

British Films

Australia Is Finding Her Place In The Sun

Several Fine Talkies Turned Out: Beaumont Smith's "Splendid Fellows" a Good Show

It speaks volumes for the faith and enterprise of Australia that it has so successfully embarked on the production of talking pictures—the only British possession to do so. One or two silent films were made in New South Wales some years ago, but it was not until the coming of the talkies that Australia got really into her stride. In the past two years there have been some good Australian films shown in New Zealand, and one or two of them come near near breaking the records of the big American productions.

SINCE the success of such films as "On Our Selection" and "The Squatter's Daughter" the Commonwealth's producers have been embarking on more elaborate productions, the latest to reach the Dominion being "Splendid Fellows," directed by Beaumont Smith and starring Eric Colman, brother of the famous Ronald. "Splendid

and have done so from time immemorial. To the man of this kind the world owes much, and although he has many different titles they all mean the same. The American's call him a "real guy," the English a "topping chap," and the Australians a "bonzer bloke." But Mr. Beaumont Smith, not satisfied with any of these, incorporates the idea of them all in the title of "Splendid Fellows."

For the characters of this stirring romance of youth, courage and adventure are one and all "Splendid Fellows" fighting humanity's cause with honour and self-sacrifice, seeking neither reward nor applause. Surely no happier nor pleasanter study of human nature has ever been presented on the screen. Courageous men and true speeding their way conquering time and space on the wings of man's ingeniousness to win the coveted prize for the greatest test of skill and endurance in the history of the human race—the world-famous Centenary Air Race. One prominent member of the motion picture industry of Australia enthusiastically exclaimed after viewing the picture recently: "A splendid picture with a cast of splendid fellows." And he was right.

Eric Colman, Frank Leighton, Leo Franklyn, Isabelle Mahon and Frank Bradley are in the cast—all brilliant exponents of the histrionic art, and all splendid fellows.

For the producer, Mr. Beaumont Smith, "Splendid Fellows" marks the crowning achievement of a brilliant career of showmanship, and the whole of Australia and New Zealand are loud in their congratulatory praises for a "great picture."

This new talkie serves to introduce a new star—Isabelle Mahon. Although



STAR AT 18.—This is dainty Isabelle Mahon, who is starred in the Australian production "Splendid Fellows," which is being greeted by critics as the finest film yet made by Australia.

"Splendid Fellows" opened to packed houses at the Regent Theatre, Wellington, at the week-end, and is due for release in other centres within the next month.

People are already asking: How came the title to this latest effort from the other side of the Tasman? If the reader will think for a moment he will realise that there are certain people who always command a great deal of attention throughout the entire world

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