WHAT FOR? (F.B.O.)

Story.—The daughter of Sam Bisbee, a poor inventor of an unbreakable wind-screen, is in love with Robert Murchison, son of the town’s leading and richest citizen, but Sam’s behaviour makes Mrs. Murchison stop the match. Sam goes to sell his invention, but through his car getting interchanged, it proves a failure. On his way back, he gets into conversation with a Spanish Princess, who, hearing his story, decides to do him a good turn. She visits his town, and claims him as a friend, and thus makes him the centre of the social whirl. At the height of his success, he learns that his own car had been found, and that he has been given a million dollar contract. His daughter marries Robert.

Acting.—W. C. Fields has an amusing personality, and makes the most of it; in fact, his acting is the picture. Alice Joyce is quite good as the Princess, and the supporting cast sound.

Production.—Well directed, with not much continuity. The object has obviously been to give the star plenty of footage for his individual moping, which is effectively produced.

He has one of the scenes of Harry Tate’s “Golfing,” which is richly funny. His adventures with the wind-screen demonstrations, and also his meeting with the Princess on the train are excellent.

The main fault is a tendency for the action to drag.

Settings and Photography.—Well set interiors. Action is mostly in exteriors, which are very well photographed.

Points of Appeal.—The famous comedy juggler in a story of small town snobbery.

Worldly Power


A STRONG moral tone pervades the account of a husband’s deviation from the paths of virtue and his ultimate return to the family circle. Audiences who approve of outright and downright methods of dealing with crime and religion and mother-love sentiment are best catered for.

THE WEEK’S SHORT STUFF

THE EMPIRE


We refuse to believe that this technically excellent and absorbingly interesting series will not receive great appreciation from audiences all over the kingdom. It is a reproach to the showman, we fear, to learn that this type of subject does not book satisfactorily.

“Black Cotton,” a study of Nigerian cotton fields and modern and primitive weaving methods, is of interest, so also “Geyser and Glaciers,” being a study of contrasts between North and South Islands, New Zealand. Much humour and fine pictorial values are in “An African Derby,” a revelation in its way. This Basuto race meeting is as fresh as it is quaint.

“Blazing the Trail,” brings vividly to the screen the battle and romance of railroading, making on the Gold Coast, and “Tinmad,” reveals the activity of that romantic island in an arresting way.

“A Gate of China” has great appeal at the moment. Hong Kong is shown in all its glamour, its orderliness, and its vast commercial importance, and is one of the finest reels we have ever seen.

We again urge all showmen to support these splendid British subjects, which are great stuff and should supplant much of the latter driven now seen in “shorts.”

THE BATHING SUITS


A MUSING short comedy, with Georgie Harris as the son of a bathing suit merchant, who, by pretending to be a woman policeman, manages to set about his stock of antiquated—but respectable—bathing suits.

The action is fairly fast, with some quite good gags and the now inevitable interplay of Jewish and Irish characters. Scattered throughout the beach provide a bathing chorus and a final chase of the pseudo woman policeman.

FORTUNE OF FACES

F.B.O. British. Twelve one-reelers. Released one fortnight from September, 1927.

HERE is an extremely novel and interesting series, which should attract great attention anywhere; it can be unrestrainedly recommended to all showmen.

These shorts are a study of 15 edited by John Cossell and produced by Sir John Owen, Bart., with some cleverest technical work embody photography we have seen by A. The method of presentation is bumpy, but feature is taken and is a face of a famous man embodying qualities they denote is built up. The galaxy of well-known persons and three Trade shown, including Sir Hall, Lloyd George, Bernard Sh Hobbies, Sir Oliver Lodge, Lord B. and others present in the series is a name that are household words amongst others has consented.

Quite apart from the value of the whole, the series is of interest and is both interesting and entertaining. No praise can be too high for the bath suits are built up by va devices behind which and which is the living example.

Sub-titling is fitting and concise epigrams to close the presentation characteristic and his famous livin...