

## GREENROOM GOSSIP.

It is understood that Miss Kathlene MacDonell, now playing in "L'Aiglon" in Melbourne, will be seen in "Peter Pan" in Sydney at Christmas.

Viola Denny and Eddie Dunigan, who will arrive in New Zealand for Fullers, have made a big hit with Australian audiences. When the mail left they were playing their fourth week in Newcastle, a town at which acts seldom play more than a fortnight.

Miss Daisy Merrit is to be dame in the Fuller pantomime "The Bunyip" when it comes along to New Zealand. When the experiment of having a woman play dame was tried by Ben and John Fuller in Sydney, there were many critics who raised protesting eyelids. Daisy Merrit, however, satisfied the most carping on the opening performance. She possesses the faculty of being silently funny, and her pantomime gestures, quite apart from her comedy talk, won her a big reputation during "The Bunyip's" three months' run in Sydney.

Stigant? I admitted the crime. 'Well,' he went on, 'what have you done with that sheep I lent you in Abergavenny?' I nearly fell through the pavement," said the comedian. "Twenty-six years ago I was running my own pantomime company through the small towns of Scotland and Wales. At Abergavenny I put on 'Little Bo-Peep,' in which I played dame and several other parts. I borrowed a sheep from an obliging inhabitant, but the show must have proved too much for it; it died the second night after its stage debut. The man who spoke to me in the street the other day was the owner of the sheep. You will thus see what it means to have a past," commented the comedian.

"The Pink Lady," which is to be staged in Auckland next month by J. C. Williamson's famous Royal Comic Opera Company, is based on the French farce "Le Satyre," by Georges Berr and Marcel Guillemand. The English adaptation in the form of the comic opera is of particular interest in view of the fact that for it were responsible two of the most noted composers and writers of musical plays. The music was composed by Ivan Caryll, of "Our Miss Gibbs"



MR. GUS FRANKS, the popular laugh maker in Walter Johnson's Revue Company, appearing in their sixth production at the Auckland Opera House.

In "The Pink Lady" Miss Florence Young indicates what a mistress of her art she is and how strong is her hold on popularity. Miss Young has one scene and one song in the second act, yet her wonderful artistry and personality make it a striking and outstanding feature of the production. In other hands the part of the Comtesse would be a "small" part. Miss Young makes it practically a star role.

fame, and to whose credit stands a long list of musical successes, including the "girl" series of musical comedies. The libretto and lyrics were written by C. M. S. McLennan, who wrote "The Belle of New York." With such ideal collaboration, it is not surprising that "The Pink Lady" has achieved such a wonderful success wherever it has been staged.

## SOUTHERN STAGE NOTES.

(By "Lorgnette.")

WELLINGTON. October 29.

After many unforeseen delays and disappointments to all concerned in the theatrical business, it is pleasing to note that the steamer sailings have been resumed, and that Dominion theatregoers will come into their own again. The labour troubles in the Commonwealth must have cost theatrical entrepreneurs a mint of money, not even considering the pecuniary loss that the members of the profession have had to suffer. And what have the labour organisations gained from the mad-brained move? Nothing but misery and poverty, and all through being blindly led by a crowd

Mr. Thomas James West, the cinematograph proprietor, who died at Essex, England, on 30th November last, left estate in New South Wales valued at £26,486, of which £19,942 consists of shares in West's, Ltd., and Olympia Ltd. The English estate is of the value of £35,797. The late Mr. West was one of the first to tour New Zealand with pictures (and the Brescians).

"The queerest experience I ever had happened to me a few days ago," said Arthur Stigant, who is appearing as Sir Lewis Amery, a flirty old solicitor, in "Mr. Manhattan" at Her Majesty's, Melbourne. "I was walking along the street when a man stopped me and asked, 'Are you Mr.

## The "RECORD" House



## WADE &amp; CO. Ltd.

The Leading House for Edison Diamond Disc Phonographs  
THE "NATURAL VOICE MACHINE."

Nothing Gramaphony in its reproduction but a real  
Musical Instrument. Prices from £28 to £150.

Write for Catalogues to our Only Address—

WADE & CO. Ltd., The "Record" House  
Tabernacle Buildings, Karangahape Road, AUCKLAND.

## MUSIC NOTES.

(By "G" String.)

Mr. H. Braithwaite, of Dunedin, now in London, has won a scholarship for composition at the Royal Academy of Music. The competition took place on September 19th, and the result is just announced, his mother, Mrs. Joseph Braithwaite, being advised by cablegram. Mr. Braithwaite chose as his subject Tennyson's "Passing of Arthur." The scholarship is tenable for three years.

The news of his son's death came to Harry Lauder while he was singing a comic song in a London music hall. They handed him the telegram when he came off the stage, and he fell into a chair, says the Kansas City "Star." In his agony he rushed over to France, and saw the grave of his son and heard there the story of how the boy had turned to God in the trenches, and of how bravely he died; and then Lauder hastened to comfort his wife in their Scottish home. There a good old Scottish dominie went to console him. He found Lauder in an armchair by the fireplace. "Ah," said Lauder, "the loss o' my bonny boy greeted me sore" (greet is Scotch for grieve). "We were pals, my boy and I, and if you could have seen that little white cross in France you might imagine a little of the ache that came into my heart, and the emptiness that came into my life. When a great blow like that hits a man he takes one of three roads. He may give way to despair, sour on the world, and become a grouch; he may try to drown his sorrow in drink, and become a wreck; or he may turn to God. I have chosen my road. I have turned to God." Since then Harry Lauder has been singing and preaching to the soldiers in the concentration camps in England and in the camps behind the battle-line in France and Belgium. A worker for the Y.M.C.A., recently returned from the front, tells of a meeting held one Sunday night in a big dug-out so close to the battle-line that bits of bursted shells, falling upon the board roof, sounded like the tattoo of hail. In the light of a few candles, a hundred men, fresh from the front and familiar with death, sat on the ground and listened while Harry Lauder told them how he had turned to God.

of irresponsibles, who have nothing to lose and everything to gain. Thank goodness the multitude of the workers have seen the error of their ways, and it is to be hoped they will think hard before they are again led to take any part in a dispute that is sure to end in disaster. We are at war, and it is not fair to the boys in the trenches or their dependents that industrial troubles should at the present moment be countenanced in any way.

The Royal Comies arrived in Wellington last Wednesday afternoon, and after some twenty-four hours' rest opened their nine nights' season at the Grand Opera House with the musical comedy success "The Pink Lady." Full of excellent melody, possessing a coherent plot, and at the same time leaving opportunity for the colour and motion of chorus and ballet, the new piece made the first night's audience most enthusiastic. The cast is a long one, and in a plot that is not quite so fragmentary as usual, most of the characters get a chance. The principal characters were all well placed, and did really good work, both as regards singing and acting. Special praise must be given to Miss Florence Young, Miss Minnie Love and Miss Gladys Moncrieff for their vocal efforts, whilst the male principals, Messrs. Reginald Roberts, Jack Ralston, Leslie Holland, Claude Bantock, Charles Albert and Phil Smith, were always in the picture. The piece is sumptuously staged, whilst the dressing and groupings are in excellent taste, and make the stage a constantly bright picture.

During the nine nights' season two other pieces, new to the Dominion, viz., "The Cinema Star" and "The Red Widow," will be staged. Mr. John Farrell is business manager of the tour, whilst Mr. Robert Williamson is acting as touring manager.

The English Pierrots originally intended to play a three nights' season at the Grand Opera House, but the business done was so excellent that four more nights were played, covering the race dates. This clever combination did splendidly in the big theatre, and are thoroughly satisfied with the business done.

The labour troubles in Australia and consequent dislocation of shipping caused a big loss to the lessees of various theatres in the Dominion, through the various managements not being able to fill the dates booked.