

RICHMOND PASTORS TO KEEP UP FIGHT ON SUNDAY MOVIES

In view of Mayor Handley's published statement regarding motion picture exhibitions, the Ministerial association issues the following statement of the history of the movement to enforce the Sunday law in this city:

"Early last fall the Ministerial association appointed a permanent civic committee and instructed this committee by a unanimous vote to approach the mayor in regard to the enforcement of the Sunday law, particularly as regards the motion picture houses.

"The committee appeared before Mayor Handley, and, after a brief conference, acceded to his request that the affair be conducted quietly, and agreed to meet with the local motion picture exhibitors at a time and place to be designated by the mayor. Some time later the meeting was called and the ministers made a proposition to the motion picture men. They suggested that if the motion picture men wished to voluntarily obey the state law, the ministers would be willing to give them three months in which to arrange their affairs and then would announce to their congregations that these amusement houses were voluntarily respecting the Sabbath law, and, insofar as they presented clean shows, they deserved the support of church people. The ministers even offered to make announcements of particularly meritorious performances. The motion picture exhibitors refused to consider this proposition, and the meeting adjourned, with the understanding that another conference would be held.

"This conference failed to materialize, the mayor reporting to the civic committee that the motion picture men did not care to pursue the discussion further.

Petitions Circulated

"The mayor protested to the ministers that he did not wish to be made ridiculous in such a movement, and did not think he should be called upon to act unless there was some sentiment behind him. Accordingly, petitions were circulated in the churches whose pastors are members of the ministerial association and in two other churches, a total of 19. These petitions were then presented to the mayor Monday, Dec. 11. It was explained that no attempt had been made to get numbers, as in most of the churches the petitions were presented at only one service, but in every case practically all the official members signed the petitions, and the movement met with a more nearly unanimous response than anything attempted by the churches within the memory of the oldest member of the ministerial association. Mayor Handley, in response to this, told the committee that his duty was clear, that his own opinion was of no concern in this regard, as the law was plain, and that there was no alternative for him in view of the oath of office he had taken and the demand indicated in these petitions. He felt that it would be unfair to issue orders at once, and to this the ministers agreed. He then told them that it was his plan to order the theatres closed on Sunday, Jan. 7. The mayor again requested that the movement be carried on with dignity and no publicity given it. In compliance with his request the members of the committee, both individually and as a committee, refused to make any statement for publication, although approached on several occasions by reporters for the local press.

Announcement Made

"It was, therefore, with amazement that the ministers read the statement of the mayor in the paper of Monday afternoon, that he would make no attempt at this time to enforce the Sunday law. He had mailed a letter to each member of the civic committee on Saturday afternoon after the last mail delivery had left the postoffice, Monday being a holiday, the letters

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were not delivered to the ministers until Tuesday morning. The letters stated that the mayor had changed his mind and had not only decided not to enforce the law, but to make an announcement that he would not enforce it.

"One of the ministers, however, having a lock box at the postoffice, had received his letter Monday morning. An attempt was made soon after the letter was received to get in touch with the mayor. It was impossible to reach him at that time. At 2:40, however, the minister got Mr. Handley on the phone and asked for a conference with him regarding the announcement the letter said would be made 'in a few days.' His reply was that he had already given the announcement to the local afternoon paper and an Indianapolis afternoon paper. It was suggested that it might be recalled, but the mayor, while saying he was willing to talk with the ministers, said there was no use in further discussion of the matter of the announcement.

"This is the history of the movement, upon the part of the Ministerial association, to bring observance of the Sunday law in Richmond up until Tuesday night, Jan. 2. The ministers announce that they expect to continue the fight."

Robert W. Service, author, spends part of his time in Paris and part in Monte Carlo.

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75 CHILDREN WILL APPEAR IN OPERA

Progress is being made in the preparation for the presentation of "Powhatan," an Indian opera which will be staged under the auspices of the

American Legion band in the Coliseum on the night of Jan. 17, according to W. A. Baker, director of the production, following a rehearsal which was held in the Y. M. C. A. Tuesday night. Members of the "American Beauties" and the "LaCigale" groups met in the Legion rooms at 3:30 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, for drill. A general rehearsal of the cast will be held at 7 o'clock Thursday night in the post

rooms and the orchestra will take part in the practice. A number of local singers of ability will have parts in the production and it is expected that the special music and the historical background portrayed in the opera will be of especial interest to those who will witness the presentation. The Legion orchestra under the direction of J. Don McDaniel, and Miss Marjorie Beck, piano accompanist, will furnish the music for the opera.

CONNEERSVILLE GIRLS IN PLAY AT COLLEGE
CONNEERSVILLE, Ind., Jan. 3.—Dorothy Spicely and Caroline Brown, Conneersville girls who are students at Indiana University, were members of the cast of the recent play, "Show Down," a carnival of one act plays.

RUSSIAN BEAUTY, HEAD OF OUTLAW BAND, MUST DIE
MOSCOW, Jan. 3.—Mlle. Rosa Vinokourova, a beautiful Russian woman, Alexiev Kotoff, and eight others, all members of a notorious outlaw band which was accused of 116 murders, today were sentenced to death by a revolutionary tribunal. Mlle. Vinokourova and Kotoff were the reputed ringleaders.



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