

# ALL THE NEWS

## What the B.N.F. League Offers—

### STOLL'S STUDY OF A TENNYSON PLAY.

George Ridgwell has directed for Stoll a notable contribution towards the list of British pictures prepared for the big B.N.F.L. drive. It is to be shown at the Scala to-morrow (Friday).

Eliot Stannard has adapted the play for the film, and the very important appointment of Sir Frank Benson is made to take the title rôle. Our greatest living tragedian, we are told, gives a performance of remarkable distinction and dignity.

One of the most notable figures in early English history is that of Thomas à Becket, Chancellor of England and Archbishop of Canterbury. The story of "Becket" was enshrined in a famous play by Alfred, Lord Tennyson, and one of the late Sir Henry Irving's greatest stage triumphs was his characterisation of the part of "Becket," in the playing of which he died.

"Becket" is an historical film in the sense that it deals with a period of English history when our Constitution was in the making, with the figure of Thomas à Becket standing for the people against the King and the barons. There is interwoven a love story which directly led to the murder of the Archbishop in Canterbury Cathedral.

Henry II., King of England, although married to Eleanor, Duchess of Aquitaine, fell in love with Rosamund, one of her ladies-in-waiting. Becket, fighting for the ideal that a strong king meant a rich England, and a rich England a powerful and prosperous Church, aimed at overthrowing the barons, who resented his growing power. Then he induced Rosamund to take the veil. Incensed that he had been robbed of the

woman he loved, Henry instigated the murder of Becket by the barons.

In "Becket," the turbulence of the twelfth century is reproduced with wonderful exactitude. The "eternal triangle" is never absent from the stirring drama, and the reconstruction of the period together with the scenes at Canterbury give "Becket" an authenticity that stamps it as one of the greatest historical episodes ever filmed.

### PRODUCING THEN—AND NOW!

Some idea of the development which has taken place in British pictures during recent years and of the increased value exhibitors and the general public nowadays get for their money may be gleaned from a remark made by A. E. Coleby, the well-known producer. "In the old days," he says, "I produced 154 pictures in the course of five years, and the whole lot put together didn't cost as much as the Stoll picture I am now producing with George Robey in the title rôle, 'The Prehistoric Man.'"

### A MATTER OF PRINCIPALS.

The part of Eily O'Connor, "known near and far as the Pretty Girl—the Colleen Bawn," in the Stoll picture production of the famous Irish romance, is being played by Collette Brettel, who gave such a fine performance as Thora in "The Prodigal Son," Gladys Jennings, who has played in a number of Stoll films, and who was warmly praised for her work as Helen Graeme in "Young Lochinvar," fills the rôle of Ann Chute, while Marie Ault figures as Shiela Mann. As the part of Myles Na-Copaleen is being played by Stewart Rome and that of Hardress Creegan by Henry Victor, no fewer than three of the principals in "The

Colleen Bawn" were principals in "The Prodigal Son."

### GRANGER'S "MONEY HABIT."

Life in Paris and London as it is lived to-day is the background to the first Granger-Commonwealth production with the intriguing title "The Money Habit." This all-British production will be released for the great British film week. Walter Niebuhr is the producer, and the cast includes such prominent stars as Clive Brook, Ninna Vanna, Warwick Ward and Annette Benson.

### "EUGENE ARAM" AT LEA BRIDGE

York Assizes in 1758 was the scene of the famous trial of Eugene Aram, one of the most interesting figures of fact and fiction. This week, in London, the Granger-Davidson combination erected an exact replica of the ancient court in their studios for the film version of Lord Lytton's classic novel, "Eugene Aram." An unequalled cast of British stage and screen stars has been assembled for this production. Arthur Wontner appears in the title rôle, and he is supported by Barbara Hoffe as Madeline Lester, Mary Odette as Ellenor Lester, C. V. France as Squire Lester, Bromley Davenport as Corporal Bunting, James Carew as Housman and Walter Tennyson as Walter Lester.

### SOME TRUE PALESTINE PICTURES.

One of the most stirring episodes in "Armageddon," the pictured story of Lord Allenby's campaign in Palestine, is the raid across the Jordan in order to cut the railway, thereby hindering the retreat of the Turks.

A battalion was ordered to cross and attack the Turks encamped on the farther



Some cameos from BECKET (Stoll): 1. Sir Frank Benson as Becket; 2. Queen Eleanor and Rosamund (Mary Clare and Gladys Jennings); 3. Henry II. (A. V. Bramble) and Becket planning the Toulouse campaign. 4. Henry II. and Queen Eleanor; 5. The Murder of Becket.