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## REPORTED MISSING

Richard Boyd.....Owen Moore  
Pauline Dale.....Pauline Garon  
Sam.....Tom Wilson  
J. Young.....Togo Yamamoto  
Andrew Dunn.....Robert Cain  
Captain Ferguson.....Frank Wunderlee

Lewis J. Selznick gave a special presentation of "Reported Missing," a five-reel comedy directed by Henry J. Lehrman, starring Owen Moore, at the Hotel Ritz Carlton, New York, last week. It is a whale of a laugh picture and undoubtedly will gross toward the half-million dollar mark as it stands, but if it were taken and re-edited and retitled the chances are that the picture would prove a second "Mickey" in the matter of gross receipts.

The story was written by the director, and it is a real thriller as a melodrama, but the meller is handled in such a slapstick manner as to make it a howling farce.

Moore plays the role of a wealthy youngster who has more money than brains and who has led a life that has been entirely along the primrose path. To please the girl he wants to marry he consents to purchase a gigantic shipping fleet that the United States Government has and is about to dispose of. Moore, as Richard Boyd, is the head of the directorate board that holds an option on the ships, but the Japanese shipping trust is also planning to lay their hands on the fleet. So their agent plots with a relative of the young man's to get him out of the way until his option expires.

From this point on the thrills start. Moore and the girl are on the way to the minister after he has delivered his ultimatum to the directors regarding the purchase of the ships, but instead they are driven to a wharf where they are set upon and taken aboard a yacht which is to keep them at sea until the option expires. The yacht is wrecked, the comedy that follows brings howl after howl from the audience. For the rescue a battleship is brought into play, and atop of that Moore starts off in a hydroplane for a chase after a sea-sledge in which the Jap conspirator is running off with the girl. Naturally, there is a happy ending, with Moore getting the girl and arriving on the scene in time to buy the ships.

Lehrman has taken that plot and dressed it with all the slap-stick hoke that one could ask for, and the general indications are that the picture is going to prove a clean-up for the exhibitor as well as Selznick.

Moore has a role that is difficult to say the least. He seemingly undertook to take all of the leaps and dives that the picture necessitated without resorting to a double.

Pauline Garon played the lead opposite him and managed to score nicely. But Tom Wilson, working in blackface, managed to clean up on the comedy outside of Moore. He was in all of the battle and took the flops and falls with a wow.

Five title writers are credited with having provided the reading matter. A number of them are daily paper columnists and humorists, but their titles failed to show any of the alleged humor that they are credited with being possessed of. It was the action of the picture that brought the laughs rather than the subtitles.

Fred.

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