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**A DRAMA INSIDE
PICTURE DRAMA**

**Affidavits as to Facts Behind
Search of the Dreamland
Matter.**

In moving picture circles a great deal of interest has been displayed in the controversy that is now going on between the owners of the Theatro and Dreamland moving picture houses. Things were brought almost to a crisis by the search Thursday night of the Dreamland at the instance of the management of the Theatro for a rheostat or choke coil which is used about the moving picture machine, and which had disappeared from the Grand theater owned by the Theatro management, and which the management declares they had good reason to believe was being used at the Dreamland. It was understood that suit might be brought against the Theatro management, and yesterday in an effort to substitute its position, the management had a number of men to make affidavits as to what they knew about the matter. These affidavits were not made in time for this paper to get even the substance of them yesterday.

Roberts' Affidavit.
Parts of them are little short of sensational, and judging from them, Mr. Lynch must have been sincere in the efforts he made to receive the choke coil, or rheostat, which it seems are to a certain degree interchangeable.

The affidavits are made by A. R. Lynch, manager of the Palace theater, John B. Wilson, who stays in the Grand building, R. C. Roberts, of the Salisbury film exchange, and R. H. Hancock, former lessee of the Grand.

It is the affidavit of Mr. Roberts that is most interesting. He states that on Thanksgiving night he went to the Dreamland and met Mrs. Biggs, Fred Wolf, an usher at the Dreamland, and Jack Hawthorne, the operator, and they seemed excited about something. They said that the "economizer" had burned out and they could not continue the show unless they could obtain a rheostat, asking Roberts if he knew where they could get one, if he could get the one at the Grand and if he had the keys to that place. Affiant did not have the key but might get one and might get a rheostat from Mr. Lynch; and Mrs. Biggs said: "I don't care how you get the rheostat, break in the door if necessary, as long as you get it. I don't care what it costs, this show must run tonight. I will stand responsible for anything you do." Such instruction was given to affiant, Wolfe and Hawthorne.

Mr. Roberts goes on to say that while he went to see A. R. Lynch he told the others to go to the Grand and wait for him. Mr. Lynch told him that he did not have the key to the Grand, that he did not think the rheostat was at the Grand but at the Theatro. Going to the Grand, he met Hawthorne and Wolfe coming down the stairway from the balcony carry-

ing a choke coil which serves the purpose of a rheostat. They told him what they had and he told them to take it back and they went back, but affiant did not see what they did with it. Wolfe then went toward the Dreamland, and he and Hawthorne went to try to get another instrument, but were unsuccessful, both at a negro show and at the Theatro, Mr. Clark saying that he was then using the rheostat of the Grand. He returned to the Dreamland, and Mrs. Biggs made no comment.

Affiant said that some days later Fred Wolfe came to him saying he was very much worried over the happening; that Wilson had seen him on Thanksgiving night; that he was afraid he might be arrested and get into trouble, but that he was in the employ of Mrs. Biggs and her instructions to him were to get the rheostat at any cost and she would stand responsible, affiant answering that this was a fact and advising Wolfe to tell the truth if the matter came to trial.

Wilson's Statement.
John B. Wilson says in effect that Wolfe came to his door in the Grand building and asked for a match, and he heard someone else in the hall; asked what he wanted, Wolfe replied that he had come for the rheostat of the Grand, saying that A. R. Lynch told him he could get it. He gave Wolfe the match and later he heard someone trying to open the door, and a few minutes later found that the staple had been drawn and put back with the fingers or hand, it seemed. It was about 8 o'clock. Affiant had thought the two had a key.

A. R. Lynch.
A. R. Lynch, manager of the Palace, according to his affidavit, was told on Friday following Thanksgiving that the Grand had been broken into and on making investigations, found this to be a fact. The staple had been pulled or broken. The choke coil was gone and the connecting wires severed in a crude manner. Made thorough search but did not find it.

Reported the matter to his brother, Mr. Hancock told him that he left the coil there when he closed Wednesday preceding. Went to Grand one day last week and the coil was still not there. He was told by a former employe of the Dreamland that the house was using a coil like that of the Grand and informed his brother of this.

The effect of Mr. Hancock's affidavit is that he closed down the Grand two days before Thanksgiving and left the choke coil on the machine, having returned a rheostat to the Theatro which he had borrowed from that place. On Thanksgiving morning affiant had found everything at the Grand, in good shape, had locked the door, and on leaving, the staple and hasp were in good condition. The following Saturday he had gone with A. R. Lynch to the Grand, having learned that the coil was gone, and had found the door had been broken open and the coil not there. The ends of the wires showed that someone had tried to cut them in three places. Affiant understood that the coil was found at the door last Thursday night. The choke coil was certainly not in the place on the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

These statements appear to furnish abundant evidence that the Theatro management were very much in earnest in their search at the Dreamland for the missing mechanism, and that they felt warranted in the conclusion that it must be there.

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Waists
Scarfs
Bags
Bath Robes
Veils
Hair
Ornaments

MR. TAFT'S CHRISTMAS

Washington, Dec. 23.—President Taft continued his Christmas shopping last night, visiting several downtown stores and making a few purchases. Washington was swept by a winter rain all afternoon and when he have spent here. Miss Helen and the president ventured out it was in

one of the white house automobiles. With his purchases last night the president practically completed his list which includes friends all over the world.

Today the Christmas season at the white house really begins, for more than 100 fat turkey gobblers were distributed by the president to all married men employed around the building. The president and his family plan to observe this Christmas day just as they have the other two they

Charlie Taft are already at home, and Robert, the oldest son, will arrive this afternoon. Charlie is too old now for a Christmas tree and probably will not hang up his stocking this year.

The white house dinner will be served at 7:30 and there will be no guests. During the day the president probably will attend church and if it is fair will take a long walk with some friends. Several gifts already have reached the white house but have not been opened.

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**Polite Vaudeville, Refined Features Only,
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Two Matinees, 3:00 and 4:30 p. m.

Night, 7 to 10

By Martin Amusement Co., of Richmond,

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Prices, Matinee, 5c and 10c

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