

For a minute Merton was abashed because of the lady and stood undecided as to what was his role in this new development, but to his amazement Miss Ardsley went directly toward the fellow and began to talk with him, principally by gestures.

Not to be outdone, Merton joined them and attempted conversation. All he learned was that the native had picked up a boat and was holding it at the next island. He had swum over to look for the occupants, preferring swimming to rowing.

"It is my boat," Merton began, but Miss Ardsley had said it first, and the native, the rings in his ears jingling, grunted as he pointed to the lady.

Then Miss Ardsley added more signs and gestures and Merton's heart sank pitifully. At last his horror of her suggestion overcame him and he weakened and spoke to her.

"Don't do it, I beg of you!" he said earnestly. "You are perfectly safe until he brings the boat. I admit I've been frustrated in my intentions and I'll give up the game if you will only be prudent!"

Miss Ardsley's expression of scorn was her only answer. The big black fellow bent and she climbed upon his back. She wound her legs around his ribs and her arms around his neck, and not until he was waist deep in the water did she let go her grip on him.

"I'll send a boat for you—some time!" she called to Merton as her body slid down the broad back and her gaitered legs kicked the water.

She was going to try swimming, evidently, holding only to the fellow's hips.

Then her voice vibrated with fun as she added:

"You will have to have it, of course, you are such a conventional idiot!"

#### MOSTLY ABOUT KISSES

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out to Universal City and see Cleo Madison weep." She can weep the wettest, saltiest, and largest tears known to teardom, and as kisses are akin to brine, it is not difficult to understand why she is one of unshakable faith.

Another interesting osculator of the screen is Dorothy Davenport, one of the favorite stars of filmdom. Being small she would find it difficult to withstand an endurance smack. She believes in abrupt kisses—the kind that touch you and then run. Her director says that a Dorothy Davenport kiss seldom requires more than five feet of film. But, those who have played opposite her declare they are great while they last!

One of the most temperamental kissers is Dorothy Phillips. She is a wonderful institution and if she ever started out to break any records in smacking she would have the domestic section of this nation in a chaotic state which even the European war could not outrival. She has unusually beautiful dark brown hair and a soft southern complexion. Her eyes are of the kind that overthrow promising republics, and have had a tendency

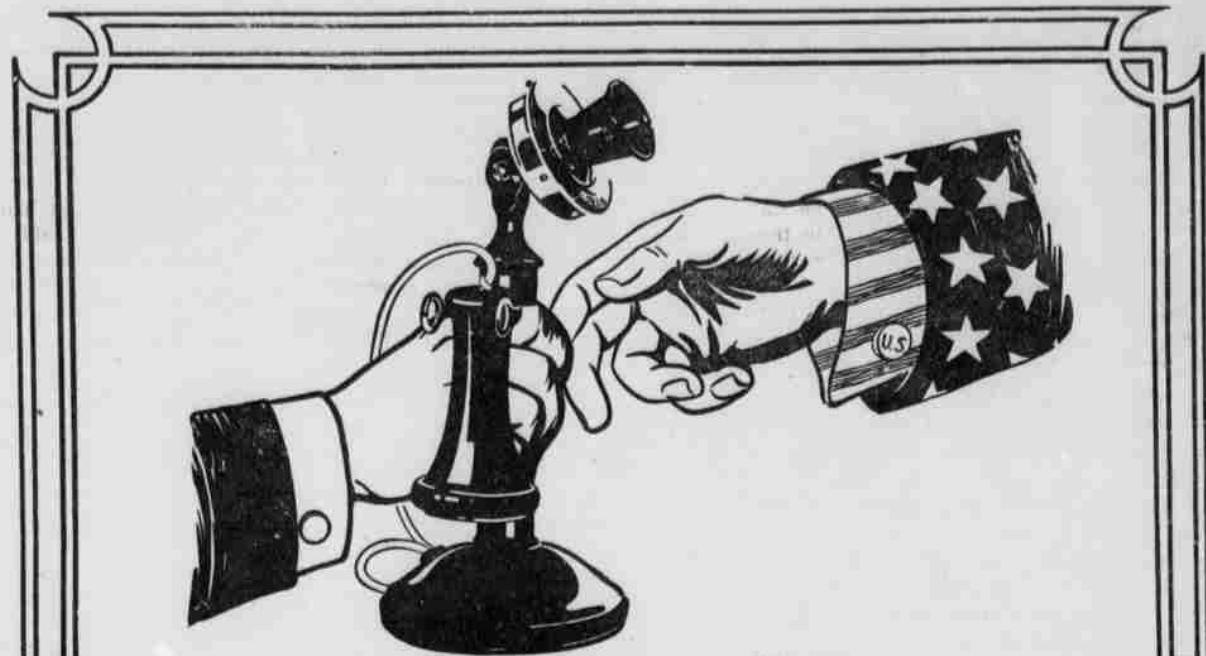
every now and then, throughout history, to topple over thrones. When she rolls those wonderful eyes of hers upwards, everything within a great radius, in the male line, forgets home, street and number. It is said out in Universal City that every leading man who has kissed her wanted to marry her immediately. But Dorothy is interested in her art, a handsome husband and a wonderful little baby.

There is one actor who positively made his reputation on the screen because of his wonderful kissing accomplishments. He is Jack Holt, and if you doubt this statement just glance at the way he is hating it in that picture with Ruth Stonehouse! He is recognized as one of the most fervent smackers on the screen. In one picture with Edith Roberts, he osculated so much that she sincerely vows she will never be able to appreciate a real, big juicy kiss when it comes, some day, from the man she expects to wed. According to her, kissing has lost the big punch, or smash, or what-

ever you choose to call it. And she blames it all on Jack, for she says he has put her lips absolutely out of commission. The directors claim, that for real, full-fledged, blown-in-the-bottle smacking Jack makes a Hobson look like a group of spinsters at an afternoon tea, where the degradation of man is the principal subject of discussion.

Gretchen Lederer believes in smacking, kissing and osculation. She considers that an actress must put all her feeling into the role she portrays if she is to get the best results from her work. If her part calls for the soul-devouring embraces of an adventuress, Gretchen endeavors to see that she lives up to the action demanded. When her director informs her that she is to fall in love with a certain character, she doesn't waste one inch of her affection, but plunges every ounce of it at the gink, just as though she really meant it. She lives the part. That may seem a bit rough—if you didn't know Gretchen. She is an

emotional actress and comes from an emotional country and studied in the Conservatoire of Cologne. Like all continentals, she realizes the value of a smack, and knows it speaks volumes where love and passion are concerned. There are no better actors on the screen today than the Germans and the French. When they make love they thrill, inspire and enthrall one, because they put their whole soul in their work. When they kiss our thoughts turn to flocks of girls. Visions of harems flit before us. We pine for the country east of Suez. It is worth noting that the actresses who are doing the best work on the screen today are not "fads," or those who are receiving enormous salaries. Who that saw "Business is Business" will forget the excellent acting done by Gretchen Lederer in that picture? Her work stood out because it was a fine piece of finished acting by a woman who not alone had beauty in her favor but was accomplished in her art.



## War Orders Rushed

**T**HE magnitude of the great war in which we are now engaged, has necessitated unusual preparation. Mighty forces are marshalling, great stores of food and munitions are being gathered, and the energies of the nation are focused on problems incident to the war.

At the very beginning of the war, the whole Bell System was placed at the disposal of the Government. No nation has entered the war with such a comprehensive and efficient telephone service.

As our military establishment grows, the demands of the Government upon the Bell System are bound to increase and always they must take precedence over all others.

Increased activity in commerce and industry as the result of larger demands for food and munitions from our allies and for our own use, means more need of telephone service by private business.

But private business must always be subordinated to the Government service. Each individual American will co-operate in this patriotic service, and submit cheerfully to inconvenience or delay in his telephone service, when he understands how vital it is that Government service shall take precedence over all else.

**The Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company**