

ARE YOU GOING TO THE

Christchurch Exhibition?

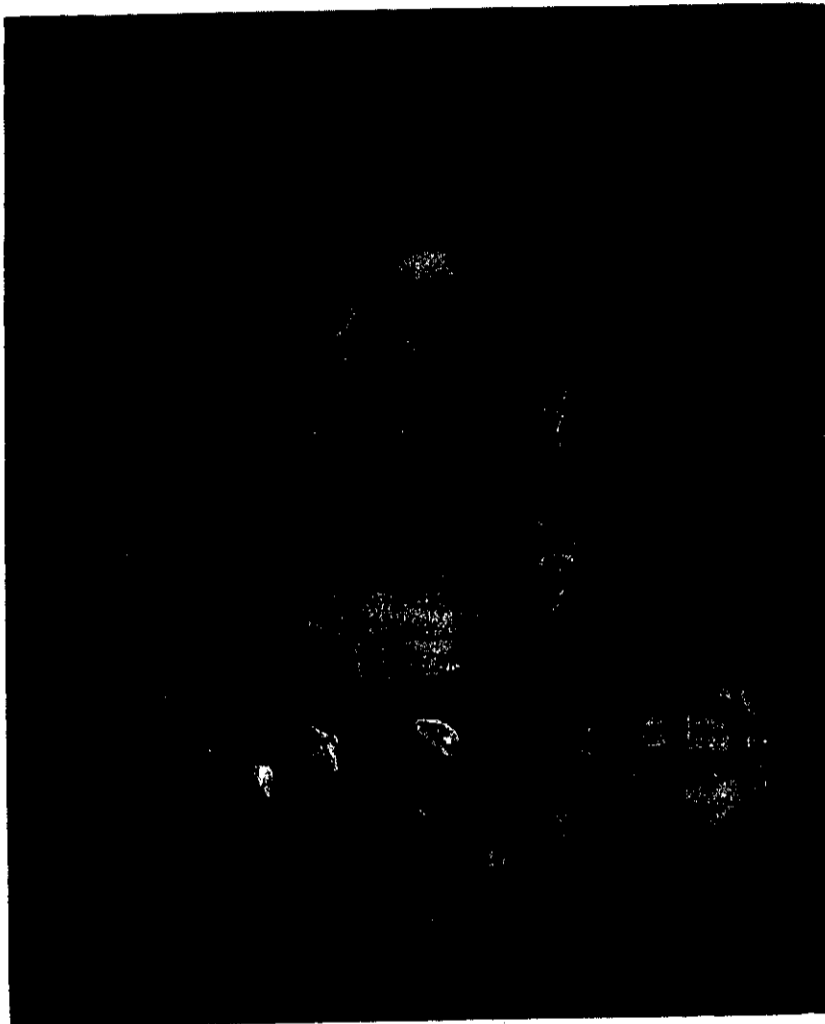
"OLD JUDGE" is giving £100 to the Person or Persons who forecast the NEAREST Number of Persons who visit the Exhibition.

ASK YOUR TOBACCONIST or STOREKEEPER, they'll tell you all about it.

"Cinder-ElLEN," "Ruy Blas," and "Carmen up-to-date." When burlesque gave way to musical comedy, Mr. Phydora naturally graduated into the role of principal comedian for Mr. George Edwardes, and both in England and South Africa achieved very great popularity in such favourites as "Florodora," "The Runaway Girl," "The Geisha," "The Gay Parlesienne," "The Circus Girl," and "The Toreador." Lately he has alternated musical comedy with pantomime work, and in the latter has won a very high reputation, both for his comedy work and particularly for his dancing, a branch of his very complete equipment in which he excels.

The Royal Comic Opera Company revived "The Girl from Kays" for the last seven nights of their Melbourne season at Her Majesty's on Saturday, December 8, that after "The Spring Chicken" had run to five weeks of really remarkable business, showing right up to the end that only the exigencies of touring arrangements interfered with its playing out the season. On the 15th inst. the farewell performance of "The Girl from Kays" was made more attractive than ever by the introduction of several special features, selected from the company's repertoire. These included items from "The Cingalee," "The Orchid," "The Country Girl," "La Mascotte," and others, all chosen with a view both to the popularity of the numbers and the favour in which the performers are held. The departure of the company for New Zealand by the Riverina took place yesterday, and the vessel will arrive in Wellington early on Christmas Day, ready for the opening of their tour on Boxing night.

An Australian favourite on the London music-hall stage for many years lately passed away. Over twelve years ago Mr. Frank Gerald specially imported a black mare from Western Australia to appear in his "Dick Turpin" sketch. Walapara (Beauty) was a steeplechaser originally, and arrived in England when four years old. She appeared as Black Bess for more than 3000 times, and one of her tricks was to take a "call" after the final scene, bow gracefully, and receive a lump of sugar handed up by the conductor of the orchestra. Her master's grief at the loss of his old friend is so great that he has determined that there shall be no successor to Walapara in the parts with which she has so long been identified.



MISS LORRAINE TANSLEY, the charming N.Z. contralto, with the Steele-Payne Company.

Mr. Julius Knight's new leading lady, Miss Marion Gray, is an accomplished and experienced actress in high favour with both English and American audiences. She has played all the Shakesperian heroines, as well as a long repertoire of parts of the character of Marcia in "The Sign of the Cross," Flavia in "The Prisoner of Zenda," Katharine in "If I Were King," plays which at once demonstrate her eminent fitness to support an actor of Mr. Knight's calibre and characteristics.

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