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MAINLAND NOTES

(From Our Special Correspondents)

MELBOURNE

Friday.

"White Horse Inn"

MR. S. A. LOCKE, who will produce here at the end of the month the London success "White Horse Inn," has arrived in Melbourne. Mr. Locke, who was associated with the American producer, Mr. Murray Anderson, in revues produced at the London Hippodrome prior to Mr. Erik Charrel's presentation of "White Horse Inn" at the Coliseum, speaks enthusiastically on the performances of the Australians, Strella Wilson and Charles Norman, in the leading roles, played by Leah Seidl and Clifford Mollison in the London production. One of the new features in stage engineering, Mr. Locke will introduce to Melbourne theatregoers will be panorama staging with "Schwabe," lighting and double arc lamps, which will cut out borders and give a fine illusion of distance. This new system, he says, will be particularly effective in the opening scene for each of the three Acts, showing the inn on the shores of the Wolfgang lake in Bavaria. In "White Horse Inn" there are 10 scenes in all. The revolving stage, of which we have heard so much, will Mr. Locke states, be apparent to the audience only in the last act. These achievements appear to have astounded the Sydney folk, even when used in the restricted space of the Theatre Royal, but with the larger stage and greater facilities of His Majesty's, Mr. Locke hopes to eclipse his efforts over the border.

Potato Growers' Troubles

Though Mr. Canny, one of the Victorian Railway Commissioners, received a deputation of potato and onion growers sympathetically to-day he gave them no hope of an immediate reduction in freight charges. According to Mr. Hogan, M.L.A., the former Premier, who introduced the deputation, the potato-growing industry in Victoria is in a bad way. This he attributed to floods, fluctuating prices and blight. It is a fact that in the Ballarat district, which is the chief source of supply, great quantities of potatoes have been allowed to rot on the ground, because returns were insufficient to justify their sale. The wheatgrower has been granted a reduction in railway charges, and so have the woolgrower and the breeder of live stock, and the potato grower, not unreasonably, demands similar concessions. It appears, however, that in the present state of railway finances this simply cannot be done. At present the

present state of railway finances this simply cannot be done. At present the Railway Department's deficit represents no less than three-fifths of the whole deficit of the State, which seems to justify Mr. Canny's rather disturbing statement that the department has one foot in the grave.

Bowling Dispute

What promises to be a first-class row in Melbourne bowling circles is brewing. Some time ago the Melbourne Bowling Club, being anxious to do its best to make the Centenary jamboree a success, decided to hold a grand Centenary bowling tournament and to offer for competition prizes of the value of £170. This affair was to have been in the nature of a dual celebration, for the Melbourne Bowling Club will have its 70th birthday somewhere about the time of the Centenary. The Victorian Bowling Association, however, apparently lacks the larger outlook, and has brusquely told the Melbourne committee that it must reduce the value of the trophies and medals to a mere £30. The club regards this decision of the association as "rank repudiation of an unconditional agreement." It is claimed that the association gave its permission unconditionally before the Melbourne committee made any arrangements, and that the Centenary Council placed the event on its list of sporting fixtures. Though the committee does not intend to take any steps that might adversely affect the game, there will be wigs on the green before long.