

THE STAGE

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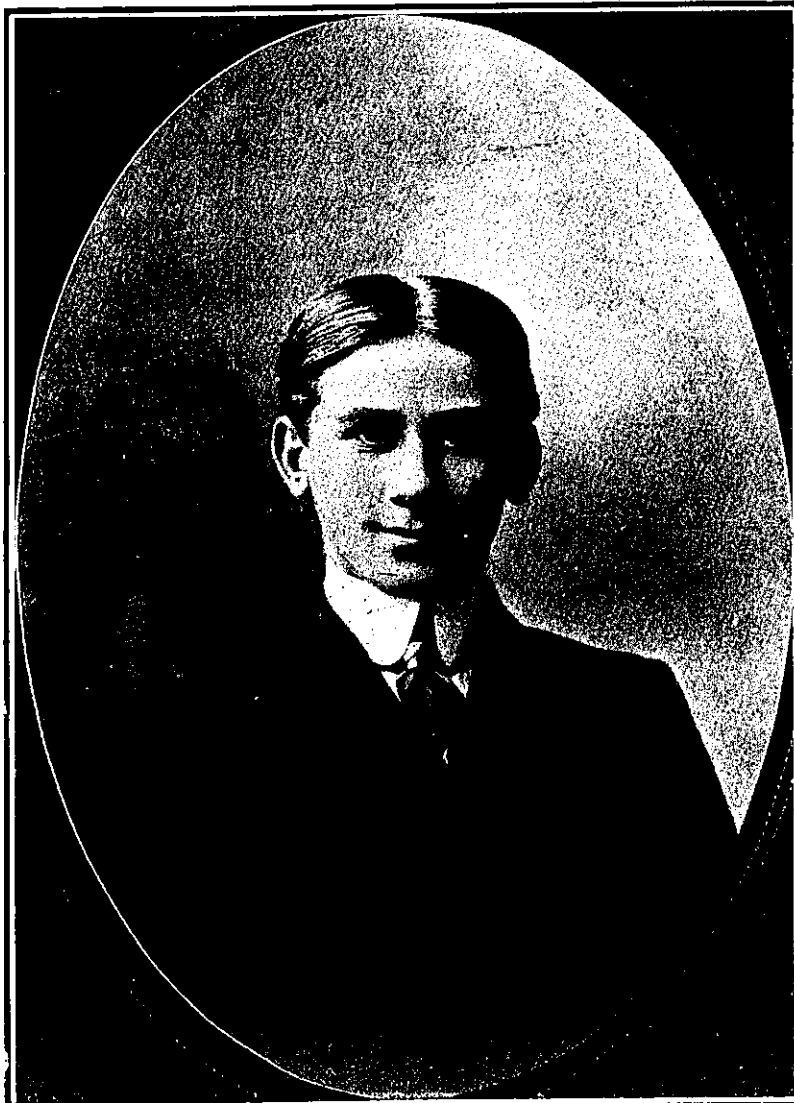
POLLARD'S OPERA COMPANY.

The Pollard Opera Company, after a very successful tour of the South, opened their Auckland season at His Majesty's Theatre on Wednesday evening last, with Lecocq's tuneful opera "Manola," which received an excellent interpretation at the hands of the company. Bright and sparkling in music and dialogue from beginning to end, the company interpret it with a vivacity and naturalness that have become part and parcel of Mr. Pollard's combination. The scene is laid in Portugal, in the seventeenth century, and lends itself to elaborate and picturesque costuming. The melodies are tuneful and catchy, the spectacular effects striking and original, and so much broad humour is spread over it that it appeals irresistibly to the crowd. Miss Minnie Topping, in the title role, captivates her audience as much as she does the two Princes of the opera, and in her vocal numbers she scores a very pleasing success. Miss Madeline Knight, an Auckland girl, who is now making her first appearances in her native city with the Pollards, took the part of Beatrix, using her fine voice to splendid effect, though hardly so successful in her acting, which is somewhat stiff. She could well infuse more life into the part she plays. Miss Cissie O'Keefe, in the role of Miguel, equerry to Don Bazarro, portrays her part admirably. She possesses a deep resonant contralto voice, and her singing is one of the features of the piece. She is heard to exceptional advantage in the trio, "The Little God of Love," and in her solo parts. Mr. Charles Albert as Don Calabazar, wins golden opinions by his clever comedy. His funniness keeps things moving from start to finish. The dovecot episode is ludicrous in the extreme, and his love-making interludes, which are most comfortably accommodating, evoke roars of laughter, his conception of the character being remarkably good. Mr. Jock Willis, as Pablo, his servant, is capital cast. Mr. B. Williamson makes an attractive Don Bazarro, but might, with advantage, infuse more fire and spirit into the part. Miss May Topping proves an attractive maid to Manola, Mr. Geo. Edwards (Stephano) evokes much mirth. The minor roles are well placed. A particularly effective feature of the performance is the march of the pages, carried out with grace and precision by twenty girls in handsome royal blue and gold uniforms, their skilful evolutions calling forth tremendous applause and a double encore. Three little mites, Alma and Ivy Aldous, and Trixie Ireland, give a clever step dance, and have to be recalled. The staging, under the direction of Mr. Charles Albert, is all that can be desired, and Mr. A. Brahms as musical director is largely responsible for the success of the production.

"Manola" gave place last evening to that merry comedy, "The Isle of Bong Bong," in which Master Bert Nicholson scores such a big success. "Bong Bong" will be played again this evening, "Rip Van Winkle" on Friday, and on Saturday Audran's masterpiece, "Olivette," will be staged for the first time by the company. Playgoers who remember the excellent performances of Audran's melodious comic opera "Olivette" given by the old Pollard company, will be pleased to learn that the present company are now producing it. It will be staged on an unusual scale of magnificence and completeness, excelling anything Mr. Pollard has yet given us. For months past an army of sempstresses have been at work, while the mechanist has used thousands of feet of timber. A feature of the production is that everything used from beginning to end has been made in the Dominion.



MISS MINNIE TOPPING, LEADING LADY WITH POLLARD'S OPERA COMPANY.



MASTER BERT NICHOLSON, THE CLEVER YOUNG COMEDIAN, OF POLLARD'S OPERA COMPANY.

THE OPERA HOUSE.

FULLER'S WIDE-WORLD PICTURES.

Messrs. Fuller are keeping amusement lovers in Auckland well provided for in the matter of up-to-date cinematograph pictures and this week two films of subjects engaging particular attention all over the world at the present moment are being shown at the Opera House, nightly. One of these is that showing "Dr. Cook's arrival at Copenhagen" after his visit to the North Pole. The doctor is first shown aboard his fine steamer, from which he is taken ashore in a launch, landing amid a scene of wild enthusiasm. He is given a most enthusiastic reception, and covered in smiles and lifting his hat every moment to the cheering crowd he makes his way up the main thoroughfare in a motor car. The other picture of great present-day interest is that depicting Latham's unsuccessful flight across the channel. The enormous airship is clearly shown on its way to the starting point, while the plucky Lieutenant is seen smoking away unconcernedly just before embarking on his eventful trip. The airship can be easily discerned making its way across the channel at a high rate of speed, while it is seen lying in the water, in a wrecked condition after the unsuccessful attempt to reach the coast. "A Maker of Diamonds" and "The Honey Industry" are a couple of films of an instructive character. "The Strike" is the title of an excellent dramatic film, which is greatly appreciated by the audience. "The Boyhood of Vidocq" is a film of considerable merit, the character in the drama being interpreted by actors and actresses of note in the theatrical world. "The Foundling" is a pathetic film which appeals strongly to the audience, being full of interesting situations. A scenic film in "Beauty Spots on the Riviera" shows a most picturesque scenes of views in and around Monte Carlo. The humorous section includes "The Talisman" and "The Boxing Mania" the latter being a highly mirth-provoking film. Mr. Fred Stokes' orchestra plays an appropriate musical programme during the evening, which is greatly appreciated by patrons.

ROYAL ALBERT HALL.

PATHE PICTURES.

The Pathe pictures at the Royal Albert Hall continue to be freely patronised, and the splendid budget of pictures presented on Wednesday evening, when the programme underwent a complete change, should ensure good houses for the remainder of the week. A grand military picture is "The Territorials," and shows many phases of a soldier's life, but the one which finds most favour with the audience is "A Nobleman's Dog." After a long and tedious search the animal discovers his master's murderer, and the duel between the dog and the assassin is very exciting. Two scenic films, in "The Coast of Naples" and "Scenes at Sourakatata," show some beautiful scenery, as does also the film "With the German Army." Pictures which tell three interesting dramatic stories are "Beautiful, but Destitute," "A Rude Hostess," and "Andrier Crenier." There are a number of good comic pictures, the best being "Only a Mouse," "Lovers' Souvenirs," "Advertising for Housekeepers," and "Pater's Patent Painter." The usual change of programme will be made on Wednesday next.

TIVOLI THEATRE.

PICTURES AND VAUDEVILLE.

The picture and vaudeville entertainment at the Tivoli Theatre still continues to prove attractive, and good houses are the result. Mr. Hayward, proprietor of both the Royal Albert and Tivoli, has made arrange-