

GREENROOM GOSSIP.

Mr. Allan Wilkie delighted Sydney and Melbourne audiences by his finely balanced study of Shakespeare's "Othello." The even recitation of the Moor's lines in the necessary but exciting speeches assists, by reason of contrast, the passionate power with which the actor whips and lashes his tormenting fiend in the celebrated third act, when Iago maddens his general by his craftily-instilled jealousy. Mr. Wilkie in these scenes rises to great heights of tragedy. The Desdemona of Miss Frediswyde Hunter-Watts is stated to be also deserving of high praise as an excellent and carefully considered performance. "Othello" will be staged at His Majesty's, Auckland, on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights.

Miss Barbara Babington, the principal assistant of Horace Goldin, the Russian magician and illusionist, had a long experience of musical comedy before she commenced her tour with the famous illusionist. The work in which she is now engaged differs so much from musical comedy that she found difficulty at the outset in adapting herself to circumstances. "Here, more than in connection with the average entertainment, one has to cultivate repose," she says, "with a view to unobtrusively helping the general effect. Necessarily, Mr. Goldin is the centre of attraction, and if attention is diverted from him for a moment we lose way. So that all the assistants have to keep in the picture without in any way seeming essential to it. If an illusionist did not give a one-man show he would be a failure."

Mr. Hugh J. Ward, resident managing director of J. C. Williamson, Ltd., is off to America and London in search of new artists and plays. "In these days of short runs," Mr. Ward recently stated, "the question of material is one that is ever present. Luckily our resources for the production of revivals give us plenty to draw upon, and in the matter of musical comedy revivals are even more popular than new offerings. The revival policy does not mean that there is a shortage of material. There are, however, difficulties of casting, and the types necessary are not easy to get. It is a task to induce actors in England and America to make so long a journey as an engagement in Australia involves. In England, too, there are few actors available to-day. So many are, happily, doing their bit in the war, and juvenile men are out of the question. In America things are booming to such an extent that the managers there complain of a shortage of acting talent. Then, again, the production of new plays to-day represents enormously increased outlay. The materials required for scenery, wardrobe, and other essentials to first-class production have gone up in some cases 100 per cent. Where, in pre-war days, a musical comedy cost £5000 to stage, it cannot be done now under £8000."

Mr. Scott Colville has secured the sole New Zealand rights of the authentic picture of the Panama Exposition, and will run it in conjunction with the unique Submarine series with which he is now touring.

There are two Australians of outstanding merit in the Allan Wilkie company, Mr. Walter Hunt and Miss Elwyn Harvey. Hunt, who is playing leading support to Wilkie, had to go to England to get recognition, and while there played a number of important parts in leading companies. Miss Elwyn Harvey has never been out of Australia, but hopes to face the "big smoke" before long.

In the exploitation of his twentieth century miracles, Mr. Horace Goldin, who has been termed the "whirlwind illusionist," introduces in quick succession the living shadows, magical duckling creation, and the musical flight. In this latter number Mr. Goldin is said to reach the apex of magical art, and presents his latest masterpiece. Here, a real piano, before which sits a lady pianist, is made to vanish into thin air as the girl herself dissolves into the ether in very view of the audience. It is an illusion more mystifying and inexplicable than the greatest mysteries of any of the white or black magicians who from time to time have baffled an inquisitive public.

Mr. W. E. Crome, who is well-known in theatrical circles throughout the Dominion, has resigned the manager-ship and musical directorship of the Sydenham Picture Theatre, Christchurch.

The Bletsoes have retired from the costume-comedy business, and have sold their shows to Nat Phillips and Daisy Merritt, a well-remembered pair of laugh makers on the Fuller circuit.

At the end of the present grand opera season at the Princess' Theatre, Melbourne, Mr. George Marlow will retire from theatrical management, and in all probability will leave for America and England, accompanied by his wife (Miss Ethel Buckley).

An attractive member of Victor Prince's Musical Revue Company, now in their fourth week at the Auckland Opera House, is Miss Ruby Esdaille, who plays one of the leads. Miss Esdaille has a pleasing soprano voice and a winsome way, while a discriminating taste in frocking is another asset. A painstaking young artist, Miss Esdaille, who has been schooled in musical work in Australia in various companies, puts her whole heart into every part allotted her.

SOUTHERN STAGE NOTES.

(By "Lorgnette.")

WELLINGTON, August 21.

Horace Goldin, the celebrated Russian magician and illusionist, opens his Dominion tour at the Wellington Grand Opera House on Wednesday evening, the 30th inst., playing a season of eight nights. Goldin is described as the royal illusionist, and has had the honour of several command performances before his late Majesty King Edward, Queen Alexandra, His Majesty King George and Queen Mary, and the Royal Family, and has appeared as often as four times

will open at the Wellington Town Hall on Tuesday evening next, the 29th inst. This picture has created a great sensation in America, England and Australia, enjoying a continuous run of nine weeks in both Sydney and Melbourne. Its greatest thrill is said to be provided by the men of the Klu Klux Klan, when the white-clad horsemen are seen racing madly through the town in their work of vengeance. Thousands of men form the procession, and ride with the precision of cavalry. These quaintly-garbed and impressive mystery men of the night are said to inspire one with a thrill that is not lessened at the thought that they brought peace and justice out of the turbulent times, as recorded in American history, in the days of the war between the North and South. In a word, it is a remarkable, high-class drama, based on the history of the nation, crammed with tableaux in which thousands of people figure in the most thrilling and most exciting way.

The Wellington public are already anxiously awaiting for the coming season of the English actor Allan Wilkie and his Shakespearian company, which opens at the Grand Opera House on the 9th September. During the season six of Shakespeare's masterpieces will be produced. It has been decided that "Hamlet" will be the opening production. In referring to Mr. Wilkie's staging of the tragedy in Melbourne the "Australasian" says: "A sane Hamlet, wholly free from idiosyncrasies or a straining for original effect, coupled with a simple, sorrowful Ophelia, has made Mr. Wilkie's venture in the most critical of Shakespearian dramas wholly acceptable to a great many people who are

the plentitude of facts concerning the organ divulged by an industrious press agent, one learns that "the instrument is a metallurgical museum and a permanent lumber exhibition as well. It contains five tons of metal, including platinum, silver, brass, copper, lead, tin, zinc, iron, steel, bronze, and aluminium. Upwards of 15,000 feet of lumber were used, including ebony, walnut, oak, birch, maple, pine, cherry, and poplar."

The death is announced of Mr. Hamish MacCunn, the well-known Scottish composer. His best known works were "The Land of the Mountain and the Flood," the dramatic cantata, "Lird Ullin's Daughter," and "The Lay of the Last Minstrel." He was 48 years of age. The deceased was a brother of Mr. Andrew MacCunn, well-known in the Dominion as musical director for many of the J. C. Williamson musical productions.

Mr. Scott Colville, the well-known theatrical manager, is at present arranging a Dominion tour for the two Russian musicians, Alfred Mirovitch (pianist) and Richard Piastro (violinist). This talented pair of artists are at present creating something in the nature of a furore in musical circles in Australia. The tour is expected to open in Wellington at the end of the present month.

Herbert Ratcliffe, a Sydney baritone, who is now a lieutenant in the Royal Fusiliers, left his voice in safe keeping before starting to "do his bit" at the front. A number of gramophone records of his singing were made, and it is said that these are now in great favour throughout England.

Mr. Edmund Burke, basso cantante with the Melba Australian Grand Opera Company, and one of the greatest favourites in English, American and Continental operatic and concert circles, is now Captain Burke, of the Canadian Expeditionary Forces, fighting somewhere in France. During his Australian engagement with the Melba company, Captain Burke did some fine work as Mephisto in "Faust," the High Priest in "Samson and Delilah," and other bass roles in the company's repertoire.

Voice Production and Singing.

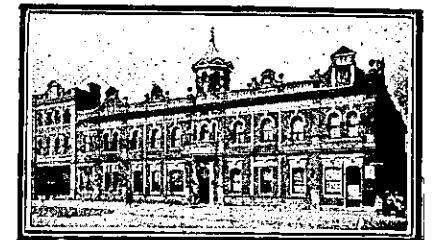
MR. WALTER GRAY

Formerly Principal Tenor of Royal Carl Rosa Opera Company, of Covent Garden Theatre, London, and recently Professor of Singing at Glasgow College of Music.

STUDIO:

BRUNSWICK BUILDINGS,
QUEEN STREET, AUCKLAND.SKATING!
Olympia Rink,HEREFORD ST.,
CHRISTCHURCH.

Sessions: 10 a.m. to 12, 2.30 to 5, 5.30 to 7, 7.30 to 10 p.m. Tuition Free during all Sessions. Private Tuition in Fancy Skating by Arrangement. Band in attendance every evening and Saturday afternoons.

ARTHUR L. POWER,
Manager.

Where to Stay in Invercargill—The

RAILWAY PRIVATE HOTEL

The Favourite and most Popular Hotel. Opp. Railway Station INVERCARGILL.

Patrons called in time to catch early trains. Early breakfast a speciality. Tourists' Favourite House. Ladies' Private Sitting Rooms. Favourite house with Commercial Travellers, Travelling Public and Theatrical Profession. Tariff Moderate. Electric light. Telephone 503. P.O. Box 222.

P. J. BELLETT Proprietor.



MISS BARBARA BABINGTON, in her character as the Sultan's Captive in Horace Goldin's brilliant, spectacular illusion "The Tiger God," opening at Wellington on August 30th, and appearing at Auckland on Saturday, September 16th.

in eight days, thus holding the record for Royal commands. Mr. Goldin has recently completed a tour of Great Britain extending over fifteen years. He brings with him a company of 35 people, all necessary for his gigantic and marvellous illusions, and also some 50 tons of properties and effects. The big illusion is a pantomime spectacular production entitled "The Tiger God." It is a Moorish mystery, into which he weaves an awe-inspiring, weird story of the Far East, rivalling in its fictional phantasy the fascinating fables of "The Arabian Nights." It comes to a thrilling, dramatic and bewildering conclusion, in which a living tiger is employed. Mr. Goldin will be supported by a first-class company of vaudeville artists, including Miss Margaret Jewell, a young Melbourne soprano, who is the portage of Madame Melba. Menchetti and Sidelli are a couple of acrobatic comedians who are in a class by themselves, and are said to start where all other acrobats ever seen here knock off. Marie King Scott is an American artist, who from her first entrance grips her audience, and in no time has them in shrieks of laughter. Gosward is a French pantomime comedian who comes with a great English and Continental reputation. Bill Pruitt is described as the American cowboy Caruso. This comedian can confidently be said to be the highest-salaried lot that has ever visited New Zealand, and says much for the great faith Mr. Hugh D. McIntosh has in the Dominion as a show country.

The Dominion tour of the remarkable picture "The Birth of a Nation"

not regular patrons of theatres. Any sound Shakespearian production appears to a constituency, small, perhaps, but select, and one not usually considered. It helps to make such ventures possible where devotees of the light fantastic would be disposed to show little mercy and less appreciation."

The "Mother Goose" pantomime company were passengers for Sydney by the Riverina last Thursday. Mr. John Farrell, who managed the tour, stayed behind to manage the Dominion tour of "The Birth of a Nation." He will afterwards take up the managerial reins of the Hale Hamilton-Myrtle Tannahill Comedy Company, which has achieved such a success in Australia with "It Pays to Advertise," "Twin Beds," and "The Boomerang." Both shows are under the J. C. Williamson management.

Mr. Harold Bowden arrived from the South on Sunday morning to complete arrangements for the New Zealand tour of Horace Goldin.

MUSIC NOTES.

(By "G" String.)

Something of the effects that picture theatres are having upon music, more particularly upon organ music, may be gathered from the facts issued concerning the immense pipe organ erected in the Rialto Theatre, Broadway, New York, which is the biggest theatre organ in New York outside of the Metropolitan Opera House organ. The theatre also employs an orchestra second in size only to that of the famous Opera House. Among