

**THEATRE**

Never in the history of the theatre has there ever been so widespread demand for return engagements of a play as there is for David Wark Griffith's magnificent spectacle "The Birth of a Nation," which will commence a two-day engagement Christmas day at the Academy of Music.

During the past season in New York, Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, St. Louis and in all of the large cities of the country the past records for long runs have been eclipsed and new records established that are almost unbelievable. Over six million people have enjoyed its wonders. Never before have so many people flocked to see an entertainment. Twice every day the theatres have been filled wherever it has been presented. Where return engagements have been played the attendance has been larger than during the earlier engagements. It is of extremely rare occurrence that anyone is satisfied with one seeing of this wonderful production. It is safe to say that three million people have seen it at least two times.

Few people realize that fifty people are required to properly present to the public the gigantic production. There is an orchestra of thirty carefully selected musicians expert operators, electricians and others who make up a roster as large as that of most dramatic companies, in fact much larger than the average.

It is the massiveness in both material and manner of presentation of "The Birth of a Nation" that has made the public not only willing but eager to pay the prices necessarily charged for such a production. In the Griffith spectacle the scenes of sheer strength and beauty are of heroic grandeur. Not even Nero ever gazed upon such a magnificent spectacle. The night riding of the Ku Klux Klan looks like a company of avenging spectres sweeping along the moonlit roads. There is a pictorial punch in every scene.

This realistic pictorial reproduction of history in the making is of untold value to both young and old. Schools have been dismissed all over the United States so that the children might attend matinee performances. Besides the historical worth of this offering the constant emotional throbs of the romantic story thrills the heart of all. It is the supreme achievement of modern histrionism in its newest guise untrammelled by the limitations of the stage. Never did those who participated in the actual scenes ever see what can be witnessed today in the comfort of a theatre seat for those who lived then never had such a comprehensive outlook.

The coming return engagement of "The Birth of a Nation" will be absolutely the last in this city. The sale of seats opens at the box office next Thursday morning. It will be remembered how long were the lines of ticket buyers last season and it hardly seems necessary to impress upon the public the great advantage of purchasing their seats well in advance. Those who were disappointed last season will surely not need this reminder.

The production of "The Birth of a Nation" will be exactly as that of last season. The high standard of excellence will be maintained in every detail.

The matinee prices will range from 25 cents to \$1. The night prices will be from 25 cents to \$1.50. Tickets will go on sale at Elvinton's Pharmacy Thursday morning.

**ROYAL HAS BIG OPENING.** Despite the disagreeable weather last night, capacity crowds attended the first opening of Wilmington's newest and swiftest vaudeville theatre, and were thoroughly delighted with the beautiful little playhouse, ice even during the hottest summer

the best arranged and prettiest vaudeville theatre in the State. Sammy Lund's Triangle Girls lived up to their reputation throughout the South where they have been breaking all attendance records at every town in which they appear, and indications point to capacity business all the week at the Royal. The organization has that air of "first classness" possessed by few touring companies through the Southern territory, and every member of the company is a worker, and not put in simply to fill the stage with people.

One of the best trained singing and dancing choruses of real pretty girls with some of the newest and best looking costumes seen here this season, is one of the strong drawing cards of Lund's dandy show. Hy Jensen, the famous yodeler, with four years record on big time "Keith" vaudeville circuits, thoroughly delighted the large crowds, and was repeatedly called back on every appearance. The Triangle Trio, the finest singing and dancing trio ever seen in Wilmington, presenting a new and novel act, was another strong drawing card, and the beautiful special scenery added much to put the show over big.

The same big show will be presented for the last times tonight, a brand new show going on tomorrow as a matinee.

**"THE CATS PAW" AT GRAND.**

"Forgive me—it was I who told the police," sobbed conscience-stricken Roxane—but that was after she learned of St. John's weird "double." Its an incident in "The Catspaw," a master drama which has been brought back to the Grand for tomorrow, with "Gloria's Romance" in response to many requests. It is one of the strongest dramas ever seen on any screen, a story of double-identity—a clever crook, who, finding his exact double in physical appearance, engages him to impersonate himself, while he, the crook, takes advantage of the helpful alibis thus furnished.

Miriam Nesbitt and Marc McDermott have been given the opportunity of their careers for dramatic, forceful, vivid work in this curious drama founded on the popular novel of that name by William Hamilton Osborne. It is a tale of thrills, and marvelous double exposure photography has aided in making it unique in fascinating suspense, perfectly mirroring the charm and grip of the book.

It is on the bill with the final chapter of "Gloria's Romance," that great serial which for the past twenty weeks has been fascinating countless hundreds of Wilmingtonians. Whether or not, you will certainly want to have followed this serial through or not, you will most certainly want to see one of the most charming, withal forceful and dramatic cliffhangers ever registered for the ending of any serial story—at the Grand tomorrow.

**ABANDONED TUNNEL A NATURAL WONDER**

Edgemont, S. D., Dec. 18.—A natural wonder of the Black Hills, in the form of an ice cave, is to be developed and made an attraction for tourists. The ice cave is situated at Englewood and is one of the few natural wonders of its kind in the world.

As a unique feature among the natural attractions of the Black Hills it ranks with Wind Cave and with Crystal Cave, and in some respects is even more wonderful than either of these. The cave has developed peculiar features, which make it a most mystifying proposition.

Some ten or eleven years ago, what now is the ice cave was run as a tunnel by the late Harvey Sheffer, and had been pushed about ninety feet into the hill when work was abandoned as no satisfactory mineral showing was encountered. The fact that it had the power of producing ice even during the hottest summer

**ONE OF BIG WHEELS OUCH! LUMBAGO! RUB PAINS FROM SORE, LAME BACK**

Steel Magnate Playing An Important Part for the Germans

Hamborn-On-The-Rhine, Dec. 18.—One of the most important wheels in the German war machine is August Thyssen, in antebellum days coal and steel magnate of the first rank but now, in view of the industrialization of war, General Field Marshal of the industrial army, and collaborator and confidant of Hindenburg. He is small and frail, but powerful as an industrial leader. Notwithstanding the tremendous scope of his work he clings stubbornly to old-fashioned methods where he himself is concerned.

He will not tolerate a stenographer for his personal use, but writes all his letters by hand. His correspondence is large, much larger than he can attend to, along with his other duties at his office. So he takes what is left over home with him to his only luxury, his castle home near Kettwig, and after dinner finishes it, if it takes until the wee small hours of the morning.

Despite his enormous wealth he has never personally owned an automobile, nor will he ride in one to save his own time. He goes and comes from his home to his office on foot or in a street car. He wears a modest, dark-colored business suit instead of the formal "morning suit" so generally affected in Germany, and looks less like a multimillionaire than the average clerk.

From the very outset of his climb from comparative poverty to great riches, and above all to very great renown as an industrial leader, Herr Thyssen has steadfastly refused of all titles.

In the late 60's he founded an iron establishment in Duisburg with its total capital of 8,000 Thalers (about \$5,000) and in 1871 moved his plant to Muelheim on the Ruhr, where there later came into existence the plant "Deutscher Kaiser," which today includes one-tenth of the coal lands of Westphalia and gigantic steel mills. Just before the war there were employed some 20,000 men and the coal fields contained some 370 millions of cubic meters of coal. He is now the principal owner of half a dozen huge industrial projects in the Rhineland.

Lieutenant Polner, a young and well known Danish military aviator, is planning to make a record by crossing the Atlantic. He figures that the distance from the Faroe Islands to Newfoundland can be covered in about 30 hours, and the whole trip to New York in 48 hours.

weather was not discovered until late.

In the hottest months of the year ice forms in the tunnel, sometimes to a depth of three feet, and a remarkable feature is that during cold weather the ice disappears. On the surface of the ground above the face of the tunnel is a spot from which the heaviest snow is melted in winter and green grass is always found there, in all seasons of the year.

The formation of the ice is believed to be due to the presence of certain chemicals in the solutions which trickle through the rocks, which, coming in contact with currents of air, cause a lowering of temperature. Why the ice should disappear in winter is not so easily explained unless it is that the production of a low temperature, under the circumstances, requires the presence of warm air currents in conjunction with the chemicals contained in the solutions.

Peterson & Rull, headquarters for Christmas slippers. 14-16-17-20-22.

Rub Pain Right Out With Small Trial Bottle of Old, Penetrating "St. Jacobs Oil."

Kidneys cause Backache? No! They have no nerves, therefore can not cause pain. Listen! Your backache is caused by lumbago, sciatica or a strain, and the quickest relief is something penetrating "St. Jacobs Oil." Rub it right on your painful back, and instantly the soreness, stiffness and lameness disappears. Don't stay crippled! Get a small trial bottle of "St. Jacobs Oil" from your druggist and limber up. A moment after it is applied you'll wonder what became of the backache or lumbago pain.

Rub old, honest "St. Jacobs Oil" whenever you have sciatica, neuralgia, rheumatism or sprains, as it is absolutely harmless and doesn't burn the skin.—Advt.

**THE NEW GOVERNOR GENERAL OF KOREA**

Tokio, Dec. 18.—Field Marshal Count Yoshimichi Hasegawa, former chief of the general staff of the Japanese army, has been officially appointed governor-general of Korea, in succession to Field Marshal Count Seiki Terauchi, recently named prime minister of Japan.

It is understood that naval circles feel some disappointment as they had hoped that some representative of the naval or Satsuma clan would be placed in charge of Korea, the ancient Hermit Kingdom, which the Japanese have annexed to their empire under the name of Chosen.

Viscount Hasegawa took a prominent part in the Russo-Japanese war, winning many brilliant successes. His division won a special victory in the battle of Laisyang.

After the conclusion of peace General Hasegawa in 1907, was appointed commander of the Japanese army stationed in Korea and remained there during the tenure of office of the late Prince Hiro, the first resident general. He is tall in stature, of robust physique and in appearance stern and dignified.

It was first understood in Tokio that the governor-generalship of Korea would go to General Yusaka Uehara, the present chief of the general staff of the army.

Count Etienne Tisza, premier of Hungary and generally considered the dominant personality in the dual monarchy at the present time, is a man of very simple tastes and habits, although he possesses vast estates and a fortune of many millions.

**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE.**

UNDER AND BY VIRTUE of the power of sale contained in a certain mortgage executed by S. E. Sellars and wife Dalia K. Sellars to the Co-operative Building and Loan Association, on the 15th day of October, A. D. 1914, which said mortgage is recorded in book 77, at page 76 of the Records of New Hanover County, default has been made in the payment of interest, the undersigned will expose for sale on Friday, the 23rd day of December, A. D. 1916, at 12 o'clock M. at the Court House door in New Hanover County, N. C., for cash at public auction, to the highest bidder, the following described tract or parcel of land lying and being situate in the City of Wilmington, County of New Hanover, State of North Carolina.

**BEGINNING** at a point in the eastern line of Fourth street, said beginning point being one hundred and thirty two (132) feet south of the intersection of the southern line of Nixon street with the eastern line of Fourth street, running thence eastwardly and parallel with Nixon street one hundred and fifty (150) feet, to the western line of James street, thence southwardly along the said western line of James street and parallel with Fourth street thirty-three (33) feet; thence westwardly and parallel with Nixon street one hundred and fifty (150) feet, to the eastern line of Fourth street; thence northwardly along the said eastern line of Fourth street thirty-three (33) feet to the point of beginning. Same being part of lot No. 3, in block 323, according to the final plan of the City of Wilmington, N. C.

Dated this 27th day of November, A. D. 1916.

**CO-OPERATIVE BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATION.**  
By THOS. W. DAVIS, Attorney.  
11-28-law-4w-tues

**\$2-Motion Spectacle Only a Start**

The Man Who Made "The Birth of a Nation" Says That One Day We Will Pay \$5—It's Answering the Law of Natural Selection.



By D. W. GRIFFITH.

WHILE there has been a vast amount of comment regarding the advent of the \$2 motion picture, it seems to me that there really is no occasion for surprise that a picture should be produced which vies with the best offerings of the dramatic stage. After all it is nothing but the old first law of nature—the survival of the fittest. The remainder is purely a question of selection and execution.

When it was first announced that we intended to present "The Birth of a Nation" in a regular Broadway Theater, which had never played a picture attraction before, the wisacres of the theater world said it would not succeed. You see, they knew nothing of pictures. Most people had looked upon a motion picture drama as a ten cent proposition. They measured everything by the standard of price. It was not surprising that they overlooked the fundamental facts in the case and were unprepared to pass judgment upon this undertaking. But in all truth there was nothing daring or venturesome in it. You see, we knew what we had. That was an advantage which the other fellow had never taken into consideration.

The significance of this is in the proof of the big picture being an undoubted success. There will be many two dollar pictures. The success will depend entirely upon how well they are done, and reverts back solely to a question of merit. It takes great care, time and enormous expense to produce a pic-

ture which will compare with the best the spoken drama can bring forth. But, given the theme, the understanding and the ability to project his ideals, the moving picture director has a material advantage over the stage director who puts on a comedy or a drama of contemporary life. The latter is confined and limited in his scope. He can show only certain scenes in the limits of three walls, and at best has only a few square feet in which to place his characters. For his background he must depend upon painted scenery and manufactured effects, which are, after all, only miserable imitations of natural objects. I do not mean this in a spirit of criticism. There are fundamental ideals of the spoken drama which make it the aristocrat of the arts. Every one of us has pleasant recollections of great moments when true dramatists enjoyed the privileges of artistic interpretations. When a great actor throws the best there is in him into the principal role of a fine play you have a combination which is irresistible. I have been impressed deeply by such performances upon several visits to the theater. What painting or piece of sculpture stands out in your memory to compare with this living, breathing thing you are part of for a single evening. Long years afterward in pleasurable reveries you recall the play and the player. Who ever saw Irving's matchless work in "Louis XI" can forget that wonderful scene when he urged the images on his cap to listen to him and yet was equivocating at

the same time. Or can one ever quite efface from memory the majestic manner with which Mansfield, as Cyrano de Bergerac, tossed his purse to the crowd? These are specific instances to illustrate my meaning.

It was the art of interpretation that made the great figure in such cases. With the moving picture it is different. The poetic stimulation, the tour de force which arrests attention and makes memories that are to live, is a slow power. The brain behind this art is never revealed. It lends itself to that concealment which is one of the rarest attributes of true art. The living thing is subjective. There is no rivalry with the spoken drama. Each has its niche and, if artistically done, will live. The mere presentation may be ephemeral, but the ideas and the re-education on and on as long as life lasts.

In motion pictures we have a large field in which to operate. On the stage these so called "effects" are limitations at best. In the film play we show the actual occurrence and are not hampered by the size of our stage or the number of people we can crowd into the scene. If our story traverses to a battlefield we show an actual battlefield. If it means that 10,000 people were part of this conflict we engage 10,000 people, rehearse them in minute detail, and when we are ready we show you that scene as realistically as if you were looking down from a hilltop and watching an engagement of contending forces.

Let us look into the cost of this. This scene for a motion picture might cost you in the neighborhood of \$50,000. But the cost ends with the taking of the original negative. There are no salaries after this, and the only expense is the comparatively slight one of making new copies from the original negative.

A big spectacle on the stage can at the utmost employ 400 people in a scene. This is an unusually large number. It takes the same time and pains to rehearse them that it does to handle 10,000 people in a motion picture scene. But the stage production goes on daily, with eight or ten performances a week, and the salaries and costuming of the supernumeraries run up to \$2,500 a week, so that at the end of two seasons these forces have cost easily \$150,000. Here you have twice the outlay for 400 people that it costs a motion picture director to employ 10,000. If there is any significance in these figures they point an important moral without need of further explanation. In the same way we can go ahead and get anything we want. If there is a shipwreck we show the angry sea and the restless waves. For a lover's trust we have but to pick out some sylvan dell and bring our players there and let them act as two people in love would act under a given circumstance, and the great audiences weave their own romances and do the larger share of the acting for that scene. Along the side lines we can have roses blooming in the sunlight with a snow-crowned mountain in the background. In our drama, the trees wave in the breezes and blades of grass damp with real dewdrops are none too insignificant to become a part of the action. You see, an observing director has the world for his studios. The centuries have been piling up these inexhaustible productions for him. He has but to use artistic sense in the matter of selection.

The motion picture is no longer an infant art. It is the newest and most powerful form of dramatic expression, and there is no end to which it can be carried. I firmly believe the day will come when great poetic pictures will not only compare with the best of the legitimate stage, but will be upon a parity with the greatest productions of grand opera and at corresponding prices. Remember, a few years ago it was the limit of extravagance to spend \$500 on a moving picture production. At that time we played to five cent audiences. Now we spend \$500,000 on a picture, and we crowd the theaters everywhere at 25 a seat. By this ratio what is to hinder the superproducer from spending three times that amount and getting \$5 a seat for it?



Scene from "The Birth of a Nation," Returning to the Academy Christmas Day and the Day Following With a Matinee and Evening Performance Each Day.

**ROYAL**  
LAST TIMES—TONIGHT!  
Danny Lund's Triangle Girls  
In the Great Comedy Song Riot  
"The Mashers"  
Niftiest Singing and Dancing Chorus of the Season.  
HY. JENSEN, World Famous Yodeler.  
TRIANGLE TRIO, Singing and Dancing Artists De Luxe.  
Tonight, 7:30 and 9:15c and 25c.

**GRAND**  
TOMORROW  
Final Chapter  
Of That Fascinating Serial Superb  
"Gloria's Romance"  
Starting For the Last Time On Any Screen.  
Billie Burke  
"The Catspaw"  
Miriam Nesbitt and Marc McDermotte in Absolutely the Most Tense, Gripping and Unique Drama of the Year. Brought Back In Response to Hundreds of Requests. A Live-Real Masterpiece.  
7 Reels (1-3-4 Hours); 5 and 10c.

**Academy of Music Wilmington**  
Twice Christmas Day and Tuesday at 3:15 and 8:30  
TRIUMPHANT RETURN AND FAREWELL TOUR OF D. W. GRIFFITH'S  
**THE BIRTH OF A NATION**  
SAME SUPERB SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA OF TWENTY  
REDUCED PRICES—Night, Fifty Cents to One, Fifty. Matinee, Fifty Cents to One Dollar.  
Seat Sale Friday at Elvinton's Drug Store.  
Mail Orders Now. Send money order and self addressed returned envelope.  
EXACTLY AS PRESENTED LAST SEASON TO OVER FIVE THOUSAND ENTHUSIASTIC WILMINGTON THEATRE GOERS.