

TRADE TOPICS.

The recent Order in Council prohibiting the exportation of cinematograph films appears to have had for its object the placing of these exports under control. So far as we can gather, a licence will be obtainable for films for exhibition purposes only, and a distinct stipulation will be that they have been passed, examined, and sealed by the British Board of Film Censors.

The Budget, which will be launched by Mr. McKenna on Tuesday or Wednesday next, is being awaited with no little apprehension by every section of the Film Trade. New taxes are a secret too carefully guarded for any advance speculations to be very profitable. At the same time, it seems fairly certain that the cinematograph business will be taxed directly by a levy on theatre tickets, and indirectly, perhaps, by a poster-tax. Even though the former is confined to reasonable limits, it must inevitably necessitate a good deal of troublesome reorganisation. In an able article in *THE BIOSCOPE* of March 9th Mr. F. W. Ogden Smith pointed to the probable effects of such a tax on the cheaper houses, and emphasised the difficulties of collecting it.

A poster tax would be no less novel and unprecedented than an amusement tax. It would reduce considerably the volume of poster advertising, but might conceivably improve its quality.

However, we must perforce be content to wait and see.

We deeply regret to announce the death of Mr. Edward Arkless Boden, London sales manager of Pathé Frères Cinema, Limited, which took place on Saturday last, March 25th. He was laid up about a week ago with influenza, but the cause of death was a clot of blood on the brain.

Prior to assuming his present position, Mr. Boden was with New Century Pictures, subsequently becoming manager of Pathé Frères' Leeds branch. Well known in Yorkshire and the North, he was liked by all who met him, and his untimely death—he was only 30—will be deeply felt by his many friends in the industry. It was only a few months ago, our readers will remember, that Mr. Boden contributed to *THE BIOSCOPE* a striking article on "Advertising the Industry."

A very artistic souvenir of the first exhibition of the Hepworth film version of Sir Arthur Pinero's play, "Trelawney of the Wells," will be presented by Messrs. W. Butcher and Sons, Limited, at their forthcoming Trade show.

A double-page leaflet containing particulars of the history of the play, with the cast of the film

version, carries on its title page a charming etching by Mr. E. Herbert Whydale, illustrating a scene from the film. Printed on specially prepared Japanese vellum parchment, in brown with scarlet headings and initials, this leaflet is enclosed in an envelope on which is a scene showing the occupants of the gallery at the Wells Theatre.

In these days of elaborate and costly souvenirs, this will specially please for its convenience and simplicity, as well as for its great artistic merit.

We are glad that Mr. F. R. Griffiths has sufficiently recovered in health to take up the reins once more in Cecil Court. Mr. Griffiths has undergone two operations during the last five weeks, and should be taking a complete rest, but owing to extreme pressure of business he has had to cut this out as a luxury.

The Samuelson Film Manufacturing Company, Limited, have entered into an agreement with Miss Vesta Tilley whereby that famous little lady will play the leading rôle in a big feature film, "The Girl Who Loves a Soldier."

As is recorded in our Birmingham Notes, there is plenty of activity in Midland cinema circles, where the immediate difficulties are only making those in the industry more determined to "get through" with flying colours. The latest development, following on the heels of the conversion of the Sun Exclusives into a private limited company is the forming of a new syndicate, of which Mr. Edgar Hounsell, of the Midland Exclusive Film Company, is the chief figure. To be called the Midland Amusement Corporation, the new concern will run picture houses in the Midlands, and their first venture is the purchase of the Globe Theatre and the Crown Picture House at Coventry. The company is a private one, with Mr. Hounsell—who has now made an excellent recovery from his recent serious illness—as general manager.

We offer our apologies to both Kineto, Limited, and Kineco (Cardiff), Limited, for the unfortunate printer's error in our issue of March 16th which led to the latter company's exclusives, "Just Out of College" and "A Silver Lining," being attributed to Messrs. Kineto, Limited. Will our readers kindly note this correction?

Willard Mack, author of "Kick In," which had such a successful vogue at the Vaudeville Theatre,