

**THE "SMART SET" FAREWELLED.**

**A HAPPY GATHERING.**

The "Smart Set" had a gratifying send-off in the Town Hall on Saturday night, when a big crowd gathered to say good-bye. Seven weeks give one a chance of becoming acquainted, and Walter George and Maynard Dakin's "Smart Set," both on and off the stage, leave a host of pleasant memories in Auckland. They were all at their best on Saturday, and gave the items which have proved most popular with audiences during their stay here. Everyone of the company, from Mr Walter George down to "Sunshine James," met with storms of applause, and no one escaped under a triple encore, while Mr Edward Elliott had an additional response to make on behalf of "Sunshine James" before the audience were satisfied. Miss Georgie Martin, Miss Mona Thomas, and Miss Emily Kroll had bouquets and emblems showered on them from their respective admirers. Mr Maynard Dakin, Mr Edgar Hulland, and Mr Ernest Parkes shared lavishly in general honours, and at the conclusion the curtain was raised again and again, while the company smiled their appreciation.

The "Smart Set" play at Feilding to-night, and open in Wellington on Saturday. They deserve well of the public.

**IN PERSONAL TOUCH.**

Mr Dave M. Williams, the brisk young advance representative, has been in town all the week making preliminary arrangements for the re-appearance of the Pink Dandies at the Town Hall on Saturday.

Since leaving Auckland in May, "The Dandies" have played Gisborne, Napier, Palmerston North, Masterton, and Wellington, besides the "smalls." They were at Thames last night, and play again to-night. Business has been good everywhere, and the same order of things should prevail here.

News comes from Sydney that Mr George Marlow, governing director of George Marlow, Ltd., is retiring from active business, owing to ill-health.

The Allen Doone Company finished up their Auckland season on Saturday with "A Romance in Ireland." Mr Doone and Miss Edna Keeley had an enthusiastic reception, and Mr Doone made a happy little speech, thanking Aucklanders for their warmth and hospitality. The company, who have made many friends in the Northern city, left for Sydney on Monday. They are to put on another Irish play, "Barry of Ballymore," in Melbourne, on August 30th, for a six weeks' season.

"I have had many temptations to go into management in London and in New York," said the late J. C. Williamson to an Australian interviewer twelve years ago," but here I know my public, and believe in them. At any rate, they have kept me in the position of leading manager here for 20 years; they have stuck to me, and I am going to stick to them."

David Belasco, the dramatic author, was condemning two melodramas that had had an unmerited success among the less cultivated portion of the public. "The first," said Mr. Belasco, in his epigrammatic way, "was all blood and thunder, and the other was all thud and blunder."

John McCormack's tour commences at the Town Hall, Sydney, on September 4th. The chief Australian cities will be visited, and a short tour of New Zealand has been arranged, commencing early in December.

Supporting Mr McCormack, the famous tenor, on his Australasian tour, will be Miss May Huxley (soprano), Mr Vincent O'Brien (pianist, a distinguished Irish musician), and Mr Donald McBeath (the clever young Australian violinist).

"Within the Law," an American play, has passed its ninth week in Melbourne, and is breaking all dramatic records.

A London cable reports that Sir Johnston Forbes-Robertson, the well-known actor-manager, who was recently knighted, intends to leave the stage shortly. He will first make a tour through the United States and then through Canada.

**NOTES FROM DUNEDIN.**

(From Our Dunedin Correspondent).

Following hot-foot the passing of J. C. Williamson and that veteran G. B. Ireland, father of Miss Harrie Ireland, so well and favourably known in connection with the Bland Holt Company, comes the announcement of the death of two other old timers well known to New Zealand playgoers. These are Harry J. Lyons, the veteran showman and touring agent, and

Armes Beaumont visited Dunedin as far back as 1879 when he sang the tenor roles in the operas of "Marta," "Bohemian Girl," "Martha," "Rose of Castille" and others. In 1882 he played in the first production of "Patience" in New Zealand, and in 1886 toured with a concert company headed by Madame Christian. His last visit was in 1894, when he sang with Madame Carandini in a concert party which also included John Lemmone, the flautist.



MR. GEORGE EDWARDS, light comedian, dancer and producer of "The Dandies," opening at the Town Hall on Saturday.

Armes Beaumont, the operatic artist. The united ages of the four theatrical notables who have taken their last call total 292 years!

The late Armes Beaumont was unknown to the present generation, but in the seventies and early eighties he was a well-known figure and opera was not opera without the famous tenor. He came to Australia about 1848 and appeared under the management of W. I. Lyster in 1863. Some years later he had the misfortune to meet with an accident while out shooting which cost him his eyesight and necessitated memor-

Dunedin is growing less like London every day, and the absence of foreign theatrical attractions is causing a serious slump in evening dress. We have been given over to cold grey nights and gloomy days for the past four weeks, and nothing is near to light up the eyes or cheer the heart. You may imagine how tired of it all we are when the pantomime is being hailed with delight as a dispenser of gloom and a solace in adversity. We may even become enthusiastic over "Puss in Boots" if half one hears from the North is correct. John Farrell, the touring



ERNEST BARRY, world's champion sculler, who on Monday successfully defended his title in a match with Harry Pearce, of Australia, on the Thames. Barry easily defeated his challenger by two lengths, Pearce being no match for the champion.

manager, has arrived, so the big show may be expected any time. The schedule date is August 2, but meanwhile the merry pantomimers pass through to Invercargill to give the denizens of the Farthest South a treat before landing here. The Dunedin season of the cat pantomime is for seven nights. You see how we are treated—just a little better this time than Taihape!

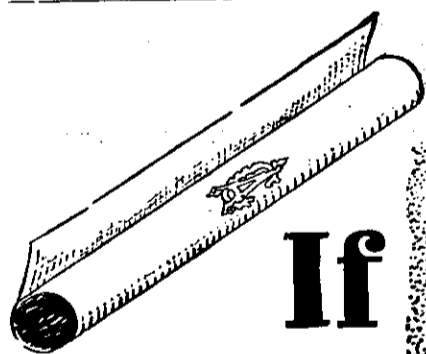
If the past has been dead as last year's snows and the present suggests that the bottom has fallen out of the world, the future holds bright prospects. We are promised—pray us that they all be fulfilled—such attractions as Julius Knight with "Milestones," "Bella Donna," and "Man and Superman" (the latter perhaps), "Within the Law," the Royal Comics, the Quinlan Opera Co. (perhaps), Genee (perhaps), and Lewis Waller almost certain. If we can hang out until these things happen along we may live quite a long time yet.

The film story of "Les Miserables" (funny how picture patrons dodge the pronunciation of the Hugo masterpiece), has proved an irresistible draw at our two leading picture houses this week. It would have done old John Hamer's heart good to have seen the crowds flocking to the Princes, but the genial John, with the excitement of his new position as general manager for the Brennan-Fuller in Melbourne, is past caring what happens at his old theatre in Dunedin. Yet I warrant he is looking back to pleasant days and glorious nights at the old Princes.

Harry Quealy, one-time comedian for Tom Pollard's Opera Company in the dear old days, is expected in these parts after an absence of five years. The funny little fellow, who used to sing "The Butterfly Shooters" in the "Gay Parisienne," what time Gertie Campion was the gay lady from Poree, and was the Blinky Bill in the first "Belle of New York" production in New Zealand—which has never been equalled since—is fondly remembered in Dunedin, where he is sure of a warm welcome.

Resting on its laurels in the meantime, the Dunedin Amateur Operatic Society has in contemplation for its next production, "Miss Hook of Holland" in September. Speaking of "Hook," I note that the Royal Comics revived the Dutch musical comedy the other night in Sydney with the beautiful Frank Greene as the bandmaster, and returned Olive Godwin as Sally Hook.

The "Puss in Boots" Pantomime Company were all vaccinated on board the Mararoa before the steamer sailed for Lyttelton on Tuesday evening, the 15th inst.



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