

# Previews and Reviews

By Rex Day

## BEACHCOMBER

There is an interesting event happening in England at the present time. Together with Eric Pommer, the difference lies in the fact that the former producer for the once potent German UFA films, Charles Laughton, has organized Mayflower Pictures Corp to produce his own movies. The "Beachcomber" is his initial film. It was released in the United States by Paramount after a successful run in England.

The "Beachcomber" is a tale of a south sea island reprobate and a sexually-repressed missionary. The picture presents a struggle between the two and the tone is toward the gay side. This is the same plot, if you will recall, as the picture "Rain" had.

The role of Ginger Ted in the "Beachcomber" gives Laughton a chance to use to a full measure the curious mixture of intensity, expansiveness and brute strength that has made him the greatest character actor of his time.

To all those who are fortunate enough to see this picture, the same thought that struck you at the end of "Mutiny on the Bounty" will return. The fact that this is real honest to goodness acting, which is seldom seen on the screen anymore. The scenes are laid in the South of France along the coast and for the finishing touches the cast returned to England to the Elstree studio—the oldest in England.

His wife is with him in this picture, and some of you will remember her as his wife in "Henry VIII". She is a very good actress and deserves at-

tention. Her role is that of the missionary, whose only thought is to banish Ginger Ted from the island because of his immoral influence. After one of his many escapades Laughton is hailed into the court of the Dutch controleur, who in reality is fond of the drifter. After an exciting trial Ginger Ted is sentenced to three months hard labor. His sentence is then remitted by the controleur to three months exile on a neighboring isle. This situation turns into a haven for Ginger Ted and he makes the most of it. Swimming all day in the warm water with the native girls and carousing all night. Determined to put him on the right track, the missionary takes him as her prime ward, much to Ginger Ted's disgust.

To end the picture the missionary and Ginger Ted marry and return to England.

## REVIEW

### ANGELS WITH DIRTY FACES

Despite the fact that there have been numerous protests to the stories given to the "Dead End" kids another even greater picture comes to the screen with their names included in the cast, "Angels with Dirty Faces". After seeing this picture, there is no doubt in our minds that the boys are good and should be acclaimed so. They completely steal the show from the two more famous actors, James Cagney and Pat O'Brien. Ann Sheridan does her part of looking pretty which is about all she had to do. The picture had no room for a woman and it was shown.

Getting to the more fundamental parts of the picture, the acting, casting and what not, there is room for much praise. The acting of all included is far better than ordinary, due mostly to the directing of the picture. There was not a detail missed. The gun fight between the police and James Cagney has overshadowed all other such sequences and it will be quite a while before another one will take its place. The electric chair scene, although the Will Hays office censors all death scenes, was so vividly portrayed that your imagination is not taxed in the least to get the drift. As for the cast, it seems that much time was taken to get the cast and this shows the effect of having an array of talent in one picture. Who else could have played the part of James Cagney, Pat O'Brien or Humphrey Bogart?

Changing now back to the sequences of the picture. You will remember the scene where the two boys are trying to escape the yard police after breaking into the boy car. It was during the filming of this scene that an accident almost happened. When the boy playing the part of Pat O'Brien stumbled and fell across the tracks, the engineer of the oncoming train thought the figure a dummy and was not aware that he was about to run over the boy. This situation leads us back to the actual scene. The look of horror on the faces of both boys was due to the narrow escape they were having; it was a realistic horror seldom filmed because there is seldom that kind of danger involved.

As a whole the picture was swell and here's to many more with the "Dead End" kinds featured in the cast.

THE BATTALION