

# The Nation's Business

(A Series of Articles by National Leaders Published Exclusively in This Territory in The Herald.)

No. 1.—"Who Is Your Hero?" by David Wark Griffith, Motion Picture Producer.

## WHO IS YOUR HERO?

By DAVID WARK GRIFFITH

Editor's Note—David Wark Griffith stands so high above all other motion-picture producers that he may be said to be in a class by himself. His grasp of picture making is only equaled by his grasp of the cinema's future, the needs and wants of the public, and the motion picture is a part of every man's life.

In introducing motion pictures as America's fourth or fifth largest industry, one might also identify them as America's largest and most popular target for criticism.

Where lives a person who hasn't said: "The movies are awful"; or said something to that effect? That is as it should be. It proves motion pictures are important and progressing. You hear no such criticism from all sides for our American music, painting, writing or stage. That is because the public does not expect any great improvement in these arts, but does expect it in motion pictures.

A savage and ruthless denunciation of motion pictures by one of the most prominent dramatic critics in this country, first awakened me to the fact that motion pictures were to become the dominant educational and entertainment force in the world. I was too busy at the time to give much thought to the future. But I realized that this shrewd gentleman saw in them something more powerful than his beloved stage or he could not have spurred his thoughts to such a high tide of fierce protest.

ing something unimportant or dying. We do not spend much time criticizing. If the public ever stops complaining about its motion pictures, we shall become alarmed.

### Enter Prohibition.

Criticism has its fads and fancies just as much as anything else. At present it is popular to criticize the motion pictures harshly. In a way I feel that prohibition has had something to do with this public irritability regarding pictures. People substituted the motion picture shows for the customary drinking diversion. And quarrelled with the films because they didn't get the same effect.

There need be no alarm about motion pictures as long as the makers strive to interpret life as naturally as they can. Superficial critics shout with outraged despair about something in a motion picture not being realistic. Realism isn't the important thing. Naturalism is.

Courtroom scenes, I believe, are criticized more generally than any others in motion pictures. That is because Mr. and Mrs. Audience went to court in a condition of high interest, when either they or someone close to them was involved in the action, and whatever occurred affected them vividly. They remember how impressed they were with everything occurring. When they are not so impressed by a courtroom scene in the picture, they immediately think it is badly done. If any of the details are not exactly as they remember, they think that is the reason. These few demand detailed realism that would be boring beyond tolerance to the other millions.

The critics should pay more attention to naturalism and less to realism. They keep running after rabbits instead of following the fox.

### No Art Interest.

It will be several decades yet before producers can make motion pictures that do not also classify as entertainment for every grade of intelligence. America has no sincere or even conscious interest in art. It is first and almost completely interested in industry. One can prove it by a thousand means.

For instance, Your hero is yourself. Then the national hero becomes the one who expresses in the highest degree the achievement of the people of the nation would like to achieve individually.

Until recently we were all a fighting people, and our heroes were fighters. But now we have no soldier for a national hero, even though the greatest of our wars has just ended.

I should say that the popular hero of America today is Henry Ford.

When he makes some changes in his plant and pays his debts, the public is so interested that the metropolitan newspapers print three and four columns on their front pages about it, and continue to comment for days.

Now we will make a comparison. If a person were to show a motion picture ten times better than any yet made; and he were to show this with music better than any ever composed in America; and if he were to give away as a souvenir a volume of poetry far better than any yet written in America; and he were to have painted on each of these volumes a miniature better than anything yet by an American artist—do you suppose if this were done, the newspapers of this country would give it three columns on the front page?

### To Awaken America.

Indeed not, and the editors would be silly to give such space for if they did the public would be largely bored. For people don't care to be artists and aren't particularly interested in what artists achieve.

But the hero has been changed from the soldier to the industrial leader; and he stands in fifty years, or perhaps a

hundred, America will awaken to an appreciation of art. When it does, I think the golden era of art will come again for whatever interests us as a people, that we can do better than any one else.

Perhaps motion pictures will do more to stimulate this artistic interest than any other force. One must remember that our children today, ten, twelve, fourteen years old, have had more dramatic experience than all their ancestors combined.

Take your own family. How many plays each year did your father see, and his father? Three or four, or less. And as we go back, the less plays they saw until in the time of the masques only one in many years—if ever.

So we have a peculiar condition in our audiences—a dramatically mature audience of youths; and a dramatically youthful audience of adults. With no intent to strain for a paradoxical quip, it is a truth that the older a motion picture audience is the younger it is; and again, the younger it is, the older it is.

### They Ask Censor.

These mature persons know nothing of the history of the stage, its conventions, customs, privileges, liberties or experiences. They see nothing in motion pictures that has been common to the stage for a hundred years, yet, because they are superlatively ignorant of stage drama, they are horrified at something that is absolutely commonplace to the play-goer.

With a confidence that only such prospering ignorance can bring, these persons are determined that the public shall not see these things which they think shouldn't be seen. This is the type that demands the censor.

So the censor now will have to play with pictures for a few years until they get tyrannical and are cast out, or become merely clerical and unimportant.

Censorship is an ideal, and when you try to localize an ideal in three persons who need their small salaries and play politics to get them, it isn't difficult to believe that the ideal may get jostled. The type of mind that demands censorship has advanced the argument that we censor meats and therefore should censor pictures, and I presume they would feel quite satisfied to have the same person decide the fitness of a pig's carcass and a film.

## Nothing New From the Oil Well at Rushville

The topic most generally discussed in Chadron the past week has been oil, and the likelihood of its production north of the city through the strike of the Big Chief company near Pine Ridge a week ago Sunday morning, says the Chadron Journal.

Many from here have visited the well and its owners who are mostly Rushville citizens. It has been learned that the greater part of land supposed to be oil bearing and lying in the most favorable geological location west of the Big Chief holdings is owned or leased by Chadron men.

A directors meeting at Rushville this week, it is said, resulted in hardly any progress as to re-opening the hole in which the discovery was made. It is taken for granted by about 90 per cent of the public in this northwest country that the strike is bonafide. The other 10 per cent do not doubt it, but wish to be shown, as the well is capped and cannot be visualized except by the hearsay of those present when the oil was found.

Denver, Casper, Alliance, Omaha and Lincoln papers have mentioned the discovery in glowing terms, too glowing, for they speak of it as a 1,000-barrel gusher. The production of the well will not be known until the cement cap is drilled again and the flow measured. It is stated that this is but the eastern edge of the Chadron field and many unverified rumors are afloat as to its immediate development.

Let's see; the conference will be over in a few weeks, and the senate should ratify it by 1926.—Lincoln Star.

## Rev. B. J. Minort Speaks to Railroad Men Thursday Eve

The beauty and utility of gratitude is recognized by people everywhere, and if employers and employee showed the grateful heart more the industrial strife and ill-feeling that exist in our land would not be. A grateful employer will inspire his employee by that his appreciation to greater endeavor; a grateful employee will regenerate a hard taskmaster into an honest justice-loving employer.

The language of gratitude is understood wherever you go whether in the heart of Africa or Nebraska, you can understand gratitude. Gratitude felt must be expressed in words and action. The grateful husband makes a good wife, the grateful wife makes a good husband. If the spirit of gratitude was entertained in the home more between the heads of the family the divorce courts would go out of business.

The gratitude we feel is determined by the value we place upon an object or thing or person. He divided the things we should be grateful for into three classes according to the Biblical division. The good things, the perfect gifts, and the unspeakable gift.

The good gifts were or are life, health, home, friends and children. We show our gratitude for these by the effort we put forth to retain, improve, and develop. He applied this principle to all of these and then pictured the peace and happiness that would prevail in the world if this were so.

The next class of gifts were the perfect gifts. They are the church, Bible, Holy Spirit and heaven. The above principle was applied to all of these and special emphasis was made that the greatest need today among workmen was that they put a higher value on the church. The church was today the greatest champion the working man had. He pointed out that the greatest propagandist for the improvement of the workingman's lot was the church. He closed then with pointing the men to what Paul calls the Unspeakable Gifts, the Lord Jesus Christ and carpenter of Nazareth who has always been the poor man, and the workingman's champion and whose ministers today cannot be true to Him without doing their level best to stand by the golden rule especially as it applies to the great industrial and commercial problems of our day.

At the close of the sermon the pastor spoke of several local needs, especially the need of a workingman's hospital, this seemed to set well with the audience as shown by the applause, and several men expressed themselves as favoring the project, and all by a show of hand promised to take the matter up with their unions.

After this conference the audience or a great part of it remained for a social hour at which coffee and doughnuts were served by the Baptist ladies. Then the pastor was asked to lift the cover from a table and he found to his evident surprise that about a hundred

and fifty pounds of groceries had been donated to the pastor and family, and the two packages that pleased him most of all were two boxes of shot gun shells.

## CARD OF THANKS

We wish to make this public expression of our appreciation and sincere thanks for the willing and faithful work of the Alliance Volunteer Fire department, as well as others, who so efficiently and effectively fought the flames that would have destroyed our church building Thanksgiving evening.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH BOARD.

Some people call it near beer.—New York Mail.

## KNOW YOUR TEXT

"We will take as our text this morning," announced the absent-minded clergyman, consulting his memorandum, "the sixth and seventh verses of the thirty-first chapter of Proverbs." Never suspecting that his vivacious son and heir had found the memorandum in his study on the previous night and, knowing that his papa had composed a sermon celebrating the increased severity of dry law enforcement, had diabolically changed the chapter and verse numerals to indicate a very different text, turned the place and read aloud these words so Solomon: "Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts. Let him drink and forget his past pov-

erty, and remember his misery no more."—San Francisco Argonaut.

We are ready to take all orders for Madeira work, Filia and Oriental mats and rugs, all sizes and prices. A reduction for those leaving their orders now. The Oriental Store, 115 Box Butte ave. 101

## HOW COULD THEY?

Policeman (to loiterer) — "Come, move on there. If everybody stood still in one place, how could the others get past?"—Sydney Bulletin.

Once upon a time there was a garragman who fixed the thing that was wrong without getting something else out of whack.



# WATCH!

## Aunty Claus Is Coming

## IMPERIAL

Saturday, Nov. 26

CHARLES RAY  
—IN—  
"SCRAP IRON"

MUTT and JEFF  
KINO GRAMS

Adm.—9 and 36c and W. T.

Sunday, Nov. 27

"FATAL HOUR"

VAUDEVILLE

Jas. McNally  
Johnson & Burke  
Morris & Block  
Richards Trio

SHORT SUBJECTS

A 2½ HOUR SHOW

Adm.—20 and 50c & W. T.

## Breaking the Shackles of Time

CLOCKS are as much a matter of course as suspenders. But it took energy and initiative to get the first clock on the kitchen shelf and start it going. The Yankee pack peddler was sole distributor and transporter. His lean, lanky, loose-jointed legs set the limit for most distribution problems in those days.

Modern transportation with progressive sales methods—and advertising—have broken the shackles of time. They make a quick job of what used to take years. Through advertising, many an article has been introduced simultaneously in stores all over the country.

This newspaper does you a two-fold service. It not only brings you news of the world, but also news of what to buy, where to buy and how to buy.

The advertisements are news columns of merchants and manufacturers who have important stories to tell you.

Take advantage of them. Read the latest news of good things to be had—and where to get them.

MAKE SURE YOU GET ALL THE NEWS



The best thing that can be said about the manner in which an undertaker conducts his business is that he has won the public praise. Upon every funeral occasion we are complimented about the satisfactory manner in which we perform our duty. Our services are of a high character and are properly priced.

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