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7.14.21.28.

AMUSEMENTS.

THE TIVOLI.

Heading the vaudeville bill at the Tivoli this week are the Three Australian Boys, who are described on the programme as Ambassadors of Modern Melody. They are extraordinarily successful ambassadors and the audience quite forgot the heat through their interest in, and the enjoyment of the music which is supplied with much talent. Apart from their singing, they are clever instrumentalists, especially the pianist, who has something more than ability.

Mason and Boyle are two clever dancers new to Cape Town. They gave an interesting and original performance that ensured their popular reception; although their personalities would carry off a performance half as good.

On their return visit to Cape Town are the Four Bennos, who are undoubtedly as successful in their second appearance as they were in their first. The film "Vamping Venus" was rather disappointing towards the end, for the opening of the picture leads one to expect too much. It is, however, a clever burlesque upon Helen of Troy.

THE ALHAMBRA.

A "talkie" of real merit, though not altogether an "all-talkie" talkie, "Blackmail" presents a drama full of tense situations. Murder, a pretty girl, an artist, a detective lover, and a degenerate public school boy turned blackmailer, combine to give some genuine thrills.

The production would be equally good as a silent film, and that is saying a lot in these days of half-baked movies, ignominiously attached to inane "talkies."

Donald Calthorpe takes the part of the blackmailer with distinction and succeeds in presenting a most interesting character study. Anna Ondra ranges through the gamut of emotions to those who murder in haste and repent at leisure. Cyril Richards is a very charming and gay young artist, while John Longden puts sufficient complexity into his acting to turn the picture into a problem play.

THE ROYAL.

A picture of interest to the Jewish community will be screened at the Royal on Monday. This is "Surrender!" adapted from Alexander Brody's famous stage play "Lea Lyon," and deals with the horrors to which the Jews were subjected in Galicia during the early days of the Great War, and the sacrifice of the beautiful daughter of the Rabbi to save her people from destruction. It is a very remarkable film and we advise all our co-religionists to see it.

THE GRAND.

Refreshing comedy drama is "His Private Life," starring Adolphe Menjou in his latest production which opens at the Grand on Monday night. It is refreshing comedy drama in the sense that Menjou gives his admirable characterization of a swank sophisticated Parisian boulevardier, the type of character that has delighted admirers of Menjou. In a story originally written for him, he rises to the occasion the story demands in an exceptionally fine manner. His wife, Kathryn

Carver, who has the femine role, proves an artist to his equal. The picture will be pleasing to all who see it. On Thursday, Jacquelin Logan will be seen in "The Leopard Lady," a thrilling drama dealing with continental circus life. Some wonderful thrilling scenes are seen in this film.

THE ASTORIA.

Mr. Ziegfeld has been in the habit for some time now of staging every year in New York a kind of musical comedy. The Ziegfeld Follies, which owed its world wide attraction not so much to its music or its comedy as to the beauty and perfection of its chorus and the splendour of its setting. Hence it is not surprising that "Rio Rita" with Mr. Ziegfeld's co-operation should have, as the best produced and most attractive parts, those scenes which are chiefly devoted to extravaganza—namely, the solo dancing, the chorus work and the gorgeous stage effects. True, there is a plot, and an exciting one at that, with good acting on the part of the principals, but this is not so easy to follow owing to lack of clearness in the speaking parts. One particularly felt this shortcoming in the humorous scenes, where one strained after and often missed a good deal of fun. Nevertheless the drunk scene with its explosives and inflammable liquor was a joy not to be missed. The singing was well above standard and the exquisite colour effects in the barge scenes were unusually attractive. Apparently there was no lack of imagination and no lack of money in making this scene as gorgeous as possible. This is not to say that the other scenes were unsatisfactory. They were anything but that. The action takes place along the Rio Grande between Texas and Mexico, and this has given the producer a good opportunity of incorporating into his play a good deal of Spanish colour in a romantic setting.

The management wish to draw the attention of the public to the fact that owing to the tremendous length of this film the second session will not start until 9.15 p.m. and patrons are requested to take up their seats as soon as possible with the least inconvenience to other patrons.

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