

GREENROOM GOSSIP.

A HAPPY DOUBLE.

FUN-MAKERS IN THE DANDIES.

The Pink Dandies, now in residence in the Town Hall Concert Chamber, have two dependable drawing cards in Miss Ida Newton and Mr. Joseph Brennan. Both have identified themselves most favourably in previous visits with artistic work, one as sourette and the other as monologist. This trip they are doubtfully popularised—in more ways than one—their marriage having taken place in Adelaide just four months ago.

Dandies of various hues have claimed these two artists at different times. Now they are rivals together in their appeal for laughter, and between them total up a heavy score in that respect.

Miss Ida Newton, who is a Queensland girl, was soprano lead with the D. B. O'Connor musical comedy company, which has toured New Zealand with J. C. Williamson successes, "The Quaker Girl," "Cingalee" and others, so that she has a good voice to give point to her humorous songs. She commenced her stage career in vaudeville, but admits it was short and sweet! It was in the "circle" days, when vaudeville conditions were not on such an elevated plane as they are now.

Mr. Joseph Brennan has launched out as a comedian since his last visit, and has full scope for developing his fine talent in that line. Mr. Brennan is a Dunedinite, who some years ago made an excellent impression with the high standard of his amateur work. He went to Australia, was with Fred Graham's musical comedy company, and then got into drama, and appeared in "The Woman in the Case" and "A Fool There Was." He has had a four years' association with Edward Branscombe's companies, making a specialty of monologues—mostly serious. From serio to comedy seems a wide step. But, as Mr. Brennan sagely remarks, "You get bigger money for being funny." And his vivacious wife offers her theory "that it's the most fascinating thing in the world to make people laugh!"

Mr. Hugh D. McIntosh is sending over to New Zealand a capital little vaudeville company to support Mr. Horace Goldin, the Russo-American magician. The names of the performers, all of whom have made their mark in Australia, are as follows:—Bill Pruitt, the "Cowboy Caruso;" Menetti and Sidelli, amazingly clever comedy acrobats, who are said to begin where most other acrobats leave off; Margaret Jewell, the brilliant budding soprano; Hay and Crawford, high steppers extraordinary; Coswin, the French clown; and Marie King Scott, a delightful girl from the country.

Melbourne is to see the first production in Australia of "The Cinema Star," one of the most successful English musical plays of recent years. It will be staged by the Royal Comic Opera Company. Miss Maud Fane is busy rehearsing the role.

As Sorah Marsh in "The Land of Promise," to be staged shortly at Melbourne Theatre Royal for the first time in Australia, Miss Madge Fabian will be seen in a role in which she achieved a big success in South Africa, under the J. C. Williamson, Ltd., management. Associated with Miss Fabian in this production were two other artists well-known in Australia—A. S. Homewood, who appeared with the Brough-Fleming Co., and Stephen Ewart, who was leading man in Australia with the Ethel Irving Company.

"The Land of Promise," written by Somerset Maugham, is a story of the Canadian prairie, and the principal scenes are enacted in the region of Winnipeg. It is the story of an inefficient young Englishwoman, who, soured and disappointed at failure in her own station of life, marries in desperation a farm hand, and goes to live in a shack on his newly acquired land. Physically he is repulsive to her, for she has left the atmosphere and surroundings of refinement in England. Therefore there commences a struggle for mastery between the man and the woman. How the man tames the woman, much as Petruchio triumphed over Katharina, is shown in four acts in which many dramatic situations occur.

Miss Sara Allgood, whose "Peg o' My Heart" is one of the most memorable characterisations hitherto seen on the Australian stage originally took over the part from Laurette Taylor,

who had played it over 1000 times in America and Great Britain. Miss Allgood, who confesses that she had fancied the role for some time before she got the chance of appearing in it, offered her services when she heard that Miss Taylor was relinquishing Peg to take a well-earned rest. Hartley Manners, the author of the comedy only knew of Miss Allgood's remarkable ability by repute, but on the recommendation of Sir George Alexander he gave the little Irish lady the engagement. He never repented the decision, for Sara Allgood was a triumph.

Amongst musical comedies recently secured by J. C. Williamson, Ltd., are "The Pearl Girl," "Katinka," "Town Topics," "The Bing Boys Are Here," "A Little Bit of Fluff," "The Only Girl," "In Manhattan," "The Red Widow and the Fascinating Widow," "Betty," and "Forty-five Minutes from Broadway." Dramas for future presentation are "The Traffic," "Damaged Goods," "Jim Garrity," "Common Clay," "The Story of the Rosary," "The Blindness of Virtue," "The Heart of Wetoaa," "The Easiest Way," "The Outcast," "Experience" (a morality play), "The Great Lover," "Shore Acres," and "The House of Glass." In comedies there are "The Land of Promise," "The Dummy," "Daddy Long

the management of the Horace Goldin combination.

MUSIC NOTES.

(By "G" String.)

The Royal Philharmonic Society of London recently celebrated its hundred and fourth anniversary.

When the London Queen's Hall Orchestra gave a symphony concert recently, the fact that forty of the men wore "Derby Armlets," denoting that they had volunteered for the war, made a deep impression upon the audience.

Edward Kent, who was shot for actively participating in the Dublin Rebellion, was an excellent exponent of the Irish Vileann bagpipes, and a keen student of Irish music. Born in the city of Galway in 1881, he went to Dublin in 1899. In 1900 he was one of the founders of the Pipers' Club, and was an enthusiastic Gaelic Leaguer, translating his name as "Eamonn Ceannt." He was adjudicator in the bagpipes competitions at the Feis Ceil in 1914 and 1915. For many years an ardent Sinn Feiner, he joined the Dublin Rebellion in Easter week as an Irish Volunteer, and apprehended and condemned to death by court-martial, he was shot on May 6.



MR. JOSEPH BRENNAN, comedian and monologist with the Pink Dandies, at present appearing in the Town Hall, Auckland.

Legs," "Our New Minister," "The Cinderella Man." Farces include "Too Many Cooks," "A Full House," "Marrying Money," "Our Wives," "He Comes Up Smiling," "C.O.D.," "Hit the Trail Holiday," "Young Wisdom," "Fair and Warmer," and "Baby Mine."

Miss Marie King Scott, who is one of the big vaudeville "hits" with the Horace Goldin company, at present touring New Zealand, is one of the keenest Americans who are forwarding the cause of the Allies. From the opening of her tour of Australasia, under the management of Mr. H. D. McIntosh, she has donated half her salary to patriotic funds, and now she is seeking to accept a responsibility for many years by adopting a war baby. She has taken steps to become a mother to an Australian child whose mother is dead and whose father has been killed serving his country. Miss King Scott has been such a success in Australia that Mr. McIntosh has renewed her engagement.

Mr. Percy F. Crawford, who managed the Dominion tour of the Tivoli Follies, arrived in Wellington from the South last Tuesday to take over

Dr. Walford Davies, one of England's foremost organists and composers, is worthily engaging himself in teaching some of Great Britain's soldiers to sing. He frequently visits the great training ground at Adershot and conducts training classes in singing.

Mr. John McCormack has forwarded the sum of £1800 to the Lord Mayor of Dublin, the proceeds of the concert given by the Irish tenor in New York for the Dublin Relief Fund.

SOUTHERN STAGE NOTES.

(By "Lorgnette.")

WELLINGTON, August 28.

When the magician La Fayette met his death in an Edinburgh theatre fire a few years ago it was claimed that the secret of many of his wonderful illusions had died with him. This assertion, however, is largely disproved by the performance presented by Horace Goldin, the Russian magician and illusionist. Goldin is a new star that has arisen in the world of illusionists, and he performs with success many of the feats that made La Fayette and other celebrated illusion-

ists famous. Goldin is a pleasant-mannered deceiver, who succeeds in getting the old and new tricks off his hands in the style of a smart American sales man. The best trick in the "twentieth century miracles" is the one with the line and fishing rod. With successive dips into the orchestral stalls he lands gold fish, which are placed alive in a bowl of water. It would take columns to adequately describe all the tricks Goldin does. The sensational climax is "The Tiger God," in which he is assisted by Miss Barbara Babington and about twenty-five others. The audience is introduced to the harem of the Sultan of Morocco. The wives of the potentate are seen making their observances to the Tiger God, when a white captive is thrust into their midst. Subsequently this new arrival is condemned to be shot for refusing the advances of the Sultan, and Horace Goldin, the illusionist, who makes an attempt to rescue her, is thrown inside the tiger's cage. The climax is reached when the illusionist causes the tiger to vanish and delivers the white captive from the dusky hands of the Sultan. It is a great act and superbly staged and mounted. The second part of the entertainment is supplied by a high-class combination of vaudeville performers. Miss Marie Scott King, dispenser of quaint humour; Menetti and Sidelli, a couple of top-notch acrobatic comedians who know how to "deliver the goods"; Gosward, billed as something new in comedy; and Misses Hay and Crawford, two girls who can dance expertly. Miss Barbara Babington and Bill Pruitt also provide acceptable "turns." The Wellington seasons opens on August 30.

Lovers of Shakespeare in Wellington are looking forward to a rare treat from the Allan Wilkie Shakespearian Company, which opens a season at the Grand Opera House on Saturday, September 9th. It is some years now since any of Shakespeare's plays were staged, and as Mr. Wilkie has decided on staging six of the bard's masterpieces during the season it is confidently anticipated that it will be a highly successful one. Mr. R. Williamson is expected to arrive in town on Thursday to complete all arrangements for the opening. The first production will be "Hamlet."

The Wellington Comedy Company has decided to produce "Dr. Bill" in the Town Hall Concert Chamber in September, under the auspices of the New Zealand Natives' Association. The comedy will be produced under the supervision of Mr. Charles Blake.

This seems to be the season for the exhibition of big picture films. A fortnight ago we had the historical picture "Jane Shore," last week we had the "French Fighting Front," this week we have got "The Birth of a Nation" on exhibition, and the Town Hall has been booked for a short season for the screening of "The Divinity of Motherhood." At the close of the Wellington season "The Divinity of Motherhood" will go on tour under the direction of Mr. Walter Monk.

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.

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