

# THE STAGE

## BOOKINGS.

### HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

June 12 to 15—"The Geisha," Mrs. Sutherland's Co.  
 June 16 and 17—Combined Professional Patriotic Entertainment  
 June 23 and 24—Paul Dufault  
 July 10 to 15—Tivoli Follies  
 July 17 to 25—J. C. Williamson's "Mother Goose" Pantomime  
 July 31 to Aug. 13—Allan Wilkie's Co.  
 Aug. 26 to Sept. 9—Allen Doone's Co.

### TOWN HALL.

July 7 to 11—Royal Strollers

### HIS MAJESTY'S.

#### "THE GEISHA."

On Tuesday night an amateur performance of "The Geisha" was given at His Majesty's Theatre, Auckland. Its success is convincingly evident from the fact that after a run of three nights this week with packed houses the performers have been asked to give two performances next week. In staging this opera for the benefit of the Russian Fund very great credit is due to Mrs. E. Sutherland, who so ably and successfully directed the whole performance, and the Victoria League, who are responsible for the entertainment, are to be congratulated on securing such a clever band of artists. The opera itself is always a popular one, both on account of its bright and pretty music and its very effective staging and dressing. Miss Wheeler was a most charming and fascinating Mimosa San and her voice is beautifully clear and sweet. In her first solo, that of the plaintive goldfish, she won the hearts of the audience, and throughout the performance the little Geisha girl gained great applause, particularly with her singing of that haunting little melody "The Jewel of Asia." Miss Ruby Mackenzie, as Molly Seamore, proved to be a decidedly clever actress, and is the happy possessor of a most pleasing voice. The bright and breezy English girl, whose lover falls a victim to the fascinations of the Geisha, was splendidly portrayed, and the solos were well suited to Miss Mackenzie's voice. Juliette Diamant, the French maid, was a great success, the part being taken by Miss Elsie Nicholas, who was very Frenchy and captivating. Mrs. Matheson, as Lady Constance Wynne, was quite at home in her part, and Miss Ella Tucker, Miss Nita Menzies and Miss Cummings most pleasingly represented her guests, the English ladies. Miss Muriel Brown is an exceedingly clever dancer, and with Mr. C. D. Binnington, who is also a skilful exponent of the art, gave a very quaint and pretty Japanese dance. Mr. L. Keven, who took the part of Mr. Reginald Fairfax, has a splendid voice, which he used to great advantage, and his singing of "Star of My Soul" and "Molly Mine" were two of the most successful features of the performance. The part of Dick Cunningham was very well taken by Mr. Meredith, and Mr. Mervyn Smith, Mr. Norman Brett, and Miss N. Iversen as the mid-shipsmen made very jolly sailors bold. Mr. Wallace Atkinson, who provided most of the comedy, was entirely successful as Wunhi and provoked much laughter and applause. Captain Katana (Mr. W. Cockerill) in his duet with Mimosa San scored a great success and is the possessor of a very fine and sympathetic voice. The choruses went well, and must have been the result of much strenuous work. The final ballet was most effective, and reflects great credit on Miss Daphne Knight, and the orchestra, under the direction of Mrs. Sutherland, did excellent work. Altogether the performance was a great success, and the repetition next week will be gladly looked forward to by the Auckland public.

### DRAMATIC AND VAUDEVILLE ENTERTAINMENT.

The Auckland Dramatic and Vaudeville Employees' Association gave a performance at His Majesty's Theatre on Friday night in aid of the equipment of the Children's Hospital as a memorial to fallen soldiers, seamen

and nurses. It was disappointing to find that there was not a very large attendance, but already three "in-aids-of" had been given during the week, and the purse of the public is not unlimited. The first part of the programme comprised miscellaneous items by various artists, among whom were the popular duo Brown and Sorlie, who sang and pattered away, evoking roars of laughter and rounds of applause. Mrs. Malcolm, who is an artist of considerable talent, in the garb of a ragged flower-girl, sang most appealingly "Only a Penny" and the coin rolled on the stage from all quarters. As an encore she gave a rollicking ragtime with great vim. A most effective Egyptian dance was given by the pupils of Miss Daphne Knight. Miss Madoline Knight, as an Eastern maiden, sang an Egyptian love song, which was followed by a Danse de Pyramids, in which Mrs. Malcolm showed herself to be a most graceful and artistic exponent of the weird dances of the East. Mr. Barry

est contortions, they spring upon one another with the grace and ease of a cat, and balance spinning plates on canes while forming a tower of humanity. Their garments are another interesting feature. They first appear in marvellously embroidered robes and then in gorgeous tangere brocade most artistically fashioned and faced with wide bands of black satin. Another unique turn was that of the whirlwind McLeans, who first give the impression of two very dainty dancers, and in a short time almost take one's breath away by the manner in which they whirl about, sometimes in mid-air, sometimes on their feet, and then seemingly on their heads. Miss Decima's appearance is most bewitching, and her thatch of glorious auburn hair adds yet another startling note to a sensational entertainment. Nina Alix, the clever comedienne, looking very smart and trim, gave very clever impersonations of a French actress and of the typical man who carries a cane. Both were per-

fectful balancing feats, dances with great precision on his hands. Val and Lottie Newman appear in a new sketch, and are as amusing as ever, and the Raleighs again made "Fun in a Back Yard."

### PAUL DUFAULT.

#### FAREWELL CONCERTS.

Paul Dufault, the ever delightful and ever welcome tenor, returns to Auckland for two farewell concerts next Friday and Saturday. The news of this opportunity of again hearing the favourite tenor has been generally welcomed. Paul Dufault is a French-Canadian and is proud of it; so are his thousands of admirers on this side of the world. He is justly famous for his singing of French and English ballads, but he is something more than a singer of ballads; he is also a great artist in the great music of the world. When Paul Dufault sings a simple little ballad with that inimitable delicacy of his, it must not be forgotten that he can also sing a great operatic aria with the same inimitable dramatic intensity, for Dufault is a master of many moods and in each seems equally convincing.

The extraordinary success which has greeted the Paul Dufault tour of New Zealand is something new in our musical experience. It can safely be said that no male singer who has visited us has been so universally appreciated as this great dramatic tenor. All music-lovers have welcomed the announcement of his two farewell concerts, to be given at His Majesty's Theatre, Auckland, on Friday and Saturday next, June 23 and 24, for which the box plans are now open at Wildman and Arey's.

Mr. Dufault's success during his previous season here was enormous, and there is great interest evident in his return. The Dufault Australian tour opens in Sydney on July 1, and Mr. Dufault and his assisting artists sail from Auckland by the Makura on June 26; therefore this week's entertainments will be his two last concerts in New Zealand, and absolutely the last opportunity of hearing him. Mr. Dufault will be assisted here by the same talented trio as before, Miss Pauline Bindley, soprano; Miss Florence Scapini, violinist; and Harold Whittle, pianist.

### THE TIVOLI FOLLIES.

One of the brightest shows that visited Auckland last year was the Tivoli Follies, under the direction of Mr. Hugh D. McIntosh. They are to return to Auckland on Monday, July 10th, but as a much bigger fun show than previously. Since they were here twelve months ago they have gone on adding performers and items to their now enormous repertoire, and they guarantee their show to be absolutely new from rise to fall of the curtain. There will be no repeat items, even by request, as the Follies now number over 60 performers, and the whirlwind pace at which item succeeds item is simply wonderful. The new Queen is Miss Vera Pearce, who is now billed as the Boomerang Girl, and she is an artist who has improved wonderfully since last here. Her singing and dancing are now the equal of any revue performer in any part of the world. A new star to visit the Dominion is Miss Thelma Raye, who has had long and varied experience in musical comedy both in England, America and Australia. Jack Coker returns with new songs, new jokes, and new specialties, while this consistent comedian is ably aided and abetted by three of the finest comedians on the stage to-day—Walter Weems (the black-faced humorist), George Welch (England's "drunk" comedian), and Billy Rego (the quaint pantomimist). Frank Greene, the modern stage lover with the delightful baritone voice, is also returning, while that clever child dancer Jean Keith will be seen in various national dances. The supporting acts will include the first appearance in New



THE "HARD-UP" QUARTETTE, WHO WILL MAKE THEIR APPEARANCE WITH THE TIVOLI FOLLIES, OPENING AT HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE ON MONDAY, JULY 10—Messrs. Canner, Welch, Weems, and Rego.

Coney's fine voice was heard in the singing of "Danny Deever," and Mr. Coman, the magic man, mystified the audience with his sleight of hand. In the second part of the performance an episode taken from the play "Sherlock Holmes" was enacted by the Rev. Jasper Calder, Mr. H. St. Martin, Mr. W. Burns and Mr. Will Jonas. The Rev. Jasper Calder was very much at home in his part, and gave a splendid portrayal of the character of the great detective. An excellent orchestra added to the enjoyment of the entertainment, which was entirely successful.

### OPERA HOUSE.

On Monday night a full house greeted the performance at the Opera House, when a splendid programme, comprising several new turns, was submitted. A most novel and interesting performance was that of Chebert's Marvellous Manchurians, a group of five men who are acrobats and jugglers of world-wide fame. Their feats are positively hair-raising. At one time you see them hanging by their queues several feet above the stage, and while in mid-air quite unperturbed they support a table and partake of light refreshment. After twisting their bodies into the weird-

formed with great gusto and vim, and secured much applause. The Lampinis Brothers are jugglers and comedians who give a most diverting and original turn. Alsace and Lorraine are artists of a type one seldom sees on the vaudeville stage. Alsace is a musician of great merit, and his violin solo was remarkable for the quality of tone and the vitality and life he got from his instrument. He also has a most pleasing voice which he uses to great advantage, while his partner is an artist of undoubted talent. Her flute playing was beautifully clear and sweet, and as a Highlander in her fascinating kilt she played the bagpipes with great effect and received loud applause. In accompanying Alsace in his marvellous performance on the Alsacephone, which so closely resembles the human voice, she showed herself to be a most versatile artist. Dan Thomas scored another big success and evoked roars of laughter. During his singing of "When the Boys Come Marching Home" coin again rolled on to the stage, which would considerably add to the sum of £20 which he gained last week. The four Kings, clever child acrobats and singers, gave a very clever performance, and Vernon and Reed performed a novel dancing turn. After a series of eccentric step-dances, the man, who does some won-