

ON THE STAGE

(By "Comus.")

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

THE MACMAHON-DARRELL COMPANY.

An exceptionally fine and profitable season draws to a close this week, much to the regret of all lovers of sound and wholesome plays and acting. "The Mystery of a Hansom Cab," which was staged during the latter half of last week, exceeded in genuine interest any play of the kind we have had here for a very considerable time. The main incidents in the famous novel were presented with quite remarkable success, the staging, scenery, and general effects coming in for special commendation. On Saturday a new play "From Scotland Yard," was presented, abounding in tragic and sensational features. Mr. Darrell played the part of a resourceful Scotland Yard detective with his usual brilliancy, and the part of the heroine was singularly well taken by Miss Lawrence. The whole cast was exceptionally good. To-night the ever-popular "Sunny South" is to be revived by special request. The company will appear at Waihi on Tuesday (4 nights), Karangahake (1 night), Paeroa (2 nights), Thames (2 nights), with Gisborne to follow.

"THE BROKEN MELODY."

On Monday next the famous Auguste Van Biene will open at His Majesty's, Auckland, under the management of Mr George Musgrove, in "The Broken Melody," which has now been played over 4,000 times. Writing of the Sydney performance the "Mail" says:—"The plot is as follows: Paul Borinski (Mr Van Biene), in reality a proscribed Count, is a poor operatic composer and 'cellist, and, excepting the devoted love of his wife (Miss Lena Burnleigh) and an operatic score which he has vainly offered to managers, is destitute. The Duchess de Verviers, who is enamoured of the musician, obtains the production of his opera and consequent fortune and fame, but at the same time entices the wife away from her husband by telling her that her presence will betray him to the Russian secret police. Paul, jubilant at his good fortune, rushes home to inform his wife, and finding her absent begins playing the melody on his 'cello. While doing so his eyes fall on the letter of farewell which his wife has left, and hence the title, 'The Broken Melody.' The outwitting of the Duchess finally unites the lovers as the heart-broken musician is pouring forth his sorrows to

the 'cello in the melody. Mr Van Biene in the first act plays Chopin's familiar 'E Flat Nocturne' (Miss Burnleigh at the piano), and in the second, at a reception at the Duchess's salon in Paris, gives a number of selections, which he will change every evening. On Saturday the cellist performed Schumann's 'Traumeri,' Hauser's arrangement of Brahms' 'Hungarian Czardas,' Squire's 'Dance Maggiore,' 'Home Sweet Home,' and 'Alice where art Thou,' (the latter as encore) and charmed his hearers. He has deep feeling, a sweet sonorous tone, and skilful technical facility. The enthusiasm aroused was well won. As an actor Mr. Van Biene was earnest and acceptable. Miss Marie Rignold has the strongest of the women parts, that of the Duchess, and looks attractive and acts excellently. Her deep speaking voice resembles that of her sister Dora, who was here with the recent Shakespearean company. Miss Burleigh is gentle and sympathetic as the young wife, and Mr. Henry Ludlow was reserved and dignified as the Russian General Ivanoff. Mr Horace Lingard made a reappearance after an absence of 25 years, in the part of a vulgar theatrical agent, and aroused some laughs in a thankless role (Mr. Lingard and Miss Alice Dunning Lingard were popular here in the old days). The cast further included Messrs. Arthur Bawtree, Ernest Lacey, Arthur Lewis, Arthur Eldred, Mrs. Morton, Misses Ida Chapman and Avis Grahame. Mr. W. R. Coleman is responsible for the pretty sets of scenery, all of which are interiors; and Mr Percival Goffin is musical director."

OPERA HOUSE.

FULLER'S NEW ENTERTAINERS.

Messrs. Fuller are fully maintaining their standard of high-class vaudeville at the Opera House. The bill in its main essentials has been completely changed during the week and the "star" attractions are of the first quality. The Reyes Trio of iron-jawed marvels acrobats and trapezists are as clever as anybody wants them to be. They do with their teeth what the average mortal would find pretty difficult to do with the hands, and they do it with a neatness and dispatch rare even in well regulated shows. If there was nothing else on the programme nobody could grudge the money paid at the door. But there is lots more. There is the clever couple of patter comedians, Mr. Leeds and Miss Trixie Le Mar, who sing and dance with the spirit and lightness of fairies, and joke with the grim humour of elves. Also there is Pete



MR. ROY R. BOSISTO, Directeur Olympia Rink.

Miller, whose musical feats suggest that he could turn a rag and bone shop into a palace of delight. He plays tunes on any unconsidered trifle that he picks up, and plays well. Furthermore there is Hugh Huxham, Katie Maher, James Williams, Lulu Eugene, Les. Wharton, Ted Anderson, Pearl Akarman, Ethel Preston and May Rose. The show is good all round, and well worthy of the generous patronage it receives.

FEDERAL HALL.

ROWLEY'S WAXWORKS.

Abomah, the dusky giantess; and Rowley's famous waxworks and vaudeville company continue to draw large numbers of the populace, young and old, to the Federal Hall. The programme has been subjected to many changes, and a baby show and singing competition have been amongst the latest attractions. The show is a most interesting one, and is certain to preserve its popularity during its stay in Auckland.

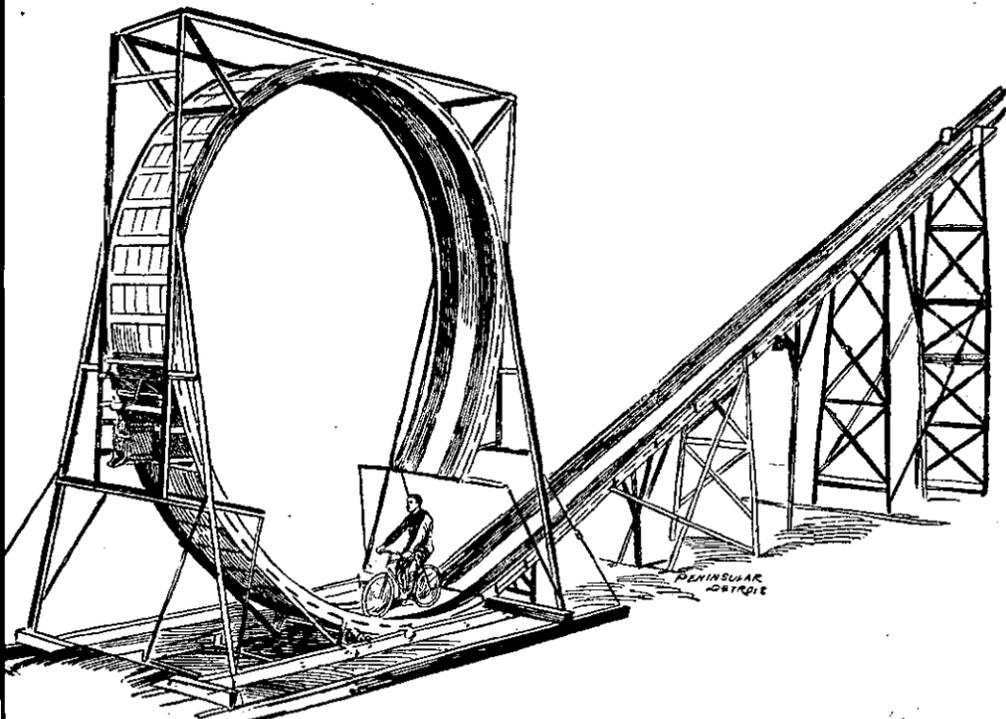
OLYMPIA RINK.

Rinkling has evidently been revived in Auckland with a vengeance. Night after night the rink in Coburg-street is thronged with skaters gliding over the well polished surface, to the strains of a first-class band, like so many phantoms. The decorations and conveniences are quite up-to-date, and instructors in uniform are in attendance to assist beginners. The manager, Mr. Roy Bosisto, seems never to be at a loss to introduce some new feature of attraction for the patrons that are quite contented to sit and watch their more venturesome brethren endeavouring to master the graceful art of skating. Evidently the principles adopted by the management at first have had the effect that has so long been desired, and great credit is due to the manager for the manner in which the rink is conducted, there being the entire absence of rowdiness. Good order and decorum are enforced. The special attraction this week is a toboggan which will make the most doleful merry, especially when one patron of large proportions endeavours to float over the toboggan (it being so much more difficult than racing around in a motor car). On Thursday night a polo match is to be played, which should be most interesting, and next week an obstacle race is on the boards and is looked forward to by all, and two "coits," of oil launch fame, are in active training for the race. It is the intention of the management to extend

the rink another 30 feet, making it then the largest rink in New Zealand.

WIRTH'S WILD WEST CIRCUS.

This famous hippodrome and menagerie will begin an Auckland season on Saturday week. The programme this time is exceptionally attractive. Chifalo, the "demon" of all daring feats of skill, will give the public an opportunity of witnessing his feat of "Leaping the Chasm." Chifalo, in the latest of cycling sensations, mounts his machine at a height near the canopy of the tent, and, at a given signal, dashes down an almost perpendicular incline on to a short plank adjusted below, shooting into the air again high up, and bouncing in perfect safety and with apparent ease, on to a 2ft wide plank, a distance of 42ft, across an open space. In addition to this Chifalo goes through his "loop" performance in an enclosure in front of the main tents of the circus. The demon cyclist starts from an incline of about 45deg and lets go the bike. His speed increases as he approaches the great circle, or loop. As he rushes about a third of the way up this a bolt in the mechanism becomes automatically loosened, and a section of the cycle swings backward and upward, and joins with the main circle, which it completes just as Chifalo, after whirling round the loop, reaches it. Mr. T. Colquett, who claims to be the champion high and long jumper of the world, does some remarkable feats in the jumping line. He is not only a great high and long jumper, but a trick jumper as well. One of the extraordinary tricks he performs is to jump off a brick (said brick on end) over a chain on to another brick (end also) and over a hurdle 6ft high. Another jump is off a brick over a chain on to another brick over 12 ordinary chairs on to a man's face and off again without hurting the man, only leaving a black patch of soot, which is previously rubbed on to the soles of his boots to show that he has been on the man's face. In addition to these Herr Emile Payer exhibits some remarkable feats with trained wild animals, and Mons. Rogoul appears in a similar capacity as of old. The Messrs. Wirth also display their marvellous skill in training horses, and this department will be augmented by the performance of the original Wild West Troupe, under Captain McLoud, who reappear under the Wirth management after an absence of 14 years. The circus promises to make a new record in public popularity.



CHIFALO, the "Demon," leaping the Chasm at Wirth's Circus.