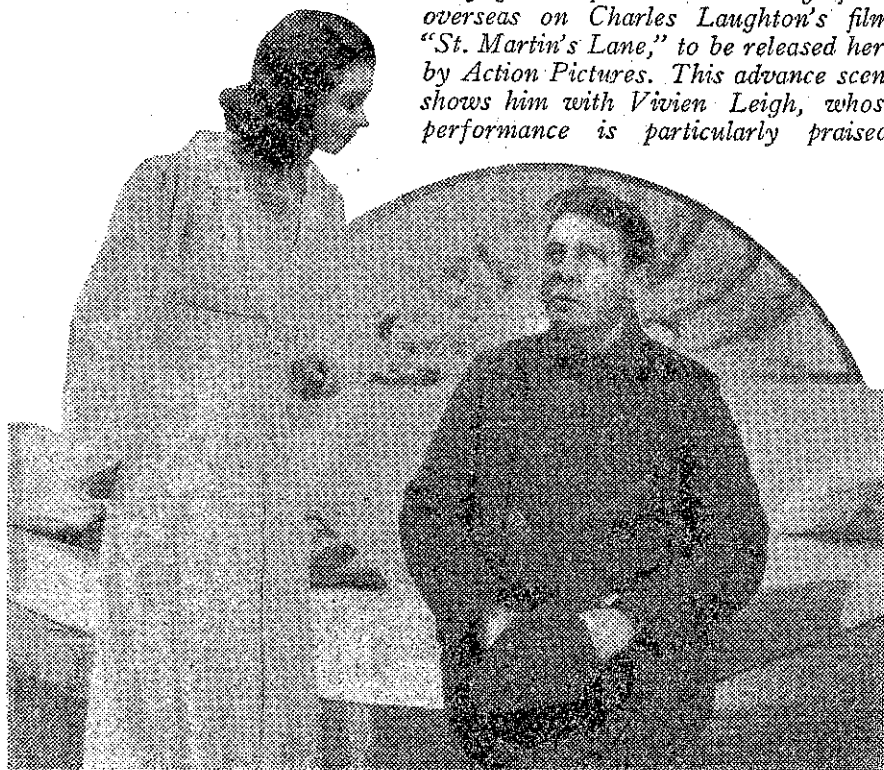


Very good reports are coming from overseas on Charles Laughton's film, "St. Martin's Lane," to be released here by Action Pictures. This advance scene shows him with Vivien Leigh, whose performance is particularly praised.



to have picked herself a dumb husband, because he doesn't open his mouth once in the picture.

Oh, Miss Raye!

LEATHER-LUNGED Martha Raye shouts and grimaces her way through her role—at one stage distinguishing herself by singing with her mouth full of food! I read somewhere the other day that Martha is known as "California's Calliope," the significance being that a Calliope is "a series of steam-whistles toned to produce musical notes."

As I think an English critic has mentioned, "College Swing" rather reminds one of the little girl who had a little curl right in the middle of her forehead. When it's good, it's very good, but when it's bad it's—well, you know the rest. Fortunately, the good parts predominate.

Garbo In Modern Comedy

OF special interest is the news that Greta Garbo is going to star in a modern comedy, with William Powell appearing opposite her. The tentative title of the film is "Ninotska," written by Melchior Lengyel, well-known Hungarian dramatist.

Lengyel wrote the scenario specially for Garbo when he heard that she wanted to make a break with her past tradition of tragic and very often historical heroines. From the point of view of many picturegoers it should be a very welcome break.

The theme of "Ninotska" seems to have some bearing on the news that Hollywood is showing some boldness in its approach toward more timely—and consequently more controversial material. For "Ninotska" will be the story of a Russian girl brought up under the Soviet regime. Intelligent, witty, educated and energetic, she is sent by her Government to Paris to

participate in commercial negotiations requiring tact and diplomacy. There she meets William Powell, the aristocratic leader of the French industrial group, and he uses his masculine charm as a weapon in his dealings with his Russian opponent. She, however, scorns at first to employ the similar weapon of her feminine wiles; but romance rapidly develops, unhindered by the fact that there is conflict between their rival ideals of Communism and Capitalism.

Fatal Resemblance

ALTHOUGH it enabled her to win fame by "doubling" for the late Jean Harlow in "Saratoga," Mary Dee's resemblance to the dead star appears



MARY DEES

... Too much like Jean Harlow.

to have been fatal to her screen career. When "Saratoga" was finished, M-G-M kept Miss Dees at the studio under contract in order to prevent her signing up with another studio which might

have tried to capitalise her resemblance to Jean Harlow. But because of this very resemblance they would not give her roles in any of their own pictures either.

So Mary Dees has done nothing in front of the cameras for more than a year. M-G-M have now released her from her contract.

Still In The Wind

THE controversy about who is to play who in "Gone With the Wind" still goes on. At this rate we may all have long beards by the time we see the story on the screen.

A few weeks ago Norma Shearer accepted the coveted role of Scarlett O'Hara. Immediately there was a howl

"Robbery Under Arms"

PRODUCTION is about to start at the Hal Roach studios on "Robbery Under Arms," an American picture with an Australian background. It is stated, however, that not much is likely to be left of the original story by Rolf Boldrewood.

The scenario recounts the adventures of a cultured young Englishman who is transported to the Australian penal colony for some minor offence, takes up bush-ranging and becomes a sort of Antipodean Robin Hood.

Brian Aherne will take the hero's role, Margaret Sullivan was to have been his leading lady, but as she is going to have another baby she will be unable to appear in either "Robbery Under Arms" or "North-West Passage," which had also been prepared for her.

of protest from many people who claimed that she was not suited for the part of the temperamental heroine who scandalised Southern society in the days of the American Civil War. Now Miss Shearer has bowed before the wind of protest, and has turned down the part.

However, everybody seems quite satisfied with Clark Gable as Rhett Butler. I am myself. Also with Walter Connolly as Gerald O'Hara, Scarlett's vigorous Irish father.

At the moment, Tyrone Power is in the running for the part of Ashley Wilkes, although he scarcely resembles the dreamy-eyed, blonde young man described in the novel. Janet Gaynor is mentioned as a possibility to portray the gentle Melanie. Margaret Tallichet, an unknown quantity, is already selected as Carreen.

Best bet for "Scarlett" at the moment seems to be Katharine Hepburn.

Stork Visits Hollywood

THE stars at Warner Bros. studios have been doing their fair share recently toward increasing the population. It is not so long since the Claude Rains' acquired a bouncing baby girl, and Mr. and Mrs. Patric Knowles a son. Allen Jenkins also became a proud parent recently. And a few weeks ago, the stork called with a daughter at the home of Dick Powell and Joan Blondell.