COLLIER'S

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CHARLIE, YOU'RE INSPIRED: Charlie Chaplin hasn't had any Grade-A ideas that we know of for some 10 years last past; but in his current notion to quit the United States cold, we think Charlie has an inspiration.

His feeling is, as he has been mumbling recently in a London publication, that the United States has little more to offer him; and "I, Charlie Chaplin, declare that Hollywood is dying."

If Chaplin never comes back to this country, we think most Americans will be able to control their grief. Parting in this case would be an uncommonly sweet sorrow.

Had Chaplin been content to go on being the top-notch slapstick clown that nature and study made him, he would be as high in American affections today as he once was. But he had to go and get arty, and then he had to go and get political. Though he never has seen fit to take out U.S. citizenship, he lectured us severely back in 1942 on our duty to open a second front in western Europe, long before we were ready, so as to take some of the German pressure off Stalin.

Any time this mummer wants to abandon us to our fate, he'll find the door wide open, and the applause will be far heartier than any that his last three or four movies have drawn.

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