The Daily Movie Magazine

THE MOVIE FAN'S LETTERBOX

By HENRY M. NEELY

"Gossip"—I really wish I could int your letter, but I don't like to iss films before they are seen in this city. It's much better to let all the fans see them first and form their own views without prejudice, and so we'll have to wait for discussions of "Blood and Sand" and "Prisoner of Zenda."

Bood and Sends."

You needn't explain that you discovered this column only recently. I have you couldn't be a regular reader when you asked me what I think of Bichard Barthelmess. It was only a few days ago that I said he was one of the film stars who really made me bubble over with enthusiasm.

Ies: Jack Holt has been in Atlantic City taking scenes for "Making a Man," so it was really he that you saw.

Is "Horrors!" the only thing you can think of to say after seeing "Her Gilded Cage"? I'm rather glad none of the fans has asked my opinion of it. I get very tired of saying nasty things sometimes.

Burholme writes: "I went to see Peter Ibbetson' last evening and the picture was ruined for me by a woman—she wasn't even a girl—who giggled back of me all through it and ridiculed everything from Peter's hair to the besutiful ending. She said she couldn't understand the thing and I felt like telling her that it took people with intelligence and culture to appreciate such a picture. But I didn't because there might have been a fight then and she was bigger than I am!

"I am mightily amused at the way."

"I am mightly amused at the way, ome people criticize great acting. I sad somewhere (it might have been in our column) the ravings of a flapper your column) the ravings of a flapper about the wonderful acting of Rodolph, but 'he should always be made to wear English riding togs.' What do you think of that as a standard for criti"WHEN KNIGHTHOOD WAS IN FLOWER"



principal pictures have been "Fires of

"A Man's Country," "When Bearcat
Went Dry," "Treasure Island," "Gift
Supreme," "Penalty," "Nomads of the
North," "Outside the Law," "Ace of
Hearts." He is now playing a part in
"Quincy Adams Sawyer" which is being
made on the West Coast."

Charles Major's popular novel has been screened at last, with Marion Davies as the charming heroine. Lyn Harding was brought all the way over from England to play the role of King Henry VIII, made famous by him on the stage in Shakespeare's "Henry VIII." You can glimpse Harding, as well as Miss Davies and Forrest Stanley (who plays Brandon) in the upper picture. In the lower view, Miss Davies (as Mary Tudor) is keeping her unwelcome spouse, Louis XII of France (played by William Norris), at bay

mow your answer already.)

"Ruddy does wield a mean glance, and I guess that's all any poor flapper can ask. Oh, well; you have a good time can ask. Oh, well; you hav

what adjective is he going to use for 'The Old Nest,' 'Peter Ibbetson,' 'Orhans of the Storm' and 'A Connecticut Yankee'? His ideas are a little strange, 'Can you give me John Davidson's

Ronald writes: "Your comments on the new version of 'A Fool There Was' struck me in the eye. I saw the 'one and only edition' perpetrated by Theda Bara and my thoughts still defy expression. It was absolutely the most nauseating thing I have ever seen. I was not 'over sixteen' at the time and Theda's excessive vamping was much (Address Davidson at the Hollywood Hotel, Hollywood, Calif. Certainly I have a good time reading the flappers'

Ella E. Aliantro writes: "Why Theda's excessive vamping was much

Ella E. Aliantro writes: "Why doesn't some one rave over Lon Chaney? In my estimation, he is a wonderful actor and seeing 'The Trap' only strengthens my admiration for him. Would you tell me something of him and where he can be addressed?

"No doubt I differ from most people in not raving over he-beauties, but any one who can play such parts as Chaney did in 'The Penalty' is deserving of some praise. I never fail to see a picture with Chaney in it, for then I know there will be strong acting in it."

(I don't know that the word "rave" is quite the one to apply to the senti-

If don't know that the word "rave" is quite the one to apply to the sentiments inspired by Chaney, but we have had a number of letters praising him most enthusiastically, and I have agreed with all of them. Chaney is unquestionably a very fine actor, and I especially liked the part he had in "The Trap" because it gave him a chance to show pure acting ability without what might be called the "freak" make-up accessories he had in "The Penalty" and "The Miracle Man."

He was born and educated in Colorado Springs and went on the stage, remarkably enough, scoring his first successes as a dancing comedian. His

per cent of them will swear that they never could see anything funny about him, yet I have seen crowds lined up him, yet I have seen crowds lined up for blocks waiting for a chance to see his idiosic grin. I am not ashamed to admit that I thought he was funny; in fact, I doubt if I ever enjoyed a comedy more than I did his 'The Cook.' It was rare burlesque. He did a dance after the best manner of Salome with a head of cabbage on a tray. Did you happen to see it? I never saw an audience have a better time.

"I am not saying that I admire Fatty as a model he-man, but if he can make me laugh I am not going to stop and say, 'No, he is not a nice man; I cannot "Why should one pick on movie stars more than any other class of people in

this world? Just because they are pho-

tographed for a living changes their moral standard not a whit.

"When people go to a store do they ask themselves, 'Is this grocer a moral man?' Would they stop patronizing him if he should be divorced? This is such an old, old story it seems almost senseless to say anything about it, but as long as people are so narrow-minded as they seem to be now, requiring super-censors for everything that is acted, movied or written, I feel that it may not be altogether hopeless, Let's hear what you have to offer on the subject of censors; that is, if you haven't ject of censors; that is, if you haven't done it already."

ject of censors; that is, it you haven done it already."

(Some of you folks just seem to love to get me into arguments that you know will make me unpophlar. I have several times expressed my opinion of censorship. Briefly, I think that, so long as motion pictures are in the hands of the kind of producers we have in such numbers today society must have some weapon of defense against them. Censorship is a crude and unscientific weapon, but it is the only one we have and it is better than nothing. I've said that I hate the idea of censorship, but even worse do I hate the kind of people who make it necessary. I'm not speaking now of the better class of producers, but of those who seem to have no conception of their moral obligations to an immature and not always very intelligent public.

I dispute your view of the private affairs of screen folk just along that line. There has never, in the history of the world, been any class of people who have won such an unreasoning adulation from boys and girls and men

of the world, been any class of people who have won such an unreasoning adulation from boys and girls and men and women. We have come to worship these stars as we never worshiped before. We love them so much that we instinctively condone their offenses, and that is where the bad influence comes in. Your grocer might be the worst of moral lepers, but his leprosy would not be sympathized in by the public. But there are thousands and thousands of young folk all over the country who unconsciously imbibe their ideas and their ideals from the stars of the screen, and these stars, when they finally win their public, must be held strictly accountable for what they do with their unprecedented power.

No, my friend, I'm afraid I cannot

with their unprecedented power.

No, my friend, I'm afraid I cannot agree with you. On the contrary, I believe that a movie star should be more severely judged than an ordinary person, because his rewards and his influence are out of all proportion to the amount of labor or thought it takes to achieve them).

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