

THEATRE

"A Night in Chinatown" is the title of today's big new offering by Byrne and Byrne Musical Comedy Company at the Royal, a brand new musical comedy play never before seen in Wilmington, which furnishes this all-star aggregation with an opportunity to wear some new and nifty wardrobe in the various beautiful dancing and singing ensemble numbers which are interspersed throughout the plot of the story.

"A Night in Chinatown" will present the usual big vaudeville specialty act by all the members of this big and popular company who are scoring a distinct hit in Wilmington. The Concertina Trio will be seen in a brand new singing and musical act one which will introduce a number of popular rag favorites as well as some of older and more standard selections. Billie Byrne, the two-voiced singer and impersonator, will have another new role today that will make a big hit. Ethel King, in song and dance numbers ever seen on the Royal stage and Charlie Byrne, the eccentric and original comedy king of this company, will be everywhere at one and the same time.

A mammoth Fox comedy in three reels starring Hank Mann, is another big feature of today's bill, the first three-reel Fox comedy ever filmed.

KATHLYN WILLIAMS AT THE GRAND TOMORROW.

The story of "Out of the Wreck," in which the brilliant Morosco-Paramount star, Kathlyn Williams, will be seen at the Grand tomorrow, might be known as "The Memories of the Forget-me-nots," as it deals with the influence of those tender flowers upon the life of a woman.

This story was written especially for Miss Williams by Maude E. Corsan and was told to the author by a prominent attorney as the inside history of a famous murder trial. The attorney told the story to Miss Corsan one night in his office and vividly described the incidents, which had to do with a young girl who is forced, through the death of her parents by tuberculosis, to earn her own living, with her marrying the man she loves only to find out, when he is crazed by drink, that he already has a wife living and how to save her life she shoots him, is acquitted at the trial and eventually becomes a mission worker, finally marrying a prominent politician. The tale so impressed the writer that she returned home and wrote the story for Miss Williams.

THOMAS H. INCE'S "CIVILIZATION."

When "Civilization" is shown to the public for the first time at the Victoria tomorrow the audience will have a treat, to use a familiar phrase, for which none of the things that have been printed about the spectacle can have completely prepared them. In most cases where the writer is dealing with any form of entertainment, be it opera, play or motion picture, photography concert, etc., it is an easy thing to give another person an idea in comparatively few words, as to the nature of the thing. Of most of these things your essential story can be expressed in a few paragraphs at most.

Not so this million dollar cinema spectacle, "Civilization," upon which, since its original presentation in New York in June last, scores of critics, press agents and other writers have turned their hands, without having printed anything which is complete and explicit enough to tell the reader what it is all about.

The fact is, it is such a big theme, handled in such a big way, that to do it justice you would have to write a very big book indeed. Supposing that you were asked to condense the history and teachings of the Bible in a pulp magazine, which would take two hours in the delivery. This would be a hard task, of course—you might say an impossible one. Yet marvelous though it may seem to be told, Mr. Ince, the producer of this picture, gives you the impression when you have seen it, that he is taking you over the whole of history since the time of Adam, so vast, so penetrating, so comprehensive is his vision. It is a world story; a world theme. In a way you are looking at the fall of man as told by Milton and his redemption as also treated by the same great poet.

All these great episodes, are given a background of the present time, with the great European war in progress. The picture has many pastoral scenes and incidents of surpassing loveliness and a strong love interest. "Civilization" has the advantages of being interpreted by forty thousand actors and actresses, headed by a cast of principals which includes: Herschel Mayall, Enid Markey, Howard Hickman and George Fisher. With wonderful insight into the sombre beauties of the story and appreciation of its momentous lessons, Victor L. Schertzinger has provided some ear-haunting music.



SCENE FROM THOS. H. INCE'S CIVILIZATION
At the Victoria Beginning Tomorrow.

PEACE YEARNINGS AMONG GERMANS GROW STRONGER

Caused by Increased Strain Through Recently Imposed Reduction Bread Ration

EXHORTATIONS OF PROVINCIAL PRESS.

Depicting Distressing Alternatives in Case of Peace on Terms Unsatisfactory to Germany.

The Hague, Tuesday, April 17 (Via London, April 18)—How urgent is the yearning for peace among the German people and how great is the increased strain just imposed on them in consequence of the reduction in the bread ration may be judged from the exhortations and the pictures of woe in alternatives published in provincial newspapers on the inauguration of the curtailment of the bread supply.

The Courier of Hanover, for example, represents that a quicker, but unsatisfactory peace would not lead to a better food supply. The people are told that Great Britain, France, Italy and even the United States are reckoning with a world famine for the current year and that in case of a premature conclusion of peace the demands of these countries for their own needs would prevent the supplying of Germany with foreign foodstuffs.

The Courier portrays the British people as paying the highest grain prices of a century and declares that the Germans are situated more favorably than those who planned to starve them, not being menaced by a bad world crop and rapidly sinking tonnage.

"If, however, the blockade of Germany should succeed through lack of economy," the newspaper says "our people would have not only a time of bitter hunger, but a long period of the lowest wages and the most painful exorbitance. Then while France, Italy and Russia carried off Alsace-Lorraine, Trieste, the Trentino, Constantinople, and big Austria-Hungarian provinces as the price of victory, Great Britain would undertake the long planned annexation of economic riches. Bread would be dear and wages low for our entire laboring population. We must therefore muster all our strength, clench our teeth and remembering the sacrifices and sufferings of our men folk in the field, hold out and take up this new food sacrifice."

JAPAN ELECTION HELD TODAY

Only One Million Qualified Electors Out of Fifty Million Population.

(By United Press.)
Tokio, April 18.—One million Japanese—the approximate number who can vote in this country of 50,000,000 people—will go to the polls today to endorse or repudiate their present government, the Terachi ministry.

The election is the upshot of the dissolution of the Imperial Diet last January when Premier Terachi, seeing the forces of the Kenseikai or Constitutional party, aligned against him in the House of Representatives, sent members of that body back to their homes before they had had time to introduce a want-of-confidence resolution against him.

But even assuming that the constitutional forces emerge victorious in today's battle of ballots, it does not necessarily mean the fall of the government, for early in the campaign Count Terachi declared that he would again dissolve the Diet by a rescript from the Emperor if the lower House withheld its support from him and his policies.

Japan's elections in the past have not always been free from corruption. In March, 1915, penalties were imposed on 10,000 persons, so in order to keep today's balloting as pure as possible, the following "Ten Commandments" were issued for the guidance of voters early in the campaign.

1. Voters should cast the ballots themselves.
 2. No money or articles or checks shall be received as gifts by the voters.
 3. Voters shall not attend entertainments or receptions given by the candidates.
 4. No rifle, spear, sword, stick or any other dangerous weapon shall be carried about with a view of affecting the result of the election.
 5. No voter or election campaigner shall vote or engage in the campaign on promise of receiving appointments.
 6. On the way to and from election booths, the voters shall not be accompanied by the candidates with carriages, receive transportation expenses, or accept payments for tips and hotel charges.
 7. Voters shall not yield to the temptation of considerations regarding water supply, land, rents, loans, etc.
 8. Voters shall not be threatened, tempted or deceived nor shall they be molested on their way to and from the polls.
 9. No false rumors shall be circulated about the candidates for the purpose of obstructing their election.
 10. No crowd shall gather to beat drums, ring bells or hoist flags for the sake of demonstrations.
- Early in the campaign one Constitutional candidate for the House, along with fourteen of his campaigners, was arrested for violation of the election law. It was charged that he had given a banquet to the voters in his prefecture. This bit of hospitality was regarded as a bribe by the authorities.

DANCING DECLARED CURE FOR MANY ILLS

(By United Press.)
Columbus, April 18.—At last! Dancing has come into its own. For years it's borne the burden of blame for a thousand and one afflictions. "Tango foot," fallen arches, loss of weight and scores of other ailments have been laid at the door of the dance.

But now comes Miss Florence A. Myer, head of the department of physical education at Ohio State University, who is an advocate of the dance, especially the esthetic dance, which is an instant cure, she says for the nervous girl who jumps at every sound, and the slouchy, careless type of girl who is affected by nothing.

"The combination of the physical exercise and the mental stress of remembering the different steps is wonderful for the nerves," said Miss Myer. "Those who formerly started at every little sound can bear almost any shock now."

A change for the worse was reported early today in the condition of Archbishop Blenk, critically ill at New Orleans, since Sunday. His physicians expressed the fear that death was a matter of hours.

100,000,000 SHUDDERED

with horror at the news of the sinking of the Lusitania. The most graphic of the printed reports could draw but a faint picture of such an unprecedented catastrophe. It remained for a man who combined extraordinary clarity of vision and appreciative understanding with the art of expression and control of its most vivid medium to convey to the multitudes a comprehensible conception of that terrific incident of modern war making. It has been done in



VICTORIA 3 Days TOMORROW Matinee 3:30 Adults 50c Night 8:30 Children 25c

FRENCH CONTINUE DRIVING AGAINST TEUTONIC ENEMY

(Continued from Page One.)

low instructions to the letter. As soon as the result of the battle between Soissons and Rheims was known the order was given to attack.

Punctually at 4:45 the French infantry "went over," well supported by a powerful mass of artillery. They swept forward in magnificent style and in two hours the first line system had been captured.

Later news came that the French soldiers were carrying all before them and taking prisoners by the score. They seized Mont Carnillet, Montaut and all the crests commanding the region.

From their new positions the French now look down upon Moronvilliers and Nourou. This Moronvilliers chain of hills was regarded by all French soldiers who had ever been in the section as virtually impregnable and its capture caused the liveliest satisfaction to everybody. The 7.5's followed up the infantry rapidly and were soon in action. They caught large bodies of the enemy massing with the object of making a diversion and decimated them. According to onlookers, such carnage had not been seen since the action of Charmes Gap at the beginning of the war.

On the right wing the struggle was equally to the advantage of the French. Auberive, on which the left wing of the Champagne offensive of 1915, broke, fell speedily, as well as all the surrounding works. The French made especially good progress

north of Auberive. In the section east of Vaudescourt, Hill 112, was stormed, as well as a small wood east of the hill, which was a regular nest of German machine guns.

At certain points the advance was close upon four miles in depth. The latest news reaching Paris says the battle continued well into the night, the Germans counter attacking without success, and the French reconstructing the trench systems under the cover of our artillery.

According to information from a reliable source, the double offensive of the British north of Arras and of the French on the Aisne disarranged plans of Field Marshal von Hindenburg, it is declared, who is preparing an offensive against Riga and another against Italy, while on the western front he was considering an attempt on Calais on the one hand and on Paris on the other. The allied western offensive spoiled all of this by obliging him to bring back a large part of the effectives intended for the Russian and Italian fronts.

Paris, April 18.—Important progress was made last night by the French in their attack east of Soissons. The War Office announces the capture of Chavonne and Chivy. The French pushed on north of these points, reaching the vicinity of Braye-en-Laonnois.

The Germans made three desperate counter attacks at the Champagne last night. They were checked by the French, who inflicted heavy losses on the attacking troops. Since Monday the French have captured upward of 14,000 unarmored Germans. In the Champagne large numbers of machine guns and trench mortars have been captured and also 12 cannon, including three of large calibre.

The great western battle front was

extended for another 12 miles today when the French drove the Germans from all of their first line positions and part of their second line from Rheims to the Champagne front. The victory was staged on the ground which saw the great offensive of 1915 and the German loss is estimated at 30,000 killed, wounded and prisoners.

The invaders were exceptionally well placed along a series of wooded heights, varying in height from 600 to 800 feet and running north along the main road from Rheims to St. Piler le Grand. The Germans were well aware that an attack was coming and had made full preparations for it.

The French attack, however, was delivered with such skill and vigor that the defenders, disheartened by a long and furious preliminary bombardment, broke ground after a resolutely stiff resistance and the whole line fell into the hands of the French. South of Moronvilliers the impetus of the attackers carried them clean through the first line into the second line system which centered at Mont Haut. This summit, 850 feet high, was stormed.

In the meantime on the Soissons-Rheims front the French troops are busy organizing the captured ground won on the first day of the battle and repulsing fierce counter attacks. Over their heads a storm of artillery fire is preparing the way for another drive against the Germans in the positions to which they retired yesterday.

STATEMENT COUNTY FIRE INSURANCE CO.

Philadelphia, Pa.	
Condition December 31, 1916, as Shown by	
Amount of Capital paid up in cash	\$ 400,000.
Amount of Bonds and Stocks	601,727.65
Deposited in Trust Companies	67,495.95
Over their heads a storm of artillery fire is preparing the way for another drive against the Germans in the positions to which they retired yesterday.	
Agents' balances, representing business written subsequent to October 1, 1916	57,943.07
Agents' balances, representing business written prior to October 1, 1916	2,506.23
Interest and Renewals due and accrued	7,447.33
All other Assets, as detailed in statement	170,946.12
Total	\$966,660.74
Less Assets not admitted	14,306.93
Total admitted assets	\$952,353.81
Liabilities	
Net amount of unpaid losses and claims	\$ 26,612.43
Unearned Premiums	73,160.92
Legal Liabilities	173,588.71
Salaries, rents, expenses, bills, accounts, etc., due or accrued	1,000.
Estimated amount payable for Federal, State, county and municipal taxes due or accrued	6,500.
Contingent commissions, or other charges due or accrued	500.00
All other Liabilities, as detailed in statement	194.37
Capital	\$81,848.33
Capital Actually paid up in cash	\$ 400,000.
Surplus over all Liabilities	293,536.48
Surplus as regards Policyholders	608,536.48
Total Liabilities	\$985,384.51
Assets	23,456.
Business in North Carolina During 1916.	
Premiums written	\$4,388,953.
Premiums received	\$3,549,135.
Losses incurred—Fire	\$32,654.38.
Net Profit	2,675.10.
President, C. H. Foy, Secretary, F. E. Martin, Treasurer, N. P. Hunt.	
Home Office, Philadelphia, Pa.	
Attorney for service, Insurance Commissioner, Raleigh, N. C.	
Manager for North Carolina, Home Office State of North Carolina, Insurance Department, Raleigh, N. C., 1917.	
I James R. Young, Insurance Commissioner, do hereby certify that the above is a correct abstract of the statement of the County Fire Insurance Company of Philadelphia, Pa., filed with this department, showing the condition of said Company on the 31st day of December, 1916.	
Witness my hand and official seal the day and date above written.	
JAMES R. YOUNG, Insurance Commissioner.	

J. B. McCABE & CO.
Certified Public Accountants.
Room 818 Murchison Bank Bldg. Phone 396. WILMINGTON, N. C.

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ACADEMY
FRIDAY, APRIL 20
VIERRA'S ROYAL HAWAIIAN SINGERS AND PLAYERS
RETURNING ENGAGEMENT
With a New Wonderful Program
NATIVE HAWAIIANS
Presenting an Elaborate Program of Songs in Their Native Tongue, including Popular Airs of This Country and Classical and Operatic Numbers.
The Seductive and Plaintive Hawaiian Music Presented by **NATIVES THEMSELVES**
Seats from 50c. to \$1.00, on Sale at Elvington's
THURSDAY AND FRIDAY

GRAND
TOMORROW.
Oliver Morosco Presents
KATHLYN WILLIAMS
With William Gilford and William Conklin in
"OUT OF THE WRECK"
A Thrilling Slice From Real Life

ROYAL
BYRNE AND BYRNE PRESENT
THE KODAK GIRLS
In the Most Pleasing Presentation of Musical Comedy of the Whole Season
New Bill Today.
ALL NEW SPECIALTIES
WALTER MARION
Baritone Soloist—Absolutely the best of the Season
CONCERTING TRIO
Some Music with the Concertina
BILLIE BYRNE
Double Voiced Singer and Impersonator
CHARLIE BYRNE
Some Comedian
ETHEL KING
High Kick Dance and Song Specialty
AND THAT CHORUS
Best Trained, Best Looking, and Best Dressed of the Season
Fox Comedy in three Reels Today.