

# VICTORIA CINEMA

Invitation Performance

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28th, 1931



The Official Opening by  
His Worship  
The Mayor of Cambridge  
(Councillor E. JACKSON)

## Items of Interest concerning the Buildings and Equipment

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### SAFETY

The general construction of the building has been dealt with from the view of making it entirely fireproof. It is constructed from brick, steel and concrete. The minimum possible amount of combustible material being used, and this, itself, could not be a source of any danger. All floors and staircases are of concrete. In the Auditorium and Balcony, the floors under the seats are covered with rubber, which is warm and sanitary, being easily washed and kept free from dirt. Plenty of exits have been incorporated—six in the Auditorium which give egress to Sidney Street, Market Hill and Market Street. Four in the Balcony give egress to Market Street and Market Hill. The operating chamber has been constructed entirely of brick, concrete and steel, with no combustible material in its make-up, and even assuming the films were to ignite, no danger need be even anticipated from this source, as it is confidently believed that the film could be left to burn itself out without doing the slightest damage to the structure.

### GENERAL ARRANGEMENT

The Theatre seats 1,500—in the Auditorium 1,000 and about 500 in the Balcony. A fine, spacious crush room is provided for each. In each crush room small cloak rooms are available free of charge for the convenience of patrons who wish to leave coats, hats,



parcels, etc. From every part of the house a full view of the Proscenium is possible, and the sight lines have been worked out with great care. Ladies' and Gentlemen's spacious lavatories are provided on the ground floor and leading off the Balcony crush room.

## **PROJECTOR and SOUND EQUIPMENT**

The Projector equipment is all of the latest type, and has been specially selected to give the steadiest, clearest and most brilliantly illuminated picture obtainable. The Sound system is by the Western Electric Company Limited, and is a special type which has never before been installed in the district.

## **HEATING and VENTILATING**

The Heating and Ventilating system is designed to give a constant and rapid supply of fresh, washed air, which is forced into the building at the required temperature. In Winter it can be heated, and in Summer, cooled. By this system, it is possible to completely change the supply of heated or cooled air in the building every ten to fifteen minutes. It is also possible to sterilise the incoming air.

## **ORGAN**

The Organ is one of the new Christie Unit Organs, specially built for cinema purposes, and gives immense variety of tone. All instruments in the orchestra are represented, and the organ can sound like a jazz band, cathedral organ, or symphony orchestra at the will of





## PROGRAMME



- (1) National Anthem
- (2) Official Opening by His Worship the Mayor
- (3) Movietone News
- (4) Pathetone Weekly
- (5) Short Organ Interlude
- (6) A Yankee at King Arthur's Court

Modernised Version of Mark Twain's famous  
Classic. Will Rogers as Sir Boss



GOD SAVE THE KING



the Organist. In addition to the pipe work, the organ includes every kind of drum, cathedral chimes, a glockenspiel, a xylophone and a set of synthetic carillons. There is also a full range of special screen and comedy effects, such as bird whistle, boat whistle, motor horn, etc. Contact between the Organ Console which is raised and lowered by an electric lift, and the organ which is placed in two specially constructed chambers, one on each side of the Proscenium, is established by a total of, approximately, 45 to 50 miles of electric wire with over 2,000 silver soldered contacts and an equal number of electromagnets. It is intended that the Organ will be played as a regular feature in the programme at the Victoria Cinema.

## DECORATIONS

The decorations and the curtain have been designed and carried out by Baron Arild Rosenkrantz, and the whole scheme has been designed to work in conjunction with the colour lighting and architecture. A simple motive was adopted which works right through the building and culminates in the main roof. No details were borrowed from traditional styles, but the problem of a modern building suitable for its purpose and constructed in accordance with modern methods was approached "without prejudice." The whole scheme is a development of the design adopted by the same designers in the case of the Rudolf Steiner Hall, Clarence Gate, N.W. As in that case it is the stage on which everything is focussed. Throughout the scheme colours play together in a variety of tones and shapes, the forms now free, like

clouds and now like rock forms, all having rhythmic relationship to the architecture. The predominating colour is red, with touches of delicate blue, and different shades take form and again melt away. These suggestive forms culminate eventually in a definite formal design in the curtain. This method of dealing with colour was originally inaugurated by Rudolf Steiner at the Goetheanum in Switzerland, and lends itself with peculiar felicity to the changing lights of a modern electrical installation.

The Architects are Messrs. Hoare & Wheeler, F.F.R.I.B.A., of 22, Portman Square, W.1. The Electrical and Technical equipment have been installed under the direction of the Managing Director. The Company is entirely a local enterprise, the Directors being L. B. Barr (Chairman), A. J. Pointer, W. M. Francis, G. F. Furbank, E. C. Pointer (Managing Director). Secretary, H. Slater.



