



GOING TO THE "MOVIES"?

The People Go To The "Movies"

DR. CRANE'S EXPERIENCE IS THE EXPERIENCE OF THE MILLIONS

Following is a statement, in part, of Dr. Frank Crane, in the New Orleans (La.) States

"OCCASIONALLY some one writes superciliously of the moving picture show, of how cheap it is, hence degrading and bad for the youth.

"Any time you want to secure a reputation for being a superior person, not at all ordinary, but exceeding fine-haired and high-bred and uppish, sit down and write contemptuously of something the mob likes. The very fact that the multitude loves it shows it's naughty; for the first principle of snobbery is that what the multitude likes is low.

"Then, after a while, when you get more sense—which, pray God, may come soon to pass!—you will be moved to resign your seat among the forty immortal elect, scratch their motto out of your copybook, and learn that the instincts of the great mass of humanity are more to be trusted than the epigrams of the hoity-toity.

"As for me and all the girls and boys in our block, we do sincerely give thanks for moving pictures.

"I have nothing to say against the 'legit.' Only, there are a lot of people who cannot afford to spend \$2, or even 50 cents, on an evening's entertainment, and no shame to them.

"But it's many and many who cannot do this, and must fain set down in a little book even street-car fare, and who have to look sharp for room rent; these need amusement more than do the residents on Easy street.

"The people go to the pictures.

"Not only because they are cheap, however. There are some other things that are cheap—to them nobody goes; for instance.

"We go because the motion pictures are good.

"Their range of subjects is high. You really absorb a deal of useful information. I never remember getting any information to speak of in a \$5 seat.

"They are artistic. You see real life—trees that are trees, and not painted canvas; horses actually running on mountain roads, and not on a treadmill apparatus; sure enough water, and not waves made of blue cloth, with stage hands wallowing under it.

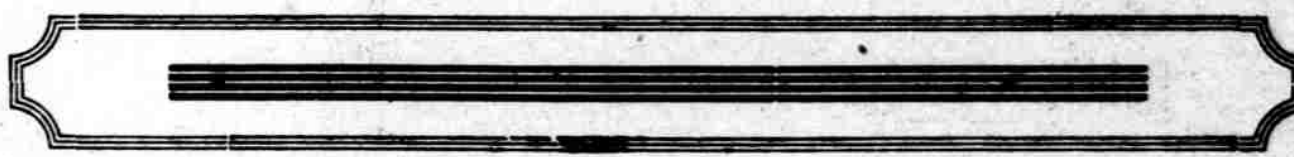
"At a picture show you are not tortured with the torture of the English language. There is no talking. If there's anything to say it's printed. Here the leading lady does not turn her back to you and mutter heaven knows what, nor the leading man mouth something no one can hear, and that right at the critical moment. You get all that is taking place, and hence your money's worth, even if it is only 5 cents. * * * *

"The real refined gentry complain of the cinema as being low and vulgar. I can only say that I have frequented film shows in Rome, Florence, and the mountain towns of Italy, in Paris and French villages, in London on the Strand and Chepstow on the Wye, in Keokuk, Saint Jo, French Lick, Chicago, and New York, and never saw one indecency nor one picture I would not want my boy to see. They may have them, but I missed them.

"On the contrary, I have seen Dante's 'Inferno' and Tasso's 'Jerusalem Delivered,' and the story of Moses in Egypt set forth in fidelity and with artistic perfection. I know my Dante as well as the next non-professional person, and I went three times to see his divine comedy at the cinema in Rome (the one on the Piazza del Terme), and got more vivid impressions than I ever did from the notes of Cassini or the lectures at the Dante Foundation in Florence. And the beauty of it is that I took the little Canavacioli children and the two Casey boys (visiting), and they had as much fun as I; and glory be to the saints! that doesn't spoil a thing for me.


"But it's dark in the picture shows, and boys and girls hold hands! More power to their arms! I myself when young held hands in church, and the upshot of it was a girl married me, and still has me, and may a like fate fall on all young villains!

"I hope to see the day when there will be moving pictures in every schoolhouse, for I am sure they are beyond books and precepts."



IT is because of a full realization of this fact that commencing with Tomorrow, Sunday, April 27th, THE WASHINGTON TIMES will begin the publication of a MOVING PICTURE page as a part of the regular Sunday Evening Edition.

This page will be replete with the latest news of the Moving Picture World and its stars, as well as news and advertisements of Washington's Leading Moving Picture Theatres.



Tomorrow's Sunday Evening Edition

OF

The Washington Times

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