



**CHIEF THUNDERCLOUD**  
The genuine article

while President Grant was doing his best to push the frontier west.

Ralph Morgan climbs out of the clouds of the Wizard of Oz's castle to become a block-of-granite general, sent out to dispose of Geronimo. However, Chief Thundercloud, perfectly cast in this picturesque part, is a block-of-granite Indian, and, what's more, has the assistance of a traitor in the ranks, Gene Lockhart, who plays the part of a white man betraying his comrades for the sake of the gold the Indians can capture for him.

Ellen Drew, Marjorie Gateson, and Kitty Kelly wear the skirts in the picture and, although they do not behave quite so hysterically as Miss Colbert had to behave along the Mohawk, they are little more than wearers of skirts, except that their presence at the frontier brings all the trouble to a head.

Oh yes, in addition, Bill Henry, just out of West Point, has his spit and polish rubbed the wrong way by the General, stern father, who places discipline before parental privileges. This also causes trouble.

When it does come to a head—and all this time the film is becoming more and more interesting—it comes with a whoop and a lot of bangs. Those weaker members of the audience who are not in tears of sadness and gladness towards the end will be standing on their seats and shouting for the heads of the horrible Indians.

A hearty film, this, and nothing more to be said except that Andy Devine, so often playing Sancho to Richard Arlen's Don, is this time in his element, and appears, as he does occasionally, just right in the right place. Preston Foster is also well placed as an officer who keeps a friendly eye on the General's son.

## MY SON, MY SON!

(United Artists)

This film strives so hard to be Important and Artistic (in capital letters) that it is almost certain to convince a lot of people that it is just that. It seems a pity to try to disillusion them; and, indeed, those who are prepared to accept the unusual gullibility and near-mushiness of Brian Aherne's character of a fond father, and the concentrated and scarcely credible evil of Louis Hayward as his wayward son, will probably feel that they are getting pretty good value

for their money. They certainly get a competent cast and some expensive sets. However, without wishing to appear too erudite, we would like to point out to Mr. Howard Spring, from whose novel, "O, Absalom," the picture is taken, that his plot has white whiskers and long underwear. Those who have heard of Hippolytus, Theseus, and Phedra, will find that this is a modern rewrite of an old situation. So are most other films, but "My Son, My Son!" doesn't get away with it as well as many. It's all a trifle too portentous and resolutely earnest.

It is the story of jealousy between the father and son over the father's second and very lovely flame (Madeleine Carroll). That, actually, is not all—for there are quite a lot of good things as well as bad sandwiched into the show—but it is, of the many climaxes, the most forceful. Father, having had a hard trek along life's thorny ways, decides that his son shall know no inhibitions or difficulties. So sonnyboy romps along the highway of gilded youth, progressing with joie de vivre through successive stages of decadence as schoolboy cheat and liar, adolescent gambler and rip, and lusty, predatory male. Dear old Dad (not so old, really) is benevolently

## Hollywood Loses Its Hair

*Production of nine "costume" pictures in Hollywood has been held up. Reason? For "costume" pictures, Hollywood must have plenty of false hair for wigs, beards and other hirsute adornments. This hair comes mainly from south-eastern Europe, but now mobilisation and threat of war in the Balkans has dried up the supply at its roots.*

blind to his offspring's manifest failings until sonnyboy so far forgets himself as to try to seduce his future step-mother. Foiled in this, he does a proper going-to-the-dogs act which entails the seduction of his childhood chum, now a successful actress.

In the book, the author had the grace to make sonnyboy hang himself. This, obviously, was rather too summary treatment for a Hollywood character; but Hollywood just as obviously couldn't allow sonnyboy to live on with his sins unexpiated; so he is packed off to the first Great War, where he blasts hell out of the Germans and thereby gains himself a post-humous V.C. Dad, injured in spirit but with his paternal faith thus triumphantly vindicated, does an Ella Wheeler Wilcox act with Madeleine Carroll in the light of the sunset, which emotion-charged scene fades, in the natural order of things, into those two memorable and wholly delightful words,

THE END.

## GRANDPA GOES TO TOWN

(Republic)

Theme: Grandpa (Harry Davenport) and the Family (The Higgenses) take over a pub in a "ghost" town and make custom for themselves by starting a fake gold rush.

They say gold is where you find it, but it's hard to in this show,



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