

THE STAGE

HIS MAJESTY'S.

PICTURES.

HIS MAJESTY'S.

Dec. 9-23—J. C. Williamson, Ltd.
Jan. 22-31 (1917)—Hugh D. McIntosh
Feb. 12-24—J. C. Williamson, Ltd.
April 7-21—J. C. Williamson, Ltd.
May 21-June 2—J. C. Williamson, Ltd.
June 4-11—Allen Doone

OPERA HOUSE.

Bright and brisk was the programme offered to a full house on Monday night by the Fuller management, and topping it all was the act of the Robert De Mont trio. It was a veritable whirlwind of acrobatics, all three—two men and a woman—going at full speed with dizzying turns and somersaults. "The Hotel Turnover" they called their sketch, and they made it a good background to exploit their skill. Each was an entertainer of the first rank, and combined they built up a turn which for novelty and dash has not been surpassed. Even their mode of entrance was stimulating, and there was no slackening off, the finale showing one spinning round on one knee, another turning hurricane somersaults on a small table, and the third executing contortions at breakneck speed. The audience demonstrated their appreciation in a storm of applause. Mr. Donald Cornwallis, an English elocutionist of note, lent distinction to the entertainment. With dramatic effect he recites to moving pictures produced by himself, synchronising voice and film. His items on Monday consisted of the kinemapoem "Papa's Letter," telling a pathetic little story in which the leading actress is only five years old; and by request of the military authorities his stirring filmologue "Fall In," which should be an incentive to recruiting. Mr. Cornwallis was forcefully impressive in both, and was received with enthusiastic approval. Another newcomer was Miss Edith Cowley, a charming South African contralto, whose songs met with complete success. The two Farrows, in their shopping burlesque, put everyone in hilarious mood, Harry, with his quiet drolleries, being a pronounced favourite. Miss Dora Oberman used her brilliant voice to much acceptance in "Il Baccio" and Alfred Hill's "Poi Song." Les Legertes had a rousing reception for their graceful balancing feats and exhibition of strength. Solley and Fenner again combined somersaults and comedy to the delight of all. Miss Jessie Barlee won a further meed of favour with her songs. Kingsley and Graham in song and jest, made a merry opening to the bill, and the finish was provided by the clever Arteens and their dog, Jessie. Mr. E. J. Burke's orchestra was not the least in its ability to entertain.

KING'S THEATRE.

"THE LUCK OF ROARING CAMP."

Bret Harte's thrilling story, "The Luck of Roaring Camp," has all the elements in it for a successful melodrama, and the Brandon-Cremer Dramatic Company gave it full value at their initial presentation at King's Theatre on Saturday. The piece is packed full of incident, and there is never a dull moment from the opening scene, where "old Pard" is brutally murdered, to the final curtain, when "All's well" is sounded. Tom Barnes, in quest of gold, and Gonzales, bent on revenge, are the villains of the play, always ready with pistol or knife to remove any obstacles in their path. They had energetic and convincing exponents in Mr. Edgar Kenna and Mr. Frank Reis. The murder of old Pard and the rescue of an innocent man from being lynched, set the ball of sensation rolling through four acts, and on its way it gathered fresh thrills with the arrival of an adventuress (who, by the way, had been betrayed by one of the villains), a duel between the hero and the villain, the abduction of the heroine, a madman's crime, an underground cave, a struggle for liberty, plot and

counterplot, and in the end the marriage of the lovers. Miss Kathleen Arnold, as the heroine, Nell Curtis, admirably sustained the character of the lone mountain girl, staunch and true to her friends, while Mr. Maurice Tuohy made a manly lover, infusing plenty of vigour into his acting. Miss Alice Rede was thoroughly effective as the scheming adventuress, and Miss Biddy Hawthorne got much fun out of the part of the widow. Mr. Frank Neil as Nigger Ben scored his laughs easily. Little Miss Vita Flanagan was excellent as Tommy (the pet of Roaring Camp). The settings in the various scenes were distinctly good, and the music, under Miss Abbie Taylor's direction, evidenced a thorough knowledge of the requirements.

"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."

Mr. Brandon-Cremer's company, which has so successfully catered for the public during the past four weeks, will enter upon its fifth week with the production of "The Girl Who Took the Wrong Turning" at Saturday's matinee. This drama, which is considered the most successful of those written by Frederick Melville, con-

IN PERSONAL TOUCH.

That most captivating of comedies, "Peg o' My Heart," made Auckland audiences laugh for the last time on Tuesday with its delightful humour. Miss Sara Allgood, who revels in the part of Peg, had an ovation from an enthusiastic audience, and the clever supporting company shared in the general laudation. Hamilton was to be played the next night, with a tour of the south to follow.

Two vaudeville stars in Miss Madge Maitland and Miss Margaret Jewell will play a return season at the Auckland Opera House shortly.

"Twin Beds," the latest laughing farce from America, to be staged in Auckland during the Hale Hamilton season, is described as the funniest farce ever. The daring idea of the comedy is that two flat-dwellers wake up side by side in twin beds, when they ought to be in different flats, but the solemn assurance of the management is that in the fun there is "nothing suggestive."

Mr. Ben J. Fuller announces that the Italian Grand Opera tour has been so successful that he is already negotiating with an English organisation to visit Australia, giving the famous operas in the English language.

Mr. Bert Royle says that one of the objects of the new stock company for New Zealand will be to afford chances to promising actors and actresses of Australasia of developing their talents.

Mr. Donald Cornwallis, whose histrionic-spectacular entertainment is a feature of this week's programme at the Auckland Opera House, has had the honour of appearing before the King, and also before nearly every royal family in Europe. He is a descendant of two historical families—one English and one French, and around which hangs a romantic story. Born in 1870, a few miles from London, at Eltham, in Kent, Mr. Cornwallis is of English nationality, but his father's grandfather was the Count de Cassinette, who at the time of the French Revolution, was a close friend of King Louis of France, and was compelled to flee to England to escape death by the guillotine. The then Count de Cassinette's sister hav-



Performers in the revue, "Things are Booming," which was recently produced with great success at King's Theatre, Thames, by local amateurs in aid of the Patriotic Funds. The revue was written and produced by Mr. E. Trevor Hill.

tains the story of a girl's temptations, a man's heroism, and a schemer's foiling and punishment. In the Australian cities its success was remarkable, and it should prove equally attractive as the company's previous efforts at King's, where the excellent houses must be most pleasing to the management. Attention is drawn to the specially cheap war-time prices and concessions offered to the public.

Theatrical talent at Thames resolved itself into a combination for the production of a revue, "Things are Booming," which had a most successful two nights' presentation at King's Theatre recently in aid of the Patriotic Funds. The piece was liberally studded with songs, jokes and dances, while local "gags" were cleverly introduced, and the spectacular effects were distinctly creditable. The revue was written and produced by Mr. E. T. Hill, who was assisted in the arrangements by Mr. and Mrs. G. Jenkins. Mr. Hill was also responsible for the stage management and setting. The music was orchestrated by Mr. J. Shaw, who composed the swing song especially for the occasion.

Mr. Winter Hall, the well-known New Zealand actor, has gone over to America with introductions to the leading film producers of Los Angeles.

Both Hale Hamilton and Myrtle Tannehill are remarkably quick studies, and the art of mastering a part is an easy business to them. J. Rufus Wallingford, the role created by Mr. Hamilton in both America and England, is longer than Hamlet. Mr. Hamilton mastered it in three days. "I haven't any special system of memorising," said Mr. Hamilton. "When I get the script, I first of all read it through to get the 'character' of my part. Then I read it through again, slowly, letting it soak in, as it were. Then I learn it off in small sections at a time." Myrtle Tannehill, who plays Mary Grayson in "It Pays to Advertise," committed the part to memory in about a day and a-half. "I get away to a garden," said Miss Tannehill, explaining her method of memorising. "I go where I won't be interrupted, and I read it over and over again until I know the sequence of the scenes and situations and the dialogue fairly well. Then I learn off the dialogue a page at a time. Once I know a part I don't forget it for years after."

ing married into the English Cornwallis family, he adopted that name to escape assassination by the revolutionary agents who infested England. Thus Mr. Cornwallis is in reality the Count de Cassinette.

Mr. Gerald Henson, who plays the role of Jerry in "Peg o' my Heart," now touring New Zealand under the Tait direction, tells an amusing little yarn of a company which he once encountered in England. They played "Camille" in a small town and aroused the audience's amusement by their efforts to give Camille ultra fashionable surroundings. The hero, Armand, whose name was unanimously anglicised to "Almond," showed all the evidence of a strained wardrobe in his attempts to look his part. A wag in the gallery was greatly tickled by "Almond" as he was called, and when Camille called out "Almond! Almond!" in the height of her distress, the gallery critic could not help remarking aloud, "Almond, yes! he certainly does look a bit of a nut."

William Ford, who has been wardrobe manager for J. C. Williamson, Ltd., for over 35 years, has been granted a pension by the firm. Ford, in his day, was a well-known cricketer, and was a first-class wicket-keeper.