

WEEK IN HARRISBURG THEATERS

THE "BATTLE CRY OF PEACE" SHOWS SCENE OF RUIN

Possible Result of Country's Unpreparedness Shown at Orpheum All Next Week

Peace with preparedness, and power behind that peace, are the keynotes of "The Battle Cry of Peace," a film propaganda to be shown at the Orpheum Theater next week. J. Stuart Blackton wrote the scenario, Wilfrid North directed the production, and Charles Richman, an actor of many parts in the legitimate stage in the past twenty years, is featured as the "star."

Commodore Blackton has piled his pen trenchantly. Obsessed by the fear that the United States, through present lack of a mobile army and an adequate navy, would be at the mercy of any invading power, he has laid his preachment on pigment, or, to be up to date, on the screen, with heavy and unsparring hand. He has scoured statistics and reviewed page on page of national history to impress upon the people of this country that, in proportion to the nation's resources, wealth and possible fighting force, we are so meekly equipped and so woefully unprepared to cope with and resist invasion that our position as a nation is ridiculous and portentous of possible annihilation.

With the collaboration of the Secretary of the Navy he has been able to secure authentic pictures of the American navy in action; through the aid of the nation's leading military officials he has been able to give on the screen a series of military alignments, offensive and defensive, which are inspiring in the extreme. And through it all is the genius which has enabled Commodore Blackton and his collaborators to assemble these features in a dramatic sequence and to make them point, minutely though it be, the moral of his tale.

The locale of "The Battle Cry of Peace" is laid in New York. The scenes, in rapid sequence, show the possible reduction of the metropolis to ruins through the superior forces of a nameless hostile force and by the impotence of the defending army and navy.

Woven in and out is a slender, very slender, story of a wealthy man who believes in peace only and is blind to all warnings as to his country's preparedness. In the end that man and his family perish and their end are not pleasant to see. The pictures in themselves are splendid, the semblance of the bombardment and destruction are wonderfully obtained, and verisimilitude is heightened by very effective accessories behind the screen and by the orchestration supplied by a nameless genius.

No matter how elaborate may be a film play in these days, the average picturegoer insists on good acting. It is to be found here with Mr. Richman. E. Rogers Lyton, as the spy of the unnamed nation, Louise Beaudet, Norma Talmadge, Harold Hubert, Lucille Hamill, Thais Lawton, Joseph Kilgour, E. M. Holland and many others whose names and portraits are well known to motion picture votaries.

AMUSEMENTS ORPHEUM, MARCH 17 SPALDING, Violinist. 25c to DEVALLE, Soprano. \$1.50

WHERE SHALL I GO TO-NIGHT?

- COLONIAL—"Artagnan." FAMILY—"The Valley of the Missing." GRAND—"Pennington's Choice." REGENT—"The Soul's Cycle." VICTORIA—"Kennedy Square." MAJESTIC—Vaudeville and Moving Pictures.

ITEMS OF NEWS AND INTEREST IN STAGE AND FILM LAND

All who remember Al Jolson's famous tongue-twister explanation of "Sister Susie's" action in "Sewing Shirts for Soldiers" will be interested in ascertaining "Which Switch is the Switch, Miss, for Iswich." Inasmuch as that is the program which Al makes the burden of his song, and devotees of the New York Winter Garden are merrily whistling the same as they watch the performance of "Robinson Crusoe, Jr."

After a four weeks' trip through the South and Middle West, William A. Brady returned to New York and stated that the spoken drama is coming back. "It never lost its hold in cities like New York, Chicago, Philadelphia and Boston, but in the smaller towns during the last twelve months it has been wiped out by the tremendous spread of motion pictures."

Miss E. M. Boyd, of Washington, D. C., has contributed the following gem to the recent issue of the Photoplay Magazine: Dorothy, aged three, had been breathlessly watching the terrible villain. When he reached a railroad bridge she turned to her mother and said: "Oh, muvver, what's he going to do now?" "He's going to blow up that bridge!" "But muvver," came back the small inquiring voice, "How can he get enough breath?"

ALL-GIRL SHOW LAST HALF WEEK

Divers, Comedians, Dancers in Variety Bill to Be Seen at Majestic

Taking chances with all traditional occurrences that are apt to transpire when fair lady meets art knight in the fatigues of war, the management of the Majestic Theater is announcing an "all girl" variety bill for that play-house during the last half of next week. Whether the management is throwing all such cares to the winds no one knows, but manager Hopkins is fearlessly announcing that his garden of girls will all be "pippins" just the same.

Once before Harrisburg vaudeville goers enjoyed an all-girl vaudeville bill. That was about three years ago when this type of entertainment held forth at the Orpheum. The experiment was an unequalled success, and no local youth stole any of the fair damsel's records show, however, that this bill was not presented in a leap year. The tables will be turned next week and the girls will have a chance that they did not have before, so beware! By way of warning to all eligible bachelors, the Majestic management will send a number of notices through the mails during the next few days, informing the marriageable Harrisburg male contingent to beware of its fair artists.

Some Orpheum favorites are included in the roster. Just how clever a show of variety can be presented with all females will be demonstrated in this program. There will be some comedians, including Kate Watson, a character artist, who is as good looking off the stage as she is funny in her foot-light togethery. Miss Watson created tumultuous laughter at the Orpheum twice in former years.

The headline attraction, "The Berlo Girls" is a very spectacular diving act. These four aquatic artists are not only "Diving Venuses," but along with their expert swimming stunts they inject considerable comedy. Special stage setting enhances their offering from a spectacular act of view. The girls are said to work with a spirit and skill that makes their performance one continuous round of good entertainment.

Another Orpheum favorite of the bill will be Robbie Gordone, who offers one of the very prettiest novelty posing acts in vaudeville to-day. Clara Howard, a winsome singing comedienne, and the Pan-Tan Trio of song and dance artists, complete the all-girl show.

Miss Laura Cowie, leading woman with Forbes-Robertson, who will be seen at the Orpheum in the near future, is only 23 years old, but she has decided views on life. She loves her art more than anything else in the world, and like Maisie in "The Light That Failed," she has never seen the man for whom she would give up her career. This does not mean, says Miss Cowie, that she never will. Evidently Miss Cowie is an advocate of preparedness as well as Safety First.

Chicago has a theatrical police-woman. She is Miss Violet Ford, an actress, who plays the role of Decoit in "Experience." Miss Ford wears a nifty uniform coat and cap, and a dark blue skirt which harmonizes with the rest of the outfit. Having a good right arm and a solid build, and having at one time demonstrated with a straight-arm her dislike of fresh stage-door Johnny's, she accepted the position of guardian of her weaker companions and after each performance acts in a capacity similar to that of Cerberus, the watch-dog of Hades. We make haste, however, to disclaim any intention of making odious comparisons.



KATE WATSON

Billie Burke Makes Screen Debut at Colonial in "Peggy"



Popular Little Screen Star to Be Featured at the Colonial Monday and Tuesday

When Director-General Thomas H. Ince obtained Billie Burke's signature to the contract under which she became a moving picture star in the Triangle-Key Bee production, "Peggy," which appears at the Colonial Monday and Tuesday, neither he nor the frolicsome Broadway favorite had any idea that she was really being provided with a joyous holiday experience, untainted, save for a trifling honorarium of \$10,000, with a thought of anything as sordid as work.

But it is in just that light that Miss Burke has persisted in regarding those sunny days in California during which she bubbled and frolicked through the scenes of the amusing comedy-drama which portrays her screen debut.

Reluctant to Stop The final touches completing "Peggy" found Billie Burke a much changed star. She confessed that she was sorry her first film play could not continue indefinitely. Thomas H. Ince reminded her of the obstacles she had put in his way when he sought to add her to his collection of Triangle stars, and with pretty confusion the new film star reiterated her confession that she was genuinely sorry that "Peggy" was done. "I told you so," declared Ince.

And the Picture "Peggy" opens on a luxurious estate near New York city. Miss Burke is discovered standing in a fountain,

Pst! Seen It? M-m-m! It's the Vampire Walk

Theda Bara's Seductive Screen Carriage Serves as Basis for Brand New Drama

The vampire walk! What is it? This is the question which is bothering women's clubs and other supervisors of public morals as the result of an announcement by Emile Lessard, a leading New York dancing master, that he is inventing a dance to be known by that name. Mr. Lessard is frank in admitting that he received his idea for the forthcoming tepsichorean creation from the peculiar carriage displayed on the screen by Theda Bara, vampire woman of the William Fox films. Miss Bara will appear at the Colonial Wednesday and Thursday of next week in "Destruction," a five-part feature of present-day life dealing with a woman who craves luxury.

spraying without fear or favor the house party guests who have dared her to do "something different." There comes a letter from her uncle and guardian in Scotland. He demands that she leave America and the do-nothing set in which she is being reared and henceforth make her home with him, his wife and son, in Scotland. She protests and paints a vivid picture of the contrast between her horridness freedom and the restrictions she fears will be placed upon her in her new environment. But in the end she goes, and so goes the story, which is said to be one of the prettiest productions on the screen to-day.

A BANNER WEEK AT THE VICTORIA

Six Big Features Will Be Shown on the Screen of the Popular Theater

The hustling management of the Victoria Theater have booked a series of feature films in their big capacity house in Market street that promises much for the patrons of this theater during the coming week. Read over the list of attractions, with the stars who will carry the big roles in each, and you will agree that March 6 to 11, inclusive, will be one of the best in the history of the theater with the 2,200 seats. The week's offerings include Valli Valli, in "The Turnoil," Mary Boland in "The Price of Happiness," a World feature entitled "A Woman's Power," the popular current and serial attraction; "The Strange Case of Mary Page," "The Vultures of Society," and others.

"Turnoil" The week's bill leads off with Valli Valli in 4,200 feet of intensely exciting drama, "The Turnoil." It is a splendid drama of typical American life dealing with two families, one newly rich, the other poor, but aristocratic. "Bibbs" Sheridan, of the first family, falls in love with Mary Verrees, of the latter, but her pride prevents her consent to the marriage, whereupon the young man shows real stuff and declares his independence from his father. The admiring old man is the old block from which the chip had flown and he takes care of the poor family by a sale of worthless stock, and all is happiness.

On the following day, Tuesday, "The Price of Happiness" holds the center of the stage and Mary Boland enacts the role of the wife of a man in moderate circumstances. She is somewhat envious of her richer friends' wealth and discontent causes all sorts of annoyance. There is a

very distinct and clearly outlined moral to the story.

But we must hasten along and see what Wednesday has in store for us. According to the announcement it is "The Blank Book," so we will be consistent and decline to divulge the nature of the film which draws a blank for its headline. You will have to see it for yourself, but our candid opinion is that it sounds very interesting and promising. Of course one would naturally go to see the next episode in "The Strange Case of Mary Page," on the same day, with Henry Walthall and Edna Mayo, so nothing further need be said about it.

"The Vultures of Society" One of the most widely heralded and highly touted motion pictures of recent months is "The Vultures of Society," in which Lillian Drew, E. H. Calvert, Marguerite Clayton, and Ernest Maupain are leading figures, and which will be shown at the Victoria on Thursday of the week coming. The story, a thrilling one, deals with an orphan girl of the West, who sought the city to make her own way, only to be preyed upon by the vultures of society, who beset the path of defenseless girls. There is not a dull moment in the play, and the audience thrills with the little western girl as she turns the tables upon the vultures, reaches the top of the social ladder, wins a fortune and a prince.

On Friday "A Woman's Power" holds sway, with the scene of the story laid in the mountains of Kentucky, and later in the Philippines. Murder, love, war and peace follow each other in quick succession. The World Film Corporation are leading figures, and one must be grateful to them for putting Molly King, the charming and sympathetic young actress, in the stellar position. "Molly," by the way, has started on a trip around the world in an automobile. We like her gait. Last of all, and as the climax to a week of good pictures, a combination of the Lubin feature, "The Wonderful Wager" and "The Yellow Passport," a story of life in Russia will be presented. The amusement columns of this paper will keep you posted from day to day on the more detailed stories of the daily program in the Victoria.

(Other Amusements Page 17)

AMUSEMENTS

Colonial Theater advertisement for Billie Burke in 'Peggy' and 'Destruction'. Includes showtimes and prices.

Majestic Theater advertisement for '6 Musical Misses and a Big Show Besides'. Includes showtimes and prices.

Victoria Theater advertisement listing various shows and times for the week.

Family Theater advertisement for 'D'Artagnan'.

Colonial Theater advertisement for 'D'Artagnan'.

Advertisement for Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt and Board of Trade Hall.

Orpheum Theater advertisement for 'The Battle Cry of Peace'.