



**A Flashlight Photograph of the Cast in "Mere Man":—Miss E. H. McCullough, Miss N. F. Frerichs, Miss Lillian Copping, Miss Laetitia Noll, Miss M. Edna Stowe, Miss M. Cameron Doyle, Miss Esther Edmonds, Miss Jessie McJanet.**

### **DE WET AT VREDE POST OFFICE.**

#### **A Civil Service Episode in South Africa.**

Wednesday is the postal half-holiday at Vrede, but in these days postal half-holidays are not scrupulously observed, and on Wednesday, 28th October last, the staff at Vrede were still busily working at 3.45 in the afternoon. At that time Mr. G. R. Evans, the Postmaster, was sending to Johannesburg when he was informed that De Wet's rebel commando was entering the town. One telegram remained on hand. Calling on the assistant, Mr. R. Swan, to send this the Postmaster at once put himself in telephone communication with the district staff officer at Standerton, and, when Johannesburg was clear, instructed Swan to cycle out as far as was necessary and ascertain the approximate strength of the

rebels. He then burned all Government telegrams, with a few selected exceptions, and sat down at the switchboard to await Swan's return. Having a few minutes of spare, he glanced at the latest Johannesburg paper, which had just come in.

Meanwhile Swan had cycled off to meet the rebels, riding up to within 100 yards of the commando. There he met the advance guard, and, doubtless being of opinion that first hand information was better than guessing the strength of a scattered force, he asked point blank how many were coming. But the guard was a taciturn man and not disposed to conversation. To encourage him Swan suggested that there might be 100 of them. "Oh, you can put a few more on to that," said the gentleman, and as the circumstances were not conducive to a protracted interview, Swan asked no further questions, but drew his own conclusions