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Film Has Up-To-Date Message

EVERY decade the motion picture makers of the world give the public a production which not only entertains and instructs, but leaves the threatre-goer enriched mentally and spiritually. Hollywood did it with "Gone With the Wind," Britain accomplished it with "Hamlet" and now Hollywood again, through the genius of Cecil B. DeMille, has given the world a deeply moving experience with his "The Ten Commandments." This film now showing in Prince Rupert, is more than a "spectacle" to awe the public, with its gigantic sets, its brilliant film wizardry and vast throngs that portray the despondent Hebrews under the cruel yoke of Egypt.

It gives every man, woman and child, who has any knowledge of the Holy Scriptures a keen insight into man's struggle for freedom from bondage, his fight against tyranny and the realization of the need for a strong, unfaltering faith in God.

The message that shines through the $13,500,000 epic is the same today as it was 3,000 years ago. Where in the days of Moses the Hebrew tribes sought to escape the slavery into which they had been born, so at this very hour hundreds of thousands today cry out for release from the bonds of totalitarianism.

As Mr. DeMille himself says, in presenting the work he had planned for 30 years, "friendship and freedom hold the key to the future of world affairs but they just don't happen.

"We all have to work at them."

Pharaoh Rameses II, as brilliantly performed by Yul Brynner could just as easily been Mussolini, Hitler or Stalin. His arrogance, utter disregard for human life, burning ambition to see his will done at any cost and against the advice of his counsellors, made him the personification of all dicattors.

At the same time, the dedicated Moses, presented in an inspired manner by Charlton Heston, in the face of tribulation and the doubting outbursts of his own people, represents every prophet up to the time of Christ who has contended that men are to be ruled by law and not by the whims of individuals. Men are free souls under God, Moses told the Hebrews, not the property of the state.

And yet how far have we progressed in the past 3,000 years. Who of us today would turn from our materialistic lives to follow one of God's phophets? Who would believe today, this week, if a man appeared among us, telling us, He was the Son of God. What impact would such a being have on the money-grabbing, too-busy, pleasure-loving world of today? The answer shames us, as it shamed Moses.

The Ten Commandments helps us renew our faith. It is a picture all should see with an open mind, forgetting the fact that it is a film produced by the movie capital which has often propogated worthless trash. Cecil B. DeMille, fulfilled a dream in producing this motion picture, he realized a goal which he hopes will help the world keep "The Ten Commandments" and thus bring a measure of peace and security to mankind. It has been arranged that Mr. DeMille's share of all the profits of the picture will go into a special trust fund for religious, charitable and educational purposes, and on his own insistence, he will have no voice in the money's disbursment.

For sheer beauty, painstaking authenticity, film genius and spiritual uplift, the film has seldom been equalled. It is a worthwhile experience that no one should deny themselves.

As I See It

by

Elmore Philpott

Notes on Great U.S.A.

JAMESTOWN, North Dakota—This eastbound trip across the western states has enabled me to unravel one mystery.

Do you want to know how come the Yull Breynner hair cut? Elementary my dear Watson. The price of mens' haircuts in Fargo, North Dakota is now $1.50. Hence the growing popularity of the do-it-yourself home clip.

First grade butter was selling for 57 cents a pound in supermarkets just east of Spokane as we came through. But prices of good meals in restaurants are just about the same on both sides of the border.

This is still the land of contradictions. A Sioux Indian froze to death the other night in the bitter snowstorm. With his nephew the unemployed man was riding a freight train to try to get to a job as a potato digger.

Yet a few hours later, I also see by a western U.S. newspaper that an 86-year old Pennsylvania landlord has just sold several good two storey brick houses for $10 apiece. The old gentleman explained to the astonished ex-tenants and new owners that the steady rents they had paid him all the years had actually already well paid for the homes.

IN CASE you haven't heard The Governor of North Dakota has appointed the week of October 6 to 12 as International Letter Writing Week.

The Governor's name is Honorable John E. Davis, and the state capital is Bismark.

It would be a nice neighborly thing if some Canadian readers dropped a line to Governor Davis to wish him well. It would be even a better idea if we all wrote letters to long neglected friends in foreign countries.

What a fine thing it would be if President Ike wrote a nice little friendly note to his old war time comrade, Marshall Zhukov; and better still, what a fine thing for the whole world it would be if Marshall Zhukov were to write back in the wartime vein—free from the accents of rattlesnake venom which have characterized the years of cold war.

STOPPING for a mid-morn drink at a wayside coffee stand we got into conversation with two middle aged women who ran the wee place.

They were just about 100 miles from the Canadian border, and spoke hopefully and wistfully about getting there sometime for a look-see at our country.

Yes, siree, this great and rich land is the home of titanic contradictions.

There is in fact more liberty of economic action than there is on any other similar expanse of this whole earth. But what have the Americans done with all that liberty?

They have standardized themselves as no other people have ever done anywhere on earth. For instance, you can go into almost any town in the whole good old U.S.A. You can walk into any coffee shop and 99 times out of 100 it will be identical with every other coffee shop you will find anywhere in the vast country.

They will be serving exactly the same foods, on counters that have identical equipment. The same juke box will be playing the same songs.

I HAVE my own private and pet theory about one of the basic causes of the unresolved race war that still goes on in this great republic. In the former slave-owning states the colored Americans considerably outnumber the so-called whites. The latter know very well, down in their heart of hearts, that they are fighting a losing battle against school integration today, and complete assimilation tomorrow.

But complete assimilation conflicts head-on with what we might call the great American dream. For the secret ideal of the American majority is not a land of mixed blood but one where the elementary qualification was summed up in the old phrase "free, white and twenty-one".

The one tenth of the American people whose ancestors came from Africa are the greatest obstacle to that standardization which seems to be the main, if unconscious, goal of this mighty republic.

Gin, Scotch Prices To Drop By 10 Cents

VICTORIA (CP)—Prices of one brand each of imported gin and scotch will drop 10 cents a bottle and prices of 26 varieties of Canadian and imported wines will increase on a new B.C. liquor board list effective Oct. 1.

Wine increases range from five to 90 cents a bottle. Two types of imported English ales and stouts will go up 2 cents a dozen bottles.

Price rises are due to "increased costs to the board," said board chairman Donald McGugan. The Scotch and gin reductions are due to absorbtion of a portion of freight costs by the distilleries.

Unsigned Letters Not Published

If the person writing to Letter Box who signed themselves "Ex-Broadway Gang City Resident" will write to the editor identifying the contents of his or her letter and signing their proper name and address, their letter will be published. The Daily News does not print letters which do not include bona fide signature and address, although a nom de plume may be used if the writer desires. Letters over signatures are given preference.

RESTRICT PEDDLING

SARNIA, Ont. (CP) — Council of the Sarnia Indian Reserve has started enforcing a ruling that pedlars trying to sell goods on the reserve must have written permission from officials before starting house-to-house calls. Offenders may be fined $10 or be given a seven-day jail sentence — or both.

COSTLY SPICE

Saffron is the most expensive of modern food spices, about $58 a pound, wholesale.

"I SLEPT LIKE A LOG" — A log boom-man enjoys his cigar while demonstrating the new safety suit designed for the loggers who work on log ponds, cat-footing from log to log with their pike poles. The specially designed rain jackets and pants, with removable individual air tubes held in by zippers, are being used by boom and boat men of the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company of Everett, Wash. If they should slip from the log ,they stay afloat, thanks to the safety suit. The rubber pants have two king-size air tubes that keep the legs on the surface. By the way, this fellow's cigar remained lighted throughout the damp demonstration.

IMPROVEMENTS BEING STUDIED

Black Opposes Transfer Of More Charges to B.C.

NELSON (CP)—Municipal Affairs Minister Wesley Black told the Union of B.C. Municipalities he opposes the view that more and more municipal charges should be transferred to the province.

"Provincial revenues while very large are still not beyond our requirements," he said.

Mr. Black said the government is not prepared to assume the charges paid by municipalities toward the operation of hospitals.

Education costs are being studied to see whether the present plan, implemented in 1955 can be improved, he said.

The convention is expected to debate a resolution criticizing the education aid formula as outmoded and one which places a heavier burden annually on taxpayers.

"Let us not forget that it is the taxpayers who ultimately pay the price, whether the tax is levied by the municipality or the provincial government," the minister said.

"While it is not the government's intention that any tax should be raised to unreasonable levels, the municipalities should not try to shirk their responsibilities in this joint effort."

On other subjects, Mr. Black said:

The new Municipal Act: corrections and changes will be made as experience shows they are needed.

But there is not much in the act's content about which there is any serious difference of opinion.

Municipal aid: the government is prepared to support at the forthcoming federal-provincial conference the UBCM contention that the Federal-Municipal Improvement Assistance Act should be reactivated. This would revive the fund from which municipalities could borrow at low interest.

Proposals to set up a water commission: the suggestion has merit, but, as the water situation is not critical, the matter should be studied further.

Welfare costs: "I am in favor of equalizing costs of welfare services on a per capita basis, similar to the system used in health services, in which the municipalities and the province share the costs."

Mr. Black said it is hoped municipalities will soon be able to put all their bylaws on microfilm for easy reference.

He said the government will provide the service if cities and districts want it.

29,000 GM Employees Laid Off

DETROIT (AP) — General Motors' list of employees laid off because of strikes grew today to about 29,000. A GM spokesman said the latest layoffs were more than 9,000 at Flint, Mich. 6,100 at a Buick plant and 3,000 at a body plant.

UBCM DELEGATES REJECT MOVE FOR NATIONAL BUILDING CODE

NELSON (CP) — Delegates to the Union of B.C. Municipalities convention have rejected a move to raise a regional building code to the status of the National Building Code.

The UBCM turned down a Nanaimo resolution which would have made the uniform building code of the Pacific Coast Building Officials Conference equally authoritative.

Resolutions carried by the convention included:

From Prince George, asking the government to clarify the procedure to be taken in respect of arbitration of school estimates, if demanded by one party but not by the other.

From Prince Rupert, asking the government to include in the public school system the financing and administration costs of schools for retarded children.

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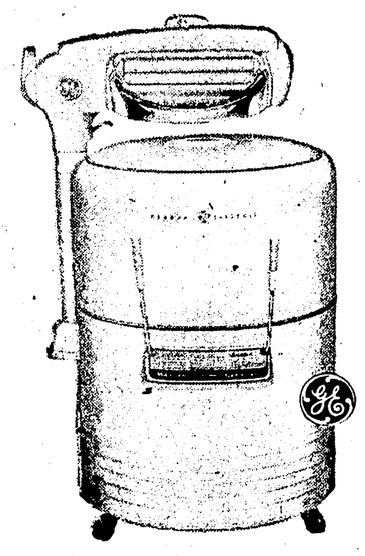

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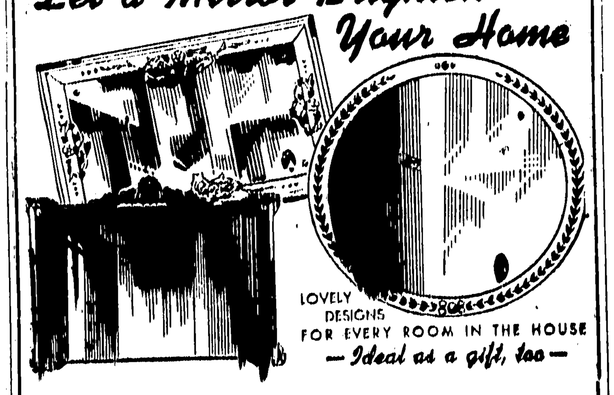

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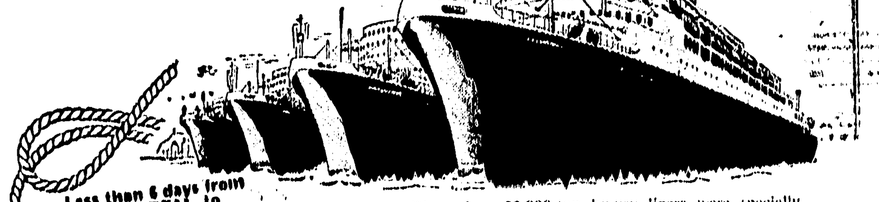

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