

~An Excerpt From~

THEY LOVE MOVIES TOO

Royalty and rulers of the world are movie fans! The cinema tastes of the great are disclosed for the first time in this article

BY CORNELIUS VANDERBILT, JR.

It is quite evident in Russia that no one knows anything about America except what Russia's leaders want him to know. Although Russians do have movies, so few people go to them (except to their local newsreels) that the average Russian will actually stop an American on the street, even in some of the large interior cities, and examine him from head to foot like some new animal. If they attended foreign movies more regularly, their opinion of us would no doubt be more accurate, and their attitude a more natural one.

The many times I have interviewed Stalin, I have never found him changed much, insofar as his attitude toward American films is concerned. Twice I have sat alongside him while he watched some American-made films, and never heard him even grunt one way or the other. One of the films I saw with him was "Private Lives." When he was asked for his opinion of it afterwards, he refused it. The picture was, as usual, "rejected."

Charlie Chaplin's "Modern Times," which I saw Charlie make more than a year ago in Hollywood and San Pedro, was the only American picture I ever remember having seen in Moscow. This film packed the theater and was shown twenty-four hours a day. On the other hand, right across the Russian border in Finland, President Svinhufvud told me he permitted almost all American films to be shown in his little country; and that throughout the winter they have a wide picture value. For in winter there are but three or four hours of daylight in the middle of the day, so that picture shows are extremely well patronized. I don't think there is a nation in Europe today that attends American movies as thoroughly as do the Finns, nor one whose towns and ways of life are so wholesomely American.