

LASKY ADVISES GIRLS TO SHUN HOLLYWOOD LOT.

The chances of the movie-struck girl climbing out of the extra mob to stardom are 10,000 to 1 against her, while she has but one chance in ten of getting any kind of work in the studios.

This warning was sounded by Jesse L. Lasky, pioneer film producer and vice-president of Paramount studios, one of the largest film producing plants on the west coast, in advising girls with ambitions for a screen career to stay away from Hollywood.

"Do not come to Hollywood with false dreams of success and fame," is Lasky's word of friendly advice, after years in Hollywood as a producer, "unless you have some means to provide your living for at least several months or a year."

"The girl who comes to Hollywood does not realize that the chances are 10 to 1 against her getting any work at all, even if she is fortunate enough to secure a registration with the Central Casting bureau."

The average girl "in pictures" who works only seven days in 100 is going to have a problem on her hands when it comes to paying rent and buying her meals, Lasky points out, adding that her chances of being invited out to dine also are very slim.

The Central Casting bureau, which furnishes the majority of talent to the studios, has more than 10,000 names on its list, Lasky emphasized.

From this anxious waiting list not more than 700 are "called" to the studio for a day's work. And men and women as well as girls are included in the quota.

"The conclusion is obvious," Lasky

declares with a doubtful shake of the head.

At the Casting bureau, records show, the women listed outnumber three to one men registered for employment.

Added to this handicap the number of jobs waiting for men is twice the calls for women.

"Dress women," as they are called, form 85 per cent of the women who find employment through the bureau. These must provide their own wardrobe, which needs to be elaborate as well as expensive.

Hollywood studios do not offer a very encouraging prospect at present even for the qualified actor, it was pointed out by casting officers.

The usually well-informed theatrical paper, "Variety," made a survey of the studios recently and found the situation as follows:

United Artists, two companies working where four are normal; Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer two with six normal;

First National, six with eight normal; Pathe-DeMille, five against eight normal;

Warner Bros., five normally, now shut down; Universal Company, eight normally, will close shortly for month or more;

Hal Roach studio, three comedy companies finishing, then plans to close for two months;

F. B. O. studio, two companies working against six normally;

Christie studio, two companies will close shortly for an indefinite period;

Tiffany-Stahl studio, six companies normally, only two now working;

Educational studio, two companies working against five normally;

Paramount, four companies, eight normally;

In summing up its survey, "Variety" adds:

"Aside from the leasing studios, including Tec-Art, California and Pov-

erty Row, there is very little doing in production."

"Poverty Row" is where the newcomer, youth or girl, usually breaks into the film arena. "Short bankroll" producers operate in the "Poverty Row" studios and often will employ a pretty face rather than an experienced actress.

State Forests are Paradise for Hunters.

During the past hunting season 46 per cent of the deer and 38 per cent of the bear killed in Pennsylvania were on State forests according to final reports compiled by the Department of Forests and Waters.

Legitimate hunting and fishing is encouraged on the State Forests of Pennsylvania, and while they comprise less than one-tenth of the total supplied in 1927 nearly one-half the deer and more than one-third of the bear killed by the hunters of Pennsylvania.

The Moshannon Forest District in the Clearfield county section leads all the other State forests in the number of deer killed, with a total of 1106. The Delaware forest district is second, with 753. That the Elk forest district, comprising the counties of Elk and Cameron, is worthy of the name, is evidenced by the fact that six of the eight elk killed during the past year on the State forests were in this district.

Growth of Hair.

When the individual is in good physical condition and the scalp is in good condition, the hair should grow from three-eighths to three-fourths of an inch a month until it has reached the length of 12 or 14 inches, when its rate of growth is reduced one-half. Hair grows faster in warm weather than in cold, and during the daytime rather than the night.

FARMERS LOSING STEADILY.

The enormous losses which the farmers of the country have suffered during the last seven years, both in depreciated farm land values and in lower prices for their crops, are reflected in an official bulletin just issued by the Department of Agriculture. The bulletin is based on a farm real estate survey made for the fiscal year 1926-27 by the Department's Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

The losses which the farmers have sustained have been especially severe in the Corn and Cotton belts. The survey shows that during the fiscal year 1926-27, there was an average decline in the whole country, while in some sections of the Corn and Cotton belts, the decline reached 10 per cent. The 4 per cent average decline made a total decline from 1920 of 30 per cent. Translated into dollars, this was a decline of \$18,900,000,000 from the valuation of \$63,000,000,000 placed on the value of farm lands in 1920, the last year of the Wilson Democratic administration.

But two reasons can be assigned for this enormous loss to the farmers.

One is the deflation policy for which the Republican 1920 convention declared, and which the Harding administration put into effect as one of its earliest acts.

The other is the prohibitive tariff policy of the Coolidge Administration which has closed many foreign markets to American farm products and which has forced the farmer to sell what he did sell at world prices while he bought his supplies in a protected market at inflated prices.

One of the most startling disclosures made in the Department of Agriculture bulletin referred to is that "in constant dollars of the purchasing power of 1912-13-14, farm real estate values on March 1, 1927, were really worth 20 per cent less than they were 15 years before."

Another startling disclosure is that while farm lands have been depreciating and prices of farm products have been falling, the farmer's taxes have been going up by leaps and bounds. The bulletin shows that where the farmer's taxes were 155 per cent of his pre-war taxes in 1920, the last year under Wilson, in 1925 and 1926, he paid taxes 251 per cent of pre-war. In other words, from 1921 to 1926, when his land value was depreciating 30 per cent, his taxes increased 98 per cent.

The bulletin also reports that the net cash returns of 15,000 representative farmers reporting to the Department declined 13 per cent during the year 1926-27. During the same year the outflow of farm population to the cities was 1,020,000 persons.

The bulletin notes the fact that during the year for which the survey was made, 131,000 farms were disposed of at "forced sales and related defaults," and that 40,000 were sold at administrators' and executors' sales, a total of 171,000 farms sold "under the hammer." Allowing five persons as the average number in each of these farm families, here were 855,000 men, women and children dispossessed of their farm homes during one year. There were 163,000 other farms sold at voluntary sales, and many of these were made by farmers because their farms were no longer profitable and they were unable on them to properly support their families and educate their children.

In addition, the bulletin notes that "reports are current of syndicates being formed for the purpose of buying up foreclosed and other distress farms in the corn belt and holding them for a rise in value." This means, of course, that these syndicates are taking advantage of the distress to buy up farms which the owners are forced to sell and either operate them by tenant farming or sell them at a profit whenever values increase. The speculator gains what the farmer loses.

Another very startling situation revealed by this bulletin is that in no fewer than nine States, land values had declined by 1926-27 to a point where the buildings thereon, the farm home, barn, garage, corn crib, etc., was greater than the value of the farm lands themselves. Depreciation in farm lands was smallest in New England, 1-3 per cent, and greatest in the north central States, ranging from 26.2 to 32.4 per cent. In the southern States, the depreciation ranged from 21.2 to 32.3 per cent.

Horses, Killed, Serve as Food.

Rockford, Ill.—Wild horses from far western plains and infirm horses from near western farms were shipped to this State at the rate of 100 a day during the last year to be converted into food consumption by Germans and Frenchmen in the old country and by lions, tigers and dogs in this State.

Within the year more than 40,000 horses were slaughtered at the Chappel Bros.' abattoir here, the only institution of its kind in the United States.

The bulk of the equine meat packed by the Rockford firm is shipped to France and Germany. Circuses, zoological gardens and dog kennels provide a domestic market.

The plant was built shortly after the World war and has grown rapidly. The owners were in the A. E. F. and conceived the idea of slaughtering horses in this country for shipment abroad when they learned the European market was undersupplied.

An average of \$2 per head is paid for old horses. Lame and blind animals from rural communities often bring as high as \$10.

Efforts of a horse-loving cowboy to dynamite the Chappel abattoir, attracted considerable attention last year. He objected to the slaughtering of horses and was arrested after an unsuccessful attempt to destroy the plant.

Recently he escaped from the penitentiary for the criminal insane at Chester, Ill., where he was confined. He returned to Rockford and again was forestalled in an attempt to blow up the establishment.

A high barbed wire fence has been built around the abattoir and strangers are forbidden to enter the place.

Pennsylvania Railroad Stock

CERTAIN action in the interest of the holders of Pennsylvania Railroad Stock is to be taken at the Annual Meeting of the Shareholders to be held April 10, 1928.

Do not neglect sending in the proxy that you have received from the company, as a two thirds vote will be necessary to effect this action.

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