

## CLIFTON, OF LAFAYETTE, MAY BE DEMOCRATIC OPPONENT OF ELLIOTT

CONVERSVILLE, Ind., Jan. 19.—That Fayette county may have two candidates for congress is indicated by the boom that has been started for James A. Clifton, mayor of Connersville, as a candidate for the Democratic nomination. His name has been mentioned frequently and his friends over the district have been busy in his behalf.

In speaking of the reports today, Mr. Clifton stated that he is not an active candidate at the present time, the matter of furthering his candidacy being entirely in the hands of a number of his closest political and personal friends, who have suggested him for the place.

"I am not an active candidate for the nomination," Mr. Clifton said. "Some of my friends, it seems, have been advocating my making the race, and, although I have made no decision to announce my candidacy, I do not feel inclined to protest against their action. The sentiment of the voters of the Sixth district will decide the matter, I am sure."

Mr. Clifton has been making a number of visits to various parts of the district recently due to the fact that his services as a speaker have been much in demand. At a recent speech in Union county, before the Jefferson club, he was honored by a unanimous resolution urging him to be a candidate for representative. Interest is also being shown in other parts of the district, it is said, and his nomination next May will not be a surprise.

### The Theatres

MURRAY  
"Who am I?" a new National picture, is the attraction at the Murray theatre.

The production is an elaborate and highly dramatic screen play with the element of suspense predominating.

The story tells of the efforts of a young and beautiful girl to discover the identity of her parents. One day her search comes to an end, but this only tends to complicate matters, for it is revealed that her father was a professional gambler, and the girl has fallen heir to his establishment, and also to some heavy debts incurred by her father.

The situation of an innocent girl suddenly thrust among the class of people that frequent houses of chance is a most critical one, especially when a keen, unscrupulous gambler marks her for his own. How she extricates herself from the danger that impends and gets on the road that leads to future happiness is presented in a manner that immediately creates interest and sympathy and holds the attention of the spectator until the end.

Henry Kolker directed the production, which has in its cast of players Claire Anderson, Niles Welch and others of prominence. Katherine Reed adapted the story to the screen from an original one by Max Brand.

### MURRETTE

Although his name does not appear on the screen when the production is shown at the Murrette theatre, Captain Clyde Balsley, the famous American ace, was an important factor in the production of "The Beautiful Liar," Katherine Mac Donald's latest Associated First National feature.

Captain Balsley, some months ago married Miriam Mac Donald, the young sister of "The American Beauty," and has been of invaluable aid in the production of Katherine Mac Donald's features. Balsley wears the tiny but tonhole ribbons of the Croix de Guerre and the Medaille Militaire, and was a member of the famous Lafayette Escadrille, the air fleet of the French army in which were a large number of American flyers even before America entered the war.

Captain Balsley was wounded during the battle of Verdun while engaged in a fight with several enemy planes. An explosive bullet injured him so severely that it was thought he would never recover. For more than a year he lay in the American hospital just outside Paris and after undergoing 15 different operations has been restored to normal health.

### RICHMOND

When screen stars are required in the performance of their roles to bathe for the preservation of their lives, honor or personal rights, it is often done listlessly, but seldom so in Paramount pictures. The invariable rule of the Paramount directors is to be realistic, so that when a fight is scheduled by the story, it is a real battle and no make-shift affair.

Thus it happened that when Agnes Ayres, Paramount star and featured player with Rudolph Valentino in

### The Case of Alaska

By FREDERICK J. HASKIN

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—That the resources of Alaska are not being properly developed, and that the methods and conditions of federal administration in that territory are in part responsible, is a statement which has been emphatically made in connection with the proposal to take the bureau of forestry out of the department of agriculture and place it in the department of the interior.

This, of course, would give the interior department control of the great national forests in Alaska, and would make the department the chief federal arbiter of Alaska's industrial destiny, as the interior department already has the administration of other public lands in Alaska.

Curiously enough, the conservationists in and out of the forest service who are all opposed to the transfer of the forest service, agree with the opponents that Alaska is in a bad way industrially and that federal administration is in part the reason for this. These conservationists claim that the move to place the Alaskan forests under the administration of the department of the interior, is part of a general plan for the abandonment of the Roosevelt conservation policy in Alaska, and for a freer use of her natural resources. Such a policy is demanded by many persons financially interested in Alaska, and a vigorous lobby in favor of such a policy has long been maintained in Washington by such interests.

These interests say that Alaska is not developing and that the federal policy of careful conservation is responsible for the lack of development. The conservationists agree that Alaska

George Melford's magnificent production of "The Sheik" which is the feature at the Richmond theatre, was directed to fight four Arabian slave girls "for all she was worth," she obeyed orders literally, the result being a scene of intense realism seldom seen in any motion picture.

"It was lots of sport," said Miss Ayres the next morning. "But, oh, today! I feel as if I'd been through a cyclone. Those girls were all stocky, built and all the clung to me at once and I had to throw them off. I assure you I haven't any idea just what I did—I was told to fight and that's all there was to it."

This is only one of many realistic scenes in this superb production. There are many thrilling moments in the action, a desert sandstorm, battling Bedouins and magnificent Arabian scenes. The picture is based on E. M. Hull's novel of the same name which created a literary sensation both in this country and in England.

**WASHINGTON STOCK.**  
In presenting "Smooth as Silk," the powerful melodrama by the nationally known author, Willard Mack, who has a score of big successes to his credit, at the Washington theatre all next week, Manager Gruenwald has secured a play that is one of the most unusual of its type that has ever been a Broadway sensation. While it comes under the general classification of the so-called crook play, it is as far from the general run of these dramas, in view of the manner in which the author has developed its story, as one could possibly imagine.

The action of the play revolves about a band of clever crooks and deals with their lives, their relationship to the police methods of the present day, and their efforts to play the game of life as they see it. Written by a man who has been indefatigable in his efforts to dig into the true side of this phase of our national existence, it may be accepted as a remarkably true picture of this other world.

Many stage writers have explored the realms of crime as subjects for the drama. Willard Mack, author of "Smooth as Silk," succeeds where so many have failed because of his appreciation of the big human elements that play in this side of their existence, and through his master ability to draw the real picture so that it forms a gripping, convincing and logical stage story. While all of the so-called "color" or "atmosphere" of this side of life is present in the drama, there is none of the offensiveness, that is so often regretfully present in such plays, evidenced in "Smooth as Silk." It is a wonderful presentation of facts from which something that is worth while is drawn.

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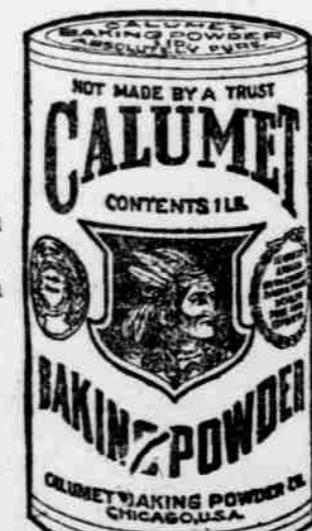
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### SHE WOULD OPEN WAY TO EXECUTIVE WORK FOR WOMEN



Miss Mary Van Kleeck.

ed Fairbanks, say the wags, just in time to take out the population. The salmon packing industry is not making the huge returns it once made. The production of gold has dropped 45 per cent since 1916, and the number of men employed in placer mining has been cut in half.

Government interference, conservation and red-tape are brought forward by one side of the controversy as the cause of it all. "Give us a free hand to do anything we like with the resources of Alaska, and we will make the land hum," say the business men.

The conservationists reply that Alaska's slump is part of the slump which has hit the whole world, and which is being felt in every part of the United States. They say it is not remarkable that Alaska, handicapped by her distance from markets and her limited carriers, should suffer most. They say that each of the phases of the Alaskan slump can be definitely traced to a cause in the present prices which she is able to get for her commodities.

At the same time, they agree that long-range federal administration is a nuisance in Alaska. Some 30 govern-

ment bureaus control the resources of that land, and nearly everything must be referred to Washington. They favor the relieving of this situation by the creation of a local board consisting of representatives of each of the federal departments interested in Alaska, and empowered to act with the greatest promptness and considerable discretionary latitude. They also favor the abolition of certain unworkable laws, such as that which forbids a man to take up land on both sides of a salmon stream, even though that stream be a mere brook with one sal-

mon in it. Federal aid in developing transportation in Alaska is also a dire need, they say. The railroad is only one step. Alaska needs both highways and shipping.

But the Roosevelt policy of conservation, they urge, must not be abandoned, if the Alaskan resources are to yield their full value to the American people as a whole.

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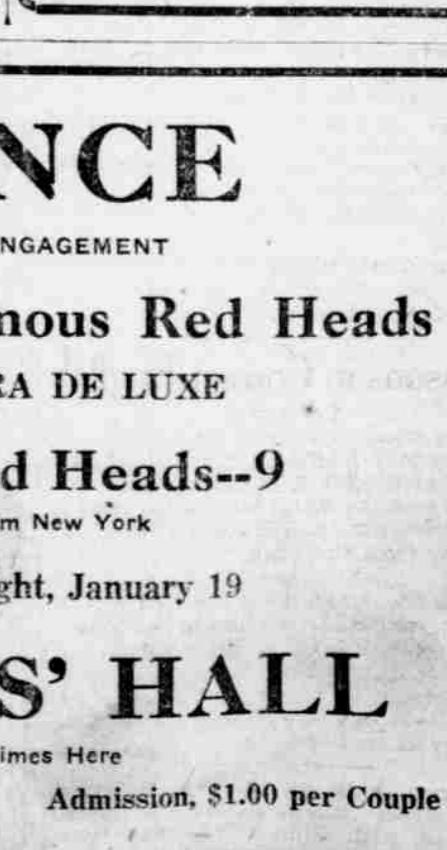
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