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## "Call a Taxi—I've Not Walked Two Blocks In My Life"

### Dante Entertains Interviewers and Amazes Wellington Theatre-goers.

"... and Timaru the day after, then there's plenty of time to get the props across to Dunedin for the Friday." . . . . And that was how the "Radio Record" representative found Dante, the famous magician, at the Hotel St. George, Wellington. Though he had left the boat only an hour before he was already immersed in the thousand and one preparations necessary for his tour of the Dominion.

AS the others rose to go—"I am afraid I am a little tired," he said, "I didn't go to bed last night." But to his interviewer he seemed far from tired, as he told with an animation peculiar to him, stories, grave and gay, from his wealth of experience in all parts of the world.

Just recently Dante has been in Russia, but he has no faith in the future of Communism, nor has he faith in the observations of "eye-witnesses"—"there are three hotels in Moscow, one is what might be called the leading hotel—the other two are misleading. This leading hotel is kept especially for visitors to the country—they show them the bar and leave them there." Still, Dante has no personal complaint against the country, for it was in Russia that he was given the finest advertising campaign that has been prepared for him anywhere.

We went on to talk of magicians of the past. Dante had a great admiration for Maskelyne, famous a quarter of a century ago. "He gave a beautiful,

smooth, polished performance," he said, "his was a lovely act." Another fine performer was the American, Howard Thurston. It was he who persuaded the "Great Jansen," as he then was, to change his name to Dante. "It was a good idea," the magician said, "for there were three other 'Jansens' playing at that time, and," he added with a smile, "I have saved hundreds of pounds in electric light costs and printing expenses by the shortness of that name."

We prepared to go. "How far is it to the theatre?" he asked.

"Oh, not far—about two blocks."

"Not far? I've never walked two blocks in my life. Call a taxi."

And the mysteries? It is impossible to find words to describe some of Dante's more elaborate tricks. Words like "amazing," "astounding" and "inexplicable" lose their meaning when they are used continuously, but there is no other way to describe the magnificent illusions which Dante creates, and which are drawing crowds to Wel-

lington's Grand Opera House. The trick known as "Squeezing a Lady," for instance, performed in an entirely different manner to that known by young people the world over, seems absolutely to defy solution. One of the most popular of the evening's tricks was that in which Dante, from a barrel shown to be empty, produces an inexhaustible supply of beer, which is passed round among the favoured few in front of the audience—the "Radio Record" can vouch for it that it was genuine, and very good beer. The ladies, too, are not forgotten, for, from "nowhere" Dante produces a tray of glasses of wine for their especial benefit. Later in the evening Dante uses a good deal of water, both for his geese to swim in and for

#### HOME SCIENCE TALKS

##### Times Changed

IN view of the alteration in the time of the classical hour from 3YA (3 p.m.—4 p.m.), the home science talks on Monday and Thursday will in future be broadcast at 2.30 p.m. instead of the usual hour of 3.15 p.m.

the most marvellous of all his demonstrations—"Fountainia," in which water is made to gush from the heads of his assistants, from the floor of the stage, or anywhere else that takes the magician's fancy.

THE interval signal of Bolzano, Italy, is the song of a nightingale.