

# The Club Smoking Room.

By HAVANA.

## Why Pantomime is Popular.

**P**ANTOMIME," remarked a veteran playgoer, "is still as popular as ever, judging by the crowded houses it attracts. There still lingers a kind of popular theory that it is intended to please the children, but I fancy it is quite as popular with the grown-ups. We get tired of problem plays, and even the excitement of melodrama palls in time, but catchy music, gorgeous scenery, well arranged ballets, and pretty girls, will always attract. To my mind, the pantomime is better than most musical comedies, and vastly superior to the majority of plays staged at the present day. Somehow, we don't seem to get any really good songs now, and the comic interludes are often feeble in the extreme. But for spectacular effects, we are far ahead of the east generation. I often wonder, by the way, when we are going to produce a really great dramatist? The success of spectacular pieces is largely due to the fact that the majority of our dramas are pure rubbish. It is difficult to sit some of them out."

tion that you were the counsel in question. Did the jury pity him for his choice of a defender?"

## A Curious Verdict.

"Not at all," replied the lawyer. "I was not the defending counsel. I was merely a spectator. The counsel was the local squire, and the jury were mostly men who were in one way or other dependent on him. He advanced the astonishing plea that his client had stolen the goods in a fit of absence of mind. It was, of course, an utterly absurd defence, and the Judge disdained to comment on it, beyond making a few sarcastic references to people who wasted the time of the Court. The jury retired, and returned in a few minutes. In reply to the usual question whether they found the prisoner guilty or not guilty, the foreman said that they knew nothing about guilty or not guilty; they found for the squire. The Judge refused to accept this very unusual verdict, and explained that the squire was only defending the prisoner. The twelve good men and true thereupon acquitted the prisoner, and the squire had gained a brilliant victory. I have read of cases even more absurd, but that was the funniest I ever came across personally."

## British Justice.

"I often think," put in the M.P., "that our British justice is not all it is cracked up to be. What chance has a poor man of gaining an acquittal? Precious little as things are at present. You take a man who is absolutely ignorant of the methods of a Court of Law, and put him in the dock, and tell him he is at liberty to defend himself. The very fact that he is in the dock is against him; his ignorance is still more against him. To oppose him, you get the best lawyer you can find—a man who has spent his life in the atmosphere of Courts, and who is an expert in the art of marshalling facts, and examining witnesses. The Crown pays all its witnesses and all its own costs of the trial. The unfortunate prisoner has to pay all his costs out of his own pocket. You know the thing is most grossly unfair. I have

known a perfectly innocent man to be fifty or sixty pounds out of pocket. If the Crown pays the cost of the prosecution, it ought to pay the cost of the defence. It is in the public interest that justice should be done, and under our present law there are frequent miscarriages of justice."

## Where Was the Money?

"You are quite right," answered the lawyer, "but it seems to be a matter in which nobody takes much interest. The expenses of a good defence are often very heavy. I remember a barrister telling me that a man came to him to defend him on a charge of stealing fifty sovereigns. The barrister undertook the case for £50, cast in advance. His client went away, and returned in a few hours with the money in gold. The man of law secured an acquittal by representing that his client had never shown any sign of being in possession of a large sum of money. If the sovereigns had been taken by him, where were they? The man was quite a pauper, and there was no evidence that he had been flush of cash, and so on. It was ingenious, and succeeded with the jury."

"Which goes to show," commented the cynic, "that lawyers may be the best promoters of honesty, since their rapacity in the matter of fees makes pilfering decided unprofitable. They probably get the lion's share of the profits, whether the case is civil or criminal. If you wish to make money out of crime, it is better to be a lawyer than a professional burglar. It is also safer."

At Washington the newspaper correspondents are telling the following story about Mr. Walter Brownlow, of Tennessee: Recently he called up somebody at White House. He had a fierce time. "Central," who tried to get the number for him, appeared to be inexperienced or asleep. Mr. Brownlow, ordinarily the most patient of men, finally lost his patience. "Look here!" he shouted; "quit this foolishness! Either get me the White House or give me some place where I may at least talk to my intellectual equal!"

Silence for a moment, and then over the wire came a good loud "Hello!" in a man's voice.

Mr. Brownlow was much relieved. "What place is this?" he asked. "The Government Hospital for the Insane, across the river," came the answer. Mr. Brownlow is now endeavouring to ascertain that central's name. He wants to have her promoted. That's what he says to the newspaper men.

That everything should be neat and shipshape is most important aboard a yacht. A writer in the "Mariner's Advocate" tells the story of the captain of a certain sloop, who crossed the deck in a hurry, seemingly very much perplexed. A lady stopped him and asked what the trouble was.

"The fact is, ma'am," he said, "our rudder's broken."

"Oh, I shouldn't worry about that," said the lady. "Being under water nearly all the time, no one will notice it."

## AUCKLAND HOSPITAL AND CHARITABLE AID BOARD.

### NOTICE OF LEVYING A RATE.

The Valuer General hereby notifies that he has levied under the provisions of the Rating Act, 1908, and the Hospitals and Charitable Institutions Act, 1908, a Hospital and Charitable Aid Rate of six pence in the pound on all rateable property situated in the Manukau Riding Outlying of Manukau County for the period commencing on the first day of April, 1909, and ending on the first day of March, 1910, such rate to be payable in one sum on the 15th day of September, 1909, to the Secretary, Auckland Hospital and Charitable Aid Board, Auckland.

P. HEYRS,

Valuation Department, Valuer General, Wellington, 10th August, 1909.

## NORTHERN STEAM SHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

Weather and other circumstances permitting, the Company's steamers will leave as under:

For Russell.  
CLANSMAN .... Every Monday, at 7 p.m.  
For Russell, Whangara, and Mangonui.  
CLANSMAN ... Every Wednesday, at 5.30 p.m. No Cargo for Russell.  
For Awanui, Waiharara, Houhora, Whangara, and Mangonui.  
APANUI ..... Every Monday, at 2 p.m. No Cargo Whangara and Mangonui.  
For Whangarua, Helena Bay, Takaka, and Whangarei.  
PAEROA ..... Tuesday, 20th July, 1 p.m.  
For Great Barrier.  
WAIOTAHU ... Every Wednesday, midnight  
For Waiheke and Coromandel.  
LEAVE AUCKLAND.  
DAPHNE ... Every Mon and Fri. forenoon  
LEAVE COROMANDEL, VIA WAIHEKE.  
DAPHNE ..... Every Tue, and Sat. early

## FROM ONEHUNGA.

For Onehunga.  
CLAYMORE ..... Every Thursday  
For Raglan and Kowhia.  
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## WHANGAREI SERVICE.

Steamers leave Whangarei as under:—  
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3rd—Prevs. day. 9.30 a.m. No str. 9 a.m.  
6th—Prevs. day. 10 a.m. 8 a.m. No str.  
8th—9.15 a.m. 11.45 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon  
10th—9.15 a.m. 11 a.m. No str. 11 a.m.  
13th—9.15 a.m. 1 p.m. Noon. No str.  
15th—11.45 a.m. 3.45 p.m. 2 p.m. 4 a.m.  
17th—Prevs. day. 9.30 p.m. No str. 9 a.m.  
20th—9.15 a.m. 11 a.m. 9 a.m. No str.  
22nd—9.15 a.m. 11.45 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon.  
24th—9.15 a.m. 1 p.m. No str. 1 p.m.  
27th—9.15 a.m. 1 p.m. Noon. No str.  
29th—11.45 a.m. 3 p.m. 1 p.m. 3 p.m.  
31st—Prevs. day. 9.30 a.m. No str. 9 a.m.  
Goods outward by steamer leaving on following dates, viz., 2nd, 6th, 10th, 17th, 20th, and 31st must leave up-country stations by afternoon train previous day.  
NORTHERN S.S. CO., LTD., Agents.

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## TENDERS FOR INLAND MAIL SERVICE FAIRLIE-HERMITAGE.

General Post Office, Wellington, 16th August, 1909.  
Sealed Tenders will be received at the Chief Post Office, Timaru, until Noon on THURSDAY, 16th September, 1909, for the conveyance of mails by coach or motor car between the undermentioned places for a period of six years from 1st November, 1909, to 31st October, 1915.

POSTAL DISTRICT OF TIMARU.—Fairlie, Kimbrell, Burke's Pass, Lake Tekapo, Balmoral, Lake Pukaki, and Hermitage, from 1st November to 30th April, twice weekly; Fairlie, Kimbrell, Burke's Pass, Lake Tekapo, Balmoral, and Lake Pukaki, from 1st May to 31st October, once weekly; also Fairlie, Kimbrell, and Burke's Pass, from 1st May to 31st October, once weekly. The Government-owned stables at Gientauer (four stalls), and at the Hermitage (four stalls), may be hired from the Department of Tourist and Health Resorts by the successful contractor during the term of his contract at a nominal rental.

The lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.

The attention of intending tenderers is specially directed to the terms and conditions of contract printed on pages 4 and 5 of the tender forms.

The mode of conveyance to be either by coach or by motor car. The successful tenderer will be required to show that he is in a position to satisfactorily carry out the service. The number of horses to be used in a coach service, and the horse-power and number of motor cars, to be stated.

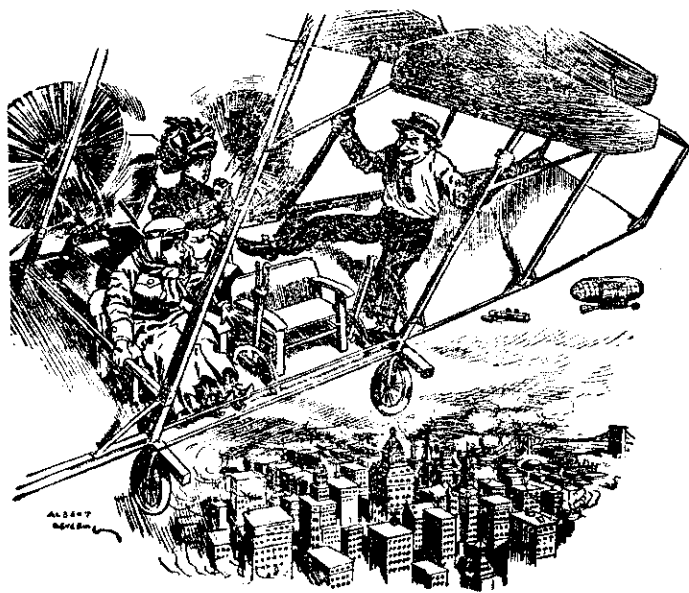
The contractor whose tender may be accepted must be prepared to carry out the service according to the time-table framed by the Department.

Forms of tender, with the terms and conditions of contract, may be procured at the Chief Post Office at Christchurch, Timaru, and Dunedin, and at the office of the Valuer General at Auckland.

No tender will be accepted unless made on the printed form.

Tenders, indorsed "Tenders for Fairlie-Hermitage Mail Service," to be addressed to the Chief Postmaster, Timaru.

D. ROBERTSON,  
Secretary.



## INEVITABLE.

The fool who rocks the airship.

## The Drama of Life.

"The drama of real life," said the lawyer, "is often far more interesting than anything presented on the stage. I often get enough material in a day to make half-a-dozen really good plays. Take any sitting of our Supreme Court, and note the tragedies enacted between the four walls of the hall of justice. There is a great element of luck about our methods of criminal procedure. You never have the faintest idea what a jury is going to do. I never abandon a case as hopeless, for the simple reason that verdicts seldom depend exclusively on the evidence. I remember a case in the Old Country, where a man was tried for theft. He had been caught in the act with the stolen goods in his possession. Pretty desperate, eh? But he got off, though his counsel was an absolute duffer, and the Judge naturally summed up dead against the prisoner."

"How did that happen?" queried the cynic. "I assume from your descrip-