

GREENROOM GOSSIP

CATERERS TO THE PUBLIC.

THE WORLD EXPLOITED.

BEN. J. FULLER'S ENTERPRISE.

Mr. Ben. J. Fuller passed through Auckland by the Niagara on his way to Sydney after a sixteen months' visit to America and England with his wife and family.

A few minutes' chat with the firm's chief and you feel that he hasn't let the grass grow under his feet while he was away. "Altogether I saw some 700 shows, never less than two a day, and in America sometimes three. Was working all the time, but work's a hobby with me, so that makes all the difference. I bought 99 dramas in America and England. Our patrons have proved that they like the melodramatic order of play. So I kept my eyes open for the style they wanted, and there is variety for all. Stock drama was having a popular vogue in London when I left, and the Lyceum Theatre was housing it successfully. It has a seating capacity of 3000. I bought 'The Female Hun' from there."

"Should a Mother Tell" is a propaganda play Mr. Fuller brought back with him. "It is a human piece, and is cleaning up a lot of money at Home," said Mr. Fuller.

Star vaudeville acts a plenty he engaged while abroad. "Vaudeville in America is perfection," he says. "The shows are clean and bright, and the acts on the whole I consider superior to the London music hall offerings. The English audiences are more conservative, and are tolerant and faithful to old favourites. The American looks for novelty. Vaudeville there is no easy task, as they play two shows a day and Sundays included."

Mr. Fuller, by the way, has left his son, Mr. A. Ben. Fuller, in charge of the San Francisco office. "He is a very good judge of an artist," his father says, "and he would insist on being a showman." Young Ben. is the third generation of Fullers to be in that business, and he is being afforded every opportunity to extend his gift of observation and mature his views.

Twenty-five new revues are amongst the good things of the future which Mr. Fuller in his sagacity also secured. New Zealand will see them in due course.

"We have some big building schemes on hand right through New Zealand," he remarked with enthusiasm. "The country is going ahead, and the population is growing, so we must cater for it on wide lines. At present our building projects are held up by the restrictions."

Mr. John Fuller, Senr., is at present in Brisbane, much improved in health, and expects to return to Auckland in January.

WELLINGTON NOTES.

(By "Lorgnette.")

The travelogues of Mr. Lowell Thomas, the famous war correspondent, "With Allenby and the Anzacs in Palestine," and "Lawrence in Arabia," shed a new light on a campaign of which New Zealand has heard far too little. The crowded audience at the Wellington Grand Opera House last Saturday was fascinated by the realism of the films, and the mysteries of the deserts, as disclosed by the lecturer with such a wealth of detail. No war correspondent who has visited the Dominion has had a more wonderful story to tell. One sees with vivid effect the whole moving scenes in which our cavalry played such a conspicuous part in Palestine and Arabia, and the stupendous difficulties they encountered before the Turk was eventually smashed. Mr. Thomas' description of Arabia, the romantic and mysterious, contains in tabloid form rare information at once gripping and educative. After the Wellington season,

the principal towns of the North Island will be visited. Mr. George Matheson is touring manager.

After three tours around the world Carter, the great magician and illusionist, has gained all the opportunities he required to elaborate his arts. Thus he comes back to New Zealand after some ten years' absence in the Far East with a grip full of new spectacular tricks, modernised from Indian fakirs' ideas and vitalised by his own magnetic skill. After his tour of the South Island, the North will be visited, opening at Wellington.

Mr. Hugh D. Wilson, who recently resigned his position as exhibitions manager for the New Zealand Picture Supplies, Limited, was entertained by the staffs of the King's, the Empress, and Everybody's on the eve of his departure for Sydney. On behalf of the staffs, Mr. B. Tate, manager of the Empress, presented Mr. Wilson with a portable Fox type-writer, and Mrs. Wilson with a pearl-mounted manicure set. Mr. Sapsford (Everybody's), and Mr. W. Jago (King's) spoke in eulogistic terms about the popularity of both Mr. and Mrs. Wilson. Subsequently the company sat down to a supper at Everybody's Theatre, at which the usual toasts were duly honoured. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson sailed for Sydney by the Moana last Thursday evening.

MUSIC NOTES.

(By "G" String.)

Operatic changes in England are discussed by the "Daily Mail" in a leading article, in which it states that "in the old days Covent Garden 'banked' on obtaining for the three summer months the world's famous singers, and the performances made up in vocal splendour for what may have been wanting in cohesion and unity of style. On such fare were the subscribers brought up, and they became plaintive when they were treated to short commons. But today Covent Garden has to face the impoverishment of some old supporters, and at the same time the enormous growing appetite across the Atlantic for this very fare. The increased American taste for opera, as sung by the world's best singers, has sent the fees of those lucky people soaring, and London, when bidding for their services, has this disadvantage—that the opera house here is hardly as it is in New York, the very hub of the social wheel, a necessity, cost what it may."

At the suggestion of a large number of Wellington's music-loving community, and with the co-operation of Messrs. J. and N. Tait, who are directing the tour of Miss Adelaide Van Staveren, that talented vocalist will give another recital in the Wellington Town Hall on November 16.

Although £500 is now considered a bargain price for a genuine Strad violin, during Stradivarius' lifetime the 1200 odd instruments that he made only fetched an average price of four gold louis each, equivalent to £3 10s. in English money, while those offered in London at £4 each did not secure a single purchaser.

According to the "Musical Courier," Signor Tino Cappelli, the tenor who visited New Zealand some time ago with the Gonzalez Grand Opera Company, has been engaged to appear at the New York Metropolitan Opera House next season.

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