CONSERVATION OF VIRGINIA'S RESOURCES

I need not assure you of my deep and genuine appreciation of the invitation extended to me to speak to you on this occasion. In this excellent idea of a series of talks arranged by your President on the vital activities of your state government, I am glad to contribute something about the State Commission on Conservation and Development—its aspirations and its accomplishments and its relation to our State government.

I consider this a most appropriate time to talk on such a subject, as November has been designated National Conservation Month. We have our “days” and our “weeks,” but the importance of conservation to the nation and to all its citizens well merits a whole month for its emphasis. Indeed, it should be brought before the public year after year, for it is of paramount importance to our individual, state, and national well-being.

I am especially happy to address you on conservation because as prospective teachers, business women, and homemakers you will play no small part in the intelligent direction of the affairs of this and the next generation of our citizens. Your opportunity and your role in education may be peculiarly significant.

My address treats more or less of four aspects of conservation: The rise of civilization upon a foundation of natural resources, a brief summary of the growth of the conservation movement in this country, a review of Virginia’s natural resources, and an outline of the work of the State Commission on Conservation and Development.

Natural resources have been the lifeblood of all civilizations. The most primitive groups in the early stages of the human race lived close to Nature. Primitive peoples have done so through all time. Their meager existence depended upon the simple bounties of Nature—at times offered lavishly, at others almost withheld. Early man was literally a helpless infant on the lap of Nature.

The rudiments of civilization developed very slowly in that remote period known to anthropologists as the Old Stone Age. During the succeeding New Stone Age many of the nuclei of our modern institutions and many of the habits of our civilization were germinating. The dawn of civilization was coming. As the scroll of Time unfolded, Man subdued some of the wild beasts and learned to grow a few fruits, grains, and other foods. His life became slightly less that of a nomadic hunter and fisherman and more agrarian. His wants were few, and Nature usually supplied them. Man was toiling slowly up the steep ladder of civilization. He was, however, still most dependent upon the natural resources at hand.

Then an epochal discovery was made! Man somehow learned that the earth contained metals that he could use in place of some of his stone implements and utensils. Copper appears to have been the first mineral used; probably in Egypt between 5000 and 4000 B.C. Bronze implements and utensils were made about 3500 B.C. The dawn of history was approaching. Iron was used about 1200 B.C. in southeastern Europe. Man in becoming its master soon also became its subject, helpless without it in one form or another. The great power...
source, coal—"petrified sunshine"—was discovered in England in the 15th century.

As Man has walked across the stage of historic time, he has come to rely more and more upon natural resources as a catalyst to his creative intelligence and as the vehicle of his expression of the spirit of art within him. Our modern civilization would wither like choice flowers in a summer's drought if suddenly deprived of many of our familiar natural resources. Man can not live creatively upon the soil alone, supplemented only by the implements of the chase.

We speak of familiar natural resources. Do we realize that willy-nilly we have been living for decades upon a dole? As most aptly stated by J. N. Darling, famous cartoonist and Chief of the U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey, "The dole came from a rich inheritance of natural resources which were present on the continent when the white man came. . . . This dole originated as a gift of nature in the shape of public forests, rich mineral deposits, water, and an abundance of wild life seemingly inexhaustible in its profusion. . . . Back of everything that we as a people have accomplished in the production of our broad national wealth has been the magnificent abundance of natural resources, free to the hand that would put forth the slight effort necessary to pluck them from the soil. . . . Living off Nature's gifts has grown to be a national habit. It's nobody's fault but our own that we have so long resisted conservation that we must now go on short rations. . . . Neither from Nature's storehouse nor from a Government treasury can more be taken out than is put in indefinitely, world without end, without coming to a point where there isn't any more. We aren't at that point yet, but we are on our way; and it's time to stop, look, and listen."

The germ of conservation is at least as old as civilization. Social groupings were first for the conserving of the family, then the tribe, and later the nation. The principles of conservation widely and appropriately applied would aid in the solution of the pressing problem of preserving civilization. Although the elements of conservation and development are innate in Man, paradoxically he is the most thoughtless and wilful destroyer of age-old resources. In many ways he lives for the present with little heed to the utter dependence of his children and his children's children upon products of the earth.

Darling reminds us that "Untold wealth in forests, minerals, soils and wild-life resources has been extracted, fabricated and largely dissipated. You cannot rob the soil, denude the forests and remove mineral treasures and still have as much as you had to begin with. . . . Even golf players learn to replace the divots torn up by ill-directed midirons, in order that the fairways may be fit for playing next week and next month. Civilization hasn't yet discovered that principle. . . ." "So much has been said about conservation, so many organizations exist with conservation as their objective, that it might be presumed by the average citizen . . . that the job was being well and properly taken care of." What is conservation? In this month of special heed to the need of conservation and the broadcasting of its principles, what is implied and what is needed? What is being done about it in Virginia?

Conservation has many definitions, mostly according to the viewpoint of the conservatist. It has been defined as "the efficient utilization of the natural products of the earth whereby the greatest good for the greatest number and for the longest time may be assured." Gifford Pinchot, formerly chief of the Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, defined it simply "as the wise use of our national resources." Similar views are expressed in stating that "Conservation in its present day sense is not merely preservation or hoarding of natural or other resources, but means their careful, well considered use, with the avoidance of waste and prodigal-
ity, and with a consideration of their exhaustibility, or the difficulties of their replacement. In a word, true conservation implies abundant use of the inexhaustible in place of the exhaustible.

As teachers and prospective teachers in many fields, all dealing directly or indirectly with natural resources and the dependence of this and succeeding generations upon them, you will be interested in a brief review of the early history of the conservation movement in the United States.

Only within the past half century has it been realized that our natural resources are not inexhaustible. Even at present the belief is far from being universal. Some resources, like our magnificent primeval forests, were regarded as obstructions, to be removed as rapidly and thoroughly as possible. Waters in streams and underground have been looked upon with an indifference that verged upon contempt. Soils were considered permanent and Midas-like in their richness. Most raw mineral resources, including coal, petroleum, and the metals, were little known to the public, and, even by their ardent exploiters, were considered illimitable. Few of our indispensable resources have been considered in their true light of priceless heritages from an aged earth to a youthful industrial civilization.

The modern conservation movement was initiated and accelerated by the rapid destruction of our fine forests. As a result of memorials presented by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a forestry bureau was established in the United States Department of Agriculture. The first national forest reserve was created in 1891. Geological studies of the arid Southwest led to the establishment of an irrigation division of the United States Geological Survey. In 1907 President Roosevelt appointed the Inland Waterways commission. The first report of this commission emphasized the interlocking character of the problems of natural resources and their conservation. There followed, in May, 1908, the memorable White House Conference devoted to an intelligent and thorough consideration of the conservation of the natural resources of the nation. The personnel of the Conference was indeed noteworthy, including the President, Vice-President, the Cabinet, the Supreme Court, the Congress, governors of 34 states, and representatives of 68 national societies, as well as many others. Minerals, soils, forests, and waters were discussed and startling facts were announced. The governors drew a strong series of resolutions "pointing out the extravagance and waste of the past, and making it clear that upon the conservation of our natural resources depends the foundations of our prosperity."

Not long after the Conference, the President appointed the National Conservation Commission. Four sections were assigned to the study of minerals, waters, forests, and soils. The report of the Commission, its technical experts, and the secretaries of the sections was transmitted in 1909 to the President and later published in three volumes.

It has been said that "these volumes gave the first available inventory of the natural resources of the nation." The inventory was a marked advance over guesses about the natural wealth of the nation. Many things happened in subsequent years. One of the most important is that many millions of acres of land have been set aside as parks, forests, and other reservations for the use of all citizens in this and future generations. Other millions of acres have been withdrawn from uncontrolled private exploitation of inherited stores of mineral wealth.

The publication in 1910 of a text book on the "Conservation of Natural Resources in the United States," by President Van Hise of the University of Wisconsin, did much to focus attention on the growing importance

of the problems of conservation. This book appeared in a new edition\(^2\) by several authors in 1930 and is useful both to teachers and the general public. All in all many strides forward have been made during the 20th century in attempts at the wise conservation and development of our resources. But plenty of real work remains to be done. Much of it must be educational, for the problem is one that concerns future generations. Outside of forests and wild life, when most of the inherited resources are used, there is little possibility of renewing the supply—the mills of the gods grind too slowly. Depleted mineral deposits and lowered water levels can not be restored. Each of us has a selfish interest in the conservation of natural resources irrespective of our great moral obligation to our children’s children. There is, perhaps, no other single problem of such fundamental importance to the future welfare of our citizens.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt recently made a distinct contribution toward the solution of the modern problem, of potential far-reaching significance, by the creation of the National Resources Board. The report of this Board was made to the President in November, 1934. The five parts dealing with planning plans, land planning, water planning, mineral policy, and the national mapping plan, are crowded with significant data of deep interest to everyone. The reports may be bought from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington.

Many states have long had various bureaus or divisions for the investigation of their forests, mineral deposits, water supplies, and fish and game. Strangely enough relatively few comprehensive state surveys have been made of soils, the most fundamental of all natural resources. Even more strange, only three states have had an accurate topographic map made of their domains—and accurate contour maps are the essential basis of all engineering projects and surveys of natural resources, as well as being very useful for other purposes. Numerous states have organized commissions to inventory and aid in the wise use of their natural resources. In Virginia, this organization is the State Commission on Conservation and Development, created in 1926 by action of the General Assembly. It is now composed of five business and professional leaders from different parts of the Commonwealth, a Chairman, and an Executive Secretary. Its divisions include the Forest Service, Geological Survey, History and Archaeology, Parks and Landscape Engineering, State Publicity, and Water Resources and Power.

A State Planning Board was created in 1933. It is making a survey of the elements that enter into a well-ordered plan for the development of the basic resources of the State. Many data are being compiled as a basis for future plans of action. The value of looking forward and of having a complete collection and analysis of the facts upon which to base mature plans for the proper use of all of our natural resources should be obvious.

Conservation is a word that should in this day and age have a significant meaning for every citizen of the United States, and especially for every resident of Virginia. Supremely rich in historical records and traditions, the Old Dominion has been endowed also with a large variety of natural resources. But alas! how general is the ignorance of the kinds, distribution, present values, and future possibilities of these resources. How general too is the lack of an appreciative understanding of the origin of these “gifts of Nature” and of their future duration.

We are not wholly to blame for this lack of knowledge of the “stuff” on which modern civilization is built, for seldom have we been taught many facts about these resources, even within our own state, or of their profound significance. These resources have been largely taken for granted or left
...to the attention of scientists, engineers, industrialists and others who have been primarily interested in their exploration and exploitation. But "everybody's business is nobody's business," and the results bid fair to become tragic as the generations pass.

You young women, who in part hold the education of the rising generation of Virginia's sons and daughters in your hands, have a responsibility to teach well our future citizens about the resources of their native land. The traditional three "R's" merely equip man to work and live better; real knowledge of another "R"—Resources—that bring him his livelihood, and also comfort and pleasure and are the warp and woof of the civilization in which he lives, enables him to live and work more intelligently and usefully, and, therefore, more happily. After all, that is the purpose of true conservation.

Virginia is richly endowed with natural resources. Soils are the most fundamental though not of the greatest antiquity. They have been an unrestricted gift of Nature, formed through age-old geologic processes of rock disintegration and decay. But how commonly have they been tilled with little knowledge of their really temporary character and fertility under intensive or improper cultivation. Man has thoughtlessly treated this basic resource with almost criminal negligence. Perhaps, some future generation will wonder in deep perplexity why its intelligent forbears robbed the continent of a virgin resource that came to them as a priceless heritage to be conserved for all time. Not only has the fertility of many soils been seriously impaired, but a loss that is irremediable is the rapid erosion of soils and their wastage into the oceans. Possibly you have sometime been halted at a railroad crossing while an unusually long train slowly passed. Each year the amount of soil carried by the Mississippi River alone into the Gulf would fill enough 50-ton coal cars to make 200 daily trains of 100 cars each! One such train every seven minutes! Fortunately, the Federal Soil Conservation Service, recently created, is scientifically attacking the problem. Erosion once entrenched is a foe that is hard to overcome and eternal vigilance on all fronts must be the general policy.

The State Commission on Conservation and Development does not make soil surveys; they are done by the Virginia Polytechnic Institute in co-operation with the United States Bureau of Soils. But the Commission participates in some of the work through the Geological Survey, in making geologic maps showing the character of the parent formations and topographic maps on which the soil surveys are plotted, and through the Forest Service in conserving the forest cover and in reforestation.

Virginia contains a diversity of mineral deposits. I shall not take time to enumerate them in detail but they comprise large bodies of coal, numerous metals scattered over the state, and vast resources of the nonmetallics. The coal is found chiefly in the southwestern counties, in Montgomery and Pulaski counties, and in the Richmond Basin. Some of the coal is of anthracite grade. The first coal mined in America was near Richmond. The metals include gold, iron, lead, manganese, titanium minerals, and zinc. The most important nonmetallic deposits are barite, cement rock, clays, dolomite, feldspar, gypsum, limestone, salt, sand and gravel, slate, soapstone, and talc. Although Virginia does not have the good fortune to have large stores of gold and petroleum, as have some other states, the value of annual mineral production has exceeded $80,000,000. The value of raw materials mined and quarried in Virginia during the last quarter century has been more than one billion dollars. Data about these deposits, in the form of published bulletins and maps, may be obtained from the Geological Survey at Charlottesville.

The natural wonders of Virginia are a most attractive and invaluable resource.
They illustrate numerous processes of landscape sculpture and are interesting records of geologic history. Their aesthetic values and those of our diverse scenic features are unquestioned but their service in alluring visitors to the state is not often or fully realized. Here in the Shenandoah Valley you have no doubt visited some of the unrivalled caverns, annually visited by hundreds of thousands of tourists from many states. Natural Bridge is not far distant, but somewhat like a prophet it is more or less without honor in its own country. Then there is Natural Tunnel, in Scott County; Burkes Garden in Tazewell County; Mountain Lake, almost 4,000 feet above sea level, in Giles County; the Pinnacles of Dan in Patrick County; and Dismal Swamp southwest of Norfolk. Myriad other scenic gems might be mentioned. Nearly thirty mountain peaks rise 4,000 feet above the sea. Neighboring Massanutten Mountain is a unique landscape feature. The Old Dominion has been blessed in the turn of geologic events with an unsurpassed assemblage of sea coasts, tidal rivers, plains, plateaus, and mountains that are destined to bring increasing recreation to our own citizens and to the innumerable visitors who will come if we but make our treasures known to them. Shenandoah National Park and the state parks will for all time conserve some of these features in their natural state.

Virginia fortunately is blessed also with an abundance of water, both surface and underground. That may not seem to be exactly true when the recent droughts are recalled, but they are probably only swings in the climatic cycle. Surface waters, however, are not illimitable. The shortsightedness of man has done much to destroy the regularity of their flow, to reduce their volumes, and to pollute them beyond use. They depend not only upon atmospheric precipitation but also upon underground storage that replenishes them during dry periods. Ground waters are invaluable also in affording domestic, municipal, and industrial supplies. The need of conserving the quantity and quality of all of these waters is almost too obvious for discussion. Unfortunately, too much pollution has occurred. Available information about our water supplies is too scant to meet all of the demands for it.

About 55 per cent of the State is forest land. Most of our superb virgin forests have been destroyed, in part usefully to advance the welfare of our citizens, but in part rather wantonly. Great National Forests are helping to conserve some of the present stock. The annual inroads of forest fires, mostly due to human carelessness, is a deplorable loss to the state.

The above-mentioned resources are tangible natural resources, evident to all who will look and see them. More intangible, but of equal importance, are the history resources of the state. As residents of Virginia and as students you are no doubt fully aware of the incomparable and imperishable records and traditions of our history. They allure countless visitors to the state every year, in response to the innate urge to visit in person the scenes of great historical and social events.

I have mentioned that the State Commission on Conservation and Development deals primarily with the forests, mineral resources, and waters of the state as well as its parks, history and archaeology, and appropriate publicity for all of the resources within our borders. It is our task, along with all other groups having similar objectives, to aid as much as possible in the full development of a great commonwealth. It is our duty to afford adequate technical service in the field of conservation and development of the state's natural resources to all of our citizens and to all others who may become interested in those resources. The Commission is supported by state appropriations and its service is to the state. Permit me to outline briefly some of its chief activities.
You are familiar, at least from accounts
in the press, with some of the great develop-
ments under way in recent years. They
include the Shenandoah National Park and
its magnificent Skyline Drive; the Colonial
National Monument; six State Parks, and a
host of other undertakings by the various
divisions of the Commission which, though
less spectacular, are none the less of great
importance to the Commonwealth.

At this college, almost in the shadow of
the Shenandoah National Park and in an
area where the idea of a great national park
in Virginia was first translated into action,
you have the opportunity to see and know
at first hand some of the beauties and
charms of the park. One may wonder, how-
ever, how many have not yet visited the
park itself. You may be surprised to
learn that for the national parks “travel
year,” which ended on September 30, 1935,
4,284,615 visited the National Parks of
America, and that 516,637 entered the Shen-
andoah National Park area, more than in
any of the long-established and much pub-
licized national parks. When it becomes a
real national park, with the care and atten-
tion of the National Park Service, its value
to this part of the state and to all of the
state can scarcely be forecast. Not alone
in the dollars and cents that will enter
manifold channels of commerce and bring
financial aid to many families, but in the
first-hand knowledge of the charm of Vir-
ginia will be much of the real future value
of the Park.

The unique Colonial National Monu-
ment—the cradle of the nation, the birth-
place of representative government, the seat
of our Colonial capital, and the place where
American independence was finally won—
has become the shrine and mecca of throngs
of tourists from many states. The mag-
nificent authentic restoration of Colonial
Williamsburg by Mr. John D. Rockefeller,
Jr., has added immeasurable attraction to
that historic area. If you have not seen it,
let me urge you to do so at the first oppor-
tunity.

Our developing system of state parks
will afford many possibilities of re-creative
recreation to all residents of Virginia.
When made fully available to the public
next year they will no doubt be visited an-
ually by thousands of tourists. There are
seven parks in the chain: Chesterfield Park,
southwest of Richmond; Douthat State
Park, in Bath and Alleghany counties,
what of Clifton Forge; Fairystone
State Park, in Patrick County, northwest
of Martinsville; Hungry Mother State
Park, in Smyth County, just north of Ma-
rian; Seashore State Park near Cape Hen-
ry; Staunton River State Park, in Halifax
County; and Westmoreland State Park,
along the south side of the Potomac be-
tween historic Wakefield and Stratford.

Much of the lands in these parks was
donated by public-spirited citizens and some
was acquired by purchase. The total area
of the State Parks is now approximately
18,000 acres, of which more than two-
thirds was given to the state through the
activities of the State Commission on Con-
servation and Development. Chesterfield
Park, when added to the system, will prob-
ably contain an additional 7,600 acres.

The parks have been carefully chosen in
regard to their natural attractions, accessi-
bility, and suitability for rest and recrea-
tion. Two of the parks—Seashore and
Westmoreland—front on unsurpassed natu-
ral bodies of water. Lovely lakes will be
developed in Douthat, Fairystone, and Hun-
gry Mother Parks, due to the splendid
services of young men in the CCC camps.
Douthat and Hungry Mother parks are not
far from main-traveled state highways, yet
are in the midst of bold mountains. With
the exception of seven or eight counties,
some state park is within fifty miles of
every resident. Ample recreational facili-
ties, trails, camp sites, cabins, and other
structures are being constructed in the
parks. All of these activities are under the
supervision of the Park Division of the Commission.

In the well-ordered conservation of these natural resources for the benefit of this and of future generations, many young men through the CCC camps are being conserved and given valuable new contacts with Nature. In many ways this conservation and rehabilitation of thousands of our young men will aid also in the prompt conservation of natural resources. The educational values of that work are apparent.

Our forests are one of our most perishable resources. The Commission through the Virginia Forest Service is constantly on the alert to safeguard them as much as is possible. A most important activity is the prevention of forest fires and the rapid suppression of fires before they cause great losses. In co-operation with 61 counties a group of 1,600 part-time forest wardens and fire-fighting crews of 3,000 men have been established. Nevertheless, carelessness by brush burners, hunters, campers, and others annually result in large losses to individual property owners and to the state. Many miles of trails and roads have been made and scores of look-out towers erected.

The Forest Service has a fine nursery at Charlottesville, from which young trees for reforestation are distributed in quantity at a nominal cost. The steady work done by this Division adds not only directly to the wealth of the state but also adds much indirectly in the control of floods, water supplies and soil erosion and in providing areas for wild life to propagate. The recreational and aesthetic values of our forests are priceless.

The work of the Geological Survey is primarily to investigate and inventory all of the mineral resources of the state and to publish the results in the form of bulletins and maps. Developed mineral resources have become more and more a vital necessity of our mode of living. Most of our daily activities depend in some way upon the development of very old mineral deposits. Even the most common minerals are not found in stock to be ordered as needed, but they have been stored in the rocks by geologic processes for millions of years. The Geological Survey applies the known principles of mineral occurrence and distribution in making its surveys of various parts of the state. It has published 43 bulletins and numerous maps. A few of the publications, like *Caverns of Virginia*, have been written for use in schools and by the general public.

Much assistance is given also to property owners in the determination of mineral deposits on their lands and in advising them as to their commercial possibilities.

One of the projects of the Geological Survey of wide general importance is the making of a topographic map of the state. Such topographical maps show all of the surface features of the mapped area; that is, the contour of the land, the drainage features, and all of the structures built by man, even the trails and individual houses. Hence they are indispensable for many projects. This work is being done, section by section, in co-operation with the Federal government. In view of the prime importance of these maps, the work is progressing too slowly.

The water resources of the state have always played an integral part in the civic and industrial development of the state. It is sometimes overlooked that the routes of migration across the state were largely controlled by water supplies, whether used for transportation, mill sites, or the daily occupations of the settlers. The Water Resources and Power Division is making daily measurements, by means of gaging stations on the principal rivers, of stream volumes. These data are vital to industry and to towns and cities depending upon a minimum flow. Thus the power resources of our streams are being accurately determined. Unfortunately, these investigations did not start until 1925, and it is imperative that the data cover as long a term of years as pos-
sible. This Division also studies the springs of the State. It has published bulletins on them as well as on stream measurements. Included in its recent work has been the survey and location of adequate water supplies on top of the Blue Ridge in the Shenandoah National Park area.

The results of some of the work of the Division of History and Archaeology are evident along all of our primary highways. It is a relatively small matter, though not an inexpensive one, to have a history marker made and erected. Each of those succinct inscriptions, which brings history forcefully to the motorist as he travels, has required long and patient research to make it accurate. Some 1,200 markers have been placed and other historic spots are yet to be marked. They are the wonder and delight of history-minded tourists and the lead of Virginia in this work has been copied by several other states.

The Division is constantly searching out old records, in the libraries and in the field, in order to catch up numerous priceless threads of Virginia history before they are lost forever. It has been making a photographic survey of the old Colonial houses in the state, that these types of architecture may be preserved for future generations. The State Historian has prepared an outline history of Virginia, for use in schools and by the general public when funds are available for its publication.

Conservation and development of the state's resources would fall far short of its complete objective if we were content only to make surveys and inventories of our forests, mineral deposits, water supplies and historical records and to develop parks for the preservation of selected areas for the use of our own people. As richly as Virginia is endowed with a genial climate, natural resources, scenic beauty, historic traditions, and charming hospitality, all of these would be of relatively little worth unless advertised beyond our borders. Through the Division of Publicity the Commission is striving to reach the traveling public and to inform it accurately and appropriately of the pleasures and profits that await it in Virginia. Our resources are publicized by means of attractive advertisements in periodicals having national circulation, by publications distributed by all of the divisions of the Commission, and by replies to an almost endless stream of inquiries. The educational value of this work is manifest. The commercial value may be simply expressed by the fact that tourists now annually bring $75,000,000 to $100,000,000 to the state and leave it widely distributed through all parts.

Each resident of Virginia is in a sense a participant in the work of the State Commission on Conservation and Development as he is in the state government. Much of the basic information passed on to our rising citizens depends upon the teachers of the state. Many of the impressions of Virginia's beauty and charm and hospitality depend upon what we as individuals do to make those things attractive and imperishable and cause them to linger long in the memories of our passing guests.

Wilbur C. Hall

AN AMATEUR DRAMATIC THEORY

WOULD it be heretical, at a time when, in spite of Little Theatre movements, eager dramatic departments in universities, and post-post-Romantic experimentation in dramatic structure, the living theatre is ailing, to suggest that we are gorged with dramatic theories? Of course we cannot blame Aristotle and Sarcey and Brunetière and Hugo and Gordon Craig and William Archer for the present stagnation of American and British drama, and perhaps the reason that even cultured Americans prefer talking pictures of racketeers and of lovely blondes who go wrong and then join the Salvation Army to Ibsen and Barrie is inherent in our temperaments. Perhaps too we have fo-