

GREENROOM GOSSIP

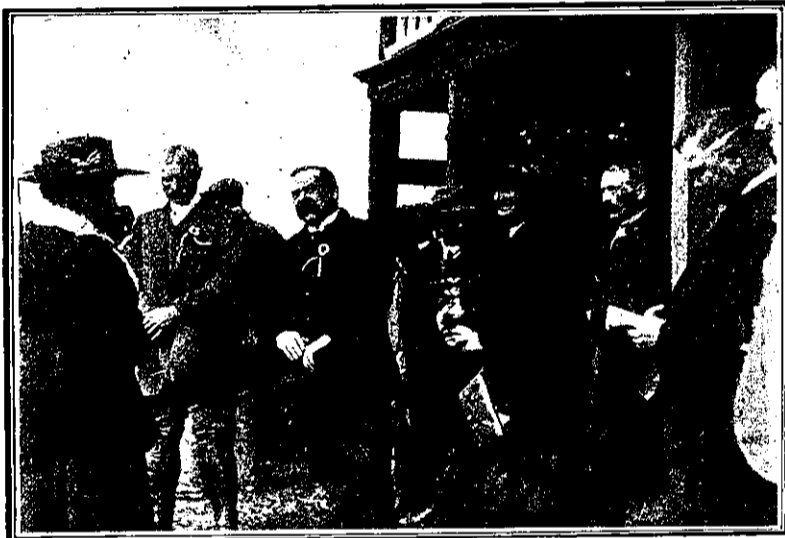
"Goody Two Shoes," the J. C. Williamson 1919 pantomime, will be presented in Auckland early in October. The story of "Goody Two Shoes" concerns a pair of pink satin shoes, which the bad demon wants, the good fairy owns and Goody wears. The two acts of 19 scenes provide an entertainment crowded with fun, laughter and song. There is said to be a continuous whirl of gorgeous stage scenes, of which the Children's Flower Ballet, and the "Bubbles" scene, the "Fortune-teller's Ballet," the mystifying tent scene, the living tableaux, the "Glittering March of the Menu," and the "Kirchner Girls' Ballet," take pride of place. Arthur Stigant is the dame, and Madeline Harrison, Dorothy Hastings, Nellie Wilson, Maggie Dickinson, Maud Gray and Toby Claud also appear. There are three specialty stars—"The Toy Soldier" (by Mr. Fred. Walton, a feature which has the distinguished record of 14 years), Jewel's Marionette Circus and what is claimed to be the greatest of all pantomime acts, the Kenna Brothers in their famous specialty "By Aeroplane to the North Pole."

There is one artist in "Goody Two Shoes" who goes right through the performance without hearing a word that is spoken. This is Fred Walton, whose remarkable creation of "The Toy Soldier" is on everybody's tongue. Mr. Walton wears a complete head covering a fine silk gauze, which appears to be the plaster head of a toy soldier. This tightly covers the ears, and voices only faintly

Ltd., strongly recommending John D. O'Hara for the role of Bill Jones in "Lightnin'" in Australia. Mr. O'Hara was promptly engaged. Mr. Cohan had every advantage in knowing the suitability of Mr. O'Hara for the part, as for 11 years, the latter was associated with the George M. Cohan productions, including the original productions of "Fifty Miles From Boston," "Get-Rich-Quick Wallingford," "Seven Keys to Baldpate," "Hit-the-Trail Holiday," and other plays of equal renown.

Fred Walton tells interestingly how he came to create the wonderful "Toy Soldier" specialty which is such a feature of the J. C. Williamson "Goody Two Shoes" pantomime. It was while he was appearing with the Walton Burlesque Company at Leeds, in England, that Lord Roberts, fresh from his triumph in South Africa, arrived to receive the honour of the freedom of the city. The suggestion was made that as "Bobs" was to witness the performance that night, something appropriate should be introduced. Mr. Walton conceived the idea of a wooden soldier, which thrilled by the presence of Lord Roberts, should come to life. When the Toy Soldier, at the sound of a bugle call, suddenly became animated, marched round the stage, performing all sorts of evolutions, the house cheered wildly, and at the close of the entertainment the great soldier congratulated Mr. Walton on his success. That was the beginning of the Toy Soldier, and bit by bit, through various stages, Mr. Walton's specialty grew until it reached its present remarkable form.

Melba celebrated her 60th birthday in London on May 28, when a reception was given her at the Guildhall School of Music.



The presentation of the cup donated by MRS. D. G. RIDDIFORD, who is seen holding trophy, to MISS E SHANNON, owner and trainer of PATARIKI, winner of the View Halloo Steeplechase (2½ miles) on the opening day of the spring meeting held by the Marton Jockey Club in conjunction with the Rangitikei Hunt. MR. R. E. BECKETT (vice-president), who made the presentation, is shown in centre, MR. D. G. RIDDIFORD (vice-president) being on his right.

reach the actor, the words being undistinguishable. How, it may be asked, does Mr. Walton get his cues? By watching the words form on the lips of those speaking to him. His performance is carried out entirely in dumb show—in what is truly the real pantomimic art. In his act with the two wooden soldiers, in which he arouses the jealousy of one by his bestowal of the medal on the other, for ten minutes he holds the complete attention of the audience, without speaking a single word.

Lightnin' Bill Jones has introduced to Melbourne the most popular catchphrase of the day. This is, "I'll fix it," which Lightnin' Bill makes abundant use of in "Lightnin'." There is nothing that Bill has not done or cannot do. After each of his so-called exploits the audience wonder whether he could have made a bigger bungle of it! Bill has issued an optimistic announcement regarding the Peace Loan. "Don't worry about the loan," he says, "It'll be quite all right. I'll fix it." Bill Jones has taken his place as one of the most popular characters the Australian stage has ever known. As for "Lightnin'," Melbourne Theatre Royal is unable to accommodate the crowds that want to get in to see it."

George M. Cohan, the famous actor-manager-author-composer—one of the most notable figures of the American stage—cabled to J. C. Williamson,

Cable news has just been received that Mischel Cherniavsky, the well-known 'cellist and youngest member of the famous Cherniavsky Trio, was married at Vancouver, Canada, on August 1, to Miss Mary Rogers, eldest daughter of the late B. T. Rogers, sugar king of Canada. The honeymoon is to be spent in the South of France.

A movement is afoot at the Trentham Military Hospital for the formation of a dramatic society. The talent will come from the nursing staff of the hospital and the New Zealand Army Medical Corps.

Captain (temp.-major) Esmond Napier, M.C., son of Mr. W. J. Napier, of Devonport, has returned to Auckland. Captain Napier received his Military Cross for most conspicuous bravery in attacking and holding a German strong post when his superior officer had become a casualty. His brother, Bombardier Harley Napier, of the N.Z. Field Artillery, was accidentally drowned in the Thames, near London, some two months ago.

Mlle. Nazimova, brightest of movie stars, was formerly on the "legitimate" stage, and appeared in London with a Russian company some years ago.

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OPPOSITE HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.



MR. R. E. BECKETT, vice-president of the Marton Jockey Club, presenting the cup to MR. E. E. SHORT, owner of SILENUS, after that gelding's win in the Rangitikei Hunt Cup Steeplechase (three miles) on the concluding day of the spring meeting held by the Marton Jockey Club in conjunction with the Rangitikei Hunt. R. HUNT (rider of Silenus), who is shown in picture, was presented with a gold-mounted whip, donated by Mr. Jas. Bull, the well-known Rangitikei sportsman.

Amateur theatricals in Masterton received a filip when the local operatic society gave a concert, which included items from "The Geisha." Messrs. L. Travers and H. Hall organised the concert, and both contributed items which were much appreciated. After the intervals opportunity was taken to bid farewell to Mr. R. J. Young, who has been associated with the Operatic Society and things musical for a great many years. The Mayor (Mr. W. H. Jackson) presented Mr. Young with a gold watch and silver teapot on behalf of the citizens. Mr. C. F. Vallance asked the guest to accept a travelling suit-case from members of the Operatic Society, and in making the presentation referred eulogistically to the many good qualities Mr. Young had displayed in his connection with the society.

"One may wonder how many moving picture men realise how much their calling has lost in Sidney Drew," the "New York Times" says. "The movies have been, or were, a gold mine; for a time almost anything, good, bad or indifferent, would make money; and so many bad or indifferent photoplays did make money, and much money, that the

public is indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Drew for vindicating popular taste and showing that good photoplays could be made a profitable business and not a philanthropy. They displayed no interest in 'comedy' of the silly school, on which screen actors of real talent are being wasted. They showed that even moving picture comedies could be made up with some fidelity to human nature and the human intelligence and that people would flock to see them. There are some few producers . . . who are proving that people will go to see good photoplays as well as bad ones; and the pictures of Mr. and Mrs. Drew, which were seldom very weighty, but so far as one can remember were never ethically absurd, were pleasant oases at a time—perhaps drawing to its close—when the moving picture world as a whole was a rather dreary desert."

Several additional artists for the J. C. Williamson Grand Opera Company have arrived in Sydney. These comprise Walter Wheatley (tenor), Carl Formes and Raymond Loder (baritones), and Alfredo Valenti (bass).

Iced drinks in summer fill the bill
When days are burning hot,
However deep the draught may be
We always mop the lot.
But when the winter months are here
Such cold drinks don't allure;
For then, indeed, our urgent need
Is Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.

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