

China, the affairs of the country have claimed his interest as a social and political student, and for this reason his active interest in the country will not cease with his retirement. We believe it is his intention, upon settling down with his family at home, to do such work as may be possible in stimulating interest in Chinese affairs.

From the American point of view, the country is daily becoming of greater importance, and while in all the more important matters, the States are well served with information, Colonel Noyes thinks that an effort might well be made to arouse the interest of his country in the more intimate details of Chinese national life. The idea is very commendable as being an excellent way of putting experience of the country to practical use, and the many friends of Colonel Noyes will wish him all success in the undertaking.

### QUAINT HAPPENINGS IN FILM CIRCLES

#### Important Dispute over Cinema Production Rights in China: Pathe and Olympic

Is it legal for an exhibitor of films in Shanghai to show a picture, the Chinese rights for which are already in the hands of another local firm of distributors?

This question was raised in movie circles last July when the Ramos Amusements, Ltd., the proprietors of the Olympic and Victoria Theatres, achieved a record in movie presentation in the Far East by showing, it is thought, only about a week after its release in London, the "feature" picture of 1921—Charlie Chaplin's classic "The Kid."

Just before this First National picture was advertised for presentation at the Olympic Theatre, Pathé-Orient, the largest film distributors in China, had secured by cable the rights of the film-play for this part of the world. Pathé, a "North-China Daily News" representative learnt yesterday, have also been granted the sole rights of another equally famous Chaplin picture just shown, "The Idle Class."

Before their copy of the film arrived in Shanghai, however, the two reels of this superb comedy (the latest Chaplin picture is undoubtedly to be numbered among the greatest achievements of the silent stage) were being shown by the greatest achievements of the Olympic Theatre.

#### AHEAD OF LONDON EVEN.

The Ramos management are film distributors and they are apparently at liberty as was proved in the case of "The Kid's" arrival in China, to rent both productions to other picture palace proprietors in the country.

In connexion with "The Kid" it will be remembered that the following advertisement appeared in the local press on July 25 last:—

Notice is hereby given that the ex-

clusive exhibition rights for China of the Charlie Chaplin film called "The Kid" are the property of the First National Exhibitors' Circuit, and that these rights have not been sold or leased to any person or firm in China.

Proceedings will be taken against anybody exhibiting a fraudulent or stolen copy of this film in China.

It appears that the newest Chaplin picture, which this time is believed to have been seen in China actually before its appearance in London, was the sixth of the eight productions for which the First National have contracted with the famous comedian for huge sums. The American rights remain in the hands of the producers, but all foreign rights were sold to a distributor in New York, who in turn distributes to various countries.

It is one of the avowed aims of the huge cinematograph corporation who are the producers of these Chaplin comedies to protect the rights of the innumerable firms throughout the world to whom the picture is released. The First National were immediately notified of the remarkably early showing of "The Kid" in the East, and it is expected that by yesterday they also learnt of the arrival here of "The Idle Class."

The former picture after its exhibition at the foreign cinemas, was advertised for presentation at the New World, to whom it was thought to be leased from the then holders of the film. The legal representatives of the copyright holders promptly brought an action before and were successful in securing from the Mixed Court Bench an injunction restraining the further showing of the picture.

#### PROCEEDINGS CONTEMPLATED.

On the question of seeking redress from the actual importers of both "The Kid" and "The Idle Class," no statement could be obtained from the lawyers concerned. It is learned, however, that the lawyer looking after the interests of the First National Corporation held a conference with the present exhibitors in China, who are registered in the Spanish Consulate, in accordance with Spanish legal procedure when an action is contemplated. What the outcome

of this *pourparler* has been or is likely to be cannot be ascertained.

There has, however, been one important development. A movement is on foot to form an Association of moving picture theatre owners and distributors in China for the safeguarding of their mutual interests. The aims of the association will be, in the absence of copyright laws in China, to prevent any one in the trade from obtaining a picture at a nominal cost which has already been released to another firm, and thereby making unfair profits. It is understood that the proprietors of several houses both in Shanghai and up-country have intimated their willingness to join this organization.

### A RECORD OF EXCHANGE.

A Complete Record of Bar Silver and Exchange Quotations for the last 28 years.

"This little book will be found very useful by merchants and by everyone interested in the trade of China, and particularly by bankers, who will find information here at a glance, etc."—From Preface by Mr. A. G. Stephen.

86 pages. Mex. \$2.00

North-China Daily News Office

## Himrod's

**ASTHMA CURE**

**GIVES INSTANT RELIEF**

Over 40 years ago the Late Lord Beaconsfield testified to the benefits he received from Himrod's Asthma Cure, and every post brings similar letters to-day.

FAMED FOR 50 YEARS  
Sold in tins by all Chemists and Stores throughout the country  
**BEWARE OF IMITATIONS**

### NOTICE

#### DESLER PURCHASING AGENCY

WHITEAWAY-LIDLAW BUILDING  
SHANGHAI

PURCHASING AGENTS

for

*Peking Union Medical College-Rockefeller Foundation*

We beg to announce the establishment of the above Office and to offer our services to the Outport residents and the public generally on a moderate commission basis.

Competitive prices secured on merchandise of every description and dealers discounts allowed in full.

**CORRESPONDENCE INVITED.**

Telegrams:  
**DESLER, SHANGHAI**

Codes:  
**BENTLEYS & WESTERN UNION.**