

# THE STAGE

## HIS MAJESTY'S.

### THE ROYAL STROLLERS.

Amusement lovers will be sorry when the Royal Strollers strike camp and go to fresh fields, so popular has the little merry land of entertainers become during a brief season. Gloom dispellers they are to a certainty, and the whole-heartedness with which they enter into the spirit of their own revelry is a treat in itself. They are en rapport with their audiences from the offset. Their easy gaiety, their catchy and tuneful melodies, and singularly happy style would brighten up the most lugubrious. It is a night of merry moments, and the members vie with each other in making time fly pleasantly. There was another change of programme on Monday night, when those present gave repeated signs of keen satisfaction. Mr. Sydney James, as chief Stroller, saw that action was kept at its wildest pace, and "Billy," his mechanical assistant, aided and abetted him in a rush of jokes and quaint sayings. Without Billy, Mr. James has heaps of other talents to amuse and divert, and he always strikes a fresh note in every avenue. Miss Madeline Rossiter adds to a sparkling personality a pair of twinkling feet and a bubbling sense of comedy which go over the footlights with ready acceptance. The embodiment of life and action, she is a genuine delight and charm. Mr. A. Dunn's piccolo solo was a rare treat and won liberal appreciation. Miss Gwen Lewis and Miss Connie Milne emphasised their talents to captivating degree, and submitted cheerfully to insistent recalls. Mr. Graystone and his deep bass voice made another effective hit, and Mr. G. W. Desmond was high in favour with his vocal and dancing offerings. The company specialise in concerted pieces, one of the best being a burlesque on an old-time minstrel troupe, which they handled to the accompaniment of uproarious merriment. The Strollers will give another complete change of programme to-night (Wednesday), when brightness and breeziness will again be the watchword. Their season closes on Saturday night, when a bumper house is assured to say farewell to this enthusiastic coterie of entertainers.

### OPERA HOUSE.

There is an abundance of good things at the Opera House this week. The ranks of vaudeville have been strengthened by the inclusion of Mr. Fred Maguire, a former J. C. Williamson artist who appeared in "The Girl in the Taxi." With a fine presence and an appealing voice, Mr. Maguire scored a marked success, his songs being happily chosen and delivered with rare expression. An engaging pair are Belle and Betty, who opened well with a tuneful musical offering and followed it up with a clever exposition of dancing, illustrative of various nations. Headline honours also went to Bates and Wade, their feats of strength being alternated with acrobatic comedy stunts, which met with hearty approval. The La Merts again upheld their reputation in a whistling and piano duologue, and won warm recognition for a novel turn. In the forefront of public favour is Carlton Max, who has brought ventriloquialism to a fine art, and has to share honours with his dummy, whom he makes his mouthpiece for some highly original observations. Mable and Malfe add refreshing variety with their grace and gaucherie respectively as allied to dancing. Sharrat and Lang, as before, shone in the ranks with their combined comedy turn, a melodrama burlesque, keeping the audience convulsed with laughter. Mr. Sydney Bach gave a welcome interlude, taking as his theme "Mrs. James," a Welsh landlady blest with musical boarders. Mr. Bach blended humour and music in his own inimitable style. Miss Agnes Rawes sang a couple of ballads with bright acceptance and gained generous applause from her old friends. Another varied



A scene from "UNDER FIRE," THE GREAT WAR PLAY, to be presented by J. C. Williamson, Ltd., at His Majesty's Theatre, Auckland, on Easter Saturday.

### KING'S THEATRE.

Of outstanding excellence is the programme screened at King's Theatre. Headed by "The Arab," an Arabian romance, interest is sustained from start to finish. The story is centred on Jamil, the son of the Sheik of Bedouins. Jamil robs a caravan, is punished by his father, and leads a wild life in the desert. How he becomes Christianised and falls in love with a mission leader makes a delectable pictorial setting. It abounds, too, with many thrilling incidents. A laugh-getter is forthcoming in "The Widow," revealing the experiences of a fascinating woman who passed as a

widow for matrimonial ends. A capital supporting budget is shown. Next Monday's films will be topped by "A Submarine Pirate," a Triangle-Key-stone featuring Syd Chaplin in four reels of fun. It is pronounced to be the most remarkable combination of humour and thrills ever filmed. A submarine certainly does not appear to be a vehicle for fun, but when the commander happens to be Syd Chaplin—well! By way of variety is an absorbing drama entitled "Rags and the Girl," which concerns a young broker, a tramp and a wood-nymph. "The Waterfalls of Africa" and the "Pathe Gazette" will also cover interesting features.



MR. LOU LA MERT, of the La Mert Brothers, whose novel entertainment at the piano is delighting audiences nightly at the Opera House, Auckland.

## EVERYBODY'S THEATRE.

At this delightful picture house a gorgeous drama is unfolded in "The Arab," a story living and breathing the mysterious atmosphere of the desert. Acted by the Famous Players and set off with magnificent scenery, it forms one of the most fascinating romances yet presented on screen. There is an allurements about it that holds one breathless. The history of the rebellious Jamil, son of the Bedouin chief; his friction with his father, who gives away Jamil's favourite horse, his meeting with missionaries, and his subsequent conversion, are portrayed with telling realism, and excitement is heightened with a massacre of Christians for which the Bedouins were responsible. Jamil saves the mission teacher with whom he has fallen in love, and thus intensifies the heart interest. Other dramatic and comic pictures are included in a meritorious programme. On Monday next another triumph in photo. play art will be presented in "A Submarine Pirate," in which the hero is Syd. Chaplin. His hair-raising escapes over high buildings, and his adventures as commander of the submarine build up a mad mixture of delirious risks and diverting situations.

### MR. ASHMEAD BARTLETT.

Mr. Ashmead Bartlett, the distinguished war correspondent, arrived from Australia last week to make a brief tour of New Zealand for the purpose of giving war lectures in the principal cities of the Dominion. Messrs. J. and N. Tait, the directors of the tour, announce that they have arranged for Mr. Ashmead Bartlett to appear in the Auckland Town Hall on Saturday and Monday, April 22 and 24. Two lectures only will be given. Mr. Ashmead Bartlett came most prominently before the notice of the overseas portion of the Empire as the writer of the brilliant despatches from the Dardanelles, describing the famous landing of the Anzacs and subsequent operations on the Peninsula, where he acted as the official press representative of the British Government. Mr. Ashmead Bartlett is fairly entitled to the foremost place amongst the chroniclers of an expedition which will live for ever in the hearts of New Zealanders, and, indeed, in those of the citizens of the Empire. Mr. Ashmead Bartlett's lectures will be a story of the Dardanelles campaign, commencing with the early bombardment of the Dardanelles forts until the final evacuation, and will be illustrated by a series of remarkable photographs taken by the famous war correspondent, which in themselves possess sufficient interest to hold an audience. It is not generally known that Mr. Ashmead Bartlett has been through all the great campaigns of the past fifteen years, and served as war correspondent in the Graeco-Turkish war, Russo-Japanese, French and Spanish campaigns in Morocco, the Italian war in Tripoli, and the first and second Balkan conflicts, and as an officer in the South African war. Before his arrival in Gallipoli Mr. Ashmead Bartlett was occupied for some time on the western front. In addition to the Gallipoli campaign, the lecturer will review the present situation on all fronts. The box plans will be available at Wildman and Arey's on Monday morning next.

Mr. Robert Williamson will act as advance manager for "Under Fire," the great war play J. C. Williamson is sending over. Mr. Julius Knight and Miss Lizette Parkes will take the leading parts. This is one of the biggest productions ever sent to New Zealand by J. C. Williamson, Ltd. There are over 200 people in it and over sixty speaking parts. "Under Fire" opens in Auckland on April 22. Mr. Williamson arrived from Sydney on Monday and is busily setting interest alive.