

"The Battle of the Somme."

"The Battle of the Somme," the pictorial story of the big push in Flanders, is to be witnessed in Arbroath during the first three nights of next week at both of the local picture houses—the Olympia and the Palace—and judging by the extraordinary interest which it has evinced in the picture in every city and town at which it has been shown there should be record crowds.

The picture takes an hour and a half to show, and every inch of the film is a mighty epic, which will go down to posterity as the greatest presentation ever witnessed. The story is told in sections. The opening shows the preparations for the "great push," the bombardment by the artillery, the attack, the bringing in of wounded and prisoners, the burying of the dead, and a wonderful survey of the vast battlefield. After the magnificent and terrible work performed by the massive army of artillery with their mammoth guns, the word is given to the infantry to "push forward." At this signal thousands upon thousands of brave British soldiers rise as one man, spring up to the front trenches, and dash across the barbed wire entanglements to the German lines. But every one of the gallant lads does not reach his goal. Here and there a figure is seen to fall to the ground with a pathetic gesture—some writhing with agony and some motionless. The R.A.M.C. is seen to rush up immediately and carry the fallen heroes back to the dressing station only 200 yards behind the battle. The courage of the wounded is wonderful, and suffering is borne without a murmur. The wild gallop of the artillery across the field, is a fine spectacle.

The film is replete with contrast and relief, and above all the sufferings and hardships is the cheery optimism and the chivalry of our soldiers. They go up to the "gates of hell" with a smile on their lips. The whole film goes to show that our ideas of modern warfare, however intelligent, come very far short of the reality as presented in "The Battle of the Somme," to be shown at the Palace and Olympia on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday first. Booking has been brisk at both houses.

Arbroath Police Court.

MONDAY.

(Before Bailie Anderson).

HELPLESSLY DRUNK.—John Shepherd, a labourer, was charged with being helplessly drunk in Marketgate on Saturday night, 23rd September. He pleaded guilty. Acting-Chief Constable Pyper said the police found the accused in the condition mentioned in Marketgate at nine o'clock at night. He was near his home and he was removed there. A fine of 7s 6d was imposed.

RIOTOUS BOYS AT KEPTIE ROAD.—Four young lads pleaded guilty to riotous and disorderly conduct at Keptie Road on the night of 26th September. The Acting-Chief Constable said the offence was committed at 9.40 p.m. when it was very dark and females going home by Keptie Road were liable to be frightened by such behaviour. They were shouting and hawling and were very riotous. Bailie Anderson imposed a fine of 5s in each case said there were numerous complaints as to misconduct of this kind from this quarter of the town and it must be stopped.

A DESERTER.—John Kennedy, a railway porter, was charged with being a deserter from the Royal Field Artillery and having pleaded guilty was handed over to a military escort.

TUESDAY.

(Before Police Judge Robertson).

DRUNKEN DUNDEE TRIPPERS—A DISGRACE.—James Fraser, street porter, residing at 15 Kirk Entry, Dundee, was charged with drunkenness in Arbroath on Monday the Dundee holiday. It appeared that accused was found by two special constables in a state of helpless intoxication in West Port on Monday evening. Acting-Chief Constable Pyper said Monday was the Dundee Autumn Holiday. It had been the practice of a number of Dundee workers to visit Arbroath on these holidays not to enjoy themselves, but to have a drunken carousal and to become a nuisance to the townspeople. The magistrate agreed with Mr Pyper that the conduct of these Dundee trippers in Arbroath on the occasion of holidays was disgraceful. Instead of enjoying a quiet holiday and having a glass of whisky or a glass of beer in decency they invariably got beastly drunk. A quiet town like Arbroath must be protected from such pests as these. He imposed a fine of 20s which was paid.

A sad case was that of Mary Burns, a young millworker aged 27, residing at 77 Togie Street, Dundee, who was charged with a similar offence. The Acting-Chief Constable told the Court that this young woman on arriving in Arbroath from Dundee purchased a quart bottle of whisky from which she took drinks from time to time during the day until she became helplessly drunk and in this state she was found by the police in Greenbank brae at 8.25 p.m. Efforts, he understood, had been made to reform her in Dundee, but had failed. The magistrate said he had never seen except in Dundee young women going about drinking the same men. It was a lamentable state of affairs. A fine of £1 was imposed with the alternative of 14 days' imprisonment.

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"Risk It!" Revue at the Palace Theatre.

GALLANT FRENCHMEN IN "THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME."

When the French Government's wonderful pictorial production of the battle of the Somme is a great enough attraction to draw record houses all over the country, it might have been expected the Palace Theatre management would have felt satisfied at their enterprise in getting the film for this week-end. But the anxiety of the Palace to give their patrons something exclusive is again brought to bear on their programme this time in the production of the famous Scotch comedy revue, "Risk It!" Arbroath theatre-goers know when they have a good thing, and the result has been packed houses nightly.

"Risk It!" is one of the latest and choicest of revues. The revue has taken the place of the pantomime and many of the old-time comedies that were wont to visit us, and being written on original lines to suit the various artists it goes with a bang of unending hilarity. The bright solos and catchy choruses are interspersed with funny sidelights and patter by the leading artists, and local hits are amusingly introduced.

Mr Billy Walters, the inimitable Scotch comedian, presents the "Risk It!" company at the Palace Theatre this week, and to his credit be it said his company is one of the largest and cleverest that has ever visited the town. The leading parts are admirably filled, and the chorus is a finely balanced one. Mr Billy Walters takes the part of "Erich Colquhoun," a visitor to the hotel managed by "Mr Barker," a part admirably played by Mr Will Fyfe. "Erich" is prominent in the whole cast, and his broad doric and comical get-up, combined with his vocal comedies, keep the audience in a continual roar of

laughter. Another very droll fellow is "Silas," the waiter. Mr Joe Gallagher is possessed of rare wit, and he has great scope for bringing it out in the part he has to play. Mr Claude Bonny is a "star" turn. Possessed of a fine, light voice, he treats his hearers to several splendid numbers, and his duets with Miss Nora Cunningham (who plays the part of the waitress) is a clever young actress and singer, and can boast of a sweet soprano voice. Another artist worthy of special mention is Miss Lil Bolton. As "Mrs Ashray" she is quaint and nimble in everything she does, and many of her touches at delicate moments of the play are done with an originality all her own. A leading feature of the revue is the pretty dresses of the chorus girls. In each of the three scenes the chorus comes before the footlights in different costumes, which along with the brightly illuminated scenery gives the whole revue a delightfully pleasing atmosphere. The music is really pretty, and Mr William Bell, the conductor of the orchestra, is to be complimented on the manner in which he carries through this part of the entertainment.

OUR GALLANT ALLY.

The thousand people who witnessed the pictorial production of the "French Battle of the Somme" last night at the Palace—for the building was filled in every part—could not but admire the bravery of our gallant ally, and feel that all the sacrifices this country have made have been given to a just cause. The picture is officially issued by the French Government, and is a true and vivid outline of the many brave deeds performed by the soldiers in the trenches. There are several outstanding scenes—many sad ones and many happy ones. Shells bursting in an awe-inspiring sight, and a popular scene is witnessed when the Germans, feeling the game is all up, rush forward with their hands extended in the air and surrender.

"The Battle of the Somme" is to be shown to-night and at both houses to-morrow night, as well as at a special matinee to-morrow afternoon for the children. "The Diamond from the Sky" was an exciting episode last night. It is to be repeated this evening, and at the matinee; but owing to the great length of the programme by the introduction of "Risk It!" the serial will not be shown to-morrow night. Mr R. B. Stewart, the manager, announces that the first house on Saturday evening commences at 6.45, so that a full performance will be enjoyed.

Joffre's Tribute to British Dead.

The following special order of the day has been issued by General Sir Douglas Haig, Commander-in-Chief of the British Forces in the Field:—

To General Sir Douglas Haig:—

My Dear General,—I desire to convey to you my most sincere congratulations on the brilliant successes gained by the British troops under your command during the hard-fought battles of the 15th and 16th September, following on the continuous progress made by your armies since the beginning of the Somme offensive. These fresh successes are a sure guarantee of final victory over our common enemy, whose physical and moral forces are already severely shaken.

Permit me, my dear General, to take this opportunity of saying that the combined offensive which we have carried on now for more than two months has, if it were possible, drawn still closer the ties which unite our two armies. Our anniversary will find therein proof of our firm determination to combine our efforts until the end to ensure the complete triumph of our cause.

I bow before those of your soldiers by whose bravery these successes have been achieved, but who have fallen before the completion of our task, and I ask you to convey in my name, and in the name of the whole French army, to those who stand ready for the fight to come a greeting of comradeship and confidence. (Signed) J. Joffre.

SIR DOUGLAS HAIG'S CONFIDENCE

Sir Douglas Haig sent the following reply:—

General Headquarters, British Armies in France.

My Dear General,—I thank you most sincerely for the kind message of congratulation and goodwill that you have addressed to me and to the troops under my command on their recent successes. This fresh expression of the good wishes of yourself and of your gallant army, without whose close co-operation and support those successes could scarcely have been achieved, will be very warmly appreciated by all ranks of the British armies.

I thank you, too, for your noble tribute to those who have fallen. Our brave dead, whose blood has been shed together on the soil of your great country, will prove a bond to link our two peoples long after the combined action of our armies has carried the common cause which they have fought to its ultimate triumph. The unremitting efforts of our forces north and south of the Somme, added to the glorious deeds of your armies unaided at Verdun, have already begun to break down the enemy's power of resistance, while the energy of our troops and their confidence in each other increases from day to day. Every fresh success that attends our army brings us nearer to the end, nearer to the final victory to which, like you, I look forward with absolute confidence.

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