

OIL PRODUCTION CURB FOUGHT IN OKLAHOMA BILL

Battle May Determine Future of Proration in All States.

By United Press
OKLAHOMA CITY, March 9.—A proration battle that may determine the future of the oil curb in all principal oil producing states is being waged in Oklahoma.

Investigations into the motives and methods of proration supplement the fight on the Jones bill, introduced in the legislature, which would virtually strip the corporation commission of its authority to regulate crude production.

Opponents of the Jones bill claim that its passage would ultimately result in the breakdown of proration in all other states.

Such a condition, they have told a legislative committee, would ruin the oil industry.

Called Price Fixing

Proponents contend that the bill's passage is imperative to save the small independent producer from bankruptcy, claiming the oil proration regulations amount to a "price fixing" scheme, instead of a conservation program.

Those who claim proration should be lifted before the corporation commission, the state supreme court and the federal district court.

They then turned their attention to boosting for the Jones bill. The Oklahoma Oil Association was formed to fight the curb. It is headed by E. B. Howard, former congressman, who believes an oil tariff and not proration is the solution to oil problems.

Sinclair Against Bill

Harry Sinclair, chairman of the board of directors of the Sinclair Oil Corporation, has announced his opposition to the Oklahoma proration law.

An investigation was ordered into allegations certain companies are allowed to flow their wells open in the large Oklahoma City field.

The legislative committee reported proration regulations were being violated and that some royalty owners were not receiving the proper amount of money.

A request has been made that if proration is to be continued Governor W. H. Murray be allowed to name proration umpires. Present umpires are named by the corporation commission on the recommendation of oil companies that petition for the oil curb regulations.

Governor Murray has remained silent in the controversy except to say he believes if there is to be an oil curb principal oil producing states should adopt a uniform proration plan.

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OLD-FASHIONED HIT TRIES TO COME BACK

A Modern Cast, and a Strong One, Struggles With a Mighty Tough Dramatic Situation in "East Lynne."

By WALTER D. HICKMAN

WHEN the producer and director took the methuins out of "East Lynne" and dusted it off as a 1931 melodramatic dish, they handed a mighty tough job to the cast.

The fact is that probably nobody could have done a better job in bringing this old-fashioned play back to life on the talking screen than Ann Harding, Olive Brook as the alleged understanding friend and Conrad Nagel, a regular mess of a husband.

Many times I thought that I heard the bones of this ancient play creak and even moan as a modern cast tried to put life and color in this melodramatic corpse.

The fact is that the cast of good actors in the talking screen version would not dare to attempt to revive this old play in the flesh on Broadway. Where angels would fear to tread on the legitimate stage, modern actors seem to have no fear on the talking screen.

I would expect to see "East Lynne" in a one night stand in the legitimate theater in the stocks under a tent in the summer time but not in the big time. "East Lynne" even as a talker still smacks of being ten, twenty and thirty-cent entertainment, and a capable cast can't make this leopard change its spots.

The story today appealed to me as being silly and terribly overdrawn. I would never expect a modern wife to take the insults of her husband's sister and the poor wife does in "East Lynne." And the good acting of Conrad Nagel as the impossible husband could get no sympathy from me. The character is impossible and the situations he creates are impossible.

And does our villain (he starts out to be an understanding one and turns out to be a snake in the grass) treat our Nell nicely. He does not. He is about as much a rotter as the husband. Olive Brook makes the unconventional lover a very dashing person as long as he has money.

The fact is that Miss Harding gives a splendid performance of the weeping heroine who picked only lemons for her companions. And does she suffer? She does and how.

When I was present I noticed that many women in the audience were using their handkerchiefs while others were very frankly laughing at all the suffering.

It will be interesting to see if the old-fashioned melodramatic plays can stage a comeback on the modern talking screen. I for one doubt it.

Now at the Apollo.

LAURA MURDOCK SUFFERS SOME MORE

Poor old Laura Murdock is being made to suffer again for her indiscretion in love and for her lies.

Laura, you recall, was the suffering sob sister in "The East Lynne" which was a best seller on the stage many years ago. Laura is brought up to date in "The East Lynne" and I fear that she should have kept her years and not become quite so modern. The bones in this old play creak at times under modern treatment.

Personally I liked to hear Laura weep, lie and carry on on the stage more than I did in the talking screen version. "The East Lynne" on the stage was an intimate drama, while on the screen it becomes rather too grand. Of course I suppose kept women demand more nowadays than they did, well, say back in 1910.

Laura dates back to the days when girls worked in stores and dreamed of an easy life. Laura hated poverty and she sure did have an awful lazy day. Her poverty was terrible, but when she made her escape by becoming the mistress of a rich man (splendidly played by Adolphe Menjou in his most polished manner), Laura got no applause from me. She really expected too much of the situation, and yet Menjou was more than white to her.

I really felt just a little sorry for Menjou when Laura (played by Constance Bennett) threw him down to marry a poor but honest newspaper man (played by Robert Montgomery).

Robert knew Laura's past life, but he insisted that she leave her rich

sugar daddy and support herself for six months.

Laura attempted it, but she went back to her rich man again. I lost all sympathy for Laura when she lied both to Menjou and to Robert.

Laura is one gold digger who just couldn't play square. And I think that the movie director gave this play a much too happy ending.

"The East Lynne" is just plain melodrama at times. It has been beautifully produced, but it didn't get into one like the stage version did years ago.

I do think that this movie is box office.

Now at the Palace.

INDIANA ORCHESTRA PROVES ITS WORTH

I predicted last week in this department that some interesting things were going to happen in the Indiana concert orchestra in the pit since Ed Resner and Leonid Leonard, guest conductor and pianist, are getting their heads together. This week Leonard is conducting the orchestra through an overture called "Light Opera Gems," selections belonging to the repertoire of the "Firefly" and "Chocolate Soldier" school. Leonard has a lot of fire and showmanship in his method of directing and he is getting good response from the men in the orchestra. Resner plays a violin solo and he does splendidly. Let us have more of this combination. It is excellent. It really is worth while to go to the Indiana this week to hear this overture. Also Della Byrd helps to get the musical effect by playing the pipe organ with the orchestra.

Resner and Leonard have an excellent chance to make these overtures the talk of the town. Keep on. Please.

The outstanding number of the stage show is the acrobatic and strong man work of the Les Gheggis, two remarkable men in a most remarkable demonstration. They deserve to stop the show and they do.

James Hall aids in putting some comedy in the rather serious efforts of the Hill Billy Kid, who plays and sings old-fashioned Hill Billy music. On the scene is "Pinn and Hattie," a comedy that is clean, Mizz Green, a wise-cracking child; Leon Erroll as the much married husband, and Zasu Pitts as the wife of Erroll.

This trio goes to Europe and two story artists nearly make a bum out of Erroll. Erroll is about the whole show. Miss Pitts seems to have trouble in being funny. She shines only once and that is in a souse scene.

Story is not new, nor is it startling. There are some laughs present with Erroll handing out most of them.

Now at the Indiana.

"DRACULA" BECOMES A TALKING MOVIE

In bringing "Dracula" from the legitimate stage to the talking screen, the director has been much more successful than either the di-

rector of "East Lynne" or "The Eastest Way."

Tod Browning, the director, did splendidly with "Dracula," making it more interesting than even the stage version. The fact is that this movie will keep you awake at night. It took me several hours to get calmed down after I saw this movie.

The director has been fortunate in having Bela Lugosi, the man who created the role of Count Dracula on the stage, to play his original role.

Here is the creepiest acting I have seen on the screen and his makeup is really marvelous. I wouldn't want to meet this Count Dracula on a country road at night. Nobody can play this terribly creepy role as this man. He is the last word in horror.

Helen Chandler is the sweet heroine who is about to be carried to her castle by Dracula. She does fine work. David Manners does a good job as the sweetheart of Miss Chandler. He aids the scientist in "killing" Dracula and forcing him to stay put in his grave.

I have forgotten the name of the man who plays the bug and spider eating Renfield. Here is good work in a most terrible role.

CAMPAIGN FUND CURB EXPECTED

Congress to Consider Nye Bill at Next Session.

By Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance
WASHINGTON, March 9.—A definite attempt to curb the use of money in election campaigns will be made at the next session of congress, senators predicted today.

Bills embodying the lessons learned in the senate's investigation of campaigns in Pennsylvania, Nebraska, Tennessee, North Carolina, New Jersey, Delaware, Alabama, Kentucky, Minnesota, Montana, Massachusetts and Oklahoma will be introduced by Senators Gerald P. Nye of North Dakota and Bronson Cutting of New Mexico.

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"Dracula" is entertainment for those who do not suffer with heart trouble. It has been marvelously directed, photographed and acted. Now at the Circle.

Other theaters today offer: "The Criminal Code" at the Ohio, "Hollywood Scandals" at the Mutual, "Smilin' Ed McConnell at the Lyric, "Hot Babies" at the Rialto, and "Bubbles" at the Colonial.

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BACK HOME AGAIN

Stolen automobiles recovered by police belong to: Claude Taylor, 1804 Ashland avenue, Ford coupe found in front of 1618 South Harding street.

Claude Melton, 602 South Pennsylvania street, Chevrolet sedan, found at 833 Madison avenue.

Graham Paige sedan, new, with stolen license plates 735-314, found in front of 331 Kenwood avenue.

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Concerning a Great Recital

BY WALTER D. HICKMAN

BY presenting Harald Kreutzberg and Yvonne Georghi in a dance recital at English's, Mrs. Nancy Martens brought her first season of fine concerts to a close Sunday afternoon.

In fact, the house could be called capacity, because there were only a few vacant seats, and most of those were sold on the season basis.

The patronage given these Sunday afternoon concerts of Mrs. Martens guarantees the future for this woman, who is doing great work in bringing the most renowned artists to this city.

I was glad to see English's about filled yesterday, in spite of the terrible weather.

Georgi proves that we will support fine things, even in bad weather and in a depression.

Again I can safely say that Kreutzberg and Georgi make the best dancing team on the recital stage today. They need only a black drop, a piano and a pianist and some costumes to interpret every mood of the dance.

Kreutzberg today is even a finer and a more sensitive creative artist than he was last year. His technique seems to be more definite.

His greatest individual triumph yesterday was a new dance "King's Dance." His costume and makeup were perfect. He developed a majestic and even savage tempo to this dance.

The audience liked the dancers best in "Persian Song," one of the prettiest dance pictures I ever have seen on the stage. Kreutzberg and Georgi danced it beautifully. So much so that the ovation was so great that they had to repeat the dance.

Their "Pavane" dance to Ravel's music was another artistic triumph. Their fine sense of comedy was well demonstrated in "Rural Dance," which opened the second group.

These dancers seem to be at the height of their talent and still growing. Yesterday was one of the most charming afternoons I have ever spent in the theater.

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\$1,700 VALUE OF ROBBERS' LOOT FOR WEEK-END

Jewelry, Radios, Clothing, Hardware Are Among Stolen Articles.

Jewelry, clothing, cash, groceries, radios and hardware comprised loot valued at more than \$1,700 obtained by burglars and holdup men in the city over the week-end, according to police reports today.

For the third time in as many months, burglars stole dresses, hosiery and jewelry valued at \$1,000 from the Little Smart Shop, 2804 Central avenue, police were notified.

Five radio sets, six shotguns, nine flashlights and two dozen knives, valued at \$517, comprised the loot of burglars who entered the Thirtieth Street Hardware store, 4037 East Thirtieth street, police were told.

Two gunmen who held up Thomas Whalen, night man in the L. Frankovitz fruit stand, 159 West Twenty-eighth street, Sunday night, escaped with \$50 after forcing Whalen to lie on the floor, he said.

Forced to drink what police believe was liquor containing drugs, Rose Buda, 38, of 523 South Noble street, was held up and robbed of \$75 by two gunmen at Lord and Noble streets Sunday night.

Holding the proprietor and two clerks at bay with a gun, a bandit

same tampered with Kroger grocery, 3001 Central avenue, safe combination knocked off, nothing reported missing; restaurant operated by Earl Maylor, at 1813 West Washington street, ransacked and change from cash register and 419 merchandise stolen; Robert Shim, 713 North Alabama street, robbed by two Negroes of \$3 on Pratt street between Pennsylvania and Delaware streets; Miss Day Station, 19, of 1218 Nordyke avenue, robbed of purses on Howard street near Kentucky avenue, and Mrs. Arthur Deasden, 415 North Riley avenue, robbed of a pocket-book containing \$2.50.

Youth Killed by Auto

By Times Special
EVANSVILLE, Ind., March 9.—Leonard Lackey, 15, suffered fatal injuries when struck by an automobile whose driver was blinded by snow. The driver, Harold Peters, brought the boy to a hospital, where death occurred from a broken neck.

HOUS—11 A. M. to 2:15 P. M.—5 P. M. to 7:30 P. M.

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No. 4—1047 Virginia Ave. No. 11—4603 E. Mich.

No. 5—1426 E. Wash. No. 12—4428 E. Wash.

No. 6—5365 College No. 13—5062 E. 10th St.

No. 7—2180 N. Meridian No. 14—2356 E. Wash.

Saturday night stole \$30 from a grocery operated by W. B. Litsinger at 2220 East Washington street.

A youthful bandit, wielding a knife with which he cut two of his victims, robbed three boys of small amounts, Saturday night. He obtained \$1 from Leo Graves, 13, of 2338 Kenwood avenue, at Twenty-first and Illinois streets; \$3 from James Davis, 12, of 2339 North Capitol avenue, at Twenty-first and Meridian streets, and \$2 and a wrist watch from Howard Fleming, 14, of 705 East North street, in the 100 block, North Illinois street.

Forty dollars in pennies and \$15 in bills comprised loot of a thief who ransacked the home of Mrs. George Harris, 305 Harvard place, Saturday night, during absence of the family. Other robberies reported to police included:

Johnson Chevrolet Company, 1040 North Meridian street, salesroom ransacked and

same tampered with; Kroger grocery, 3001 Central avenue, safe combination knocked off, nothing reported missing; restaurant operated by Earl Maylor, at 1813 West Washington street, ransacked and change from cash register and 419 merchandise stolen; Robert Shim, 713 North Alabama street, robbed by two Negroes of \$3 on Pratt street between Pennsylvania and Delaware streets; Miss Day Station, 19, of 1218 Nordyke avenue, robbed of purses on Howard street near Kentucky avenue, and Mrs. Arthur Deasden, 415 North Riley avenue, robbed of a pocket-book containing \$2.50.

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