

THE STAGE

HIS MAJESTY'S.

HARRY RICKARDS' COMPANY.

Mr. Harry Rickards' company will commence a season of vaudeville at His Majesty's Theatre on Monday next. The combination is spoken of as the strongest that has ever been got together for a tour of the Dominion, this as a result of the appreciation shown by the New Zealand public towards the last attraction sent here by Mr. Harry Rickards, who has come to the conclusion that New Zealand is worthy of the best artists that visit Australia, and will therefore keep the Dominion well supplied with the best talent in future. The present company will be headed by no less than three great European novelty acts. Foremost must be mentioned Miss Rosina Cassell's famous Mexican dogs. In noticing their performance, the Sydney "Daily Telegraph" says:—"In Miss Cassell's trained troupe of Mexico dogs, the audience was introduced to what is probably the most extraordinary animal performance ever seen in Australia. It was certainly one of the very prettiest and most interesting. Fourteen or fifteen dogs, not much larger than big rats, went through a gymnastic performance, including the clowning, which made the great audience thunder with applause, while people marvelled that dogs could do such things. The wonderment seems justified when one sees a dog about the size of a lady's toy spaniel, but more robust, swinging by the hind legs from a trapeze, while holding in its mouth a triangle whence another canine swings, similarly suspended. The full turn is a triumph of animal training and canine intelligence." In addition, there are Mesdames Florence and Lillian in their clever and novel musical act. Another of the star turns will be that of the Kremka Brothers, a pair of Continental comedy acrobats, who are spoken of as being much superior to the famous Artois Brothers who will long be remembered in New Zealand. Fred Graham and Nellie Dent are also included in the company, the other members of which have been carefully selected from Mr. Rickards' Melbourne and Sydney houses. The company left Sydney yesterday, and are due to arrive here on Sunday next. Mr. Allan Hamilton, who has managed the last five New Zealand tours for Mr. Rickards, will again be in charge.

HENRY HAYWARD'S NEW PICTURES.

Tuesday night saw a complete change of programme at His Majesty's Theatre, where Hayward's Pictures are having a deservedly successful run. A characteristic feature of the films presented by this management is the absence of flicker, and one is able to thoroughly enjoy every item without any reservation. "The Musical Policemen" set the ball rolling with the comical situations they aroused, followed by the dramatic story of "The Lighthouse-keeper," a highly thrilling subject, in which the rugged sailor and his daughter have narrow escapes from death, owing to the machinations of two villains, who are eventually routed. "The Mysterious Thief" did not belie its name, and tells of a member of the light-fingered gentry who can render himself invisible when the need arises, much to the mystification and delight of the audience. "Satan's Smithy" showed some startling scenes, which were portrayed with effective realism. "The Mohawk's Ring," an Indian story full of interest and sensational moments, being another exciting subject, and tells how a kindly act saved a girl from torture. On the instructive side were some beautiful views from Quebec to Niagara, and from Yokohama to Kyoto, while particularly interesting was the film "From Forest to Fireside," which familiarised the audience with the production of "Lloyd's Weekly," from the cutting down of the timber to the issue of the printed sheet. Other diverting numbers were "There are Ghosts in the House," "Father Gets

in the Game," "Earthly Paradise" (giving glimpses of an Arcadian modern gaoi) and "Aviation has Its Surprises" (an up-to-date number, which is particularly appropriate just now). Every film was received with unstinted applause and appreciation, and those who are looking for a pleasant hour or two can have it at His Majesty's this week. The tuneful selections rendered by the orchestra add greatly to the enjoyment of the entertainment. The season will conclude on Saturday evening.

THE OPERA HOUSE.

FULLER'S WIDE-WORLD PICTURES.

The change of programme at the Opera House has brought another very fine set of pictures before the public, and, as a result, this popular place of entertainment is more than holding its own as one of the very best of the picture shows seen in Auckland. Good crowds continue to

phases of industrial life in British Columbia under notice, from the great lumber industry, with the raising of logs from the river to the sawmill, and the working of coal and copper mines, to the gentler art of packing salmon, in which Indian girls are seen at work. The International Balloon Contest of 1909 supplies another interesting film, the exhibition of which calls forth considerable applause. In the melodramatic line are the pictures entitled "The Burglar and the Child," "A Son's Atonement," "A Tragic Night," "The Widow," and "What Women Suffer," while the more humorous side of things is well represented. Pictures in this line include "A Capital Joke," "A Life Annuity," "An Extraordinary Journey" (the effects in this being extraordinary to a degree), "Mistaken Identity," "Professor Puddenhead's Patents," "The Electric Enlarger," "Blessington's Bonnie Babies," and "Salome Mad." The latter is particularly funny, and worked out extremely well. There will be the usual change of programme and matinee on Saturday.



MR. HENRY HAYWARD, PROPRIETOR OF 12 PICTURE AND VAUDEVILLE ENTERPRISES IN THE DOMINION.

assemble nightly, and the applause with which the pictures are greeted testifies to the public appreciation of the programme submitted. The finest series shown this week is a beautiful art film, illustrating a railway run through Ceylon. Coloured with exquisite skill, it appeals to the eye by its evident fidelity to Nature, and the railway track running through country of magnificent scenic attractions, the interest is sustained right through. The Gale scenes at Barritz form the subject for another very fine series, which are depicted the sublime effects of the mountainous waves as they dash upon the rocks and against the sea-wall. In the scenic line, though melodramatic also in the story it tells, is the film entitled "The Vendetta," in which a Corsican, who has quarrelled with and killed his rival, is pursued by mounted police across a savage country and along by the sea shore, the grandeur of the rugged coast through which the track lies appealing forcibly to the eye. Another admirable set of pictures bring certain

created some astonishment by his method of reading a few lines from the script, then looking up and repeating them to himself—"like a fowl drinking," he says.

"It must be hard work getting all that stuff off by heart," remarked his unwelcome friend.

"Just what Mr. Percy wanted to avoid was being engaged in a conversation. He had to play the regent the next night, and every moment was precious. So he nodded and kept on mumbling.

"I have a daughter who is in the chorus of the Essendon Amateur Operatic Society," resumed the bore by way of associating himself with the theatrical profession.

"Um," nodded the comedian, without lifting his eyes from the script.

"I think she would have succeeded on the stage. She knows how to move and use her hands."

Mr. Percy glowered at him, and said (from the script), "That's a nice way to label my vegetables—asparagus!"

"She got a splendid notice in the 'Essendon Advocate,'" said the proud father, "but I suppose it's difficult to get a footing in the profession?"

"I felt how much I should have liked to give him a footing," Mr. Percy laughed in reminiscence; "but I went along the corridor till I came to a carriage in which there were a young lady and a small boy. I sat down in a corner and began to 'study.' After a while I became conscious of curious looks from the lady; but my one idea was that I had to play next night, and when in the train corridor I heard some men laughing, I wondered how they could possibly be so heartless at the face of a crisis at the theatre. The lady, however, doubtless came to the conclusion that I was a harmless crank, and if the small boy made any remarks about me I didn't hear them.

"At Albury they put me in the second division of the express, and I rushed round and saw porters and guards about changing. At last the guard of the first express, to whom I explained the situation, urged me to hurry, as the train was just about to start. I dashed after my belongings—the Albury platform is a long one, and the two sections of the express were at extreme ends—and when I was racing back with them the train began to move. The guard caught hold of my extended arm and dragged me into the van—grip and script. There he said I could do what I liked, so I read and grimaced until we got to a stopping place, when I secured a seat.

All these happenings only made a sub-conscious impression on me when I was 'swotting' the part up against time. Now I am convinced that I could give a much better reading than ever before of the polite lunatic in 'The Belle of New York.'"

Mr. Percy went direct from the train to Her Majesty's Theatre, rehearsed all day, and appeared as the regent the same night.

TIVOLI THEATRE.

PICTURES AND VAUDEVILLE.

The pictures and vaudeville entertainment provided by Mr. Hayward at the Tivoli Theatre continue to do good business. Jock McGregor, who renders several of Harry Lauder's songs, is establishing himself a favourite. The turn of Zoroni, card manipulator, proves highly interesting, while Miss Clara Castles, balladist, renders several items well up to requirements. On Saturday next Hedlam, musical humorist, is booked to make his first appearance. At the time of our going to press the management were holding a comic song competition, for which 12 entries were received.

ROYAL ALBERT HALL.

PATHE PICTURES.

Last evening the pictorial programme at the Pathe Pictures underwent a complete change. There was a large audience, and the programme being high-class and varied, proved thoroughly enjoyable. The principal

QUICK STUDIES.

PUTTING UP A RECORD.

MR. W. S. PERCY'S ACHIEVEMENT.

Mr. W. S. Percy, now playing the chief comedy role in "The King of Cadonia" (says the "Sydney Daily Telegraph" of September 18) achieved a record in studying this part, and the story of how he did it on the express from Melbourne to Sydney, as he relates it, makes interesting reading.

Everything, as in all emergencies, was done in a hurry. He was handed his part in Melbourne and told to pack his bag and leave for Sydney within an hour of the departure of the express from the Spencer-street railway station. Having caught the train, his first misfortune was to get into a compartment where there was a passenger who recognised him.

Mr. Percy's sole idea was to memorise the new part. He must have