THEATRICAL

"A Tale of Two Cities," a superb screen adaptation of Charles Dickens' wonderful novel, will be presented by the Fox Film Corporation as a super de luxe production for the opening attraction at the Royal tomorrow and Tuesday.

William Farnum in the double role of the soft-spoken, aristocratic Charles Darnay and the devil-may-care, dissolute English barrister, Sidney Carton, has never done such masterly acting in his entire career in the spoken or silent drama.

Frank Floyd, who directed Mr. Farnum's first superplay, "The Price of Silence," was in charge of filming the Dickens story.

The supporting cast includes Jewel Carmen, who played opposite Douglas Fairbanks in "Manhattan Madness," as Lucie Manette; Charles Clary, as the Marquis St. Evermonde; Ralph Lewis, as Roger Cly; Herschel Mayall and Rosita Marstini, as Jacques and Madame De Fargo.

Others in the brilliant company are Josef Swickard, William Clifford, Marc Robbins, Olive White, Willard Louis and Harry de Vere. Miss White, long-time on the stage, has appeared in only one film previous to "A Tale of Two Cities." This feature was "David Garrick," in which William Farnum's brother Dustin starred.

Several magnificent and enormous settings were built for the new subject.

The great Bastile set whose towering height made it plainly visible from all the surrounding country and which was the wonder of Los Angeles for two months, was torn down, block by block, to illustrate scenes from the French revolution.

The frowning wall, 125 feet high, took five weeks to erect on the grounds of the Fox plant at Hollywood. It required only five hours to demolish, when a thousand "extras" put their hands to it.

At the end of a twisting Parisian street, 300 feet long, the building has been placed. Around it ran a stout wall and a deep moat. Across the ditch stretched a drawbridge which was lowered when the people of the city captured the fortress. Then they filled into the structure and began the work of destruction.

Thousands of dollars were spent on the costumes for the production, that they might be faithful to the period represented.

Paramount at Grand.

Beban, bear and bees—shake thoroughly and serve hot—that is the receipt for the Pallas-Paramount picture "A Roadside Impresario," tomorrow's Paramount feature at the Grand, in which George Beban stars under the direction of Donald Crisp. Mr. Beban owns the bear which scents honey and proceeds to attack an apiary. The enraged bees are vigorously defending themselves when Mr. Beban comes to the rescue of his pet. The execution is frightful when the outraged bees take vengeance upon the owner of the bear. This is merely one of the episodes in "A Roadside Impresario" which was written by Mr. Beban himself. Among those of importance in the supporting cast are Harrison Ford, Fred Huntley, Adele Farrington and Julia Fay. Bruno is played by himself.

The opening scenes show Mr. Beban as a fisherman back in the old country where his heart and soul are in his devoted wife, his bambino and Bruno, then a little cub.

When Guiseppe endeavors to rescue a traveler who has fallen overboard, the kind-hearted young Italian is swept out to sea and picked up by a schooner. He does not reach home for many weeks and in the meantime his wife and baby have sailed for America, starting out with his beloved Bruno, he goes in search of the missing ones. The remainder of the story concerns itself with his adventures in America. "A Roadside Impresario" offers a delightful combination of comedy and real heart interest supplemented by swiftly moving dramatic incidents such as the final meeting between Guiseppe and the little daughter for whom he has searched many years.

"The Fatal Ring"—Bijou.

A thrilling succession of scenes and a great fight are features of the third episode of Pathe's serial "The Fatal Ring," in which Pearl White will star at the Bijou theatre Monday.

The walls have closed in and are starting to crush the occupants. The last ray of hope has vanished. Tom Carlton regains his senses and staggers toward the lever. Tom reaches the lever and draws it back. Suddenly the walls start to recede and in an instant they all realize that they are saved. Tom opens the door and the first one he sees is Pearl. Knox, eager to be the first one to escape, grasps Pearl by the shoulder and pulls her violently back. Knox attempts to cross the threshold but is promptly knocked down by Tom, who takes Pearl in his arms and carries her out.

The Priestess and her men rush past Tom. While Pearl is thanking Tom for his kindness, Knox rushes out of the house and tells Pearl not to have anything to do with Tom, as he is a member of the Secret Order of the Violet God and that he is after the setting of the diamond. Pearl searches for the setting, but discovers it is gone. Tom, mystified by the remark passed by Knox, is about to call an officer but Pearl begs him not to.

This is just the beginning, but will relieve you from the situation in which you were left last Monday. Animated Weekly with all the late news, and "Minding the Baby," a Nestor with Eddie Lyons, completes tomorrow's big bill.

For the movie program at Lumina for the coming week, the management has a tasty assortment of big productions to offer. The list starts off Monday night with "Love's Bitter Strength," a two-reel American-Mutual drama with a tense appealing theme. This is just the topliner for the night. "Ruth Ridley Returns," a comedy drama in multiple reels, is the headliner on Tuesday's bill and "The Key," another American dramatic production, a detective mystery drama, heads Wednesday's list. "A Modern Knight" is the headliner Thursday, a Mustang Western drama with thrills galore and "The Franchise," a rousing railroad drama comes to head Friday's bill. "The Sheriff of the Plains" another Mustang Western heads Saturday's big week-end offering. There is also one or more big comedy productions on each night's bill.

NEW BERN BATHERS WERE LOCKED AWAY FROM CLOTHES

Fellow With Shotgun Wouldn't Let Ladies Have Dresses.

(Morning New Bernian.)

Yesterday morning a party of well known young New Bern men, accompanied by their wives, mothers, sweethearts and sisters, sailed away down Neuse river for Slocumbs creek where they intended to spend the day enjoying the pleasures of a dip in the river and a complete rest from the duties of the past week.

Arriving at that place the ladies in the party located what was apparently a dilapidated old shack, untenanted and unkept and they withdrew into this to don their bathing togs while the male members of the party used a nearby shed for this purpose.

Having attired themselves in the proper paraphernalia they lost no time in getting into the river where for an hour or more they enjoyed the pleasures to be found there.

Finally, having tired of this acquatic sport they decided to come out of the water, don their clothes and prepare lunch. Their dismay can be imagined when, upon reaching the building in which their clothing had been left, they found the door nailed up and a man on guard with a shotgun.

This individual seemed to be in a bad temper. He declared that he was keeper of the house and that they might as well beat it back to the city minus their wearing apparel. The men threatened and the ladies pleaded but for more than an hour the man with the shotgun was obdurate and it was not until well afternoon that the bathers were allowed to regain possession of their wearing apparel and put this on and it was a pretty safe bet that they will not soon pay the Slocumb creek section another visit.

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Starring in a Dual Role in Dickens' Masterpiece, "A Tale of Two Cities," at the Royal tomorrow and Tuesday.

NEGRO'S SHARE IN WAR

Colored Man Has Proved Himself a Foeman Worthy of the Steel of Any Race—Hannibal a Negro.

(GEO. F. KING.)

All wars have the peculiar habit of making man see in no uncertain terms the things that he should have done and those he should not have done. It often brings seers, patricians and the plebian element upon a common level and makes truth, crushed to the earth, to rise in the form that is analogous to recent events in Russia. Although historians, because of their local prejudices, have failed to record the activities of the negro folk in the wars of the world, yet subsequent events have gloriously resurrected the fact that the masses of this dark race have always been found sacrificing their existence for what the modern has dubbed true democracy, and the negro had his own leaders, such as Hannibal and even down to the illustrious tribal leaders in Africa, who have immortalized the Abyssinians.

The iron hand of oppression didn't make cowards of negroes when Perry made history on the lakes and events of the revolutionary periods which the negro helped seal the independence of a country which later compensated him unjustly—yet the workings of queer things have again brought him to the battle lines of the world's conflict and he is found, as of old, making unheralded sacrifices for the betterment of humanity, not locally, but world-wide.

The Negro a Born Fighter.

The navy of this country is not affording the negro an opportunity to show his fighting qualities as he is wanted in the capacity of a mess attendant, as a general rule. This is a very discouraging feature to thousands of this country's black citizens that can fight as good as any man that has paced the deck of a vessel and have been clamoring for a chance to enlist as marines and other positions the same as any alien becoming an American citizen. The negro is seeking an opportunity, and that he will make good when he gets this opportunity the following story from a white Southern weekly will prove beyond a single doubt:

"Frank Kane, a big six-foot negro formerly a soldier of the 24th U. S. Infantry, is making a record for himself in France. He is now in Paris after being wounded five times at the front.

"His adventures started immediately after he left America, when he caught a spy with three valises loaded with explosives with which the man was about to blow up the steamship. For this Kane received the red, white and blue salvage medal.

"Enlisting in the French army in August, 1914, he was in a battle four miles from Rheims when a German rifle bullet traversed his leg. He received another leg wound at Rheims in March (1915) when exhausted and cold he spent 18 houfs on the ground with nothing to eat. After being sent to Algeria for convalesence he next took part in the Dardanelles expedition under General Gouraud.

"The French advanced more than four miles on Sedul Bahr where they were forced to entrench. Here he was twice wounded, once by a bullet in the head and once by a shell fragment in the leg. He was attended by English doctors and his skull trepanned. He was wounded the fifth time before Monastir. At this place his arm was broken.

"He was visited in the hospital at Saloniki by General Sarrail and was proposed for the military medal. He has three colonial medals for bravery and distinguished conduct.

"While fighting in the trenches in France, Kane's captain told him to take two men across 'No Man's Land,' and bring back a prisoner, as certain information was needed. Kane went alone at night and covered up by a heap of stray he lay quiet each time an illuminating rocket exploded. He advanced slowly until he finally jumped into the German trench, grabbed the first Teuton he saw and rushed back.

"Kane, who was born in Baton Rouge, La., and is about to return to Saloniki, says: 'I am seeking only to do my duty'."

War From an Economic Phase.

This world war has also worked queer economic transformations and right here it again touches the negro. On thousands of the plantations in the South when the sun rises in the East the negro with his hands on the plow handles would be on the job and when the sun hid itself beyond the western horizon this same faithful negro would be entreating Maud to finish out the row. Then he would return to his humble cabin with its squalid conditions and when pay day came he would only receive such small compensation that he couldn't "make ends meet."

Here is the hard working negro with his family who is a tenant—in some places he is not allowed to even grow corn for his own use, much less the other crops advocated by food conservationists; the landlord says plant cotton, tobacco. After the harvesting is over and the landlord sells the crops the negro tenant goes to the office and the landlord begins to deduct this and deduct that until the "duck" has gotten the negro and his large family's whole year's work without even a dollar to their credit and they are forced to begin the new year with a deficit and in thousands of cases without enough rations to run the family a week. Loan sharks, and other forms of dire proscription make negroes in certain sections of the South feel that they were only born to bear America's cross of affliction.

Without any leader and without a Scobeleff to speak for them the labor conditions of the industrial centers were such that this negro labor without any trace of hatred in the heart against the Southern landlord and employer, left Mississippi, Alabama and many of the Southern states for Chicago and other Northern and Western points to escape a peculiar thraldom, and thousands of them have reached the conclusion to freeze to death rather than have the "ducks" to get all they have and keep them in the lowest stage of civilization—hence it is quite unwise to attempt to believe that the great majority of the exodus are going to return South if the same conditions prevail. There are exceptionally fine Southern white people who are just as humane and considerate of the negro as any citizen to be found anywhere in this country, and one will find that their negro help will remain with them and the better element of negroes North, South, East and west appreciate and admire them and are willing to cooperate with them to help bring about a condition that will make the Southern negro contented in the South.

By a few of them returning is not an indication that the majority of the negroes leaving the South are going to return. One must expect a number to return home in all such pronounced movements. It is true that the professional ward political heeler will work on many of these poor negroes in the North; well the Irish and other nationalities coming to this country find the same menace and corrupt politicians simply use many of them for their selfish aims. As heretofore stated, what affects the negro affects his neighbor and the poor white man is peculiarly affected by certain conditions and the laboring people of the world will be benefitted by this economic phase of the war.

Negro Naturally Sympathetic.

The negro is naturally sympathetic and ont finds in all of the Southern states a splendid spirit on the part of the lowly element of negroes to feel the burdens and afflictions of their white people, be they rich or poor—not only among the lowly element of negroes but among every class of negroes.

The poor colored farmer is struggling to produce something and he is hard up against it. The white farmer's associations protect them from unscrupulous commission merchants and work for the uplift of the white farmer. The other day in another state a certain farmer was talking with a scribbler and this farmer exclaimed that "you people are talking to us colored farmers to conserve food but you know we must have some financial help to produce this food." This was strikingly true. The colored farmer should be given the opportunity to produce desired results. He should be given a chance to buy good farm land and the benefit of the farm loan act. He is willing to remain south under conditions favorable to any farmer regardless of racial identity.

The writer knows of an instance where a poor colored farmer was so desirous of becoming a good farmer that he gave the last cent to help pay the salary of the colored farm demonstrator and had to keep his child home from school because he was not able to buy shoes at that time, which was in the winter. The white farmers don't have to make such sacrifices to have their demonstrators but the negro farmers have to pay a part of the salary of their negro demonstrators.

The negro is anxious to keep the angel of despair away from this country and the moulders of sentiment and directors of affairs should get together with the representatives of the negro race—not the kind of negroes who haven't the courage to state the situation—and help to adjust things upon a lasting basis of righteousness.

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