TOP of the bill for many years, Timmy Tiverton, comedian, has tried for some weeks now to persuade himself that he is still a success, but his arguments with himself grow less and less convincing as the days go on, and now it is clear to him that nobody wants him any more.

And then quite suddenly it seems that he is wanted by everyone, for, by an unlucky accident, he blows up the statue of a much-respected citizen of Birchester, and the whole population of that dismal town seems to be pursuing him in consequence.

Chased by the police with a zest that forces him into many unusual situations, Timmy soon meets a Czechoslovakian professor who is also hiding from the police and together they make their precarious way until, to Timmy’s delight and the Professor’s bewilderment, they join with Mr. Hassock, a travelling showman, and his niece, Hope, who are on their way to the market town of Dunbury, to give their unique entertainment.

But at Dunbury the party receives a severe setback, for the hall which Mr. Hassock has hired proves to have some restriction placed upon it which prohibits its use for entertainment purposes.

Mr. Hassock and his party refuse to accept the situation, however, and when they discover that the Hall was given to the people of Dunbury expressly for the entertainment and that the Council are quite illegally trying to deprive them of it, they are more than ever determined to fight for their rights.

In direct defiance of the local authorities, therefore, they hold their entertainment as advertised, but the show is soon broken up by the police and they are forced to make an ignominious retreat. Timmy in his efforts to escape capture hides in a stationary car only to find to his dismay that he is being driven swiftly away into the country. But for once Timmy’s luck holds, for the car stops at a country road-house which he finds to his delight is run by an old friend of his in the show business, Daisy Barley. He tells Daisy his story and soon she has him safely on his way back to Dunbury, but only with the promise that he will get in touch with her again if she can help them.

Next morning the party decide at all costs to “stick to their guns,” for now they are determined to regain the Hall for the people of Dunbury. To do this they must enlist all the help they can and Hope is sent off to capture the heart, and therefore the sympathy, of Sir Reginald Foxfield, a young baronet, whose mother holds great sway in the local council.

Hope does not have much difficulty with the highly susceptible Sir Reginald, but his mother was a different proposition. Hope realises that they have a formidable opponent in Lady Foxfield and her friends, for they want to acquire the Hall for themselves as a Museum.

In addition, it is discovered that a commercial group known as United Plastics, Ltd., who own a large factory in the town, are also anxious to obtain the Hall, as a showroom, but Timmy and the Professor carry out their skilful attack against this group so well that the entire staff of the factory are rallied to the cause.

With the ground so prepared, it was decided once again to stake the people’s claim to the Hall, and so Hope and her associates hold their show once more. Again the police interfere, but this time the people are prepared and in the ensuing fracas it soon becomes obvious that the police are not getting the best of it.

Still the Council insist on ignoring the claims of the people. Even so, they could not decide which of the other two parties should have the Hall and so the only course open was to call for arbitration. To Lady Foxfield’s secret satisfaction the arbitrator suggested was an old friend of hers who, for that reason alone, she felt would be certain to favour her side of the question.

But Lady Foxfield had reckoned without her son. On the day of the arbitration, Sir Reginald lured the arbitrator, Sir George Denberry-Baxter, into the country road-house where Timmy’s friend, Daisy, entertained him so royally that he was easily persuaded to side with the people.

The arbitration itself will no doubt live in the annals of Dunbury for many years to come, for not only were the commercial requirements of United Plastics, Ltd., swept firmly aside by Sir George, but the snug satisfaction of Lady Foxfield was soon turned to anger as he refused to agree with any single point she made. His decision was made in favour of “the people” and at once there arose from the body of the Hall a mass of cheering men and women who marched in triumph to the Hall singing as they went, to claim it for all time as their own.
CAST

HOPE OLLERTON ........................................... PATRICIA ROC
THE PROFESSOR ............................................. ALASTAIR SIM
SIR GEORGE DENBERRY-BAXTER .......................... FRED EMNEY
TIMMY TIVERTON ........................................... EDWARD RIGBY
SIR REGINALD ................................................ OLIVER WAKEFIELD

Lady Foxfield .............................. Annie Esmond
Lady Shepshed .............. Marion Spencer
Daisy Baley .................. Olive Sloane
Mrs. Minterley ................. Maire O’Neill
Ketley ............................ Gus McNaughton
Young Orton .................. Charles Hawthey
Major Shiptonhorpe Peter Gawthorne
Commander Spoofforth Aubrey Mallalieu
Colonel Hazelhead ........ Spencer Trevor
Mr. Finningley ............. David Keir
Mayor .......................... Charles Doe
Town Clerk ................... Eliot Makeham
Packles Junior ............... Alexander Field

Peham ................................ Leopold Glasspoole
Barristier ..................... Ian Fleming
Hassocks ...................... Robert Aitken
Dr. Buckie .................... Mignon O’Doherty
Candover .................... M. Martin-Harvey
Tom Largs .................. Richard George
Secretary ................... Diana Beaumont
Inspector .................. G. H. Mulcaster
Sim .............................. Wally Patch
Walter ........................ Horace Kenney
Jim Flagg ..................... Morris Harvey
Katie .............................. Ida Barr
Attendant .................. Stanley Paskin

ALSO

Alan Tomkins
George Merritt
Cecil Bevan
Maurice Rhodes
Henry Longhurst
Ben Williams

Screen Adaptation by JOHN BAXTER and BARBARA EMARY
Musical Score Composed and Directed by KENNEDY RUSSELL
Lyrics by DESMOND O’CONNOR

(Song: “Let The People Sing,” by NOEL GAY and FRANK EYTON)

Director of Photography ....................... JAMES WILSON
Sound Supervisor .............................. HAROLD KING
Art Director ................................... HOLMES PAUL
Supervising Editor ......................... JACK HARRIS

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