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## "The Mother"

This Russian film has had one of the few really big successes in Berlin, even to such an extent that film houses opposite and alongside of each other played it the same evening.

Although not the money-maker in North Germany that "Potemkin" was, it will probably about even up as the censorship will find no ground to forbid it in South Germany. In America its appeal may be stronger than that of "Potemkin," as it tells a regular story.

Maxim Gorki's short story, from which it is taken, concerns a mother whose son conceals strikers' weapons in the house. The police come and arrest the son on suspicion and the mother, believing that she will save the son by doing so, discloses the hiding place of the revolvers. As a result, the son is committed to jail and the mother inveighs against the injustice of the court. A demonstrating party of workers marches out to the prison, and at the same time the convicts start a revolt from within. The officials get wind of the affair, however, and the prisoners begin before they get any help from outside. Most of them are shot down, only the son escaping by leaping onto floating ice on the river. Cavalry have been also warned of the march of the workers and charge down upon them, shooting the son and riding down the mother who holds the red flag aloft.

The direction of the 23-year-old Pudowkin is undoubtedly workmanlike and concise, but in no wise epoch-making. Moreover, he uses the very bad and outmoded trick of continually comparing the action of humans with natural phenomena. The players are generally competent, especially the bits which are peculiarly interesting on account of their characteristically Russian qualities.

*May 18 '27*