

CITIZENS DISCUSS 'BLUE' LAW

LOGEE FAVORS LAW (Concluded from Page 1, Part 2) person shall open his shop, warehouse, or workhouse, or shall do any manner of labor, business, work, or be present at any dancing, or any public diversion, show, or entertainment, or take part in any sport, game, or play on the first day of the week. The foregoing provisions shall not apply to work of necessity and charity, nor to making mutual promises of marriage, nor to the solemnization of marriages. And every person so offending shall be punished by fine not exceeding ten dollars for each offense. In the interpretation of this law the courts have held (City of Lansing vs. Brown, 1725). "Cities have power to prevent and punish violations of the Sabbath Day and to require all places of business to be closed on that day. They have no power to permit violations of the Sabbath Day. A license or ordinance which in form permitted violation of the Sabbath would protect no one."

came the information that from that date the screen was in politics to meet here from alderman to president who were for their "free screen," free from censorship, free to operate seven days a week. Quoting from their program as then outlined: "It will be non-partisan politically and reduced to the simple form practically presented to every candidate: 'Are you the friend of a free screen or are you the friend of the candidate's "eyes"?' "The candidate's "eyes" brings all the power of the screen behind him no matter what his politics. If he says, "No, I am not the friend of a free screen," then the course is equally plain. Mr. Logee who had already pledged all the screens of his big chain of theaters amplified his declaration in the following statement to the Motion Picture World: "This is absolutely without partnership. It concerns the future of our business and it concerns it so vitally that nothing that will carry it through should be left undone. We will support our friends fully and completely. We must combat our enemies with all our strength and power. Hitherto I have kept my screen from all politics. Now I will throw them open to help our friend and defeat our enemies, because the time has come for open, honest, frank and effective warfare through propaganda, and the movement must start immediately. I was never more in earnest in my life than I am an exhibitor and I call on all exhibitors to join the exhibitors' organization and put their shoulders to the wheel to save themselves from the narrow and really ignorant men who seek our destruction. The fruits of this program of 1921 may be seen in the current issue of Kine, February 21, 1927, entitled "The Motion Picture of Cinema." It reads as follows: "Smut. In Maryland legislators have hearkened to cinema exhibitors who want a law passed preventing cinema shows on Sunday. Last week the exhibitors heard from Archbishop Michael Curley of Baltimore, temperate, blunt. Said the Archbishop: 'A Catholic survey of 403 motion pictures showed this number of scenes—marital infidelity, 117; arriages of girls to defend honor, 119; divorce as remedy for marital ills, 38; drinking, 140; smoking by girls, 82; indecent dancing, 97; immodest dress, 172; undue sex familiarity, 192. The legislators," he summarized, "should get rid of smut on work days before transferring it to Sunday."

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Birmingham. It may have a conscience so enlightened as no longer to be Puritanical. But its conscience is not dead, nor its insight dull. Nor will it be dictated to by outside commercial interests whose only apparent motive is the dollar sign. There are too many higher considerations involved. The people of Birmingham have a right to say that they can be protected. Where other communities have failed Birmingham can succeed, if it will. The ordinance to be submitted to the people by referendum petition is simply an ordinance to do this. It lays claim to our right as a village, granted to us by the state, to license. At present a dog and pony show may come now without license. The proposed ordinance requires a license for operation. It is our right. Two Possible Ordinances Further, the proposed ordinance specifically states that no license shall issue for Sunday operation. Of necessity this follows to accord with the state law and the decision of our courts. At one time it seemed to the writer that the ordinance might be rejected because the second for Sunday operation, thus giving the community a chance to require license but express itself exactly on the Sunday issue. But a reading of the state law and the court decisions as above noted closes that alternative. "Cities have no power to permit violation of the Sabbath." This therefore is included and specified. It is our responsibility to the law of the state. The proposed ordinance also fixes the penalty at the maximum allowed by the State to the Village in enforcing its ordinance. It should be so. If one is law-abiding he is in no way affected and has no complaint. The only complaint can come from one who willfully disregards the law. There should be enough strength in the law to give him a wholesome regard for showing. They are willing to take another chance on the sleepy public conscience and the State Law which, unless most strictly interpreted and enforced, is not adequate to meet the present situation that has arisen since the law was drawn. But Birmingham is

should be so understood. It does not have our interest in view. It is seeking our dollars. Flays Attitude It certainly is unfortunate that such an attitude should have been taken by those seeking and depending upon the good will of the town. Birmingham is a law-abiding community. It wants and will have clean, good pictures. Many, very many, also want Sunday in Birmingham to be a day different from other days. We want it kept off the trail of commercialized Sunday amusements. That trail rags near enough our door. But that this desire should be thwarted, and those who hold it ridiculed, is not only un-American, it is both unfair and unbecoming. Let us all be fair and honest, and frank. The theater is coming. It promises us a quality house. That is a hard group to keep under conditions as they are today. As a community we have organized to help them do this. Will they theater keep its promise in good faith and in cooperation with the demands of our community? Let them, then, cooperate in seeking to determine as accurately as may be the will of the community in regard to Sunday operation. If the community says, "No Sunday movies," then let that end it. They will still be able to make money as they do in Pennsylvania. If the community says it has no objection to Sunday movies, then let them secure a state law that will enable them to operate legally. For only so can it be done without litigation. In the meantime we stand out for our feelings, stirred up by threat or under false promises, before our better judgment. The issue remains with the conscience of Birmingham.

CITES QUOTATIONS (Concluded from Page 1, Part 2) bath day to keep it holy. Let Birmingham take her stand with God, good government, and tried great patriots of the past. J. Clifford Mathews, Pastor Southfield E. F. Church. Efforts are being made to increase the allowance for ration coupons for United States soldiers, who are allowed only 2 cents a day, while sailors and Marines are allowed between 21 and 25 cents.

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Parmenter Greenhouses Florists CUT FLOWERS, FLORAL PIECES AND DESIGNS For Every Occasion - VISIT OUR ROYAL OAK STORE - 108 West Third St. Phone R. O. 3224 Greenhouses, Crooks Road Phone B'ham 451 BIRMINGHAM DELIVERIES GIVEN SPECIAL ATTENTION

It is against this and similar laws that the organized motion picture industry, under the guise of financial profit, has been waging a relentless war of propaganda, propaganda against "blue laws" and for a "free screen." From the Motion Picture World, July 7, 1921.

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BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP PRIMARY ELECTION NOTICE Primary Election Act 372 of Public Acts of 1919, as amended by Act 49 of the Public Acts of 1921, and a later Amendment of 1925 thereto, the Township Board is authorized to hold a PRIMARY ELECTION On SATURDAY The 5th Day of March, 1927 For the purpose of nominating a candidate for Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, Highway Commissioner, Justice of the Peace and one member Board of Review. POLLS WILL BE OPENED FROM 2:00 P. M. TO 9:00 P. M., EASTERN STANDARD TIME

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