

COMING BIG WILLIAMSON ATTRACTION.

ROYAL COMIC OPERA COMPANY.

Boxing Night will see the advent of the famous J. C. Williamson Comic Opera Company at His Majesty's Theatre, Auckland. A season of quick changes is promised, with the attractions of several of the most popular comic operas and musical comedies. The directors of the J.C.W. firm recently in Sydney and Melbourne exploited the above policy with astonishing results. It became evident that musical comedy, especially that of a reminiscent kind, was what the public required. Anyway, a series of revivals was more than warmly welcomed. In the present case something of a musical "embarras de riches" is promised. No less than six pieces will be staged over a season of thirteen nights. Four of the plays have been seen here previously, viz., "Our Miss Gibbs," "The Quaker Girl," "Paul Jones" and "Ma Mie Rosette." Two entirely new comic operas will also be given, "Gipsy Love" and "The Dancing Mistress," both of which will be seen here for the first time. The company is said to be perhaps the best artistically and most generously appointed of any that has heretofore exploited comic opera in the Dominion.

Reports from San Francisco state that Uda Waldrop has been engaged to accompany Madame Melba on a recital tour early in next year.

The animals who accompany "Mother Goose," when J. C. Williamson presents that humorous old dame to the public, will be ably portrayed, while the Dame herself will be taken in hand by Harry Farrow. The cast is:—Mother Goose (dame), Harry Farrow; the Mayor of Moortown, Arthur Reynolds; the Golden Goose, Albert Felino; the Donkeys, afterwards the horse, Billy Le Brun, assisted by George Smith; Jack, Victor Kelly; Jill (principal girl), Maude Fane; Lady Ida, Dorothy Firmin; Eric (second boy), Queenie Paul; Gretchen, Maggie Dickinson; Malignan (demon), Charles Howard; Heartsease (fairy), Gladys Moncrieff; Colin (principal boy), Lilian de Venney.

GREENROOM GOSSIP.

Lilian De Venney, who is principal boy in "Mother Goose," has had the unique experience of playing before a Chinese audience at a charity concert arranged by the Celestials, and created a furore.

The cast of "Stop Thief," when it opened in Melbourne on December 14th, was as follows:—Elma Royton as Joan Carr, Marion Marcus Clarke as Mrs. Carr, Mattee Brown as Caroline Carr, Fanchon Campbell as Madge Carr, Beatrice Nichols as Nell, Plumptre Wilson as William Carr, Gerald Harcourt as Jaems Cluney, Herbert Leigh as Mr. Jamison, Harry Sweeney as Dr. Willoughby, Fred. Cambourne as Rev. Mr. Spelvin, John Webster as Jack Doogan, Charles Wheeler as Joe Thompson, Tom MacLarnie as Sergeant of Police, James Hughes as Police Officer O'Malley. The comedy was produced by Geo. Barnum.

Caruso earned £21,000 for a run of fifteen nights in Buenos Aires this season. He was engaged for seven nights at £1400 a night, and sang so delectably that the management extended the contract for another eight nights at the same fee.

Advice from Dunedin states that two of the latest recruits are Mr. Jackson, of Pollard and Jackson, now appearing at the Princess Theatre, and Mr. Eddie Marshall, the "Chalkologist," who entertains patrons with his clever crayon sketching.

"Kick In," the typically American drama, which has proved as great a draw as "Within the Law," has a particularly strong cast, as follows:—Lincoln Plumer, Boyd Irwin, Kenneth Brampton, Gwen Burroughs, Eily Malton, James B. Atholwood, Charlotte Ives, Frank Harvey, Leslie Victor, Eileen Sparks, James C. Rendrod, and Maggie Moore. The play is produced by George Barnum.

The brilliant success of the matinee at Her Majesty's, London, organised by Madame Ada Crossley, was ably assisted by Dion Boucicault as dramatic director and Austin Brereton as press agent. It was held in aid of the Australian wounded.

Branscombe's Dandies have settled down in their summer locations in Australia. The Orange Dandies are at St. Kilda, Melbourne; the Pinks in Adelaide; the Reds in Perth; the Greens at Eden Gardens, Manly; the Scarlets at Brisbane, and the Violets at Bayswater, Sydney.

The J. C. Williamson proprietary will have three attractions running in Sydney to carry them up to Christmas time—"Nobody's Widow," with Miss Muriel Starr in the lead; "So Long, Betty," with Miss Connie Edass acting leading lady; and a war play, "Under Fire."

Mrs. Thomas Reynolds, of Melbourne, better known as Miss Maggie Jarvis of "The Girl in the Taxi" Company, has decided to remain in Sydney for the summer, and has taken a house at Point Piper, with a view of the harbour which extends to South Head.

Some of the most realistic war pictures that have ever been released were shown in Paris just recently, and in a short time will no doubt be shown in the Pathe Gazettes throughout the Dominion. The first instalment shows actual scenes in the trenches during an assault by the French grenadiers. General Joffre's forces are seen throwing hand grenades into German trenches, and the resulting explosions, with loss of life and property, are clearly shown. Following one of these explosions a horse is seen blown into the air and landing on the topmost branches of a neighbouring tree.

Florence Young is coming to New Zealand with the Williamson Royal Comic Opera Company. Recently in Sydney and Melbourne Miss Young achieved something of a musical triumph with this organisation. This popular artiste will be seen during the thirteen nights' season in her original creations of "Paul Jones" and as Corisande in "Ma Mie Rosette."

So recent a song as "We Won't Go Home Until Morning" has been traced back through several schools and periods until it was lost in a Bedouin melody of the desert. Ethelbert Nevin's "Narcissus" was identified as the soldiers' march from "Faust" under a different guise.

The Strollers went to the Little Theatre, Sydney, for a season of four weeks. They played fourteen.

Gaston Mervale is in New York directing pictures.

Harry Corson Clarke and Margaret Dale Owen, who appeared with Niblo, were recently playing in the New York production of "Whose Baby Are You?"

Edgar Warwick's Company opened at the Auditorium last week in Melbourne. The Court Cards ever were a joy to listen to.

Melba is bringing Signorina Sassoli, the harpist, with her for her tour of Australia.

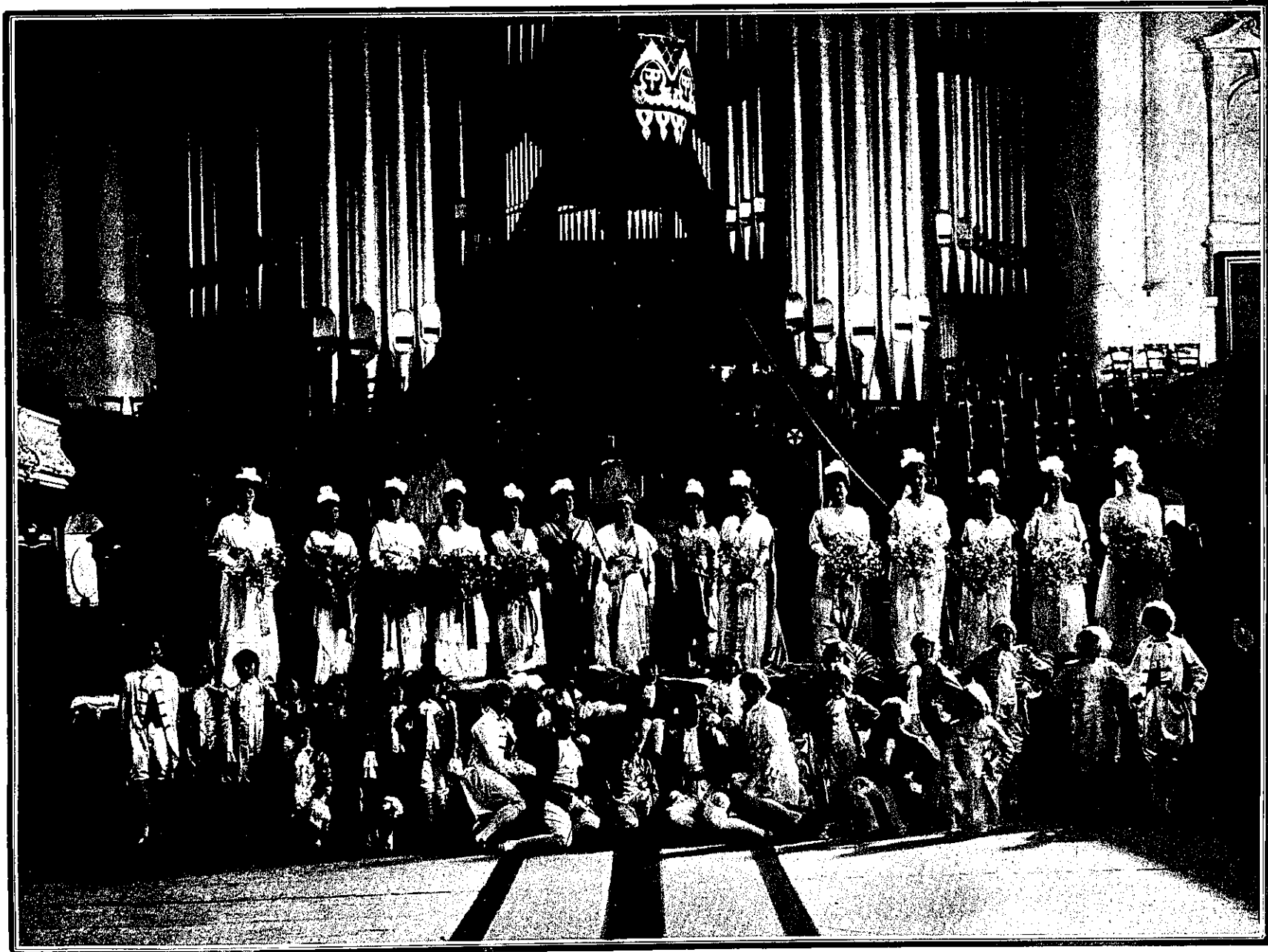
The Dunedin-born architect, Mr. H. E. White, who has specialised on theatre building, has completely remodelled the Adelphi Theatre, Sydney. The altered auditorium will contain no less than 12 private boxes.

It would appear that the personnel of the Royal Comic Opera Company is an especially brilliant one, including as it does Messrs. Reginald Roberts, Claude Bantock, Phil Smith, Leslie Holland, and Misses Minnie Love, Ivy Dawn, Maggie Moore, Florence Young and Mrs. George Lauri. A new artiste, who comes with a fine reputation—Miss Ethel Cadman—and Mr. Derek Hudson, also to make a first appearance, are also with the company.

The curtain will rise at His Majesty's Theatre on "Gipsy Love," the first production, at 8 o'clock on Monday, December 27th (Boxing Night).

Like a cyclone blew in Mr. Charles Berkeley, the indefatigable manager for J.C.W., Ltd. Mr. Berkeley reports splendid business for "Potash and Perlmutter" in Wellington and Christchurch. This company, at present playing Dunedin, leaves for Melbourne on December 15th from the Bluff.

Mr. Gerald Griffen, the Irish-American character singer, who was received with such success at the Opera House, Auckland, has been giving a free recital to the soldiers at Trentham.



AUCKLAND'S CORONATION CEREMONY AT THE TOWN HALL.—THE QUEEN (MRS. R. F. BOLLARD) AND THE OTHER ELEVEN CANDIDATES FOR QUEEN OF THE CARNIVAL HONOURS ON THE THRONE. Reading from left the names are: Mrs. W. H. Parkes, Mrs. J. H. Gunion, Mrs. Porritt, Mrs. G. R. Bloomfield, Mrs. R. F. Bollard (Queen of the Carnival), Mrs. Geo. Elliott, Mrs. Harding, Mrs. W. J. Napier, Miss V. Bridges, Mrs. B. Dawson, Mrs. Russell and Mrs. J. A. Wallingford. In front are the train-bearers and royal pages.