

JACK CANNOT'S MISSION.

PUTS THE LAUGHTER INTO REVUES.

Jack Cannot is still continuing his mission for laughter, his place as chief of the "Bing Boys" in the big J. C. Williamson revue being worthily earned.

It was in 1911 that the breezy English comedian made his first visit to New Zealand and infected audiences with his good humour and exuberance by his work as dame in the J. C. Williamson pantomime "Jack and the Beanstalk." Two years later he came along with the Royal Comic Opera Company in "The Quaker Girl" and "The Sunshine Girl." After that he accepted an engagement under the Hugh D. McIntosh banner and was the comedy spark in the Tivoli Follies, his last visit to New Zealand prior to this being under that management, two years ago. Altogether Mr. Cannot has served in his role as comedian four and a-half years with J. C. Williamson, Ltd., and two and a-half years with the Tivoli Follies, and has just signed another contract with J. C. Williamson, Ltd., for an additional two years. During his stay in Australia he has taken unto himself a wife—an Adelaide girl—and has a little son and daughter, with his home at Coogee, Sydney.

Mr. Cannot comes from a good fighting family, and has numerous relations at the front, all French, who have been there "since the word, go."

While in Auckland Mr. Cannot received a cable from Home to say that his uncle, General Cannot, C.M.G., had been awarded the D.S.O. and was appointed Officier de Liaison, the commanding link for the Imperial Forces between the War Office and the armies of the field, an office of recent institution.

From war to revue is a far cry. Yet it is that very distance that has brought about the vogue for the revue style of entertainment with our boys at Home. It is such a complete diversion. "This is the time for revues," said Mr. Cannot. "They're bright and nonsensical, with plenty of pretty girls and picturesque dressing, plenty of music and catchy airs, no plot to worry over, and not too much of anything to bore one. And another thing in their favour you can go into a performance at any time and enjoy it without having to know what happened in the first act. You can pick up the thread anywhere."

Mr. Sydney James, of Royal Strollers' memories, on his return to Sydney from Auckland, was taken ill with an acute rheumatic attack, which will probably necessitate medical attention for some time.



MR. VICTOR BECK, THE WELL-KNOWN THEATRICAL MANAGER, and his merry little son, Victor. Mr. Beck, who has represented the English Pierrots for many seasons in New Zealand, is at present conducting them on another successful visit, this making his eightieth tour of the Dominion with various companies.

New Zealand is being well catered for in the way of good shows at present. J. C. Williamson, Ltd., have "The Bing Boys Are Here" (due in Wellington to-day) and "Dick Whittington" pantomime, just finishing up in the south; the Allen Doone company are in Auckland; "Peg o' My Heart" (J. and N. Tait), in Dunedin; the English Pierrots (Will and Rob Thomas), in Auckland; Cappelli, the distinguished Italian tenor (John Hopkins direction), in Wellington; the Scarlet Troubadours, doing the smalls; the Fisk Jubilee Singers are at Wanganui, and Jack Waller's "Look Who's Here" company are tripping about in the south. Fuller's we have ever with us in the four centres.

The Fuller firm have three musical revue companies in New Zealand at present—Tom Haverley's Irish players in Auckland, Walter George's musical comedy company in Dunedin, and Harry Farrow's potted pantomime company in Wellington.

The feminine side of the English Pierrots is made superlatively attractive by the addition of Miss Elsie Rosslyn (soprano) and Miss Rima Young (pianist), both having to take a large share of applause for their clever work.

Miss Nellie Kolle, an old favourite on the Fuller circuit, is at present making good in Dunedin with her chorus songs. One of her numbers is "The Tramway Copper Trail," composed by Mr. R. A. Horne, of Christchurch.

Mr. Edward Branscombe, who organised the original Scarlet Troubadours and the Dandies Companies, has announced his intention of settling in Christchurch, and will devote his attention to the art of voice production and singing.

Genial Tom Buckley is once more on the warpath in the Doone Company. He is about the oldest actor on the stage to-day, and still can hold his own.

The Haverley Revue Company finish up their ten weeks' season in Auckland on Saturday, August 10, and open in Wellington on the following Monday.

A number of big Fuller acts passed through Auckland on their way under engagement to the South African Trusts. These included the Tossing Testros, the Ernestos, Billy Lee and Bonita, the Howard Sisters, Taylor and McQuoin, and Arthur Croxon.

"Lucky O'Shea" is a romance of the war story of the old Napoleonic days. Allen Doone takes the part of a brave Irish Lieutenant, and in the course of his thrilling adventures sings "The Night Birds' Cooing" and other new songs.

There was an unusual muster of theatrical managers in Auckland one day recently, either just coming in or going out with their respective shows. There were Messrs. John Farrell and Robert Williamson (J. C. Williamson), Sydney James (Royal Strollers), Leo D. Chateau (E. J. Carroll), Frank Levy (Allen Doone), Scott Colville, John Hopkins (Cappelli), Victor Beck and Rob Thomas (English Pierrots), George Stephenson (Auckland Opera House), Marshall Palmer (Fisk Jubilee Singers), W. A. Low and J. MacMahon, of picture interests.

The stage management of the Allen Doone company, as usual, will be in the capable hands of Mr. Frank Culenane, who has been associated with the Irish actor since the latter's first arrival in Australia.

Miss Elsa Langley and Miss Billie Wilson, of the English Pierrots, are meeting with a cordial welcome from their many friends in Auckland, both on and off the stage, the art of both being deservedly recognised. Their favourite recreation is a visit to the salt water tepid baths, swimming being a hobby with them.

Mr. Frank Kenny, who was in New Zealand last at the helm of the Allan Wilkie Company, has again been secured by Mr. Allen Doone to fulfil his old position as business manager.

"Molly Bawn" has just had its seventh revival in Sydney under Allen Doone.

Mr. Scott Colville, at present touring manager for the Cappelli tour, was among those called up for military service in the last ballot.



MR. ALLEN DOONE, the favourite Irish actor, who will open his New Zealand tour at His Majesty's Theatre, Auckland, to-night in his great play, "Lucky O'Shea."



MISS EDNA KEELEY, the charming actress who will make her re-appearance in Auckland as Allen Doone's leading lady.