

Zealand of the Brussels Orchestra, featuring that famous Belgian tenor Jacques Bol. Ella Caspers, Australia's "girl with the voice of gold," will also appear, while Short and Little, an acrobatic team, will be seen in new stunts.

THE ROYAL STROLLERS.

The original tour of the Royal Strollers was to have terminated in Gisborne on June 20, but owing to the rearrangement of Sydney dates at the Palace Theatre an extension of three weeks has been arranged in New Zealand, and the following towns will be visited by the Strollers:—Dannevirke, June 22; Feilding, 23 and 24; Marton, 26; Taihape, 27; Te Awamutu, 28; Hamilton, 29 and 30. After a short rest in Rotorua, the company will visit Whangarei on July 4 and 5, and commence a short season in the Concert Chamber Auckland on Friday, July 7, and will leave Wellington for Sydney on July 13. Mr. Scott Colville, who has conducted the New Zealand tour for J. and N. Tait, states that the Strollers have had a phenomenally successful tour, and even in Dunedin had the unique experience of turning people away and that in spite of a strong counter attraction which they unexpectedly had to face. During their tour through the Dominion the Strollers made a host of friends, both on and off the stage, and they will take away with them many pleasant memories of their stay in this country. The Auckland season must be limited to four nights, and entirely new programmes will be presented, including special numbers which have been prepared for the Sydney season.

"MOTHER GOOSE."

J. C. WILLIAMSON PANTOMIME.

The J. C. Williamson "Mother Goose" pantomime is due here on Monday, July 17, and it will, therefore, be of interest to read what the critic of the "Australasian" has to say regarding this latest Williamson combination: "In effects that surprise almost as often as they delight us, in art, where taste and colour invariably agree, in elements that are often quaint, sometimes sporting, and always pleasing, the "Mother Goose" pantomime of this year quite holds its own with the bird of happy memory of seven years ago," says the "Australasian." "While the best effects of this pantomime may be praised without reserve might be described as the development of wit and humour. The goose is in itself an original, a wonderful goose, and the magnificent spectacle of "Gooseland," which terminates the pantomime, has never been rivalled. From an effective beginning, right through the first act the "panto" is distinguished in scenes and effects, each more delightful than the last. There is a most effective swing scene, in which the boy sings a lilting song, while the girl, her face just faintly illuminated, floats over the auditorium on invisible wires in a manner that looks like magic indeed; then a scene in which a multitude of pretty girls are dangling toy balloons almost within the reach of a tantalised audience, while other balloons and parachutes and toys pour from the roof to be grabbed up by eager hands. . . . There is a beautiful imperial flower scene, and, suggested also by war, a dance and March of the Allies, with a Ball of Gold and a profusion of notes and coins of the realm. Even the filling in between the scenes is effective. What could be better or afford a more faithful contrast than the English autumn woodland of the Wishing Gate and the Australian glade of the Magic Pool? Into multitudes of such effects, the rapidity with which they go, something like satiety is produced. One needs to reflect that almost the least of them would be a star feature in a variety show to grasp the meaning of all that is of-

ferred in this exhibition of vaudeville glorified. Finally Ross and Falls gave their specialty in a balancing turn, as clever as it is funny. One of them seated in a chair surmounting several light tables fixed one on top of the other, sways and balances the frail structure with an ease and skill that leaves the audience gasping one moment and applauding the next. His companion attempting the feat achieves a sudden anti-climax which looks like a disastrous bungle but is really nothing of the sort."

GREENROOM GOSSIP.

The farewell concerts to be given in Auckland on Friday and Saturday next by Paul Dufault are events that will be generally welcomed, for seldom has a singer attained such universal popularity as the Canadian tenor has achieved in the Dominion. It is altogether unnecessary to compare this artist-musician with other tenors heard here. There is that in his personality and power of expressing the composer's inmost thought that compels the deepest admiration and defies comparison. Another great asset towards this singer's success is the absolute good taste with which each number of his programme is selected. Although born of French parents, the Dufault programmes are largely in English, and in English that is a model of perfect diction. Every word is perfectly distinct and understandable, and in hearing Dufault sing English one realises what a beautiful language our oft-criticised mother-tongue really is. Mr. Dufault will be assisted here by Miss Pauline Bindley, the delightful young soprano from Bendigo, and Mr. Harold Whittle, the Sydney pianist, and Miss Florence Scapini, one of our own daughters, for whom the critics predict a great future as a violinist.

One of the most handsome floral tributes ever presented to any stage artist was an immense boomerang, handed up to Miss Vera Pearce, the Queen of the Tivoli Follies, on the occasion of her 21st birthday, which was celebrated recently in Sydney.

It stood over 6 feet high, and was so heavy it took two men to lift it over the footlights. The frontispiece in this week's issue, showing Miss Pearce standing by her tribute, will give some idea of the florists' handiwork.

Miss Vera Pearce, the beautiful Queen of the Tivoli Follies, which attraction is billed to open at His Majesty's Theatre, Auckland, on Monday, 10th July, is styled in Australia "The Boomerang Girl." On the opening night in Auckland each member of the audience will be presented with a silver boomerang as a memento of the return of this brilliant combination. The motto of the boomerang is "I go to return," and many of these tokens have been presented to the soldiers before leaving, some of whom have styled themselves "the Vera Pearce boys." Prior to the opening performance Mr. H. D. McIntosh has sent over some bronze boomerangs for wearing in the coat. These may be had gratis on inquiry at Wildman and Arey's, the box office, or direct to His Majesty's Theatre office.

A newcomer to the Tivoli Follies who will be making her first appearance in New Zealand at His Majesty's Theatre, Auckland, on Monday, July 10th, is Miss Thelma Raye, an artist who has successfully appeared in musical comedy in Australia. Although brought out to Australia to play leads in musical comedy, Miss Raye is no stranger to revue work, she having successfully appeared in many attractions at Home, including "8d. a Mile" and "The Passing Show."

Miss May Beatty, who once was a favourite with playgoers, at latest was playing lead in the English provinces in "The Miller's Daughter."

Miss Camille Clifford, whose noble husband was killed in France, is scheduled for work in motion pictures in America at £200 per week. To take this offer she rejected a handsome offer to appear in vaudeville.

Three more Rex Beach novels are being put into the films: "The Barrier," "The Iron Trail," and "The Silver Horde."

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