

tenor is as fresh as ever, there are Miss Amy Blackie, the "Melba of vaudeville," the Jones Brothers, coon specialists, Albert McKisson, "the boneless wonder," the Phillips Sisters, who dance and sing, Will Watkins, who makes a man laugh in spite of himself, Miss Ada Duval, sketch artiste, Miss Clarrie McKisson, mandoliniste, and Dr. Rowe, conjuror. What may we not expect from such a gathering of talent? Mr. Fuller wishes special attention drawn to his new scale of prices of admission. Following a plan originated in America, and adopted with success in Australia, the charges will be 2s to the circle and 1s to the stalls, ladies and children half-price to both places. The company open on Saturday evening next.

The popular Hawtrey Company played to magnificent business right up to the end of the season, the revival of "A Message from Mars" (for one night only) drawing an immense house. In fact, numbers were unable to gain admittance to the theatre. We shall all be glad to welcome the Hawtrey Company back again here, and I fear it will be a long time ere we see them again. I enjoyed a chat with Harold Ashton this week. He is precisely the same old Harold—as jolly as ever, and looking none the worse for his trip to 'the dark continent.' He mentioned that he had just had a letter from L. J. Lohr, who is still mine host of a Gippsland hostelry, and seems to be as

happy as a sandboy. The Williamson Comedy Company's season opens here on Monday, when "Are You a Mason?" will be presented to Christchurch playgoers. The advance booking is very heavy, and everything points to a prosperous season. If that consummation is attained, Harold Ashton will be in no small measure responsible. He is working very hard at the preliminaries. . . . Hooray! We are to have a new Theatre Royal, after all. Plans are to be ready next week. I understand the building will be erected right opposite the present structure, on the Circus 'pitch.' It is to be an up-to-date temple of the drama, and (to use a new and original phrase) is likely to fill a long felt want. . . . John Fuller's Show, at the Opera House, grows more

coming production, "For the Term of His Natural Life." Miss Dempsey will appear as "Kirkland," a charming character which at once arouses the whole sympathies of the audience.

The repertoire of the Majeroni Dramatic Co. is so extensive that the management is enabled to change their bills frequently. Being equipped, too, with a very large quantity of scenery, dresses, etc., little trouble is ever experienced in changing nightly if necessary. During the next few nights the following plays will be submitted:—"Justice at Last," the famous play "Jealousy," and next Saturday "The Shamrock and the Rose." Wednesday next the great story by Marcus Clark, "For the Term of His Natural Life" will be staged.

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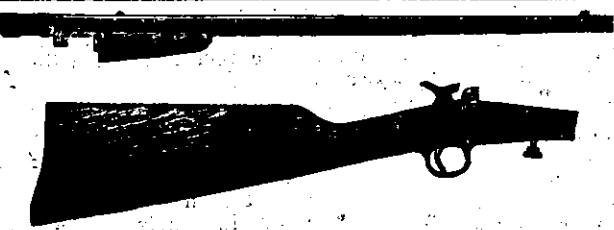
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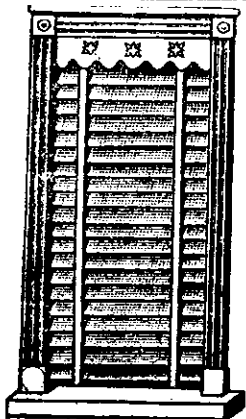
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