

## BRAINS WANTED AT THE KINEMA

Why Are British  
Studios Idle?

### A VAST MARKET THROWN AWAY

The sad case of the British film industry is evidently too much for the brains at the head of it.

It reminds us of the early years of British aeroplane manufacture, when, although flying-machines meant more to Britain than to any other nation, their manufacture lagged on British soil. In 1909, when a big prize was offered for a British plane engine, only six competitors appeared, and only three entered engines. Of these three two failed to complete the stipulated 24-hours run.

We have now recovered from this bad beginning, and our planes are unbeaten.

So it must come to be with British films. We must not tolerate the present position, which sees only four film studios at work on actual production. Three times that number of British studios are producing nothing.

### The English-Speaking Market

The industry, in submitting to defeat, has thrown out of work a large number of skilled and unskilled assistants, and pitiable stories are told of hundreds of stranded people.

The film industry has become of national and imperial importance. It provides recreation, instruction, and culture. Making allowance for the poor and bad films, there remains a substantial proportion of pictures of real excellence. Great possibilities are opening up. No other agent, perhaps, not even wireless telegraphy, is so potent in its influence. It will come to be true that he who makes the world's pictures will make or unmake the world's peoples.

The British film industry starts with a stupendous advantage, for English is current in many lands and is the official language of a fourth of all mankind. This great advantage is changed to disadvantage when British neglect allows the American picture producer to monopolise the use of English.

### An Unparalleled Opportunity

English literature and British history offer the film-maker glorious stories for the multitude, and only brains are wanted to stimulate an industry which has such supreme natural advantages.

One gleam of light appears in the matter, and that is the promised British production of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas. Such an enterprise might well herald a new and better beginning for British films.

Let us not suppose that lavishing of capital or the protection of Parliament will meet the case. The industry needs brains and artists. It must call to its aid our best writers, artists, and interpreters. As with the aeroplane, success may be won out of failure by a resolute efficiency; but first of all the films must be saved from the showmen who now rule their destinies and be put under the control of men with character and brains equal to an unparalleled opportunity.

## TINFOIL

### Do Not Waste It

It is surprising how much money can be made by the sale of one of the chief articles strewn about by the Litter Lout.

Tinfoil, the silver paper from chocolate-boxes, cigarette-packets, and so on, has proved a valuable source of income to the National Children's Home at Highbury Park, which, since it began to collect tinfoil, is richer by £3247 from this source. In one recent month alone 92 sacks and parcels of tinfoil arrived at Highbury.

## THE TRICOLOUR AMONG THE FISHING BOATS

### Kindly Hearts on a Submarine

We were telling the story of Pastor Niemoller last week. Now his trial is due and it is good to remember that even on a German submarine there was a kindlier spirit for an enemy than Nazism has for a loyal citizen.

This is a story Dr Niemoller tells of the days when he was on the U-boat, pursuing enemies in a war which meant life and death. The incident occurred when mine-laying off Lisbon.

HAVING finished our work, we quickly made ourselves scarce and steered westwards into the open sea, submerged at 65 feet through the whole forenoon, making use of this interval for a good wash and shave, followed by an equally thorough and substantial breakfast and (last but not least) for making up arrears of sleep. Who knows what may come?

But the next event was a joke! At 11 a.m. came the order "Diving stations! Stand by to surface!" Slowly the boat rose to 40 feet; up went the periscope; the captain took a quick look round, followed by a

slower and more thorough one. Nothing suspicious in sight. Up comes the boat. "Open conning-tower hatch!"

I am already standing alongside the captain on the conning-tower. All round us is a whole armada of small fishing boats, peacefully casting their nets and lines, whose crews now begin to shout, hoist their sails, and get out their oars. "Stop the bilge pump!" The main engines are started up and we steam south with our exhaust trailing astern.

Meanwhile, Boatswain's Mate Hennig rushes below and reappears with a rolled-up ensign under his arm. He goes off to the ensign staff and a moment later the French tricolour is fluttering from it!

The effect is instantaneous and the fishing boat crews calm down at once. Here and there a cap is waved to us and peace is established. Imagination goes a long way!

We take the story from the volume published by William Hodge and Company, From U-boat to Pulpit, by Martin Niemoller. 8s 6d.

## WILL THE GREAT LIGHT COME AGAIN?

As the CN Astronomer makes clear on another page, people who missed the Aurora Borealis on January 25 may be given a second chance.

The sunspot which, from its vast dark crater, spouted an unmeasurable volume of electric particles, is now on the other side of the sun; but the sun, revolving in about 27 days, will bring it round again to face the earth next week or shortly after. The whirlpool may have partially subsided, and the hollow have filled up, but because of its vast extent it may not have lost much in its four weeks' ride.

If it is as big as ever another magnetic storm may be experienced by the earth, and the same effects of lighting in the skies perceived.

The electric particles evolved by the sunspot do not actually reach the earth, but they create a disturbance in what is called the earth's magnetic field.

## THE MONKEY THINKS IT OUT

DR FRANK M. CHAPMAN, of the Natural History Museum of New York, has been making a film showing the habits of certain monkeys on the island of Barro Colorado.

These monkeys live in the tree-tops and have fixed highways along which they can pass by springing from tree to tree, and Dr Chapman noticed that at one place a tree had been blown down, leaving a gap in the aerial highway.

When the tribe arrived at the spot they held an obvious consultation, and agreed on a new jump of about 23 feet at a downward slope. The chief went first, and the others followed, until a

Because of this disturbance among the electric particles which are flung out to our outer atmosphere by the rotation of the giant magnet (which is the earth itself) these marvellous lighting effects are produced, generally at a height of 150 to 200 miles. Similar effects are of nightly occurrence in the regions of the North and South Magnetic Poles, and often in much lower latitudes.

It is the magnitude of the disturbance brought about by sunspots, and still more often by the eruptions of what are called solar prominences, bursts of fire hundreds of thousands of miles high, which bring the aurora into view farther south, or nearer the equator. Magnetic storms without auroral effects often occur on the earth and arise from either of these solar disturbances. Last year and the year before interruption of wireless signals was due to them more than once.

mother had to make the jump with her young one on her back. She had a good look and concluded that it was too risky; but the difficulty had to be got over, and finally she selected a place for leaving the youngster, made the jump herself, and climbed to a higher level until she found a branch which bent down under her weight. This branch and her own body made a bridge along which the little one could more safely venture.

It was a well-thought-out scheme, decided on before she made her first jump, and certainly proved a very high degree of intelligence.

## BACK TO THEIR BOYHOOD

PEOPLE in the busy shopping district of Chicago were startled a few weeks ago to see well-dressed men of from forty to sixty years of age selling newspapers.

They drew nearer, and were even more surprised to hear such cries as "Read all about uprising on Mexican border," or "America gets Philippine Islands from Spain."

When they had collected a small crowd these astonishing newsboys pointed out a story on the front page of their newspapers. It told how a group of city officials and prominent business men who had started their careers as

newsboys would again become newsboys for a day for the benefit of the Chicago Community Chest fund. In America it has become almost a tradition that nearly every man who makes a fortune began as a newsboy in some city.

Most of them cried news which had happened in the days when they were selling papers as boys. They vied with each other in finding ways to attract the most customers. People flocked to buy the papers, which brought from fivepence to five pounds a copy, the papers being a special issue which did not compete with the work of the regular newsboys.

## FAIR PLAY IN SOUTH AFRICA

The Cape Dutch and  
the Indian

### A RHODES SCHOLAR'S ADVICE

Cecil Rhodes would have been proud and satisfied to hear some words spoken by one of his Rhodes Scholars, Jan Hofmeyer.

He is the Dutch Minister of the Interior of the South African Government, and was appealing to the Indian community of South Africa when they were bidding farewell to their Agent-General, Syed Sir Raza Ali.

He paid a warm tribute to what Sir Raza had done to maintain good relations between Indians and Dutch and British in South Africa, and appealed to the Indian community to keep on with the good work.

### Strangers in a Strange Land

The Indians are very much in the position of the Uitlanders in the Transvaal when Paul Kruger was alive, and when their grievances impelled Cecil Rhodes to break with the Cape Dutch in a disastrous attempt to remedy them by force. Though a compact, industrious, and profitable community, they have no citizen rights. They are strangers in a strange land.

In consequence, the hotheads among them (as among the Uitlanders in the sorry past) are urging that the Indian should make common cause with the Bantu and other coloured races in South Africa in forcing the white man to recognise their rights. Thus would be built up a non-European front.

### A Threat to the Future

But Mr Hofmeyer, reading aright the lessons of the South African war, which caused a breach between Dutch and British, only closed after many years by the statesmanship of such men as Lord Milner, Louis Botha, and Jan Smuts, told his Indian hearers that such a movement could only lead to danger to themselves, and would be a threat to the future of a United South Africa. It would be made use of by nations who had only their own interests in view, and would see them served best by a South Africa divided against itself. The right course was to build up a basis of common interest between Indians and Europeans.

With that counsel, Sir Raza Ali, as spokesman for his fellow Indians, agreed. He had always advised them to stand on their own legs and trust to the justice and fairness of the British Commonwealth of Nations. But in his turn this Indian statesman had a warning to give. India is now on its way to become a full member of that Commonwealth. How will she view the exclusion from it of her Indian subjects domiciled in a fellow Dominion?

### The Parting of the Ways?

It may be that both India and South Africa stand here at the parting of the ways. There are signs in India itself now that the Congressional Indians are realising, in consequence of what is now happening in China, that the British Commonwealth is, when all is said and done, their best friend.

It is now the turn of South Africa, which after long turmoil and stress has come to a similar conclusion, to drive the lesson home by concessions to the Indians who contribute to its prosperity. Jan Hofmeyer, who lived and learned in the heart of England how the British people, though often blundering, always make fair play their goal, may also teach his fellow South Africans the value of giving away something, if only the vote.

That would satisfy the Indian, cost the South African nothing, and put him in a better position to deal with other grievances as they come along.