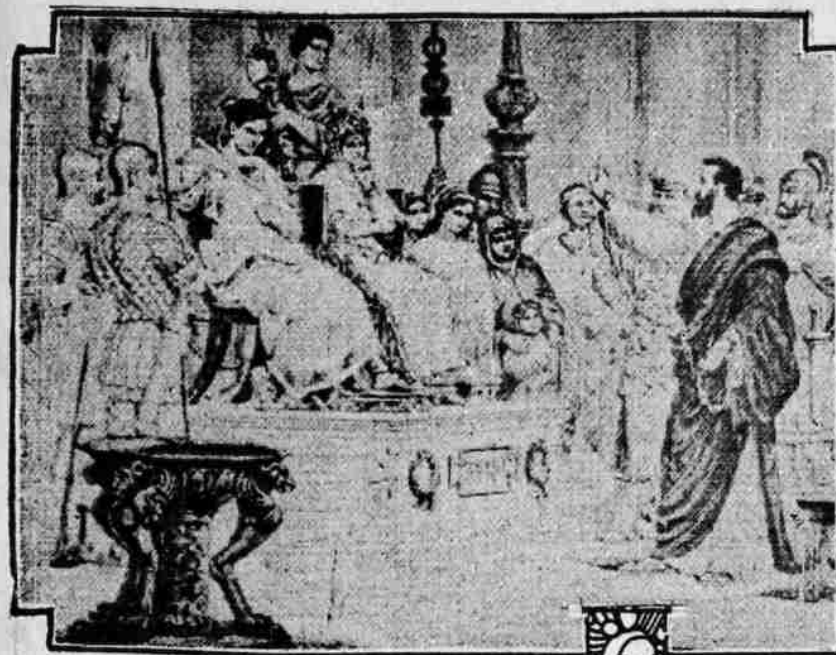


Saving Souls At The Moving Picture Show

International Bible Students' Association Rents Theaters in Fifteen Cities of the United States and Teaches Scriptures on the Screen



The moving picture show has long been hailed as a device of the devil, but in fifteen cities of the country at least, it is being used as a means of giving instruction in the Bible.

For some time moving pictures and lantern slides have been used in churches to illustrate Bible history, but the method which has been launched in the fifteen cities is to put the films on in some of the larger and well built moving picture theaters of those cities, but not until this year was the plan tried of leasing a commodious picture theater for several months and showing the pictures for a long period.

These pictures illustrate the teachings of the Bible from the dawn of creation to Revelations. A final film shows history briefly down to the present period.

These pictorial Bible classes are open to everyone without an admission price, and without a collection basket. The International Bible Students' Association bears all the expenses. The money for keeping up the work is taken from the offerings of classes located in various parts of the United States and through donations of men of wealth who are interested in teaching the Bible.

The start was made in New York City, January 11. Great crowds attended the theater giving the exhibition. It was so successful the promoters of the plan went to Cincinnati and rented Music Hall. Advertisements were placed in the newspapers.

Some of the suspicious ones began to look for graft in the picture show running for nothing. They could find none. The pictures were divided into four sets. The opening week was devoted to showing pictures of the creation, beginning with the star nebula down to Abraham's time. The flood is staged and after the flood a great map shows the American continent arising from the flood.

The second week they took up the Bible, beginning with the time of Melchisedec to the Babylonian captivity. The selling of Joseph into Egypt by his brethren was vividly portrayed. Later the flight of the Israelites from Egypt and the journey to the Promised Land was flashed on the screen. From the theater seats the audiences witnessed Moses leading the chosen people across the wilderness. They witnessed the slaying of the Passover lamb and they saw the first Passover with the Israelites standing around the tables with their staves in their hands as they partook of the sacred food.

DANIEL IN THE DEN OF LIONS IS SEEN.

Daniel in the den of lions and the hand of God writing on the wall in Babylon are among some of the great thrillers that drew the crowds to Music Hall every afternoon and evening for the third week in Cincinnati.

The fourth week began with the Pentecost in the new testament and carried the spectators down to the present time.

So popular were the pictures that they were put on again. They were then introduced at St. Louis, Cleveland, Indianapolis, Toledo, Reading, Lancaster, Chattanooga, Memphis, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Columbus, Ohio, Portland, Ore., and Denver. In every city they were received with large crowds.

The pictures are the best to be had. They were staged all over the world. The promoters of the picture show idea bought their reels from every moving picture theater company which could supply Bible scenes. Then they started to stage pictures for themselves. These pictures are to be used all over the world, so Bible students all over the world were interested in having the pictures taken. The best moving picture actors were obtained to play the parts of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and their descendants.

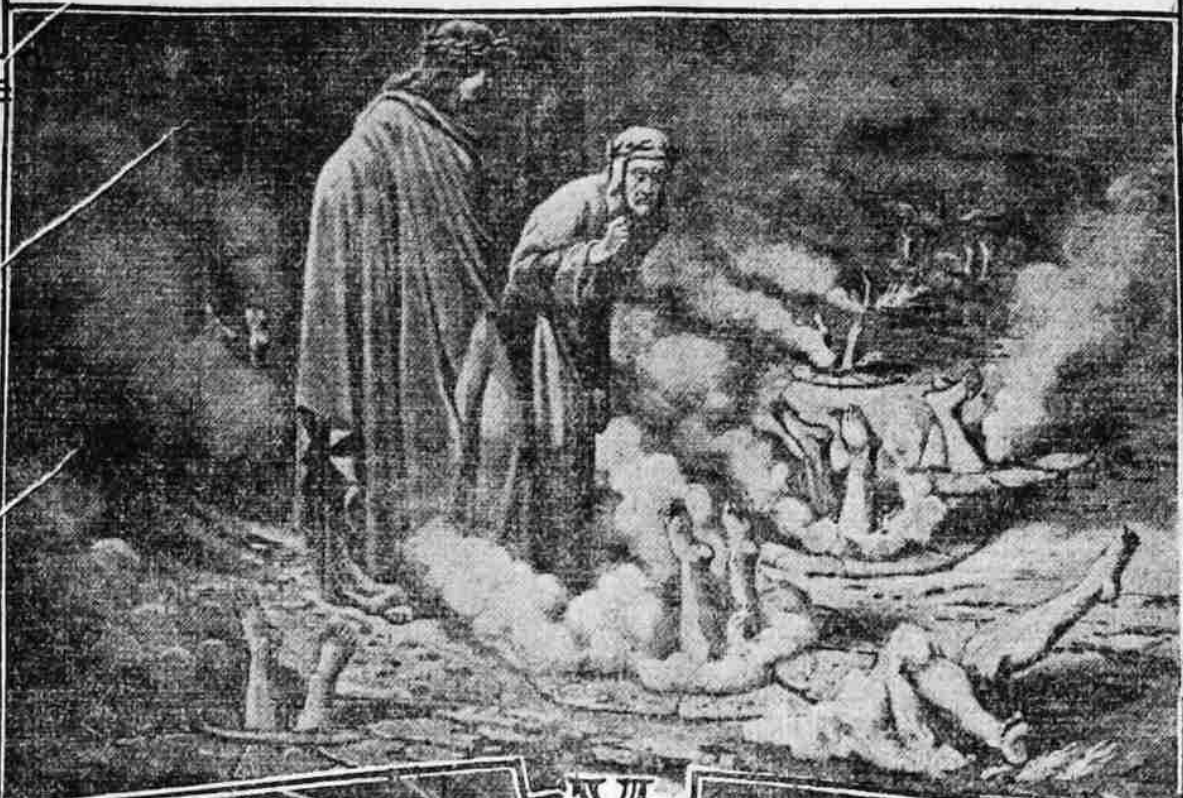
Mysterious phrases in the Bible were tackled by the picture makers without fear. The passage in the Bible telling of the judgment when two men shall be grinding at a mill when one suddenly dies, is clearly depicted on the screen.

Languages of the earth are different. One who can read the Bible in English probably cannot read it in Chinese or Greek. Pictures talk a universal language. Motion pictures are a gift of tongues and at the same time talk German, Italian, Greek, Hebrew, English, Spanish and all the other languages living and long since dead.

At the Bible picture show all the faces come. Some come because of curiosity. Some come because they want to learn the Bible. Some come because they want to be entertained and can be entertained at the picture show without cost. The theater Bible teachers welcome them all. They are glad to instruct those who desire instruction. They are glad to entertain those who desire entertainment, because they believe that Bible truths will be sent home to them.

The International Bible Students' Association originated thirty years ago. It is undenominational. Branches are organized in nearly all large cities of the world. The headquarters are at London. The American headquarters are at New York. The association has no creed. It is operated just as the Sunday schools of the Protestant churches. If anyone wishes to belong to any particular Sunday school all he has to do is to attend the school. He is not voted in. He becomes a member by attendance. He makes no confession of faith. He belongs. His attendance is evidence he wishes to learn the Bible. The International Bible Students' Association is operated on the same principles. The picture show idea is a side issue, which was first tried out as an experiment.

UPPER left—Paul before Felix. Upper right—The Shumanite woman and Elisha. Upper center—Dante's idea of eternal punishment. Second row, at left—Grinding at the mill; at right—Slaying of the Passover lamb in Egypt. Third row, at left—A burial in the Ganges. At right—Scene on the banks of the Ganges. Below—The American continent rising after the flood.



the promoters, said to a newspaper correspondent:

"Whoever will may now, without money and without price, see and hear the panorama and the story of man's life on earth. He may learn through the medium of his eyes and his ears how through all the ages one increasing purpose runs.

"The drama of 'Creation' is offered free to the pupils, to stimulate interest in the story of man's redemption by his Savior's grace. The pictures begin with creation and continue down to the present day, showing creation scenes and all-important subsequent political, social, financial and religious events. Here one may see, moving on the canvas with every semblance of reality, the outstanding figures with whom reading and reflection have made us familiar. We see the Garden of Eden as an ingenious and inventive imagination figures it for us. We sweep over the world with ever increasing interest, the pictures and the phonographic record taking us back to the times of

Students' Association in an effort to interest mankind in the story of its stay on earth and its ultimate destination. Religion and religious effort are the foundation of the representations. It is not cold formalism and theology, but the living, breathing religion which reaches, entrances and uplifts the soul. The devil need not have all the good tunes," said Wesley, and he took some of the tunes and set the words of hymns to them. So the International Bible Students' Association has taken the moving picture film and the phonograph record and has enlisted them in the service of righteousness. Conventions of the organization, held both here and abroad last year, adopted a resolution authorizing the use of films for the teaching of religious truths. The resolution follows:

"Resolved, That the unprecedented success of the American newspapers in molding public opinion by the aid of cartoons and illustrations in their news and magazine sections has fully demonstrated their worth, and, we believe, fully justifies us as progressive teachers and Bible class teachers in giving our unqualified endorsement of moving pictures and stereoscopic slides as an effective and desirable method for evangelists and teachers.

"It is further resolved, That, in order to conserve all our interests and make a general harmonious work, all motion pictures and slides passed by us shall be catalogued under one special title of 'The Photo-Drama of Creation,' and receive as wide publicity throughout the world as possible."

Teaching History Backwards.

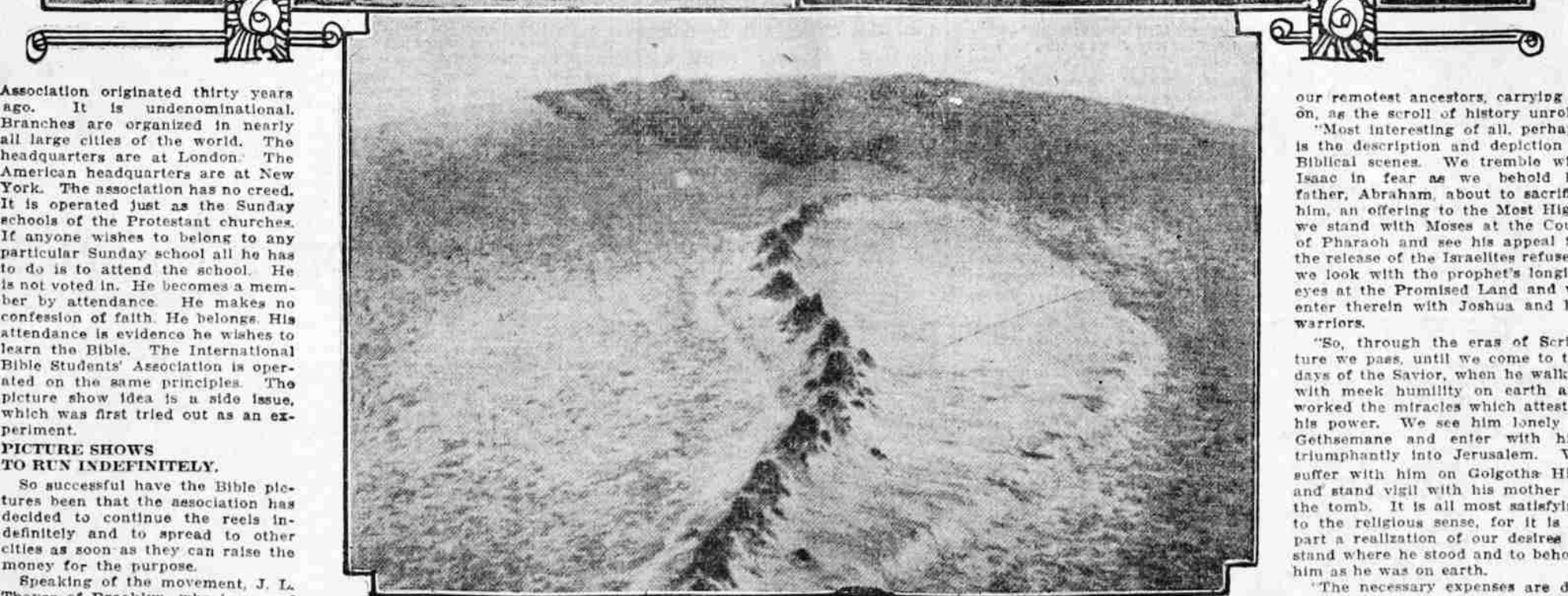
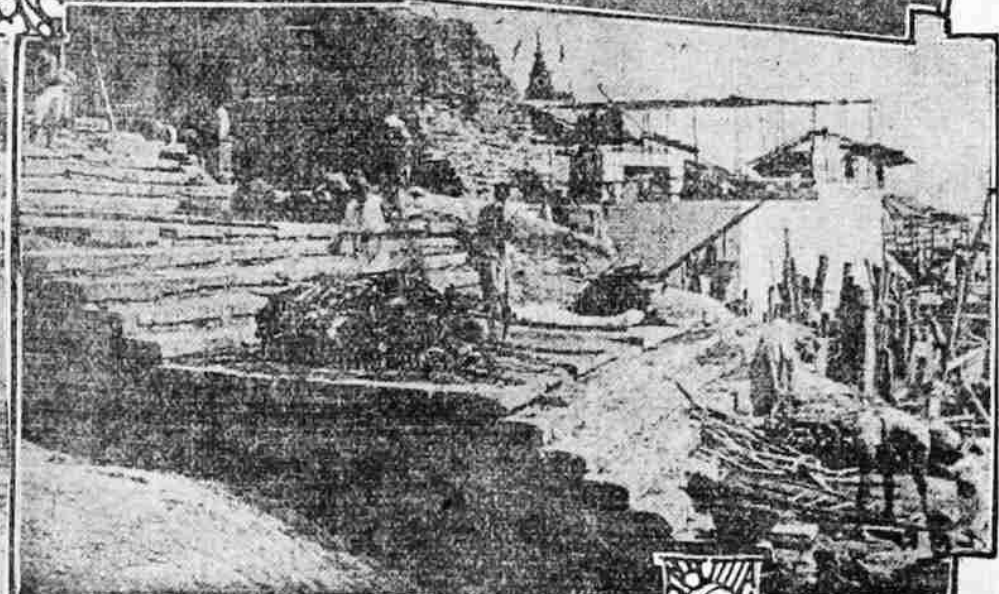
Dr. Noble, of the Board of Education suggests that in the schools history be taught backward, instead of from the early years forward. Teachers should proceed, he considers, from effect to cause and not from cause to effect. To lead from the known to the unknown is the right method in all teaching. As the explorers of a river start at the broad mouth and trace its source back into distant territory, so should the boys and girls be led up the stream of history and be brought to examine the great epochs which, like the Nile's cataracts, stand out prominently in the long course of the ages of which this generation is the heir.

To form habits of research is one of the most important offices of education. In his essay on "What Knowledge Is of Much Worth" Herbert Spencer has taught that a fact or condition a child is led to discover for himself is of far more value educationally than the same fact or condition drummed into the child as a matter of rote-learning. This idea of encouraging original research is steadily gaining ground in pedagogy. In the study of history, taking the present as the point of beginning, explorations into the past, even into remote epochs, would have a relation, a connection, with us of 1914, and with each other, that a mere outline of successive events from antiquity forward could not possibly have until the long survey was completed.

If, instead of learning as "history" a record of kings, robber barons, court intrigues, famous battles, the boys and girls were to commence from the present they would inevitably be led more into the study of sociological, economic, and scientific history.

Of course, their studies would necessarily be most rudimentary, but they would get a natural groundwork that would excite their curiosity and lead to further historical reading in later days. The teaching of history is getting away, since the days of Spencer and Buckle, from the old method of date-cramming and name-dropping without special reference to the then existing social conditions of the masses. A history of statecraft is by no means the history of a nation or of an empire. Moreover, those who would start from the earliest times must be much perplexed as to where to start. Archeologists are lifting the curtain on new "dawns" of history every few years. Great historians like Gibbon, Grote, Gleibrecht and Guizot undergo much correction at the hands of their present-day editors, and the historical methods have thrown much new light on the past. Instead, then, of beginning where all is dispute and uncertainty at what the best is but a provisional starting point in the past, would it not be better first to introduce the children to the institutions, conditions and terms of the political and social life of their own day—part of the teaching of civics—and then retrace with them the development of which the existing situation is the outcome?

An East St. Louis saloon keeper advertises thus: "If your wife and children need shoes, don't come to my place to buy booze." It may be sympathetic, and, on the other hand, a lot of men might be anxious to prove their families are well shod.



NEBRASKA'S OLDEST MAN, 120 YEARS OLD, BELIEVES IN MODERATION

Westerville, Neb., boasts of a patriarch who has lived during the administration of every American President, who was a subject of King George III, and who has sobbed shoes for the people of two continents. Thomas Morris, 120 years old, now retired from active work, still has remarkable use of

all his faculties. He gets around unaided, except for his cane, and without effort save for a "tired feeling." He hears fairly well and his eyesight is remarkable. He never owned a pair of glasses until a few years ago and uses them only for close work.

Morris says he has used tobacco all his life, and liquor to a moderate degree. He takes tea or coffee

at every meal, and takes a quart of coffee to his bedroom every night to drink during the night.

The aged cobbler was born in Belew, Montgomeryshire, Wales, January 15, 1794. His father was a common laborer, who died when Thomas was 3 years old. The boy was born with a club foot, and because of this, as well as lack of funds, he received no education. He

took up shoemaking when a young man, and cobbled in England until 1871, when he came to America. He was never married, and professed to be a woman hater. He says when he was a lad he was engaged to a pretty English girl, who died.

Proud of having lived during the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the old cobbler tells

of the great historical events which have happened during his time. He was a year old when the famous trial of Warren Hastings closed, and 11 years old when Nelson won Trafalgar. He was 7 when Ireland and England were united, 25 when the first Atlantic cable was laid, 67 when Fort Sumpter surrendered, and more than three score and ten when Lincoln was assassinated.