

**INVASIONS ON THE FULLER CIRCUIT.**

**ENCOURAGEMENT TO BEGINNERS.**

According to Mr. Clym Edgares, manager of the Auckland Opera House, several top-notch acts have recently arrived in Australia, having been booked from America by Mr. Ben Fuller. A real live parson is one of them—the Rev. Frank Gorman, who, concluding that the church did not pay him a living wage, decided to go into vaudeville and use the money from his engagement to establish a church which he intends to run on business lines. He admits the church is as much a business as anything else, and is confident that if it is run on commercial lines it must prove a success. Mr. Gorman, one of whose trump cards is singing, will appear in Auckland about May.

The Artois Brothers are responsible for a sensational act with a pantomime flavour. Their comedy is polished and they can get the laughs even in the midst of the most thrilling feats. They are due here in April.

Another star pair are Macnamara and Clinton (a man and a girl), whose offering consists of a musical satire on the ways and manners of customs officials. The girl arrives with a trunk of dainty garments; the man is a customs officer, and the resultant sparring which ensues may be easily imagined by those who travel. He is said to be an agile comedian with unusual methods.

Corporal Joe Nathan is another headliner on the list. He has a great reputation as a versatile genius in American vaudeville, and from all accounts keeps the audience speculating as to what he will do next. As his title indicates he has done his part in the theatre of war.

George Hall, whose talent as a raconteur has been proved on a previous visit, returns after some years' absence in America. He opens in Christchurch next month with a racy budget of new stories.

Aspirants to vaudeville—singers, monologuists, acrobats, novelty performers, etc.—have a sympathetic confidant in Mr. Edgares, who has given a start to quite a number of local acts on the Fuller circuit. Renaux and Arta are one pair for example, and their manipulation of the xylophone shows they know how to deliver the goods appreciably. Mr. Edgares points with pleasurable pride to the fact that it was he who recommended Davis and Lee, that natty balancing couple whose inclusion is a draw on the very strongest bill. "If an act shows promise," says the local manager, "we can give and guarantee five years' continuous work. Any that come to me I'm prepared to give them personal attention and help them forward as far as possible with any knowledge that I possess."

**MUSIC NOTES.**

(By "G" String.)

Paderewski's supreme skill in piano playing probably came as much from his being born a Pole as from his being born a musician. For the skill was largely a matter of sheer hard work and self-discipline—of a savage energy which in another orbit might have guided half a dozen trusts. On the education of every finger was lavished as much pains as go to the instruction of the children of a good-sized township.

Madame Ada Crossley announces her retirement from the concert platform. Unlike a good many world singers, she has no desire to give a series of farewell concerts, and has bidden the great general public a silent farewell. Never was a truer Australasian than Madame Crossley, and never a singer nearer to the people's hearts. She was born in Victoria, and commenced her studies in 1892. In 1894 she went to London, and has since then appeared at every great festival of the Empire.

Miss Minnie Love is shining brightly in "Oddments," the latest Melbourne Tivoli revue. Another particular favourite is Mr. C. H. Workman.

The J. C. Williamson management report that a record season has been experienced with the Grand Opera Company, the takings in Wellington for the fifteen nights and one matinee exceeding those of any previous opera company, either comic or grand.

Mrs. Brough, with her husband (Mr. Cyril Bell), recently returned to Australia after a long stay in London. Mrs. Brough says "Chu Chin Chow"—in which, by the way, her sister, Miss Bessie Major, is appearing—may now be called an institution. To the people of England it has become like the National Gallery and the British Museum, only much more popular. Nothing affects its phenomenal run. Mr. Oscar Asche and Miss Lily Brayton frequently drop out of the cast for long holidays, and, indeed, it is not uncommon for all the principal parts to be filled by understudies, and still the theatre is packed. Mr. Bell intends going into business in Australia.

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- CHRISTCHURCH—February 5 to 11.
- RANGIORA—February 7 to 10.
- KAIAPOI—February 11 to 13.
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**WELLINGTON NOTES.**

(By "Lorgnette.")

WELLINGTON, January 26. The Wirth Brothers and their huge circus and menagerie will this evening open a most strenuous season, as they advertise to give five matinees. It is stated that this season has outdone all their previous efforts, and the show to be presented is second to none. Some big talk, but it is a fact, for from southern notices it is proclaimed to be the greatest show that has ever visited the Dominion. The J. C. Williamson New Musical Comedy Company open a season at

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the Grand Opera House on Wednesday evening with "Yes, Uncle." It has proved a money-winner wherever produced, and the Wellington season, judging from the booking, is an assured one. Other pieces to be produced during the season will be revivals of the ever-popular "High Jinks" and "Going Up."

The salary list of the J. C. Williamson pantomime, "The Sleeping Beauty," is the biggest of any pantomime the firm has produced for some years. Directly and indirectly, four hundred and ninety people are concerned in the production.