

BIG FILMS FOR EARLY RELEASE

Beery Has Never Set Eyes On Greta Garbo!

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and he has made a splendid job of a picture which goes from a giddy night club to the banks of the Thames on a summer's afternoon. The Little Damsel herself is an amazing creature, with a depth of character unsuspected by most of the night club's habitués. Cicely Courtneidge is also expected shortly in a British film entitled "Sol-

HANDEL AT THE ROYAL COURT

Leading Ladies Engage in a Free Fight

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lived in a palace (Lord Burlington's in Piccadilly), and was surrounded by wealthy patrons. The Duke of Chandos, who was a multi-millionaire living in the most extravagant luxury, employed him to write the Psalms known as "Chandos Anthems."

He also burst into opera and was most successful, but he had trouble, as has many a composer since, with his artists. Two leading ladies in his work, "Alessandro," were extremely jealous of each other, and one night, on the stage at St. James Theatre, they electrified the audience by stopping a duet to engage in a free fight, in which they tore each other's hair and rolled upon the stage.

Praise and blame alternate in the lives of men. Owing to political bitterness engendered by the change of monarchy, Handel fell from grace as suddenly and as rapidly as he rose to prominence. His close allegiance to one Sovereign made him hated by the supporters of another; his operas were boycotted, and he could find neither patronage nor support in England for his great oratorio, the "Messiah." Its first performance took place in Dublin. Eight days after he had written the "Messiah" he started "Samson," which was finished in five weeks. When he worked, it was with tremendous energy and inspiration. He was probably the most prolific composer of all.

pear as if she has got it at last in this new talkie.

M.G.M. has three big pictures lined up for early release—"Tugboat Annie" (reviewed in the "Radio Record" a few weeks ago), starring Marie Dressler and Wallace Beery, "Broadway to Hollywood," with Alice Brady (remember her in the good old days?), Frank Morgan, Madge Evans, and Eddie Quillan, and "Another Language," with Helen Hayes and Robert Montgomery. It is interesting to note that Wallace Beery told a London newspaperman the other day that he considered "Tugboat Annie" the best picture he had ever made—and he also mentioned that, although he played with Greta Garbo in "Grand Hotel," he had never set eyes on the star in his life!

A year ago the film industry was fairly firmly convinced that pictures of the "super spectacle" type were as dead as the dodo. To-day the producers are beginning to realise they were wrong. Musical pictures are coming back with a rush, and the ones we have seen in New Zealand in the last few months have been far beyond the standard of those made in the early days of the talkies. "Forty Second Street," "Moonlight and Pretzels," "Melody Cruise," and "Say It With Music," are all indicative of the good work that is being put into musical talkies to-day. One of the big features of the summer months should be Warner Brothers' big show, "Gold Diggers of 1933"—a talkie that is supposed to be really super-super!

Handel returned to Germany to die. It is interesting to note that he and Bach were born in Germany within a month of each other; they both died within a year of each other.

As I said, the work we are meant to do gets done. The great road is made by the worker who hates it; the greatest oratorios were written by a man who had very little religion and much snobbery to urge him to fame and fortune. But the lovely choruses which were written to flatter idle princesses and bloated lords are now the joy of millions of people all over the world. The glory of the "Hallelujah Chorus" was not in Handel, it was in the music of which he was the instrument and the transmitter. He is gone, but it remains in imperishable beauty for all time.

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DOWN ON THE FARM

Agricultural Talks From Auckland



THE following agricultural talks are scheduled for IYA on the dates mentioned:

October 23: Ensilage Harvesting machinery (C. J. Hamblyn, Department of Agriculture).

October 30: Parasitic Diseases Affecting Livestock (A. McKenzie, Department of Agriculture).

November 6: Dairy Farming in Australia (A. Y. Montgomery, Imperial Chemical Industries).

November 13: Fodder Crops (Mr. Alexander, Kempthorne Prosser and Company).

November 20: Fodder Crops (Mr. Woodyear Smith, Challenge Phosphate Company).

November 27: Poultry Farming Notes (E. C. Jarrett, Department of Agriculture).

diers of the King," which is described as a rollicking comedy.

Ann Harding (whose finest picture in the opinion of this critic was a film that the star considered her worst—"Holiday") is co-starred with William Powell in a brilliant R.K.O. release, "Double Harness." An American critic says of this film: "Double Harness" has four grand, reliable legs to stand on—Ann Harding, Powell, John Cromwell (the director), and Jane Murfin's adaptation—and it stands proudly and strongly." Ann Harding has been waiting for a good picture for a long time—it would ap-

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