FOREIGN CRITICS ACCLAIM

"MERLUSSE"

LONDON VARIETY—Pagnol has made it a film worthy of comparison with "Maedchen in Uniform" and "La Maternelle."

LONDON MORNING POST—This is in many ways one of the most unusual films ever made. It is perfectly acted.

LONDON EVERY STANDARD—Marcel Pagnol turned out a picture as good as "La Maternelle." A most touching story, sentimentally directed and acted with assurance and polish by the whole cast.

INTRANSIGENT—(Lucien Wahl) MERLUSSE is entitled to a place by itself in the French cinema, and it's an enviable one.

LA CRITIQUE CINEMATOGRAPHIQUE—MERLUSSE is the supreme triumph of the 100% talking.

DEPECHE DE TOULOUSE—MERLUSSE deserves a place apart in the French cinema.

COMEDIE—One can qualify MERLUSSE as a masterpiece, without hesitation.

MARSEILLE-LIBRE—Wild salvos of applause were given and deserved by MERLUSSE.

PARIS-SOIR—No other film on child life has aroused such direct and simple emotions as MERLUSSE, by Pagnol.

LE JOURNAL (Antoine)—MERLUSSE is a magnificent creation.

LA CINEMATOGRAPHIE FRANCAISE—A sensible and adorable film which people of all ages love to see.

L'OEUVERRE—This film is one of such delicate charm, of such sad tenderness, so full of remorseful injustices, that one is actually moved to tears.

NOUVELLES LITTERAIRES—(Alexandre Arraux)—A simple story—summing it up it's a story of enchantment come true, but one of such unity, such secessions, such delicacy, that all in all, the effect is positively ravishing.

L'ECRAN—Such exquisite and tender delicacy, such fine emotion in the dialogue—a superb production.

LE MATIN—This film attains a direct truth of the most scrupulous art creation.

ECHO DE PARIS—The dialogue is so spontaneous and accurate, yet full of a delicious flavor. The interpretation is perfectly natural.

LA PETITE GIRONDE—The true flavor of the dialogue grips the spectator and fascinates him.

POUR VOUS—(Jean Vidal)—Henri Poupon is astonishingly natural, one cannot create the pitiable yet dignified character of MERLUSSE, the teacher, with more intelligence or humanity.

FIGARO (J. L.)—The text is alive with new creative ideas and unusual photographic art studies in black and white.
SYNOPSIS OF
'"MERLUSSE"
(The Illustrated London News)

"Merlusse," which in Provencal French means "codfish," is the nickname bestowed by the schoolboys on a hated professor, whose glass eye and repellent personality strike terror into youthful hearts. The picture is a study of barriers raised by misunderstanding and broken down during Christmas Eve. The ugly, sensitive old professor is deputed to take charge of a bunch of boys of varying ages, but all deprived of the joys of holidays at home. Lonely and aggrieved themselves, they vent their spite on the ogre, Merlusse, himself as lonely and aggrieved as his charges. The director reveals the minds and souls of the youngsters in snatches of talk.

During the brief span of time occupied by the picture, which covers the hours between five in the afternoon and nine o'clock in the morning, the fate of Merlusse and the conquest of his recalcitrant charges becomes a matter of vital importance, and it is only in retrospect that the admirable precision with which this simple narrative has been built up, brick by brick, can be realized. The playground and the interior of the Lycee provide all the necessary settings, but the cloisters, barred with shadow and stretching out into cool, dim perspectives, suffice to fill the eye with their unruffled dignity.

"Merlusse," devoid of scenic sensations as it is, completely natural in atmosphere and interpretation, unpretentious in frame and in subject, has an integrity and a human quality that transforms it into a memorable experience.

"MOSCOW-VOLGA"
A Symphony of Rivers

As a special added attraction, Ankin presents a documentary film of Soviet Russia which deals with the gigantic task of connecting the Volga with the Moscow River and creating the canal. This is the most unusual experiment in modern engineering, and we believe it is far superior, from a documentary film viewpoint, than Faye Brewster's "The River" as it actually shows factories, churches and whole towns being dynamited away, and home transported. This film will prove most interesting and unusual—a symphony of rivers.