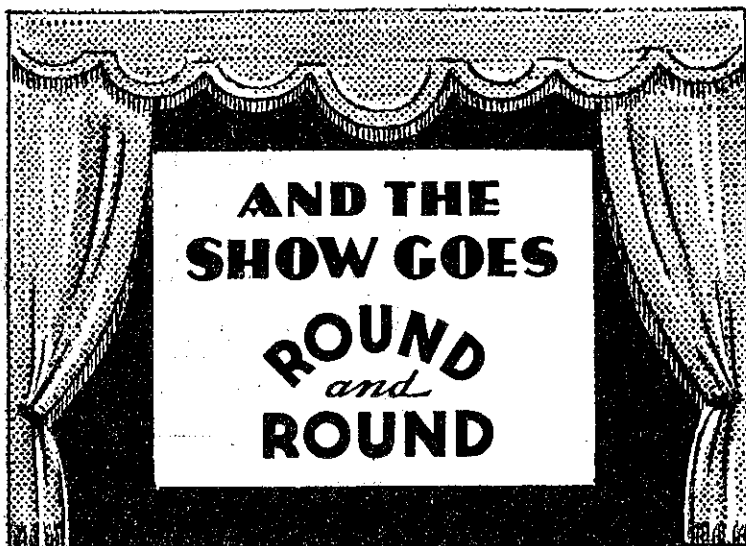


Too-Ardent Film Fans Sit On--

Cinema patrons arrive in the middle of the afternoon and stay six and seven hours.



An eighteen-year-old who makes a weekly attempt to get into the show for half-price.

IF you think that a shilling won't buy much nowadays, you don't know anything about cinema patrons. For exactly 12 pennies they buy a comfortable seat in a warm theatre—and, for anything up to seven hours, they sit and watch Bing Crosby's vocal organs, Joan Crawford's come-hither eyes and Popeye the Sailor wafted across the screen.

These too-ardent cinema patrons are the despair of the managers of continuous houses. They watch the show go round and round, keeping out patrons who may arrive later in the day.

"It's nothing for people to arrive at half-past three or four o'clock in the afternoon and stay until the theatre closes at half-past ten or so. We can't do anything about it—we can refuse admission to a patron, but we cannot eject him once he's inside, save for disorderly conduct. Once upon a time the slogan of the continuous houses used to be, 'Come when you like; go when you like.' Some of us now regret this generous offer," said the manager of one Wellington cinema.

A PALMERSTON NORTH theatre used to be besieged on Saturday mornings at 11 o'clock—the opening hour—by children who would stay the whole day, eating their lunch and tea in the theatre. "And the smell of hot pies and fish and chips that floated over the place was pretty ghastly," said the manager.

The programme at the average continuous house runs for three and a half to four hours—and even then there are people who pay up their shillings and complain because "there are only two big pictures on the programme."

man comes two or three times a week," said the ticket seller at a Manners Street (Wellington) theatre to the "Radio Record." "He says quite frankly that he comes in for a rest, and he can never remember if he's seen the programme before or not.

"I HAVEN'T seen a dear old soul of 80 for some weeks. Maybe she's ill—or even dead. We never find out what happens to our 'regulars' who disappear. She used to pay up her shilling and ask for a dress circle seat—and they're one-and-six. After a while we used to give her a circle seat for a bob, and she used to march up the stairs as proud as Punch. There's a lad of 18 who comes regularly every week—and he still passes up a sixpenny bit for a half-price ticket. It's funny, and yet rather tragic, for he crouches down at the box to make himself look the height of a 12-year-old.

"Three old ladies—the oldest must be past 80—never miss a show, and they always have a 'barney' about who's going to pay for the seats. One of them solved the problem last week by walking up to the box in the afternoon and buying three seats for the evening performance. When they all arrived in the evening and began their usual good-natured arguing, the cunning one produced her trump card—the seats bought and paid for.

"A MAN came out of the theatre the other afternoon and asked if I would ring a maternity home about his wife. I did so and the matron reported 'nothing doing.' He went back into the theatre, but he was out again in a quarter of an hour with a request for me to ring again. This went on for a couple of hours, until he couldn't bear the suspense any longer and departed to buy himself a beer."

Difficulties Of A Radio Service Canada, Nearing An Anniversary, Faces Problems

The following article was written for the "Radio Record" by Raymond M. Bell, of Pennsylvania, a frequent contributor to these columns.

THE Dominion of Canada will be seventy years old in 1937. Its area—equal to that of Europe—is larger than that of any other British Dominion. The population of Canada is less than that of greater New York; one half of the people are of British

origin, one third of French origin. Canada is made up of nine provinces, the Yukon territory, and the North-West Territories. The N.W.T. comprise one third of the land, but only one thousandth of the population. The Dominion has leading ports on three oceans: Montreal, Quebec on the Atlantic; Vancouver, British Columbia, on the Pacific; and Churchill, Manitoba, on the Arctic. The latter has been opened only recently, but its proximity to the great wheat country

of western Canada, and the short all-water route to Europe may make it a shipping centre. Two great railways cross Canada, but as yet the trans-Canada highway is not complete. There is no connecting link across the barrens of Ontario north of Lake Superior.

CANADA is bounded by Labrador, Alaska and the United States. The three thousand-mile border between Canada and the U.S.A. has been unguarded for over a century. The ex-