

BEHIND THE CAMERA

Latest News of British Producers

Encouraged by the remarkable success of "Rob Roy," Gaumont have commenced work on a film historical romance, "Bonnie Prince Charlie," which will be the most ambitious production yet attempted by this company. The scenario calls for scenes to be taken in Scotland, Yorkshire and France, that is, on the actual scenes of various historical events in the life of Prince Charlie. The full cast of players will be announced in due course.

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Harvey Braban, who recently completed his work in Welsh Pearson's "The Romany," left Southampton for Johannesburg on the *Kenikworth Castle* last Friday to play in the African Film Productions' version of H. de Vere Stacpoole's romance, "A Reef of Stars." The booking was made through the agency of Frank Zeitlin. African Film Productions' version of "The Blue Lagoon" (also by H. de Vere Stacpoole) is now almost finished. Advance stills received in London indicate an exceptionally fine picture.

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The Welsh Pearson picture, "The Romany," in which Victor MacLaglen stars, is now being cut and titled. There is much curiosity among film players as to the identity of Irene Norman, who plays opposite to Victor MacLaglen, and who hitherto has taken no part in playing in a film. An examination of the picture promises another Welsh Pearson discovery, but there, nothing is to be said about the young

lady until after the verdict of the critics upon her acting. In this picture Welsh Pearson have taken a bold step in giving prominent parts



David Hawthorne (right) snapped outside the Salon, Glasgow, where he made a series of personal appearances in connection with the enormously successful pre-release run of Gaumont's "Rob Roy." With Mr. Hawthorne is George Kitson, of Johannesburg, who has extensive interests in the South African film business.

to certain artists whose names are not well known to the public, believing that an opportunity should be given to those who show promise

I am glad to hear that, owing to the tireless efforts of the Committee, the Kinema Club is now as prosperous as it is useful and popular. Among other improvements, a second billiards table, purchased by private subscriptions, is being installed. At a meeting next Saturday a vote will be taken on the suggestion that exhibitors and renters should also be made eligible for membership of the club.

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The work of the Goldwyn director, Mr. Frank Urson, and his cameraman, Mr. Kesson, in Dorsetshire, goes on apace. Making Salisbury their headquarters they have worked through the whole country round and photographed every place connected with the story. In "Tess," Salisbury appears as Melchester, and Dorchester is Casterbridge, while all the villages and hills around have their own names: with the help of Mr. Thomas Hardy and others these have been tracked down and visited. By permission of the owner, Miss Weld, photographs were taken at Bindon Abbey, the scene of one of the most dramatic episodes in the book.

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A triumph of British studio craft was the Madeleine interior, erected at Cricklewood, for the Stoll version of "The Prodigal Son." It was 240 ft. long and 100 ft. wide, with walls 35 ft. high. Some forty carpenters and labourers, besides a staff of twenty scenic artists and property men, worked for three weeks on this setting, which was undoubtedly one of the biggest ever erected in a British studio. "DANGLE."

Afternoon Tea at the Quality Plays Studio



Ivo Dawson (right) entertains members of the Quality Plays company with a funny story during afternoon tea. George A. Cooper, the producer, reclines in the chair on the left.