Gives Observations.

That the acts of the repression of the Lloyd George administration are an admitted failure by Englishmen was the assertion of the Rev. William McQuinn, director of the Marquette League of New York, in an address at the Hibernian hall, last night. He said that the English people themselves say the course pursued by the premier was responsible for the MacSwiney incident, the burning of Cork and the black and tan troubles. He predicted the British troops will be withdrawn from Ireland within the next ninety days.

During his stay in Ireland, from Sept. 11 to Oct. 29, Father McQuinn visited every part of the country, and was in the midst of a number of the raids.

That cooperation with the Knights of Columbus and Irish and Catholic organizations will be given by the European Relief Commission in giving assistance to starving children in Ireland, was promised by Herbert Hoover in a message received by James E. Deery, national president of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, in response to a telegram sent by Mr. Deery pointing out that

press dispatches received tell of poverty among the children in Ireland.

Mr. Hoover's message is as follows:

"The collection being carried on at present for the relief of children was initiated for the sole purpose of maintaining the already existing American institution devoted to sick, undernourished and orphan children in central and eastern Europe.

"It was not the intention of combined organizations to undertake new commitments, but there is no race, creed or politics in connection with suffering children and I have therefore assured Knights of Columbus, who are so finely cooperating in this, that I shall be only too delighted to cooperate with them in any way possible and suggested that they should investigate the reports as to starving children in Ireland that we may take any measures necessary and possible."

Man Is Found Dead Kneeling Beside Bed

MARINETTE, Wis., Dec. 17.—Jacob Leichbach, 72, widower, living alone, was found dead by neighbors kneeling beside his bed. He was a man of considerable means and left all his property to Tony Kuehn, the young son of a neighbor with whom he frequently visited.

Churches to Aid in Relief Work

Caleb S. Denny, chairman of the Indiana branch of the European Relief Council, has received a telegram from Herbert Hoover, stating that all funds raised by Protestant church on Dec. 19 will be applied toward the relief work of the European Council.

The information sets at rest all doubt as to Protestant cooperation in the Hoover relief plans. For some time Protestant churches have been supporting relief work among the children of Europe, but in the future all children's work will be coordinated under Mr. Hoover's direction in the interest of economic distribution.

Now Wife of Viscount

LONDON, Dec. 17.—Viscount Stuart, son and heir to the sixth Earl of Castlestewart, and Miss Eleanor May Guggenheim, daughter of Solomon R. Guggenheim of New York City, were married here Thursday.

HINTS TO AUTOISTS.

If you are going to make a long tour don't wait until the last minute to begin getting things ready. Overhaul your car thoroughly before you start.

Human Torch Rolls in Snow; Life Saved

CASPER, Wyo., Dec. 17.—A thick blanket of snow on the ground here saved the life of F. E. Wagoner, World War veteran, who has been decorated for bravery in France.

An explosion resulted in Wagoner becoming a human torch, when his clothing was soaked with flaming gasoline. Rushing from the building where the explosion occurred, the former soldier man rolled in the snow until the flames were extinguished. He suffered severe burns, but probably will recover.

Rushville Jury Sets Aside Codicil to Will

Special to The Times. RUSHVILLE, Ind., Dec. 17.—A jury here set aside the codicil to the will of the late Mary Groves, and found for the plaintiff, Nellie Hunsinger Wright. The case occupied the Circuit Court all week, and the jury based its verdict on the evidence of Rushville neighbors of the deceased, who stated that the will was changed a few hours before the death of Mrs. Groves, and that she was unduly influenced in making the change. The will involved a considerable amount of property and a big estate.

Railroad Turntable Basis of \$2,500 Suit

Special to The Times. SOUTH BEND, Ind., Dec. 17.—Letting an unguarded railroad turntable tempt children to merry-go-round rides is declared to be contributory negligence in a suit filed through a new friend by Mildred Cowell, 8. The petition states that the child suffered permanent injuries when she was thrown from the merry-go-round into its circular pit and asked for \$2,500 compensation. The defendants are the Michigan Central and New York Central Railway Companies.

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