

as Reginald Saunders, each played spiritedly and well and added materially to the good all-round character of the production, which is admirably staged and with a due regard to effect. Mr. Raimund Pechotsch led a very efficient orchestra, the musical programme submitted adding greatly to the enjoyment of the evening.

The comedy is preceded by a clever little curtain-raiser, "The Grey Parrot," written by W. W. Jacobs and Charles Rock, and adapted from a story by the first-named writer, those taking part in it being Miss Amy Willard (Mary Gannett), Miss Nelly Mortyne (Jane Rogers), Mr. Leopold Stach (Jim Gannett), Mr. Harry Halley (Sam Rogers), Mr. Arthur Cornell (Robson, a publican), and Mr. Walter Spinks (P.C. 24). The farce, for such it is, is full of fun and comes as a stimulating appetiser to the more elaborate comedy that followed.

"WHAT HAPPENED TO JONES."

On Saturday "night next, the George Willoughby Co. will play "What Happened to Jones" for five nights. It is nearly a decade since this boisterous mirth-provoker was presented in New Zealand, and since then a new generation of playgoers has arisen. Consequently, the revival will have to many people all the freshness and novelty of a new piece. "Jones" is a regular whirlwind of farce, simply carrying the audience away with its excruciatingly comical scenes and dialogue. In the title role Mr. George Willoughby will be seen in his finest characterisation, notable for its breezy nature and clever grip of the comedy possibilities. Mr. Fred B. Sharp, who played the role with Charles Arnold, will be the henpecked Ebenezer Goodly, and Miss Beatrice Day his domineering wife Mrs. Goodly. The adventures of Jones should draw full houses.

THE KING'S THEATRE.

FULLER'S WIDE-WORLD PICTURES.

A change of films was made at the King's Theatre on Thursday evening last, when Messrs. Fuller presented another fine series of cinematograph pictures to a crowded audience. A film of great merit was that depicting the regatta at Cowes, England, this famous aquatic carnival being illustrated in a remarkable manner. A number of other most interesting pictures were shown, and the matinee on Saturday and the evening performance both attracted bumper houses, which is ample testimony of the popularity of the Wide World Pictures. On Monday evening, an entire change of programme was again made, when some excellent specimens of the cinematograph art were reflected on to the screen. The programme opened with a humorous film, entitled "Man that Beat Jack Johnson," the manner in which a boy disposes of his big black opponent causing no end of merriment. "Birding in Pharo Island" depicts the perilous undertaking of gathering the young birds from the cliffs, and is a fine representation of bird life. Another stirring dramatic study, in which Lieutenant Rose figures, is shown, the daring naval officer having an exciting escape with the Chinese. A film depicting the funeral of the Prince of Teck, Queen Mary's brother, is of great national interest, while the uniforms worn by the troops are of an impressive character, the procession being one of the largest on record. A picture is shown of the Milan Cathedral, and some idea of the size of this famous building is gained when it is mentioned that the height from the ground to the steeple is no less than 354ft. A powerful dramatic film is that entitled "With Bridge's Burned," which contains a series of exciting situations. One of most realistic films ever screened is that depicting "The Italian Naval Manoeuvres," these being carried out in exactly the same manner as in actual warfare. A splendid story of the West is portrayed in the film, "The Boss of Bar X Ranch," this important personage being a handsome young lady, who is a general favourite with all. This charming management is carried off by another ranch party, and it falls to the lot of the leading ranch hand to organise a body for the purpose of rescuing her, which he succeeds in doing, and the outcome of the adventure is a man becomes boss of the ranch, while the fair heroine is his "right-hand man." "The Mohawk's Way" is an Indian drama, which holds the attention of the audience from start to finish. A number of mirth-provoking films are

included in the programme, of which "The Invisible Thief," "Frisent drinks a bottle of Embrocation," "Her First Long Dress," and "Bowling Craze," are a quartette of highly amusing studies. Mr. E. J. Burke's orchestra renders a delightful accompaniment, which is greatly appreciated.

THE WINDSOR PICTURES.

A better programme than that which is being presented at the Windsor this week could hardly be desired. The scenic pictures embodying views of Dartmouth and the Cota Canal are remarkably fine. The former enables New Zealanders to appreciate some of the beauties of English scenery, which is really very fine, the picturesque "Dart," with its many fine reaches, presenting a moving panorama that would be hard to surpass in interest anywhere. Amongst the dramatic pictures are the Hand of Fate, St. Elma, and Little Angels of Luck, and the Law of Honour. Well conceived and as well acted they are of all absorbing interest and hold the crowd as by a spell. The "comics" include several series that attest in an exceptional degree the ingenuity of the cinematographer. "Agreeable Apartments," "Oh that Tonic," "Hypnotism," "The Lazy Boy" and "Fool's-head as a Fisherman" are all laughable in the extreme. Then there are the trick pictures "Monarchs of all Nations," a very clever series, which out of a number of short straight lines, whirled on to the screen, and assembled and reassembled in the most fantastic fashion possible, con-

under the direction of Mr. Allan Hamilton, informs me that the business done right through with "The Passing of the Third Floor Back" was phenomenal. The play has been taken up by the parsons, and over a dozen different sermons have been preached, eulogising the play, the author, and the players. The company played from Taranaki to Wellington, thence to Dunedin, and the smaller towns, right down to Invercargill. They returned for a Christchurch season, and are now in the Wairarapa district. They come to Auckland via the East Coast, playing Napier and Gisborne. This latter town will be visited on the 10th, 12th, and 13th of December. The Company arrives in Auckland on the 15th and visits the Waikato, playing Hamilton on the 16th and 17th, Cambridge on the 19th, Paeroa on the 20th, and Waihi on the 21st and 22nd, then returning to Auckland, where they will visit for a couple of days, and open in His Majesty's Theatre on Boxing Night, for a three week's season. Mr. Harry Plimmer will be seen for the first time as Horace Parkes, in "A Message from Mars." The company will be well cast, and will include the same favourite artistes as those who appeared in "The Passing of the Third Floor Back", and apropos of this magic piece of mysticism, the management have received so many letters anent this from residents of the Waikato, that they have decided to play it in every town visited, and where they play two nights, "Lover's Lane" will be added.



Scene from "What Happened to Jones," to be produced at His Majesty's on Saturday next.

struct the heads of leading European, Asiatic and American potentates, with a fidelity that is simply wonderful. Another and very striking series is that depicting lion hunts in Africa, the king of beasts being seen fighting for his life against his enemies. An excellent orchestra enlivens the proceedings with a very entertaining musical programme, that adds greatly to the evening's enjoyment. Both as rink and Picture hall, the Windsor appears to be filling a long felt want in Ponsonby, the capacious hall being well ventilated and offering as pleasant a lounge as is to be found in the city.

Greenroom Gossip.

The Plimmer-Denniston Company.

The Harry Plimmer and Reynolds Denniston Company have had a most successful tour of the South and are now making their way through the North Island en route to the Waikato and Auckland, where they open at His Majesty's on Boxing Night, with "A Message from Mars," which is to be followed by other plays, including Mrs. Robert Brough in "Tanqueray." A personal note received by the writer from Mr. Reynolds Denniston intimates that he will be passing through Auckland on the 15th inst.

Phenomenal Business.

The ever-green George Buller, who arrived in Auckland a few days ago, en route for the Waikato, to arrange for the Plimmer Denniston Co.'s tour,

The Picture Shows.

The Picture shows are having a great run all through the Dominion. In Auckland last week, there were no less than six different shows engaging the theatres and leading halls—McMahon's Johnson-Jeffries fight pictures at His Majesty's, Fuller's World Wide Pictures at the new King's, West's Pictures at the Royal Albert Hall, Benwell's Pictures at the American Theatre, (Old Federal Hall), the Windsor Pictures, at the Ponsonby Rink, and pictures at the Tivoli. The public interest in this particular form of amusement, continues unabated, and the matinees that are held at Fuller's every Saturday afternoon are crowded.

That Bad Girl!

Mr. Stanley Grant, of the George Marlow Dramatic management, writes to say that Mr. Marlow's company, that recently toured New Zealand has just concluded the biggest dramatic season ever played by any company in Queensland. The company opened in Sydney on the 21st inst. "The Bad Girl of The Family," is the drawing card. Another of Mr. Marlow's companies opened in Adelaide on Saturday, November 19th, with the new drama, "Nick Carter, the Detective," and scored an instantaneous success. Both these pieces are to be produced on the company's next visit to New Zealand, which commences in Auckland in March next.

Circus Novelties.

Mr. Geo. L. Petersen, Advance Representative of Wirth's Circus writes: "We intend visiting New Zealand shortly with the whole of our huge circus and immense menagerie, which includes Lizzie, the enormous

Blood-Sweating Hippopotamus, the only living Hippo, in Australia brought direct from Hamburg, Germany, per s.s. "Annaburg," at the steep price of £1,250, exclusive of its handsome semi-tank cage. As these animals require both water and dry land to live upon their care and transport is no small undertaking. As the "Sydney Morning Herald" stated, "not since Noah's Ark started on its voyage has there been such a shipload of wild animals as that which landed here from Perth, per s.s. "Kyarra," the boat being loaded from keel to hurricane deck with all kinds and sizes of animals, some wild and ferocious, as in their native state, whilst others are apparently quite tame and perform marvellous acts." This season's Circus roster consists of world-famed artists, specially engaged from Europe, America, Asia and Africa, as well as the pick of Australian performers. Our programmes are new, and entirely different to the performances of our previous visits, and the present combination, we have never equalled, and never expect to excel, as it consists of this earth's greatest wonders."

An Irving Remembrance.

In commemoration of the anniversary of the death of Sir Henry Irving, many wreathes and bunches of flowers were placed upon his grave in Westminster Abbey last month. Amongst others who sent tributes was Miss Terry, and "Six Old Lyceum Piffites," while a wreath, bearing the initials H.I. had the quotation, "I shall be with you while the light shines yet, and in the darkness I shall not forget."

Melba's New Role.

On her return to London from her American and Canadian concert tour early in the coming year, Madame Melba is announced to sing the mad scene from "Lucia di Lammermoor" at the fourth of the New Symphony Orchestra's series of concerts, to be held on February 14. This will be the first occasion of the Australian prima donna's appearing at a symphony concert in London.

A Delightful Accessory.

A really delightful accessory to the orchestra of "Our Miss Gibbs" is the Celeste, a delightfully sweet toned instrument which was first used in "A Waltz Dream." The two numbers in "Our Miss Gibbs"—"The Two Step," a song and dance by Miss Blanche Browne and Mr. Leslie Holland, and "Arms and the Man," by Miss Alma Barber—have their effect considerably enhanced by the addition of the sweet accompanying strains of this new instrument. Mr. MacCunn thinks so well of it that he is taking it into his reckoning in connection with the music he is preparing for the pantomime this year, though he finds it a most difficult instrument to write for.

An Open-air Theatre.

William Anderson's new open air theatre in Sydney, the Olympia, has become an immensely popular place of amusement. "The Squatters' Daughter," which is still being shown there, is attracting crowded houses. On Saturday nights the place is hardly large enough to accommodate the crowds.

A Big Pantomime Hit.

What promises to be one of the biggest hits in the forthcoming Xmas Pantomime at Her Majesty's Theatre, Melbourne, is the specialty to be given by the Pantzer troupe. The securing of this company of clever acrobatic comedians by Mr. J. C. Williamson was quite an accident. They happened to be appearing for a week at one of the West End Music Halls in London on their way to the Continent, just at the time Mr. Williamson happened to be in the big metropolis. Hearing that they were giving their specialty, and having heard excellent accounts of them, Mr. Williamson decided to go and judge for himself. That his opinion was very favourable was fully borne out by the fact that that very evening he had made arrangements with the troupe to come out to Australia to join the pantomime, the contracts signed and everything definitely settled. Each individual member of the troupe is an accomplished gymnast, and each has specialties of their own. The turn which they will give is brimful of comedy, and it is reckoned that there is a laugh for every second—which we may take it also means that it is one continuous laugh from beginning to end.