

The National Board of Censorship

of Motion Pictures

ESTABLISHED BY THE PEOPLE'S INSTITUTE

50 MADISON AVENUE

NEW YORK CITY, N. Y.

RECEIVED
OCT 25 1913
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Telephone, 8170 Madison Square

TO THE HONORABLE MAYOR OF
Portland, Oregon

Dear Sir:

As Mayor of your city, we wish to call your attention to the circulation of the motion picture entitled "Harry Thaw's Dash for Liberty", which has been produced by the Fair Feature Film Company, and was condemned in toto by the National Board. We are anxious that the circulation of this picture be brought to the attention of the proper authorities in every city where efforts are being made to keep objectionable films out of motion picture houses.

The Board considered this picture objectionable in its theme and in its details. It gives with considerable completeness the whole Harry Thaw story, beginning with the young girlhood of Evelyn Nesbit and continuing it through Harry's escape from Matteawan. The story of Evelyn Nesbit's downfall through her intimacy with Stanford White, called "Stanford Whiting" in the picture, and her association with Harry Thaw, is given in some detail. Certain scenes where Whiting pays money to Evelyn Nesbit's mother may be called immoral, especially the one where he gives the money to the mother, who thereupon leaves Evelyn lying on the bed in Whiting's room. The picture is even more objectionable than the newspaper accounts of the whole Thaw case, because it is more vivid. In the judgment of the National Board the picture must have a deteriorating effect on public morals.

In some cities the authorities have already notified the local motion picture theatres that the picture "Harry Thaw's Dash for Liberty" is prohibited by order of the Mayor, and we would be very glad to learn whether you have felt it advisable to take any action in the matter.

Very truly yours,

NATIONAL BOARD OF CENSORSHIP.

October 27, 1913.

Frederic C. Howe, Chairman,
General Committee, Nat'l Board of Censorship,
50 Madison Avenue, New York City.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of letter from the National Board of Censorship, without date, asking that the circulation of the film entitled "Harry Thaw's Dash for Liberty" be prohibited in this city, and am pleased to advise that I shall be glad to co-operate with you in this respect, and have given orders that this film shall not be shown in any theater in this city.

I should appreciate it if you would send this office a list of the objectionable films, as they are passed upon from time to time by your Board, as I wish to co-operate with you in every possible way.

Yours very truly,

C

MAYOR.



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General Secretary
Executive Secretary
Educational Secretary
Assistant Secretary

Telephone, 8170 Madison Square

November 3, 1913.

Mr. H. R. Albee, Mayor
Portland, Oregon

Dear Sir:

Mr. Howe has handed me your letter addressed to him with reference to a recent circular letter we issued concerning the film "Harry Thaw's Dash for Liberty." We have been supplying our lists to a group of individuals those names were furnished us by the Y. W. C. A. We do not know what authority they have to act on information contained in our bulletins and therefore would appreciate the opportunity of placing your name on our mailing list for this official information.

We would say that in several cities the mayor has instructed the police department to follow up pictures listed on our bulletins to see that the eliminations have been properly carried out and to prohibit the exhibition of such pictures as attempts may be made to circulate contrary to our rulings of the Board.

We would say that with the regular companies whose films we inspect we have agreements that their pictures which are passed by the Board shall be shipped to the exchanges and that where eliminations are requested they are made in the negative copy except where occasion requires immediate shipment in which case the exchanges, the renting agent for films, are instructed to make the cuts. As Portland is a distant city it frequently happens

Mr. H. R. Albee.....2

that the changes are not carried out in the Portland copy except as attended to by the exchange managers. This being so it would be a very great assistance if some arrangement could be made whereby the pictures listed on the bulletin passed subject to certain eliminations could be inspected the first day they are shown in the theatres to make sure that these cuts have been made or if not to order them made. We enclose herewith the bulletin for the week ending November first. May we ask you to advise if the above arrangement is possible?

Very truly yours,

THE NATIONAL BOARD OF CENSORSHIP,

Wm. G. Swire, Jr.

Ex. Secretary.

✓

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John Collier,
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Sonya Leven,
H. Crandall Mason,

Telephone, 8170 Madison Square

Nov. 24, 1913.

RECEIVED
H. H. ALBEE
NOV 29 1913
MAYOR

Mr. H. R. Albee
Mayor of Portland
Oregon

Dear Sir:

In response to your request, we would say that the National Board had not submitted to the Mayor of Cleveland Ohio a report on the conditions in Cleveland. Mr. Collier was a member of the Commission in New York City which submitted a report to the Mayor on conditions in New York. We send you this today under separate cover. The findings of this Commission was embodied in the Folks Ordinance, which was recently passed. We are sending also the "Suggestions for a Model Ordinance" which embodies the main points of the Folks Ordinance, together with other information which may be of interest to you.

We would suggest that you write to Mr. R. O. Bartholomew, Engineers Bldg., Cleveland Ohio, who prepared the report on conditions in Cleveland some time ago.

Very truly yours,

NATIONAL BOARD OF CENSORSHIP

W D McGuire Jr.

EX. SEC.

The National Board of Censorship

OF MOTION PICTURES

ESTABLISHED BY THE PEOPLE'S INSTITUTE

50 Madison Avenue

NEW YORK CITY, N. Y.

DEC 27 1918

Bulletin of the National Board of Censorship for week ending

As a courtesy to the manufacturers whose commercial interests might be jeopardized by advance information getting out previous to the date of release of their pictures, the information contained in this list is intended **solely** for the benefit of the organization's civic officials and correspondents of the board to whom it may be sent. It is not intended for the exhibitors, the general public, newspapers, etc., until at least after the date of release of any particular picture.

Criticism of specific pictures will be given the fullest attention if forwarded to the Secretary of the Board.

Dear Sir:

The five part motion picture called "The Inside of the White Slave Traffic" handled by the Moral Feature Film Company, may be offered for public exhibition in your city. We draw your attention to the following statement with reference to the picture:

The National Board of Censorship of Motion Pictures, after two reviews and a detailed discussion of the film, has ~~not~~ decided not to pass the picture, though certain changes and eliminations were made at the suggestion of the Board.

In condemning the picture, the Board realizes it was considering the presentation of the film before popular rather than before selected audiences. The Board felt that the picture was distinctly an illustration of the White Slave Traffic, thinly veiled as an attempt to educate the public.

The subject is not made unattractive, does not arouse repressive action, and tends to satisfy morbid curiosity. Instead of pointing a moral, it points to an easy method of obtaining money by both men and women. This film is an illustration rather than an education.

Under separate cover we are sending a recent report of the Board together with a pamphlet setting forth its standards. The Board issues a weekly bulletin free of charge covering its action on over 95% of all motion pictures produced or imported. The pamphlets we are sending describe fully the procedure of the National Board, its personnel, which is a guarantee of its disinterested character, and other information.

The weekly bulletin is issued to Mayors, License Bureaus, or any civic department interested in motion picture regulation.

If you desire the bulletin service (now supplied to over 150 different cities) kindly advise us if you wish any department of your city placed on our mailing list for regular service.

Very truly yours,

NATIONAL BOARD OF CENSORSHIP

W. D. McGuire Jr.

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MOTION PICTURE PATENTS COMPANY

The Wedding Barge (2 reels)	Cines
The Thunderbolt (2 reels)	"
A Son of the Sea (2 reels)	"
Auto Vs. Aeroplane (3 reels)	Eclipse
The Vanishing Cracksmen	Edison
The Gunmaker of Moscow (2 reels)	"
Wanted - a Burglar	"
The South African Whaling Industry	"
The Price of Human Lives	"
Sydney and Its Harbor	Melies
The Coward	Pathe
At Cross Purposes (3 reels)	Cines
End of the Circle (2 reels)	Essanay
Good for the Gout	Kalem
Looking for a Fortune	"
The Plot of India's Hillmen (2 reels)	"
An Indian Maid's Strategy	"
In Peril of His Life	"
The Good Old Summer Time	"
England's King at Liverpool and other Events	"
A Disastrous Bet	Lubin
Love and Trouble	"
Melita's Sacrifice	"
A Husband's Awakening	"
The Mirror of Death	"
Her Father	"
The Hazard of Youth	"
An Interrupted Courtship	"
Slipping Fingers	Selig
Views Along the Rhine	"
A School-Marm's Shooting Match	"
Hope	"
From Out the Diary	Essanay
The Conversion of Mr. Anti	Selig
The Probationer	"
A Game of Cards	Vitagraph
The Coliseum	"
A Pair of Prodigals	"
Ghosts	"
Big Bob Waits	"
The Sale of a Heart	"
A Lesson in Jealousy	"
The House of Discord (2 reels)	Biograph
The Schmanbulists	"
A Circumstantial Hero	"
The Blue and the Gray	"
All for Science	"
Mr. Bink's Vacation	"
How the Day Was Saved	"
The Boomerang	Essanay
Droncho Billy's First Arrest	"
God-Ap Napoleon	"
Life's Weaving	"

The manufacturer has agreed to make the following ~~change~~ addition in the film entitled "The Second Generation" Pathe formerly "For the Sake of His Son":

Add a scene to show the repentance of the scrape-grace son and his request for an opportunity to make good.

The manufacturer has agreed to make the following elimination in the film entitled "The Whimsical Threads of Destiny" Vitagraph: Elimination in the second reel of this picture of the sub-title reading "The Effect of the Drugged Medicine."

The manufacturer has agreed to make the following elimination in the film entitled "The Couple Next Door" Pathe: Eliminate from the last scene of the picture the part showing one husband asking the other when the new baby is expected and the questioning of the wife as to this and the later holding up of five fingers to indicate that it will be five months before the baby arrives.

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OTHER INDEPENDENT COMPANIES

Calamity Ann's Dream	American
A Modern Steel Plant	"
The Tale of the Ticker	"
The Trail of the Lost Lord (2 reels)	"
His Knobs the Plumber	Appollo
The War Correspondent	Broncho
The Curse (2 reels)	Domino
The Maelstrom	Kay Bee
Cohen Saves the Flag	Keystone
Wine	"
Zuzu, the Band Leader (2 reels)	"
Father and the Flies	Komic
A New Curate	"
The Bravest Man	Majestic
Levinsky's Holiday	"
Algy's Awful Auto	Princess
The Dress of Loleta	Reliance
A Lure Cure	"
Two Men and a Mule (series 3)	"
Campaign Manageress	Ethanouser
Little Brother	"
The Heart of a Doll	Gaumont
Leonce and the Milkmaid	"
Mary Saves the Sculptor	"
The Little Peacemaker	"
Oscar Finances a Theatre	"
A Dilemma	Great Northern
Tom, the Hero	" "
Ish Ga Bibble	Solar
The Wonderful Hudson	"

The manufacturer has agreed to make the following eliminations in the film entitled

Our Children

Keystone

1. The first follows the sub-title "Billy Confides His Troubles."
2. The second part follows the sub-title, "Billy Gets Excited and Loses Control." There are several places where he is running around with his rompers wet. The particular one we object to is where he comes down in close view of the mirror and stands there and then turns his back to the mirror. These two sub-titles also should be changed as they can refer to but one thing.

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NEW YORK CITY, N. Y.

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As a courtesy to the manufacturers whose commercial interests might be jeopardized by advance information getting out previous to the date of release of their pictures, the information contained in this list is intended **solely** for the benefit of the organization's civic officials and correspondents of the Board to whom it may be sent. It is not intended for the exhibitors, the general public, newspapers, etc., until at least after the date of release of any particular picture.

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UNIVERSAL FILM MFG. COMPANY

Baldy Belmont Lands a Society W/ Job	Crystal
Hubby's New Coat	"
The Soubrette	"
The Bond That Binds	Frontier
Sam Slamen Slammed	I.M.P.
Locked Out at Twelve	Nestor
A Hopi Legend	Victor
The White Squaw	Bison
The Bride of Mystery	"
Caught at His Own Game	Frontier
Jimmy's Deception	Powers
Vengeance is Mine"	"
His Faithful Servant	Rex
A Wife's Secret	"
James Lee's Wife	"
The Dead Line	Universal
Animated Weekly #86	"
Where the Hop Vine Twines	"
His Wife's Child	"

The manufacturer has agreed to make the following eliminations in the film entitled

The Soubrette Crystal
Elimination of the subtitle reading "Pearl Wants a Cigarette" and the scene following showing the husband and Pearl smoking and drinking together.

CORRECTIONS:

"A TALE OF THE WEST" NESTOR listed on last week's bulletin as "passed" should have been listed as subject to the following changes:

Eliminate the actual shooting in the scene in the saloon, cut to be made from the point where the struggle commences, for the balance of this little scene. There is a cut-in scene later showing the man lying over the table which indicates what has occurred without showing the shot fired, as at present arranged.

"THE END OF THE ROAD" VICTOR should have been listed as follows: Eliminate the actual shooting in the scene where the convict, the father of the girl, is shot by the prison guards.

"LOVE AND POLITICS" VICTOR was passed without change but

"LEVI AND MCCURTIS RUNNING FOR OFFICE" was passed subject to the changes listed for "LOVE AND POLITICS" as follows: .

Just before the scene where the men appear entertaining themselves with wine, appears the subtitle "The Balm of Forgetfulness." We will ask you to change this subtitle to some other wording, which would not give rise to criticism by those opposed to liquor.

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OF MOTION PICTURES

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50 Madison Avenue

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FEATURE FILM BULLETIN

The Doom of the Ocean (3 reels)

Eclectic

The Girl from Abroad or "The Great Underwood Underworld" (4 reels)

Film Releases of America

Rogues of Paris (4 reels)

Blache Feature Columbus

The Girl on the Sunny South (4 reels)

The Waters of Death or "The Spy's Daughter" (3 reels)

Peerless

The Hungry Sparrows (3 reels)

Ideal (Belair)

The Kissing Cup (3 reels)

Hepworth (Viviphone)

The Rose of Surrey (3 reels)

Turner

The film

In the Folds of the Adventuress"

Savoria (Warner

was passed subject to the following eliminations:

1. In the first part of the second reel of the picture the elimination of the scene showing the adventuress with the count smoking opium. The scene should open with the Count stretched out on the divan asleep, a sub-title being inserted to account for this opening scene such as "The Adventuress seizes Her Opportunity."
2. At the end of this second reel we will ask you to eliminate one or two feet of film where the adventuress is shown with the bottle of dope.
3. In the third reel all of the checking of the woman should be eliminated which follows immediately after the pistol scene.

The Film

In the Shadow of Nazareth

Warner

was passed subject to the following eliminations:

1. In the first reel of the picture cut the two places in the picture where the actual stabbing is shown. It is simply the knife thrusts we refer to.
2. In the third reel of the picture are two scenes showing Judas hanging to a tree. The first one of these should be eliminated and a subtitle inserted "Horror-stricken He Tells of Finding the Body of Judas."

The film

Carouse, the Ghoul (5 reels)

Union

was passed subject to the changing of the sub-title in the second reel of the picture which reads "I Will Know Who Poisoned My Poor Mother and Took Her Pearls" to read something like this - "I Will Know Who Caused My Mother's Death and Stole Her Pearls."

The picture

TRAFFIC IN SOULS (7 reels)

Universal

was passed subject to the following changes:

1. Reduce the parlor scenes in the disorderly house to one scene and make that a flash.
2. Eliminate the idea that Mr. Trubus is a reformer or philanthropist. This involves several sub-titles.
3. Change the sub-title which makes the Travelers' Vigilance Society responsible for the statement that 50,000 girls are lost each year. The idea is not to change the number of girls lost, but simply to relieve the Travelers' Vigilance Society of the responsibility for the statement.
4. Eliminate the idea that the meeting of reformers in Mr. Trubus' office is that of the Purity League.
5. Eliminate the final sub-title which reads, "Will Some be First One After You."

The following pictures advertised in the trade journals as being circulated as States Rights pictures have not been submitted to the National Board of Censorship. They are therefore drawn to the attention of our correspondents:

The Secret of the Mine

Vernon Film Co.

The Shame of the Empire State

Ruby Feature Co.

Gorki, the Demon Detective in the Great

Bank Robbery (3 reels)

Trans-Oceanic Films

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NOV 1 1913

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FEATURE FILM BULLETIN CONTINUED

The Escape from Broadmoor (3 reels)	Trans-Oceanic Films
Henry Spencer's Confession in the Rezroot Case	Fred Linick & Chilo
The Great Fire of Paris (3 reels)	Feature Photoplay Co.
Justice or Love ? (3 reels)	" "
Paul Rainey's African Hunt	Jungle Film Co.
Caprice	Famous Players
Germinal	Emile Zola
What Eight Million Women Want	Unique Film Co.
Lotus Dancer (4 reels)	True Feature
Fatal Reckoning (2 reels)	Annex Film Co.

The above note does not necessarily indicate that these pictures contain objectionable features. The National Board wishes, however, to inform their correspondents relative to the existence of these pictures and to the fact that the Board does not assume any responsibility regarding them unless they should be noted on future feature film bulletins of the National Board in case they should be voluntarily submitted by the manufacturers under agreement to eliminate any parts that the Board might object to.

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SPECIAL BULLETIN

The National Board of Censorship of Motion Pictures on October 27th reviewed the film, "Traffic in Souls," Universal Special Release, and passed it with five minor alterations. This film deals in a more deliberate and extensive way than any previous film with the so-called white slave traffic. The Board felt that a precedent would be created by any action taken on this film and invited representatives of a number of societies concerned with welfare work to attend the review and advise with the Board. The following societies, not members of the National Board of Censorship, were represented:

Union Theological Seminary
Camp Fire Girls
Committee of Fourteen for Suppression of
Raines Law Hotels
City Vigilance Committee
Sanitary & Moral Prophylaxis Society
Greenwich House
Traveler's Aid Society
Divic Theatre Movement
District Attorney's Office

After two reviews of the film and lengthy discussion, the Board decided that this subject and this method of treatment were legitimate in motion pictures; that the film in question did not contain obscene, suggestive, or demoralizing elements; and that while it was not perfect as an educational project, it was on the whole calculated to do good. Such eliminations as were made were in the direction of taking away any elements of suggestiveness and also of reducing any exaggeration of statement made in the film. After discussion, participated in by the Board and its guests, the Board voted to pass the picture by a ballot which stood six for and two against.

While the Board of Censorship assumes full responsibility for its action with reference to the film, "Traffic in Souls," it does not assume responsibility for the poster advertising or the newspaper announcements or for the way in which the local exhibitors may exploit the film. These features of the motion picture problem are as yet beyond the control of the National Board.