ABBEY THEATRE

LOWER ABBEY STREET, DUBLN 1

PEACOCK THEATRE

PER ..... POST DATE .....

No.

To MINUTE BOOK
1ST SEPTEMBER 1937
TO
26TH MAY 1939

Sale of Securities

In view of the necessity for immediately providing the sum of £1500 past purchase money of Whytes premises the Board agreed to the sale of the following securities:-

£500 4% Conversion Loan, @ 105 3/4

£500 Second National Loan 5% Stock 1950-60, @ 113 7/8

£500 Third National Loan 4½% Stock, 1950-70, @ 110 1/4.

On the motion of Dr. Starkie seconded by Mr O'Connor it was agreed that the Seal of the Society be affixed to the Power of Attorney to Messrs Butler and Bristol, Stock Brokers, authorising them to effect the sale. The Power of Attorney was then sealed.

Whytes premises

An Agreement in duplicate for the purchase of Messrs Whytes premises was submitted by Messrs Arthur Cox & Co. Solicitors. On the motion of Mr O'Connor seconded by Mr Hyans it was agreed that the Seal of the Society be affixed to both copies of the Agreement. The Agreement in duplicate was then sealed.

Draft Scheme for rebuilding &c.

As had been agreed at the meeting held on 18th August, Mr Blythe had submitted to the Directors a draft scheme embodying the points which would be discussed with the Minister for Finance when considering his proposals for the building a theatre block.

An amended version of Mr Blythe's scheme was submitted by Mr O'Connor and after due consideration it was unanimously agreed that the following scheme be a direction to the Directors negotiating with the Minister for Finance:-

CONFIDENTIAL.

AT A MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD ON 1st SEPTEMBER 1937 IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY AGREED THAT THE FOLLOWING SCHEME BE A DIRECTION TO THE DIRECTORS NEGOTIATING WITH THE MINISTER FOR FINANCE.

1. We warmly welcome the Minister's suggestion as foreshadowing a large and more convenient home for the Abbey Theatre, without interference with its tradition or independence. The concentration of theatrical activity in one block or in adjoining structures would give an opportunity for erecting an imposing building and might very slightly improve door receipts; but unless accompanied by a scheme of central control which would enable scenery, costumes and other resources to be pooled, facilitate exchange of actors and programmes, and eliminate all element of competition, it would not improve appreciably the conditions of dramatic work in Dublin, and in the opinion of the Abbey Theatre directors would not be advisable.

2. In view of national policy in relation to the Irish language, one of the functions of the Abbey Theatre as a national theatre should be the production of plays in Irish, subject to the theatres financial resources permitting the work to be done in a satisfactory manner.

3. The purchase of Whyte's premises gives the Abbey Theatre a site which allows of a scheme of reconstruction providing for a second auditorium of studio size in which plays in Irish might be performed.

4. The best chance of having dramatic work of good quality done in Irish would be to entrust it to the Abbey Theatre with a special subsidy for not less than ten years. If this were done Abbey Theatre scenery, costumes and technical staff could be employed in connection with the Gaelic stage, saving much expense and ensuring a high standard of production. Saving could be effected by eliminating overlapping in connection with advertisement, office staff, advance booking, etc. Moreover, a larger and more experienced company of actors would be made available for Gaelic plays, as some of the regular Abbey Company are Irish speakers, and the players specialising in Gaelic work would have the advantage of frequent work in the Abbey beside actors whose artistic standards are as high as are to be found anywhere in the world. The Directors of the Abbey Theatre would make themselves responsible for the selection and provision of plays of a standard not less high than that of its own theatre.

5. However, in the event of the Minister being unwilling to make performance in Irish simply part of the ordinary work of the Abbey, it might be arranged that the Abbey board could lend its services on agreed terms, and establish a special Gaelic sub-committee on which there might be two or three outsiders and to which would be delegated all direct responsibility for Gaelic productions.

6. A second alternative would be that the Government as a condition of any additional grant for plays in Irish should insist, as has already been done in Galway on the formation of a permanent and responsible board. If it were arranged that half the members of this board should be drawn from the Board of the Abbey, co-ordination might be arranged; though not, we strongly feel, as well as under our suggested scheme.

7. The site now available would not permit of the erection of three auditoriums. The Board of the Abbey would be reluctant to consider removal to a new site. To find and acquire one as well situated as the present might take a good deal of time and if delay took place the Abbey would be compelled by the Corporation to spend on existing buildings a sum of approximately £3,500 which would be lost if removal afterwards took place. If the Minister continues to adhere to the view that there should be three auditoriums, the practicable course is for the Government to purchase the premises lying between the present Abbey Theatre and the river front. This would provide a superb site, and by arching over the existing laneway and building across the full extent of the site a theatre adequate to any scheme of expansion and improvement would be secured.

8. A combined National Theatre scheme should envisage three auditoriums of differing sizes: The National Theatre proper, seating from 800 to 1,000; a theatre similar in size to the existing Abbey Theatre, and a studio theatre seating 250 to accomodate the proposed Gaelic theatre and student organisations. This scheme would allow for an interchange of programmes; the National Theatre proper taking the more popular bill, whether Irish, Gaelic or European, always providing that a play by an Irish dramatist should be on view in one or other of the larger theatres. i.e. a comedy by George Shiels would naturally be produced in the National Theatre, a poetic or literary play in the smaller.

9. If the Government should decide to acquire the premises on the quay and proceed with the above scheme the Abbey Board would contribute the site of their present theatre, valued at approximately £15,000. on condition that control of the whole premises should be vested in the Abbey Board with a specific agreement with the Government as to their use. The Directorate of the Abbey Theatre could not see their way to facilitate the opening of another theatre immediately adjacent to their theatre without a controlling interest in it; as the National Theatre Society is limited by the terms of its constitution to the production of certain plays only, and no satisfactory restriction could be devised which would prevent another theatre from producing plays of a strictly commercial type; thereby endangering the whole future of the Irish theatre; or from competing with the Abbey Theatre in regard to its personnel and staff. The Abbey Theatre would prefer not to join in the proposed scheme of reconstruction rather than consider a proposal which would imperil its future; but if the Government would consider handing control over to the Abbey Theatre Board, the Board would be prepared to undertake the production of European plays, employing a second producer and scenic designer, say Hilton Edwards and Michael MacLiammoir, if these would consent.

10. If the scheme for a National Theatre as set out above is not considered feasible, we suggest that the ~~next~~ alternative is the creation of two independent theatres, one for non-irish work, and the Abbey Theatre with two auditoriums, for gaelic and Irish plays.

American Tour

Mr Higgins reported that he had received a Contract for the O'Casey plays which stipulated that one of these plays should be performed within fourteen days of the opening of the American season.

He had also received a contract from the Agents for Synge stipulating that The Playboy should be performed at least once a month.

Mr Higgins stated he was of opinion that the conditions of the tour did not permit of these stipulations being accepted. The Board suggested to Mr. Higgins that it might be possible to arrange for special matinee performances of these plays so as to conform to the conditions of the Contracts.

Mr Higgins also stated that he proposed taking scripts of "The Lost Leader" "The Man in the Cloak" and "Invincibles" with a view to producing these plays while in the U.S.A.

Mr. Higgins referred to the proposed Abbey Theatre Festival to be held during the week before Horse Show, during Horse Show week and during the week after. He said that if the details of this festival were available he could do a lot of advance publicity while in America.

It was agreed that Mr Robinson should draft a scheme of plays social events and lectures suitable for the Festival.

It was agreed that the Players going to America should be entertained to lunch by the Directors on Thursday 16th September.

School of Acting. Mr Robinson reported that 42 pupils had been accepted for the School, 28 women and 14 men, and that probably a few more would join during the coming week. About seven applications had been received for the Production Lectures.

Peacock Letting. The Board sanctioned the letting of the Peacock to Mr Robinson for private auditions during the week 27/9/37 to 2/x/37 from 8 pm to 10 pm.

Copies sent 8/9/37

8th Sept. 1937. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Limited held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, 8th September 1937.

Present Mr W.B. Yeats in the Chair, Mr Lennox Robinson, T. F. Higgins, T. Lewis O'Connor.

Annual Statement of Accounts. The Statement of Accounts for the year ending 28th February 1937 and the reports of the Directors and of the Auditors to be presented to the Annual General Meeting of the Society were considered and passed.

The Board then adjourned until the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting commenced for 5.15 p.m. and the meeting of the Board was resumed after the Annual General Meeting.

Mr E. Blythe then took the Chair, Mr W.B. Yeats, Dr Walker Starkie, Mr J.R. Higgins, Mr Frank O'Connor.

Minutes. The Minutes of the last meeting were read confirmed and signed.

Mr Yeats suggested in connection with the forthcoming negotiations with the Minister for Finance that the Board should accept the Government proposals with a statement that the Directors must have control.

After some discussion it was agreed that the Direction passed at the meeting held on the 1st Sept. 1937 should stand, it being clearly understood that any scheme accepted must provide for proper control by the Directors.

It was agreed that if required by the Minister for Finance Mr Blythe should again see him and it was proposed by Mr Higgins, seconded by Dr. Starkie and passed - "That Mr Yeats, Mr Blythe and Mr O'Connor be appointed as a negotiating Committee".

Finances The Secretary reported that the Bank balance was £710-0-1.

American Tours Mr Higgins reported that Mr Shields had been to Liverpool to inspect the scenery being constructed by Messrs Robinson and that he considered the work was very good. The total cost would be £183 for scenery plus £5 for crating &c. The Board authorised payment of £188.

Mr. Higgins also reported that a cable had been received from

Sinclair giving the order of the opening plays as follows – Katie Roche, Plough & the Stars, Silver Jubilee, Juno, Drama at Inish.

It was decided that Dr Starkie should take the Chair at the luncheon to the Players on the 6th. inst. If Yeats could not attend as he intended on that date have left Dublin.

Mr Higgins and M. O'Connor were appointed to consider the scheme for an Abbey Theatre Festival which was being drawn up by Mr Robinson.

Mr Hunt's report.

Mr Hunt reported that he did not think the new play "The Man in the Cloak" would be ready by the 20th Sept & it was agreed that if it could not be produced on that date "Drama at Inish" should go on.

Mr Hunt submitted an application from Mr J. Winder for an increase in salary. The Board decided to increase his salary from £2-5-0 per week to £2-15-0.

Miss Christine Hayden.

A letter from Miss Christine Hayden had been read in which she pointed out that she had not been included in the casts of any of the Home Company productions with the exception of "Drama at Inish". Miss Hayden said that if the Directors did not intend to use her in any other plays she would prefer that some one else should play her part in 'Drama at Inish'. She also asked why she had been left out of all the other Casts.

Mr Hunt stated that he also had had a letter from Miss Hayden and that he had asked her to write to the Board. He said that Miss Hayden felt she had been very badly treated by being taken out of

the cast of "Drama at Inish" when it was last produced.

The Board decided that the matter was one for Mr Hunt to deal with and that he should see Miss Hayden and discuss the matter with her.

"THE Invincibles"

It was agreed that the play 'Invincibles' by Frank O'Connor and Hugh Hunt be accepted for production.

Seamus Reid
15/9/37

15th Septr. 1937.

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Soety. Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 15th September, 1937.

Present

Mr E. Blythe, in the chair, Dr Richard Hayes, Mr M Higgins, Mr Frank O'Connor.

Minutes.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

Finance -

The Secretary reported that the Bank balance was £405=2=3.

Mr Cecil Ford.

A letter was read from Mr Cecil Ford asking if the National Film Corporation could say that he was appearing in a film "The Island Man" by kind permission of the Abbey Theatre.

The Board directed that Mr Ford be informed he had no permission to use the name of the Abbey Theatre and that no such permission was granted.

I.T.+G.W.U. — A letter was read from the I. Transport + General Workers Union asking that a date be arranged for a meeting between the Directors and the Union representatives in order to discuss the question of a revision of the present rates of wages of the staff.

The Board decided that the Union be informed that the matter had already been dealt with by Mr Higgins who had now left Ireland for the United States.

School of Acting — Mr Robinson reported that in his morning classes on Mon. Wed + Fri. he had 14 women all working on "The Golden Apple." in the afternoons classes held every day he had in all 19 women and 16 men working on "Our Lady of the Sea".

American Tour — Mr Higgins reported that the Company would sail from Belfast on Saturday 18th Sept. He also gave particulars of expenditure so far incurred and the amount of money it would be necessary for him to bring with him.

Mr Higgins also reported that some of the Players had protested against being paid only half salary while rehearsing and that they claimed full salary. Mr Higgins had met the Players and arranged that Players on an acting salary of £6-15-0 should be paid £5 per week for the two weeks and those on smaller salaries should be raised in proportion.

Mr Higgins said that in the event of his being compelled to take action against any of the Players while on tour Mr Hunt had assured him he would be able to provide a substitute and that Mr Higgins intended when in New York to engage some understudies

that could be used if necessary.

The Board agreed that Mr Higgins should have a salary for the week on board the lines.

Mr Hunt's report. Mr Hunt reported that "The Man in the Cloak" would not be ready for production on 20th Sept. The new version of act 2 was worse than the original one & the arrangement of a second act would cause more delay. It was agreed that "Diana of Dobson's" should go on on 20th Sept. then "The Man in the Cloak" to be followed by "Boyd's Shop" and "The Plough and the Stars". It was also agreed that the Playboy should be revived.

It was decided that Mrs Fitzgerald and Miss Ward be paid £2 per week when playing.

Columbia Broadcast. It was decided that Miss Cleary, Mrs Fitzgerald, Miss Ward & Cyril Cusack be paid four guineas each and that Miss O'Mahony & Ted Johnson be paid two guineas each.

Production Class. Mr O'Connor reported that Mr Robinson had suggested that he (Mr Robinson) should give a course of lectures in the Peacock on Production and Playmaking - eight lectures in all - and that the receipts should be shared between Mr Robinson and the Theatre.

The Board decided to accept the suggestion in principle.

Abbey Theatre Festival A scheme for an Abbey Theatre Festival was submitted by

Mr Robinson and was considered by the Board. Various amendments were made and the scheme was then accepted tentatively so as to enable Mr Higgins to have some groundwork for publicity in America. Mr Higgins proposed to issue a leaflet while in the U.S.A. giving an outline of the Festival.

Richard Hayes
22/9/1937

22nd Sept 1937. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society. Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30 pm on Wednesday, 22nd Sept. 1937.

Present — Dr Richard Hayes, in the Chair, Mr E. Blythe, Mr Frank O'Connor.

Minutes. — The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

Finance. — The Secretary reported that the overdraft at the Bank was £421-8-9.

Miss O'Mahony — An application having been received from Miss Nora O'Mahony for an increase of salary, the Board decided that she should be paid £2 per week when playing.

Mr Hubert Rooney. — A letter was read from Mr Hubert Rooney suggesting that he might be retained at a small fee for the purpose of giving any lessons needed by pupils and players in voice production.

Keating Branch Dram. Socty.

The Board decided that no action be taken in the matter An application having been received from the Keating Branch Dramatic Socty. for the hooking of the Peacock Theatre during the coming season the Board decided that Mr Robinson should say the dates on which he would require the theatre and that the Keating Branch be offered weeks to fit in with bookings already made and with Mr Robinson's requirements.

Columbia Broadcast.

Mr O'Connor reported that Mr. Reis, Director of the Columbia Broadcast was very pleased with the work of the Company who broadcasted "Riders to the Sea" on 19th Septr. It was decided that Mr. Hunt's fee for his work in connection with the broadcast be £4-4-0.

It was also decided that the same cast should play "Riders to the Sea" in the Abbey as part of the first suitable bill that could be arranged.

Mr Hunt's report.

Mr Hunt reported that he had seen Dr Kiernan regarding the possibility of having the Company broadcast some plays from the Dublin Studio on Sunday nights. This, Mr Hunt considered, would be good publicity for the Theatre.

The Board decided that Mr Hunt should further discuss the matter with Dr Kiernan on the basis

that the Theatre received at least £5, the Studio paying the Players a fee of £1-10-0 each.

It was decided that 'Boyds Shop' should run after "The Man in the Cloak".

The Cast of "The Invincibles" was discussed and fixed.

The following Salaries for 'Drama at Inish' were fixed Messrs Keegan & Barror £1-10-0 each, C. Rode £2, Mrs Mahony £2-10-0.

Dr Hayes: Dr Hayes raised the question of his retiring from the Board and making way for some other Director who might be considered more useful to the Theatre. He said he had originally accepted the position for three months and he felt sure that if the Directors mentioned some person suitable for the position of Director, the Government would nominate that person for the position. Mr O'Connor said that in view of the coming negotiations with the Minister of Finance regarding the erection of a new State Theatre Dr Hayes's services would be of great use to the Board and that he hoped Dr Hayes would not press his suggestion. Mr Bly the agreed with this view and also pressed Dr Hayes to remain on the Board.

Dr Hayes then agreed to continue as a Director

for at least another Yea.

M 7-37. May. Mr O'Connor raised the Question of Mr Nays continuance as Musical Director. He said he was very dissatisfied with Mr Nays general behaviour and that he was continually interfering with the matters in the Theatre which were no Concern of his.

It was decided that the matter be discussed at the next meeting of the Board and that in the meantime Dr Starkie be asked if he could suggest anyone to fill the position in the event of Mr Nays services being dispensed with.

Walter Starkie.

29 Sept 1937. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society. Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30 pm on Wednesday, 29th Sept. 1937.

Present Dr Walter Starkie in the Chair, Dr Richard Hayes, Mr Frank O'Connor.

Minutes. The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

Finance. The Secretary reported that the overdraft was £553-17-7.

American Tues. A cable was read from R. Higgins stating the Company had arrived in New York on 27th September and were opening with "Katie Roche" on 2nd October. Also that R. Higgins was negotiating a broadcast contract.

Mrs S. Ward. A letter was read from Miss Shelah Ward thanking the Directors for the recent increase in her salary.

School of Acting. Mr Robinson reported that he would have myth performances by the pupils on 18th October & hoped to have another performance at the end of November or early December.

Mr Robinson also stated that owing to the letting of the Peacock for Gaelic plays it would be very difficult for him to give the series of lectures in Play writing, Production & Stage management which had been proposed, but that he hoped to have a verse speaking class once a week in the pit café.

An estimate for painting the side & brick walls of the Peacock Stage at a cost of £2-10-0 was submitted by Cornelius Mourke. The Board accepted the estimate & gave permission for the work to be done.

Mr F.M. May As decided at the last meeting of the Board, the Directors considered Mr May's position and decided, after some discussion that the following letter be sent to him:-

29th September 1937.

F.M.May Esq., Mus. Bac.,
38, Marlborough Road,
Donnybrook.

Dear Mr. May,

The Directors have had under consideration several complaints regarding your inattention to duty and interference with the business of the Theatre. One of the most serious of these charges is that you had in contemplation the bringing of the Abbey Theatre Company to Carnlough without the knowledge of the Directors.

The Board instructs me to ask you for a full explanation of your conduct and pending consideration of your reply, to inform you that as from Monday, 4th October, 1937, you are suspended from duty.

I am to add that any further interference with the business of the Theatre pending this enquiry will be visited with instant dismissal.

Yours faithfully,
The National TheatrexSocty. Ltd.

Secretary.

A Starkie agreed to make arrangements for a pianist to take up duty on Monday, 4th October

Mr Hunt's report.

Mr Hunt reported he had seen Dr Kiernan regarding the terms on which the broadcasts could be given by the Abbey Co. in the Dublin Studio.
Mr Hunt also interviewed Mr John McDonagh, Production Manager and suggested various suitable plays.
Mr Hunt was awaiting further information from the Station as to their requirements and the terms they were willing to offer.

Mr Seamus Healy's salary was fixed at £3-3-0 for playing in "The Man in the Cloak".

Whyte's premises.

The Secretary submitted an enquiry from Messrs Whyte as to whether they could have permission to remove a glass partition in the premises which was a fixture. The Secretary reported that Mr Galand strongly advised the Board not to grant any such permission. The Board decided that Messrs Whyte be referred to Mr Galand who would fix a price on the partition which Messrs Whyte could pay if the wished to take away the partition.

Nellie Shanks.

6th Octr. 1937. — Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Socty. Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30 pm on Wednesday, 6th October, 1937.

Present — Dr Walter Starkie in the Chair, Dr Richard Hayes, Mr E. Blythe, Mr Frank O'Connor.

Minutes — The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

Fortnightly meetings. — Dr Hayes raised the question as to the holding of meetings fortnightly instead of weekly and it was agreed that in future this should be done, it being understood that if any matter arose which necessitated a meeting in the interval it could be called.

Finance — The Secretary reported that the Bank overdraft was £ 569-6-3.

American Tour. — Mr O'Connor reported he had heard from Mr Higgins who stated that "Katie Roche" had been very adversely criticised by the New York critics and that in consequence, Shubert had removed the play from the repertoire. He had also removed "Temporal Powers" & "The Silver Jubilee".

Mr O'Connor also said that the Script of "The Invincibles" had been sent to Mr Higgins in case he cared to produce it. Mr O'Connor was very anxious that a new play which had been received from Mr Sean O'Faolain should

be considered as quickly as possible and if accepted, a copy sent to Mr Higgins for production in the State.

Mr Fay / Mr May. A letter was read from Mr May in which he replied to the Board's letter of the 29th September. The Board considered this reply and instructed the Secretary to inform Mr May that the Directors regarded it as unsatisfactory, that they were sorry to observe it contained no expression of regret and no promise that he would in future avoid interference with the business of the Theatre complained of and that his suspension would accordingly remain in force.

Dublin Little Theatre Guild. An enquiry was submitted from the Dublin Little Theatre Guild as to whether certain specified plays by Lady Gregory, Padraic Colum, Mr John Synge, W B Yeats and Sean O'Casey could be performed in the Peacock Theatre or if not, elsewhere in the City of Dublin. The Secretary informed the Board that they had no control over the amateurs rights of any of the plays. The Directors decided that the Guild be so informed and also told that permission would not be given for the production of any of these plays in the Peacock Theatre.

School of Acting The Secretary reported that to for £138-7-6 had been paid by pupils as first instalments of School of Acting fees.

Mr Hunt's report. Mr Hunt informed the Board that he had been in communication with Dr Kiernan re broadcasts by the

Abbey Co. from the Studio on Sunday nights. The fee offered by Mr Kiernan was at the rate of £12-12-0 per hour for the complete cost.

The Board decided that the matter be dropped.

Francis O'Connor
20/10/37

13th Oct. 1937 Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society. Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30 pm on Wednesday, 13th October 1937.

Present Mr E. Blythe, in the Chair, Dr. Starkie, Mr Hayes, Mr O'Connor.

Mr O'Connor explained that this meeting had been called to consider the following cable received from Mr F.R. Higgins who was with the Company in New York. "Letter just received regarding film unit. Approached Milton Shubert prompt-exceedingly interested, but could get no support for £1200 proposition - too small. They ask for ninety days option to secure 50,000 to 100,000 dollars for Abbey film productions in America, England or Ireland. If Ireland, Studios must be up to Standard, Otherwise

waste. Dublin to produce similar sum. Abbey Control productions. Cable Comments:

R O'Connor said that Mr Blythe and himself had been discussing the possibility of having a film unit in connection with the Abbey Theatre. They had contemplated obtaining a camera which would cost about £1200 and that it might be possible in the course of a year to turn out one film. They had also considered the possibility of obtaining some revenue by using the camera for the production of short educational films and for simple films for use in schools. Mr O'Connor had written to Mr Higgins regarding the possibility of this scheme and the cable which had been read to the meeting was the result.

The Board discussed the project outlined in the cable and the following conclusions were arrived at

That Dublin would be the most suitable place for a studio

That if the project materialized the technical control should be in the hands of Schubert who would be responsible for the technical side, Camera man to be That the artistic control should be in the hands of the Abbey Theatre.

It was decided that Mr Blythe & Mr O'Connor should interview the Minister for Finance with a view to obtaining financial assistance from the Government, and

Dr Hayes was asked to see Mr Mac Entee privately beforehand was to explain the position to him.

It was agreed that the following cable be sent to Mr Higgins :-

N.L.T. FRED HIGGINS,
EDISON HOTEL,
NEW YORK.

BOARD KEENLY INTERESTED IN SHUBERT PROPOSITION WILL EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES OF RAISING CAPITAL TEN TO TWENTY THOUSAND POUNDS IN DUBLIN STOP STUDIO MUST BE IN DUBLIN STOP EQUIPMENT AND TECHNICAL CONTROL BY AGREEMENT WITH SHUBERT STOP QUERY CAN SHUBERT SECURE ADMISSION OF FILMS TO AMERICA STOP OPTION SEEMS TO LONG IT HOLDS YOU UP FOR PERIOD OF TOUR AND VITAL THAT MATTER BE DEALT WITH BY YOU PERSONALLY STOP GRANT OPTION IF REQUIRED BUT NEGOTIATE ALTERNATIVES CONSULTING DIGGES AND OTHERS AS NECESSARY.

O'CONNOR.

Re Immorality

The salary list as submitted by Mr Hunt for the cast of The Immorality was approved.

It was decided that the plays to follow should be The Far-Off Hills and The Plough & the Stars, to be followed by the new play by Sean O'Faolain.

Francis Connor
20/10/37.

20th October 1937.

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre Dublin, at 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 20th October, 1937.

Present

Mr Frank O'Connor in the Chair, Dr Richard Hayes

Minutes.

The Minutes of the meetings held on 6th October 1937 and 13th October 1937, were read, confirmed and signed.

Finance.

The Secretary reported that the overdraft was £473-11-11.

Mr T. H. Mays.

A letter was read from Mr May, apologising for his conduct and promising that in future he would not interfere with the business of the Theatre.

The Board decided that Dr. Starkie and Mr O'Connor should interview Mr May and if satisfied with Mr Mays attitude, that he should be reinstated in his position as from Monday 1st November.

"Look at the Heffernans"

"Spring"

The Board granted permission to the Father Mathew Players, Church St. to perform "Look at the Heffernans" on Sundays 5th & 12th Dec. 1937. The Board also granted the Rockin Players permission to perform "Spring" at the Carmel Hall, Aungier St., on 14th 15th 16th Nov. 1937

Abbey Experimental Theatre.

An enquiry was received from the Secretary to the Abbey Experimental Theatre asking if the Directors would have any objection to their arranging with Mr Denis Johnston B.B.C. Belfast and with

Mr Reis of the Columbia Broadcasting Corporation for the broadcast of radio plays.

The Board decided that under no circumstances would they give permission to the Abbey Experimental Theatre to undertake broadcasts as suggested.

Permission was granted to the Enniskillen Amateur Dramatic Society to perform "Boyd's Shop" at the Drama League Fete to be held in Belfast.

Interview with Minister for Finance.

Mr O'Connor reported that he and Mr Blythe had interviewed the Minister for Finance who said that sympathetic consideration would be given to the scheme submitted by the Board for the establishment of a State Theatre.

The question of film production was also discussed and Mr Jackson-Lee said that this was a matter in which the Minister for Industry & Commerce would also be interested. He asked that a brief memorandum giving particulars to date should be sent to him.

The Board decided that Mr Blythe should draft a Memo for submission to the Ministers.

Mr Hunt's report.

Mr Hunt referred to the performances by the pupils of the School of Acting and said he did not think that many of the pupils would be of use for Abbey productions.

It was decided that Mr Malachi Keegan be appointed

P.T.O.

Stage Manager at a commencing salary of £2 per week and that Mr Fred Johnson be assistant producer, Mr Johnson to be paid 30/= per week for this work.

WBY eat 5/11/37.

28th October 1937 A special meeting of the Directors was held at 5.30 pm on Thursday 28th October 1937, Mr Lennox Robinson, Mr E. Blythe and Mr Frank O'Connor being present.

The Seal of the Society was affixed to the Deed of Transfer in connection with the disposal of £3000 4½% Land Bonds.

WBY eat 5/11/37.

5th Nov. 1937. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30 p.m. on Thursday, 5th November, 1937.

Present Mr W.B. Yeats in the Chair. Mr Lennox Robinson, Dr. Richard Hayes, Mr E. Blythe, Mr Frank O'Connor.

Minutes. The Minutes of the meetings held on 20th October 1937 and 28th October 1937 were read, confirmed and signed.

finance. The Secretary reported that the overdraft at the Bank amounted to £2032-7-6. He explained that a cheque for £4604-10-5 had been sent to Messrs Arthur Cox. This was the balance due for the purchase of Messrs Whyte's premises. The Bank had raised no objection to the overdraft pending the receipt of monies from America.

The Board granted permission to the Ulster Literary Theatre to produce "Boyd's Shop" by Dr John Irvine at the Playhouse, Belfast, for one week at the end of November.

The Board agreed that a donation of three guineas be sent to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

A letter was read from Mr Arthur Cox, Solicitor, giving particulars of the formalities to be complied with if the Peacock Theatre were let to the Irish Film Society for the showing of films.

The Chairman reminded the Board that under the Irish Copyright Act the National Theatre Society, as the owners of the Peacock would be liable for fees due to those entitled to them, in the event of the Film Society not fulfilling its obligations.

After due consideration the Board decided that the Peacock should not be let to the Film Society for the Showing of films

An application having been received from Mr Bandc

Corey for an increase of salary, the Board decided that no increases of salary could be considered at present.

The following resolution was proposed by Fr Frank O'Connor and seconded by Dr Hayes :- "That Mr Lennox Robinson be asked to explain his action in attacking in public a play which he was a party to accepting: and, failing a proper explanation, be requested to resign his position as Director and as Principal of the Abbey School of Acting"

After a discussion and after an expression of regret by Mr Robinson and his undertaking to write to the papers clarifying the position, the motion was withdrawn.

A letter was read from Fr Sean O Faolain stating (a) he was content to sign the original form of contract sent to him on condition that he was allowed to choose the actress (from the available material) for the part of Nora in his play "She Had to Do Something" in its first production

(b) If not he was content to sign the original Contract on condition that it read or was made to read that he was at liberty to dispose of British rights according to his own judgment or that of his Agent.

No other change or modification did he desire in

the original Contract form. But on that one condition with regard to British rights he must insist.

The right to dispose of British rights would not of course refer to exclusive rights, but except for production by the Abbey Theatre would naturally otherwise be exclusive.

The Board decided that Mr O Farlain be allowed to choose the actress for the part of Marine for the first production of the play provided she did not receive a salary of more than Three pounds per week when playing.

The Board agreed that Miss Alice McCarthy who had supervised the Orchestra during Mr Ray's suspension should be paid a fee of Five Guineas.

The Board decided that Miss Devlin be paid Two Guineas for rehearsing and attending all performances of "The Invincibles" for the hymn in Scene VII.

The Board decided that Miss Devlin and Miss Ryan be paid Two Pounds each per week for playing in The Far Off Hills

Mr O'Connor reported that he had provisionally arranged with Mrs Yeats that Miss Ann Yeats during her

term of study in Paris should be paid One pound per week salary plus two Pounds ten shillings per week expenses and that the ordinary fare to Paris should also be paid. The term in Paris would be for at least three months.

The Board agreed to these terms and granted Mr Yeats leave of absence for three months.

The Board decided that at their next meeting, to be held on Wednesday, 10th November 1937, the report received from Mr Higgins should be considered.

Mr Hunt reported that he thought it would be necessary to run "Castney & Mooney" for two weeks. He suggested the Playboy with some one act play as the following bill and a revival of Riders from the West after that.

Mr Blythe who had taken the Chair on Mr Yeats' departure informed Mr Hunt that the Board had agreed to allow Mr O'Faolain select the actress for the part in his new play.

Mr Hunt suggested the purchase of a large dimmer which was available at a price of £7-10-0. It had been in use in Clery's but was no longer required by them. It cost £15 and Mr Hunt said it would be very useful as it would dim all house lights if required and could also be used alternatively as a dimmer for

the full stage lighting.
On the motion of Mr Frank O'Connor seconded by Dr. Hayes the Board agreed to the purchase at £7-10-0.

The Board decided that the worn strips of matting in the stalls section of the floor of the auditorium should be replaced by new strips.

Frank O'Connor
10/11/37

10th Novr. 1937. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 10th November, 1937.

Present Mr Frank O'Connor in the Chair, Dr. Richard Hayes, Mr E. Blythe.

Minutes The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

Finance. The Secretary reported that the overdraft at the Bank was £708-17-11. He also reported that a draft for £1307-16-11 had been received from Mr Higgins on the 8th. inst and that a cable had been received from Mr Higgins stating that

another draft for two thousand dollars was on its way.

A letter was read from Mrs Alice M. Carthy thanking the Directors for the payment of Five Guineas made to her for her services during Mr Tays absence.

An application having been received from Mr Malachi Keyes for an increase of salary as Stage Manager, the Board decided that Consideration of the matter should be postponed until a late date.

An application having been received from the St. Columcilles A. & D. Guild, Belfast, for permission to perform "The Silver Jubilee" at the Catholic Drama Festival in Belfast, the Board decided there was no objection to the proposed performance.

A cable was read from Mr Higgins stating that Mr Eddie Dowling of New York wanted Arthur Shields to produce "Shadow & Substance" by Paul Carroll in New York - that Arthur Shields' salary would be 400 dollars per week for five weeks - that Mr Shields' work with the Abbey Company would not be interrupted and that the Abbey Theatre would get 50% of Mr Shields' salary of 400 dollars.

The Board decided that a cable be sent to Mr Higgins stating they considered Mr Dowlings proposal most inadvisable.

It was decided that "Coggerers" a new one act play by Paul V. Carroll should go on with The Playboy.

M Shent reported that he had seen Mr O'Faolain who nominated Mrs Speaight for the part of Maime in his play "She Had To Do Something".

It was decided that 'Cartney & Kearney' should be continued for a second week, to be followed by The Playboy and the new Carroll play.

The Board considered Mr Higgins' report which had been circulated and decided that he be asked to go ahead with the publicity in connection with the Abbey Theatre Festival to be held in August 1938.

The following statement received from Mr Lennon Robinson was considered and it was decided that copies of it should be sent immediately to the three Dublin morning papers.

I made a speech at the Gate Theatre on Sunday 31st.
I spoke without notes, and, if I am correctly reported,
made a mess of things. I am supposed to have attacked the
Abbey Theatre and certain young dramatists. Nothing of
the kind was in my head. I seem to have said that no
play dealing with events that did not happen more than
fifty
~~twenty~~ years ago was suitable for stage representation,
to hand
and given as examples The Invincibles which dealt

with the events of fifty-five years ago, and a play about Mangan who died just after the famine. What I meant to say was that I dislike plays about people whose immediate relations may be still living, and that no dramatist can see his subject matter with sufficient objectivity when that subject matter is still in public debate. I still hold that opinion, but never intended to criticise the Abbey Theatre for thinking otherwise. I am a member of the Board and as a member of the Board voted for the production of The Invincibles which is an excellent play. The Theatre, in such matters, must accept public opinion, and the public opinion of our time is shown by the great success of such films as that which puts Zola into the midst of the unforgotten passions of the Dreyfus Case, and such plays as Judgment Day which is to all intents and purposes contemporary politics. I saw the problem as abstract and isolated and had no intention of giving it a practical application.

Yours etc

Lennox Robinson

Walter Starkie.

17th Nov. 1937. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Socty. Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 17th Nov. 1937.

Present Dr Walker Starkie in the Chair, Dr. Richard Hayes, Mr E. Blythe, Mr Frank O'Connor.

Minutes. The Minutes of the last meeting were read, Confirmed and signed.

Finance. The Secretary reported that the overdraft at the Bank was £676-13-7, and that a remittance of roughly £400 was on its way from Mr Higgins in New York.

Sealing of Assignment. It was proposed by Mr Frank Skinner seconded by Dr. Hayes and passed that the Seal of the Society be affixed to the original Assignment Whyte to National Theatre Society Ltd. The Deed was then duly sealed and signed.

Arts Theatre Cambridge. In reply to a letter from the Arts Theatre Cambridge, the Board decided that until the return of the Players from America it would not be possible to arrange for a visit of the Company to Cambridge.

Irish Film Socty. The Board considered a further application from the Irish Film Society. for the hire of the Peacock Theatre for film performances and decided that the Theatre

should not be let for such performances.

The Board authorised the payment to the Revenue Commissioners of amounts due by Mr P.J. Carolan for Income Tax as set out in the Commissioners' letter of 15th Nov. (p37).

Mr O Connor reported on a meeting he had had with Mr Nolan of the Transport Union who had put in a claim for an increase of pay ~~for~~ to the staff (Stage + front of house). After consideration the Board decided to offer a ten per cent increase to the following Mrs Mannin, Miss Bennett, Miss Martin, Miss Barlow, Miss Bushell, Miss Gebler, Mr Sloan, Mr Brady.

The Board decided that the play A Tribal Law by M.P. Fanning required rewriting and could not be accepted in its present form. If the author cared to submit an amended version it would be carefully considered.

"Shadow and Substance" in New York.

A cable was read from Shubert, New York asking the Directors to grant permission for Arthur Shields to produce "Shadow and Substance" for him in New York.

A cable from Mr Hyppis was also read stating he had no objection to Shubert's proposal.

It was agreed that the following reply be sent to Mr. Hyppis :- Board puts you full discretion but cannot understand position. If Shubert interested why does he not insist on productions by Abbey.

Miss Poisewitsch

Mr O'Connor informed the Board that Miss Poisewitsch was in hospital and that Dr Colles was arranging to have her operated on as soon as possible. The Board decided that Dr Hayes should arrange with Dr. Colles for a fee of Fifteen Guineas to be paid in settlement of his services and for the operation. It was also agreed that Miss Poisewitsch be paid half salary while on sick leave.

It was decided that The Whiteheaded Boy be produced after The Playboy, the cast to be arranged by Mr Hunt in consultation with Mr Robinson.

The following letter from Players rehearsing The Had 2 do Something by Sean O'Faolain, was read:-

Abbey Theatre,
Dublin.

17th Nov. 1937

Gentlemen,

As we explained to Mr. O'Connor on Monday evening, we addressed a letter to Mr. Hunt, there being no opportunity of communicating with the Directors in the time at our disposal. Mr. O'Connor has that letter in his possession.

We asked Mr. Hunt if we could be relieved of our parts in the new play by Mr. Sean O Faolain, giving reasons. And we asked him if he could postpone rehearsals of the play until we had an opportunity of communicating our views to the Directors.

Would the Directors think us unreasonable if we suggested that players should only be brought into the theatre under the following exceptional circumstances :

1. "Stars" with a box-office value.
2. Specialised people with particular qualifications for special parts.
3. Irish people who are intended to be trained to work in the theatre.
4. A person to play a part for which no one in the theatre is suitable.

At a reading of the part in question given by an Irish professional actress, both the producer and a director present agreed that this person was capable of playing the part, and should play it.

Mr. O'Connor told us that the Directors were in agreement with our point of view, but under threat of withdrawal of the play had been forced to concede the casting of a lady outside the company in this part. We have been given to understand that Mr. O Faolain, the author, in a written statement, declared that in deference to the theatre he would l

leave the casting to the proper officials. It will be gathered that Mr. O Faolain has since reconsidered his attitude, but it is a point which we would like the Directors to bear in mind when reviewing our position.

We regret that any situation should arise whereby amicable relations between the Board and the players should be disturbed. We are desirous that those relations so necessary to the progress of the theatre, should be maintained.

Mr. O'Connor intimated to us that the Directors were under the impression that we have been considering what he calls "strike action" for the past fortnight. The Directors were misinformed. We had not discussed the question of the cast of this play at all until Saturday last, November 13th, when the cast list appeared on the notice-board. At no time has strike action been contemplated. We are merely appealing to the Board of Directors for their help in finding a way out of this situation. Mr. O'Connor also told us that he had heard that members of the company had contemplated starting another theatre . This has no foundation whatsoever.

In conclusion, let us re-affirm our loyalty to the theatre. In view of this, and in so far as the unity and consolidation of the company is considerably affected by this matter, we hope that the Directors will give it their fullest consideration.

We are, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

Cecil J. Barror. Fra Johnson
Mdad Lucas.
Frank Carney Brosnan
Ann Clery
F. McCausland.
Cyril Cusack. Liam mac Réamoinn
Eilah Richards.

Mr Brosnan reported he had met the Players on Monday 15th. Novr. and that their general attitude had made a discussion of the matter very difficult.

The letter which had just been read showed that they were now in a more reasonable frame of mind.

The Board decided that the following reply be sent:-

P. T. O.

17th November 1937.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am instructed by the Directors to thank you for your letter of to-day's date and to say they do not consider your suggestions at all unreasonable and that they adequately represent the policy of the Board.

The Directors appreciate the spirit in which your letter is written and thank you for your expression of loyalty.

At the moment, owing to their pledges already given, they regret they cannot relieve the Players of their parts in "She Had To Do Something" and trust that you will treat this fact in the spirit in which your letter was written.

Yours faithfully,

Francis Rennison

Francis Rennison
1/12/37.

1st Decr. 1937. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin at 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 1st Decr. 1937.

Present Mr Frank O'Connor in the Chair, Dr Richard Hayes, Mr E. Blythe.

Minutes. The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

Arising out of the Minutes the Secretary reported that Miss Moiseiwitsch had left the hospital and had gone to London for treatment. Consequently no salary had been paid to her and no payment had been made to Dr. Colles.

Finance. The Secretary reported that the Bank overdraft was £340-2-8.

Abbey Experimental Theatre. A letter was read from the Committee of the Abbey Experimental Theatre pointing out that in certain plays players with no previous connection with the Theatre or with the School of Acting had been given parts which, the Committee submitted, could have been played by pupils of the School.

The Board decided they could not consider these representations from the A.E.T.

Model Housekeeping.

In accordance with a ruling already made by the Board an application received from the Editor of "Model Housekeeping" for press tickets was refused.

B.B.C. Belfast.

A letter was read from the B.B.C., Belfast asking if the Directors would consider a broadcast by the No.1 Company during the week March 27th. 1938.

The Board decided that until they had definite information as to how long the Company would be in America no arrangement with the BBC could be made.

Mr. M. Scott re Abbey Bar premises.

Mr. Scott submitted two estimates for the construction of a shed in the yard of the Abbey Bar, to replace one removed when the emergency exit stairs was constructed. The estimates were J.J. Dolan then £8-1-6, Wallis Cooke £8-10-0. The Board decided that the work be done by Messrs J.J. Dolan.

The Board refused an application received from the Dublin Correspondent of "The News of the World" for press tickets

Permission was given to Mr. T.T. Ray for leave of absence on Mon 2nd & 3rd to enable him to attend the performance of a new work of his in Cork.

An application having been received from the Fr.

Mathew Hall for the loan of mens costumes the Board decided they could not accede to the request.

Mrs Ann Yeats. It was decided that a cheque for £14 representing four weeks salary to 1st January 1938, be sent to Mrs Ann Yeats in Paris.

A letter was read from M. McBrinn stating that the one of his classes were very anxious to rehearse some plays in the Pit Café in Tuesdays and Thursdays between 5.30pm & 7.30pm. As they were very keen, Mr McBrinn hoped the Directors would grant their request.

The Board decided the class be given permission always provided that the Café was not required by Mr Hunt for rehearsals.

The Board decided that Messrs Whytes premises should be insured for £6000. and that Mr Leland be asked to submit any offers he might receive for short term letting of the premises.

A cable from Mr Higgins was read in which he said he was discussing a renewal of the contract due on Dec 10th. with Hurlbert. He also asked for report on film project proposal.

The Board decided to inform Mr Higgins by cable that the Minister for Finance was very interested in the film proposal

and that the Board were now awaiting a promised interview with the Minister for Industry and Commerce.

Mr Hunt submitted a cost list and an estimate of expenses for "She Had To Do Something". This was agreed to.

A decision as to the date of closing the Theatre was postponed to a later date.

Frank Connor
8/12/37.

8th Dec. 1937 Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30 pm on Wednesday 8th Dec. 1937

Present Mr Frank O'Connor in the Chair, Dr Richard Hayes, Mr E. Blythe.

Minutes The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

Finance The Secretary reported that the Bank Overdraft was £673-18-9

Charities Fees. The Board decided that as a heavy loss would probably incurred by playing during the week commencing Dec. 13th, the Theatre

should close after the performance on Saturday 11th Dec. and not re-open until Monday 27th Dec. with the new play by Sean O'Faolain. It was decided that the staff be paid for the closed period and that the four Contract Players be paid half salary for the week commencing 13th Dec. and full salary for the week commencing 20th Dec.

It was decided that "She Had To Do Something" should run for two weeks and be followed by "The New Gossoon", this to be followed by the new Shiels play "Neal Maguade".

Frank Connor
5/1/1938.

5th Jany. 1938. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society. Ltd held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30pm on Wednesday, 5th January 1938.

Present — Mr Frank O'Connor in the Chair, Dr Richard Hayes.

Minutes — The Minutes of the last meeting were read, Confirmed and signed.

Finance — The Secretary reported that the Bank overdraft was £1313-1-11.

Mrs Moiseiwitsch — A letter was read from Mrs Moiseiwitsch stating that she had returned

to work of the Theatre on 27th Dec. and that she had notified Mr Hunt as soon as she knew when she would be allowed to resume work. She apologised for not having let the Directors know when she would be able to return and enclosed a medical certificate which stated she was now well and fit for all activities.

The Board considered the question of retaining Miss Noriewitsch and decided that for the present she should remain it being hoped that Miss Yeats would be able to take over the work at the beginning of the next season.

It was decided that Miss Noriewitsch be paid as from Monday 3rd January 1938.

Whyte's premises — The Secretary raised the question of the letting of Whytes premises and reported there was a prospective tenant who would require a lease for at least two years.

The Board decided that the Secretary should consult Mr Whyte on this matter.

American Tour — The Secretary reported that a remittance of 5000 dollars promised by Mr Higgins in his cable of 15th December 1937 had not been received.

It was decided that if the money did not arrive by Saturday 8th Jany. 1938, a cable should be sent to Mr Higgins.

Future Bills. It was decided that "Neal Rapuade" by Leo Shiels, which was being produced on 17th January should run for two weeks, to be followed by "The Invincibles" and then "Boyd's Shop"

Francis Sonnon
19/1/38

19th/Jany. 1938. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Socty. Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 19th. January, 1938.

Present Mr Frank O'Connor in the Chair, Mr Lennox Robinson, Mr E. Blythe.

Minutes. The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

Finance. The Secretary reported that the Bank overdraft was £1252-18-3.

Mr P.H Considine A letter was read from Mr P.H. Considine regretting that owing to the accident to his hand he was compelled to leave the cast of "She Had to do Something".

The Board instructed the Secretary to tell Mr Considine how much they appreciated his pluck in playing as long as he did and that they were glad to know he was now able to play again.

Theatre Festival.

Mr Robinson reported that he had been approached by a representative of Messrs Cahills, printers, with an offer that they would publish a brochure of the Festival, subject matter and photos to be supplied by the Theatre, Cahills to submit for approval all advertising matter. The probable ~~cost~~ price at which the brochure would be published would be one shilling and the Theatre would be asked to guarantee to purchase 200 copies or so.

Mr Robinson said it would be necessary to go ahead at once with the preparatory work of the Festival, the first matter to be dealt with being the issue of invitations to the various lecturers asking them if they would be willing to give the suggested lectures.

The Board agreed that Mr Robinson should write to the proposed lecturers and find out if they could and would lecture, in order that a definite programme could be drawn up.

American Tour.

A letter was read from Mr Robinson stating that as far as he knew, the Playwrights fees due on the American Tour had not been paid, and that according to the Agreement he had signed, these fees were payable monthly. He stated he required - and every other Author should require - a statement of what he had earned each month and a cheque in settlement of his account.

The Secretary was instructed to write to Mr Higgins regarding the matter. The Board also agreed that Mr.

Higgins should be told that the Directors sympathised with him in the difficult position created by Shubert and that they greatly appreciated his efforts on behalf of the Theatre.

Mr Hunt's report. Mr Hunt reported that the new play Moses Rock if completed and accepted could be produced on 14th Feby.

Moves agreed that "Neal Flaquade" be continued for the week commencing 31st Jany. the plays to follows being "The Invincibles" on 31st January, "Boyd's Shop" on 7th Feby. and the new play on 14th Feby.

Eamon X Gill
2/2/38

2nd Feby. 1938. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin at 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 2nd February, 1938.

Present Mr Ernest Blythe — the Chair, Mr Lennox Robinson.

Minutes The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

Finance. The Secretary reported that the Bank overdraft was £1638-14-10.

Mr Paul V. Carroll. A letter was read from Paul V. Carroll re the possibility of coming to an arrangement with the Directors for permission to have a British production of "Shadow and Substance". Owing to the great success of the play in America several English managements were negotiating for the British rights but under some undertaking was given by the Abbey not to compete during the run of the play — Gt. Britain no contract could be concluded. Dowling had, last September, shelved a prod. British contract on learning that the Abbey would not agree to his getting exclusive British rights of the play. Mr Carroll felt that a decision could be reasonable be arrived at which could be of advantage to both the Abbey and himself.

The Directors considered the matter and decided to give an undertaking not to play "Shadow and Substance" in England for a period of one year from 3rd February 1938 on condition that 10% of any fees payable to Mr Carroll as royalties should belong to and be payable to the National Theatre Society.

Miss Anne Yeats. A letter was read from Mr Frank O'Connor asking the Board to authorise the arrangement that Miss Yeats should remain in Paris until March as she is doing a course in stage designing for which the Theatre is paying.

The Board agreed that Mrs Yeats should stay on as suggested by Mr O'Connor.

Theatre Festival — Mr Robinson reported that he had written to the various lecturers suggested and had received acceptances from them with the exception of Mr Sean O'Faolain who wrote stating he would agree to lecture if the Directors would put on his comedy "She had to do Something" one night during the Festival.

The Board decided they could not accept Mr O'Faolain's condition.

It was decided that Horse Show prices be charged for the performances and that a reduction of 20% be given to purchasers of season tickets.

It was also decided that as Messrs Cahill & Co were printing the brochure the smaller work of printing the throw-away be given to Corrigan & Wilson.

It was agreed that Mr Michael Joe Lennon be invited to lecture instead of Mr O'Faolain.

Players Contracts — It was agreed that as the Contracts given to Miss Cleary, Miss Richards, Mr Johnson & Mr W. O'Gorman had expired new Contracts to 1st May 1938 be given to these Players.

Mr Hunt's report. — Mr Hunt reported that the revised version of Acts

Finance. The Secretary reported that the Bank overdraft was £1638-14-10.

Mr Paul V. Carroll. A letter was read from Paul V. Carroll re the possibility of coming to an arrangement with the Directors for permission to have a British production of "Shadow and Substance". Owing to the great success of the play in America several English managements were negotiating for the British rights but under some undertaking was given by the Abbey not to compete during the run of the play in Gt. Britain no contract could be concluded. Dowling had, last September, shelved a pro British contract on learning that the Abbey would agree to his getting exclusive British rights of the play. Mr Carroll felt that a decision could be reasonable be arrived at which could be of advantage to both the Abbey and himself.

The Directors considered the matter and decided to give an undertaking not to play "Shadow and Substance" in England for a period of one year from 3rd February 1938 on condition that 10% of any fees payable to Mr Carroll as royalties should belong to and be payable to the National Theatre Society.

Miss Anna Yeats. A letter was read from Mr Frank O'Connor asking the Board to authorise the arrangement that Miss Yeats should remain in Paris until March as she is doing a course in stage designing for which the Theatre is paying.

The Board agreed that Miss Yeats should stay on as suggested by Mr O'Connor.

Theatre Festival — Mr Robinson reported that he had written to the various lecturers suggested and had received acceptances from them with the exception of Mr Sean O'Faolain who wrote stating he would agree to lecture if the Directors would put on his comedy "She had to do Something" one night during the Festival.

The Board decided they could not accept Mr O'Faolain's condition.

It was decided that Horse Show prices be charged for the performances and that a reduction of 20% be given to purchasers of season tickets.

It was also decided that as Messrs Cahill Co were printing the brochure the smaller work of printing the throw-away be given to Corrigan & Wilson.

It was agreed that Mr Michael Joe Lennon be invited to lecture instead of Mr O'Faolain.

Players Contracts — It was agreed that as the Contracts given to Miss Cleary, Miss Richards, Mr Johnson & Mr W. O'Gorman had expired new Contracts to 1st May 1938 be given to these Players.

Mr Hunt's report. — Mr Hunt reported that the revised version of Acts

II + III of "Moses' Rock" would not be ready until the end of the week but hoped the play would be ready for production on 21st February.
"Boyd's Shop" had already been selected for the week commencing 7th February and it was decided that for the week commencing 14th February the bill should be "Fanny's first Play" and "A Spot — the Inn" a new one-act play by T.C. Murray.

School of Acting

Mr Morrison submitted designs of Miss Noiseuitsch's for simple costumes for "The Green Helment" by W.B. Yeats which the School of Acting would produce late in the term. Mr Morrison said these costumes would be of great use in "On Bailie's Strand" one of the plays to be produced during the Festival. The cost of three ladies costumes and eight mens costumes would be about £10=14=0. The Board agreed that they should be made as they would be useful for stock.

American Law:

The Board directed that a cable be sent to Mr Hyppis stating that the report, agreements and accounts he had promised to send had not been received and asking him to remit as large a sum as possible to relieve the overdraft.

Carried

16/2/38

16th Feby. 1938.

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin on Wednesday, 16th February 1938, at 8 p.m.

Present

Mr E. Blythe in the Chair, M. Lennox Robinson, Dr. Richard Hayes.

Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting were read, Confirmed and signed.

Finance.

The Secretary reported that the Bank overdraft was £1549-15-10 and that drafts for 5,000 and 6000 dollars were on their way from M. Higgins in America.

Miss J. Garland

A letter was read from Miss Garland asking for a fortnights' sick leave as she had to undergo an operation. The Board agreed to her request.

Lord Longford

A letter addressed to Mr Robinson by Lord Longford was read asking for permission to do "Dana of Irish" during an Irish provincial tour next autumn. Lord Longford said he did not intend to visit Northern Ireland.

The Board agreed to give Lord Longford permission and not to charge him any fee on the play.

Welsh Nationalist Party.

A letter was read from the Secretary, Welsh Nationalist Party, asking for reduced terms of admission for a party of forty during Easter week.

The Board decided that for the Tuesday and Wednesday of the week they would give the party Front Stalls @ 3/= each, Back Stalls @ 2/= each and Centre Balcony @ 3/= each. In the event of the Matinee being open on the Saturday night before Easter, these terms would apply to that night also.

Browne + Nolans.

The Board gave permission to Messrs Browne + Nolan for the reproduction in Stephen Gwynn's book "Dublin Old and New" of a photo of the last production of "Deirdre".

A.-E.T

The Board gave permission for the broadcast by the Abbey Experimental Theatre of the play "8 p.m. O'Connell Bridge" by Frank Carney.

Paul V. Carroll

The Secretary reported that a further cheque for £10-13-5 percentage on American royalties of "Shadow + Substance" had been received from Mr Carroll.

A letter was read from Mr Carroll asking the Board to give him permission to dispose of the British rights for one year from the date the play would open in London or in a provincial theatre.

The Board decided that consideration of this

matter should be postponed until Mr Higgins' report on the subject should have been received from America.

Theatre Festival

A letter was read from Mr O'Connor approving of one of the Directors, either Mr Blythe or Mr Robinson, taking over full responsibility for the Festival arrangements.

The Board agreed that Mr Robinson be invited to take on the work of organiser and that from the date on which the School of Acting would close, he should continue to receive a salary of £6 per week for the Festival work.

Mr Robinson agreed to these terms but explained that he had arranged to go away for about four weeks in May. He did not think that this would interfere with the work and he would not accept any salary for the weeks he would be away.

Dr Hayes suggested that Professor Morgan of the National University and Professor French of Trinity might be invited to give lectures and that it might be possible to arrange that these be given in the afternoon in the Universities.

It was agreed that Mr Robinson write to the Professors and also to Dr. Coffey and the

Provost in the matter.

Mr Hunt reported that in order to give adequate performances of the Festival plays it would be necessary to have some new scenery and that a new lighting batten and footlights would be required. He promised to submit an estimate of the cost of what he considered necessary.

It was also agreed that Mr Robinson would submit to the Board all matters involving any large expenditure of money.

Coming bills.

The following bills were arranged for the coming weeks:-

Feb 28 Roses' Rock
March 7 do.
March 14 Blind Man's Buff.

The cast of Blind Man's Buff was agreed to.

Competition for a one act play in Irish.

The Board considered the question of a competition for an one act play in Irish and decided to offer a prize of £50 in a competition to be announced immediately the play to run from thirty to forty minutes and all entries to be received on or before 1st June 1938.

Queen's Rd

23rd Feby. 1938. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on Wednesday, 23rd February 1938 at 8 p.m.

Present. Mr E. Blythe – the Chair, Mr Lennox Robinson, Dr. Richard Hayes, Mr Frank O'Connor.

Minutes. The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

Finance The Secretary reported that the Bank overdraft was £1533-7-11 but that it was hoped we would receive 11,000 dollars from Mr Higgins in a few days.

A proposal was submitted from the E.S.B. Dramatic Society for the production in the Peacock Theatre of "The Whiteheaded Boy" and "The Jailbird".

The Board decided they would not allow the performance in the Peacock Theatre of plays which were in the repertoire of the Abbey Theatre. This decision was in accordance with one given by the Board to the Little Theatre Guild who had applied – October 1937 for permission to do certain Abbey plays in the Peacock.

Theatre Festival The question of the prices to be charged for seats at the festival performances have been raised by Mr O'Connor the Board considered the matter very fully and

decided that all seats except the Side Balcony should be 5/= each, the Side Balcony seats 1/6 each.

M. Robinson referred to the problem of holding a reception in the Abbey Theatre which he said would be quite unsuitable for the accommodation of a large crowd at such a function. He suggested that the Municipal Art Gallery, Charlemont House would be the most suitable place for the reception. The Board agreed, and asked Mr Robinson to make enquiries about obtaining the Gallery.

Mr Hunt — Mr Hunt asked for permission to adjudicate at the Feis Mathew Feis. The Board agreed to his doing so. It was agreed that the bill after "Blind Man's Buff" should be "Quin's Secret"

Miss Yeats — Mr O'Connor reported that Miss Yeats had asked for permission to spend an extra ten days in Paris. The Board agreed to grant permission.

Riders to the Sea. — With a view to making easier the production of old plays during the Festival it was agreed that "Riders to the Sea" be produced in the near future.

Future meetings. — It was decided that in future the Board meetings be on Tuesday evenings at 5.30 p.m.

Eamonn Ó Tuathail
8/9/38

8th March 1938. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin at 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 8th March 1938.

Present — Mr E. Blythe in the Chair, Mr Lennox Robinson.

Minutes. — The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

Finance — The Secretary reported that on the 28th. February the overdraft was £2071-7-5. He stated that on the 2nd March £2153-5-7 was received from the American tours, representing 11,000 dollars.

School of Acting — Permission was given to the School of Acting to use the Pit Café + the Peacock for a breaking-up party to be given on Saturday, 4th March.

Mr Cyril Cusack — A letter was read from Mr Cusack asking if the Directors would release him so that he could take a part in a film version of "The Citadel" to be produced by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer in April.

The Directors decided that if it were possible to do so they would be willing to release Mr Cusack, but that they did not think they could do so owing to the plays which would have to be produced in preparation for the Festival.

A letter was read from the Irish P.E.N Club, stating they were arranging for a public dinner in honour of the Abbey Players on Sunday August 14th.

The Board decided that the invitation of the Players was a matter for the PEN Club.

An estimate of £6-15-0 for overhauling the piano was received from Messrs Pyatt & Co. and was accepted by the Board.

An offer of a re built Gestetner machine at a price of £12 was considered and the Board decided to purchase the machine at the price named.

The Festival Mr Robinson reported that the City Manager was willing to lend the Municipal Art Gallery for the reception on August 7th subject to approval by his Committee. The Curator of the Gallery has promised to take the members of the Festival round the Gallery on the day on which it is closed to the public.

Dr Starkie had promised an extra lecture in Trinity College: Dr Coffey had been asked for the same thing in the National University but he had not so far replied.

Three thousand copies of the preliminary pamphlet had been distributed and all necessary material for the brochure had been supplied to Messrs.

Cahill.

In the Garden Party on the second Sunday it was proposed to get the Zoological Gardens or Fairyhouse Park.

"Shadow and Substance"

The Board again considered the question of the English rights of "Shadow and Substance". It was decided that Mr Paul Carroll be informed that the Abbey would undertake not to play "Shadow and Substance" in England for a period of two years from 3rd February of 28 on condition that 10% of any fees payable to Mr Carroll out of English performances of the play should belong to and be payable to the National Theatre Society Ltd.

Mr Hunt's report.

Mr Hunt suggested that Mr Patricia Keegan be now appointed Stage Manager at a salary of £2-10-0 per week. The Board agreed.

Mr Hunt also suggested that the Directors might consider the possibility of getting Mr Barry Fitzgerald to come to Dublin to play for six weeks including the Festival period.

The Board agreed that a cable be sent to Mr Higgins asking him to enquire if Mr Fitzgerald would be available on condition that his travelling expenses were paid, his salary while playing to be the same as that of the other leading

Players.

It was agreed that the bills be
March 14 Third Man's Theft
" 21 do.
" 28 Quin's Secret
April 4 On Baile's Strand, The Dear Queen
11 Theatre closed (Holy Week)
18 The Plough & the Stars.

American Tour

a Cable from Mr Higgins was read stating that Mr P.J. Carolan was seriously ill, that he would not be able to continue playing and that Mr Higgins had obtained Mr Harry Fitzgerald who was now playing with the Company.

Approved
22/3/38

22nd March 1938. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin at 5.30 pm on Tuesday, 22nd March, 1938.

Present Mr E. Blythe – the Chair, Mr Lennox Robinson, Dr. R. Hayes.

Minutes. The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed

and signed.

Finance. The Secretary reported that the credit balance at the moment was £2-2-3.

Dept. of Finance The Secretary reported that a letter had been received from the Dept. of Finance stating that in the Estimates for 1938-39 the Minister was making provision for a Grant-in-Aid to the Society of £1000 and that he was providing for the repetition of the provision of £2800 recompent & the Society of part cost of structural alterations in the Theatre required by the Corporation.

A.E.T. In reply to a letter from the Abbey Experimental Theatre the Directors decided that they would as soon as possible suggest some plays for production by the A.E.T.

They also decided there was no objection to a broadcast by the A.E.T. of "A Sport in the Sun" by J.C. Murray.

The Directors refused to consider the suggestion that a performance by the A.E.T. should be included in the Theatre Festival programme.

An Oige Permission was granted to An Oige Drama Group

for the performance in Dublin of "The Jailbird".

Miss Bridget Lynch

Mr Blythe spoke of a young lady Miss Bridget Lynch of Cahirciveen - a native Irish speaker who had acted with An Comhar Drámaíochta. He said she would be very useful if plays in Irish were being produced.

He suggested that she be engaged to assist Mr Hunt by holding the book prompting at rehearsals &c. He also suggested that she could be tried out in English parts.

The Board agreed that Miss Lynch be engaged at a salary of £1-10-0 per week and that she should commence work on the 25th March.

If it was found that she was unsuitable her services could be dispensed with.

Theatre Festival

The Board discussed the possibility of reducing the programme of plays from twelve bills to eight or ten bills.

Mr Hunt was in favour of a reduced programme as he feared that good performances could not be given of twelve plays. He also suggested that the the morning lectures be held elsewhere as the theatre would be badly needed for rehearsals during the day, and mentioned the Astor Cinema as a suitable place for the lectures

It was agreed that Mr Robinson and Mr Hunt should further consider the programme of plays and that Mr Hunt should enquire if the Astor would be available and at what cost.

New Electric Equipment

Mr Hunt reported on the need for additional lighting equipment for the stage and the Board sanctioned the purchase of the following:-

One Linnear Magazine Rotlight at £14-18-6
Two Flood lanterns @ £3-15-0 each
One Acting area lantern £7-7-0
also one strip to be made in the Theatre at a cost of £3=0=0

The Board also sanctioned the cleaning and repainting in destemper of the back wall of the stage.

Mr Hunt.

Mr Hunt informed the Board that he wished to resign his position as Producer and return to England after the Theatre Festival. He said he was anxious that the Board should have as long notice as possible.

The Board expressed their regret at Mr Hunt's decision.

Mr Malachi Keegan

It was decided that Mr Malachi Keegan's hours as Stage Manager should be from 10.30 am to 2 pm. and from 5.30 pm to end of night

performance with the usual break after every rehearsal. A payment of 10/- was to be made to Mr McCann for Sunday Dress rehearsals.

The Board agreed that Mr Robinson assisted by Miss Fitzpatrick should weed out all useless stuff in the wardrobe.

The question of Miss Yeats' salary was raised & the Secretary & it was decided that the matter would be considered at a later date.

An application from Miss Hayden for permission to ask some of the Players to take part in a play to be done in Loretto Convent, Bray on a Sunday in May was granted.

The A-G-T. were granted permission to hold a party - the Pot Cafe & Peacock at a charge of 10/= to cover light.

Mr Hunt suggested that in the forthcoming production of "The Plough & the Stars" by Algernon should play Clitheroe, Cyril Cusack The Covey and Ted Shannon Fluther. These changes were agreed to.

Denis Robinson
March 29th

29th March 1938.

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre at 5.30 pm on Tuesday, 29th March 1938.

Present

Mr Lennox Robinson in the chair, Dr Richard Hayes Mr E. Blythe.

Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

Finance.

The Secretary reported that the Credit balance was £93-10-10.

Dr Hayes raised the question of the heavy losses being incurred on the productions in the Theatre and suggested that the American tour be terminated so that the Players there would be available for the Abbey.

The Board considered the matter and decided that in view of the Festival play & the rehearsals it was essential that the American Company should arrive home not later than May 15.

It was agreed that a cable in these terms be sent to Mr Higgins.

Permission was given to Rutgers-Shiels for two performances by the St Laurence O'Toole Dramatic Society early in May of "Paul Twyning" or "The Jailbird".

L. Mathew Hall.

The Board agreed to lend costumes to the L. Mathew Hall on condition that a deposit of three guineas was paid. If the costumes were returned in good condition the deposit less a charge for hiring, would be refunded.

Mr F. Ray

Leave of absence was granted to Mr Ray for 30th March 4th, 5th, 6th April on condition that he arranged for a substitute during his absence.

Opera House Cork.

The Board considered a letter from P. H. Selby applying that the Company might play in Cork for the two weeks Sept. 26th and Octobe 3rd. The Board decided that these dates were too early and that Mr Selby be asked for dates later than Octbe 10th.

American Tour

A cable was read from Mr Higgins stating that Mr Carolan had left San Francisco for Dublin. and that Mr Barry Fitzgerald did not yet know if he could come to Dublin for the Festival period.

Theatre Festival

The Secretary reported that Dr Coffey had agreed that a lecture during the Festival be given by Professor Hogan — the National University, Professor Hogan having agreed to lecture.

The Board further considered the programme of lectures and plays and made some alterations.

Mr Hunt reported that he had made enquiries about the Astor Cinema as a suitable place for holding the lectures but that the seating capacity was only 233.

It was decided that Mr Hunt should enquire at some of the Cinemas and that Mr Watson should enquire at the Gresham Hotel about the possibility of procuring the Aberdeen Hall.

Copies Rec'd 5/4/38

5th April 1938. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd held at the Abbey Theatre Dublin on Tuesday, 5th April 1938, at 5.30 p.m.

Present Mr E. Blythe in the Chair, Mr Lennox Robinson, Dr. Richard Hayes.

Minutes The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

Finance The Secretary reported that the credit balance was £888-7-0.

B.B.C. The Board considered an offer from the B.B.C, Belfast for a broadcast by the Abbey Co. on May 14th and

decided that the offer would not be accepted.

An estimate for the painting of the Safety Curtain and the panel over the stage at a cost of Five Guineas was submitted by Messrs J. J. Dolan and was accepted.

"T. C. D." & "The National Student"

The Board considered an application from the paper "T.C.D" for press seats and decided that be given for Tuesdays but not for first nights of new productions. It was also decided that the same privileges be given to "The National Student".

The Board decided that Mr Hunt be paid his fare to London in connection with the purchase of new lighting equipment.

The Board agreed to hire the Theatre for a Sunday performance which the Players were organising as a benefit for Mr P.J. Carlen.

The Board considered two letters from W.B. Yeats containing his suggestions for casting the part of Deirdre in "The Player Queen". The Directors decided that on the occasion of the Theatre Festival they could not invite an artist from outside the Theatre to play a leading part and that some other play should be substituted for The Player Queen.

The Directors agreed that in the event of Mr Denis Johnston having to travel from London to lecture at the Festival the Theatre should pay his fare.

The following bills were arranged

Apl 18 The Plough & the Stars

25 do.

May 2 The New Gossoon

9 The Twisting of the Rope (in Irish) and The Playboy

16 The Far Off Hills

23 Riders to the Sea & The Well of the Saints.

Denis Johnston
29/4/38

29th April 1938 Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30 pm on Friday, 29th April 1938.

Present Mr E. Blythe in the Chair, Mr Lennox Robinson, Dr Richard Hayes.

Minutes. The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

Finance. The Secretary reported that the credit balance was £437-4-9.

J. W. Yeats. A letter was read from Mr Yeats in which he said he had some time ago asked the Board never to announce a play of his for production without first communicating with him and that if this had been done the present trouble regarding the production of The Player Queen would not have arisen.

Mr Yeats further said he expected to be back in Dublin early in May and would probably have a new play to offer the Board by that time.

Feis Atha Cliath 1938 A letter was read from the Dublin Feis Committee enquiring if the Abbey & Peacock Theatres would be available for the Feis from 20/3/39 to 1/4/39.

The Board decided it would not be possible to let the Theatres for the period mentioned.

P. V. Selby. A letter was read from Mr Selby suggesting that if the Company were in Cork for the week Nov. 7th & Nov. 14th they might play in Belfast for the week Nov. 21st.

The Board decided to suggest to Mr Selby that he might pencil in the Belfast date pending further consideration of the matter.

Carden Benefit. A letter was read from Mr P H Considine stating that

"Castney + Kenney" by George Shiels had been selected as the play for the benefit performance on Sunday, May 29th. The Committee asked for permission to insert an advertising slip in the programme for a fortnight prior to the performance and also for permission to have tickets sold to the public at the Box Office.

The Board agreed to grant permission.

Phonographic Performance Ltd.

A letter was read from the Secretary, Phonographic Performance Ltd. stating that the Theatre should have a licence for the performance by means of Gramophone records in the action of plays. He suggested that the most economic licence would be a Comprehensive Licence at a charge of Six Guineas per annum.

The Board decided that this licence should be obtained

Arts Theatre of Cambridge.

In reply to an offer from the Arts Theatre of Cambridge of the weeks October 24th + 31st the Board decided it would not be possible to consider a visit to Cambridge earlier than the Spring of 1929.

Academy Operatic Society

An enquiry was received from Maestro Viani, Musical Director of the Academy Operatic Society asking if the Abbey Theatre would be available for Opratic performances on 2nd, 3rd + 4th June.

The Board decided to offer the Theatre at a charge of £50 for the three nights, with an extra charge of £10 for a dress rehearsal.

Fr. Mathew Hall. The Board decided that One Guinea be charged for Costumes etc hired from the Theatre and that Two Guineas balance of the deposit paid by Fr. Maurice O.M. Cap. be refunded to him.

M. P.J. Carolan. Dr Hayes agreed to arrange for M. Carolan's transfer at the earliest opportunity from the Nursing Home to a private ward in the Mater Hospital which would be much less expensive.
The Board agreed that pending further consideration half-salary (£3-18-0) be paid to Mrs Carolan.

Mr W. O'Gorman. Mr Hunt reported that he did not consider it worth while having Mr O'Gorman engaged whole time for the Festival period. The Board agreed with this view.

Contracts. It was agreed that Contracts for a further six months from 1st May 1928 at their present Salaries be given to Miss Clery, Miss Richards, Mr Redmond and Mr W. O'Gorman.
It was also agreed that when Mr Cyril Cusack's Contract expired on 30th June he be given a new one for one year at a salary of £6-15-0 per week.

Decisions re plays.

It was decided that "Thou Shouldst Only Have Sung" by J. Collis be returned as unsuitable, and that "Philosopher's Double" by T. Pursey be returned with the suggestion that the play be cut tightened up & resubmitted.

It was agreed that "Holiday House" by Teresa Deevy be accepted.

The Board considered Mr O'Connor's play "The Fenians" and decided they would like him to reconsider Act III with a view to omitting this act and telling the necessary facts in Act IV. The Board felt that the play would be greatly improved by this alteration.

School of Acting.

Mr Robinson raised the question of the possibility of running a permanent School with three sessions per year. He said that judging by the number of applications received it ought to be possible to have up to 100 pupils.

If a permanent school was established it would be advisable to retain the Peacock for its exclusive use and not to let the theatre to any outside body. In the event of the Pit Café being used for rehearsals he said the pupils would be greatly helped if a movable stage could be erected there.

It was decided that an estimate be obtained as to the cost of such a stage.

Mr Robinson was of opinion that a Director and two assistants would be needed for the running of the School on the lines he contemplated.

It was agreed that the matter be considered at a later date when Mr Robinson would submit a detailed scheme.

The Board decided that after the Minister for Finance had introduced the Budget a deputation consisting of two or three Directors should ask for an interview with him in order to learn the Government's views on the question of the reconstruction of the Theatre.

Film production

Mr Blythe reported on an interview he had with representatives of the Ministries of Industry & Commerce Finance and Education regarding the possibility of films being made in Ireland under the control of the Abbey.

The Government representatives were definitely of opinion that the Ministries would not be interested in a project for ~~the~~ doing the studio work in England and merely taking certain outdoor scenes in Ireland.

On the other hand the Government would be greatly interested in the possibility of erecting a studio probably in Dublin and of beginning in a small way the production of short films which would come under the British quota scheme and would be thus

ensured a certain circulation.

Under such a scheme the Government would be prepared to guarantee a sum of £20,000 on condition that a like sum was raised elsewhere.

Mr Blythe said that a detailed statement had been sent to Mr Higgins in America with a view to seeing if he could contact people who would ~~the~~ put up the sum of £20,000 required.

Eamon de Valera
17/5/38

17th May 1938 — Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30pm on Tuesday, 17th May 1938.

Present — Mr E. Blythe in the Chair, Dr Walter Starkie, Dr Richard Hayes.

Minutes. — The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

Mr P.J. Carolan — Arising out of the Minutes Dr Hayes informed the Board that Dr. M.J. Russell, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dublin Corporation was arranging for

Mr Carolan's transfer from the Private Hospital to Newcastle Sanitorium and that he would probably be moved in a day or two.

Finance. The Secretary reported that the Credit balance was £451-16-1.

Film Project A cable was read from Mr F.R. Higgins asking for details of the film project.

The Secretary reported that a detailed letter had been sent to Mr Higgins on 27th April.

"The Fenians" by Frank O'Connor. A letter was read from Mr O'Connor saying he could not consider the Directors' suggestion for the revision of "The Fenians" and that he was withdrawing the play.

Miss Ann Clery A letter was read from Miss Ann Clery asking that her salary under the new contract be raised from £4-10-0 to £5 per week owing to the fact that when the American Co. return to the Theatre she would only get occasional parts.

The Directors decided that Miss Clery be told that they felt she would have more work during the coming season than she thought but that if she did not get as much work as they anticipated the Board would be quite prepared to reconsider

the matter.

Augmented Orchestra. In reply to an application from Mr. T. May, the Board decided that for Horse Show week and for the two weeks of the Festival he had permission to augment the Orchestra by the addition of two players - the increase to be for these three weeks only.

A.E.T. In reply to a protest from the Abbey Experimental Theatre regarding the inclusion of Miss Bridget Lynch in some of the Festival plays the Board decided that the A.E.T. should be told that Miss Lynch had been engaged as a member of the Company in the interests of the Theatre.

Arts Theatre, Cambridge. In reply to an enquiry from the Arts Theatre, Cambridge the Board decided to abandon the idea of sending the Company to Cambridge in the Spring of 1939.

Academy Operatic Society. The Board decided that as the staff would probably be on holidays the Theatre could not be let to the Academy Operatic Society for the 9th 10th & 11th June dates for which they had applied.

Whyte premises In reply to an enquiry from J. J. Morrough

the Directors decided that they could not at present consider the letting of Whyte's premises, as they hoped in the near future to interview the Minister for Finance and hear his views on the question of the theatre reconstruction.

Promotions

Holiday pay for Players.

It was decided that as the American Company would probably arrive home about the 4th or 5th June, the following Players should be paid for three weeks holidays:- T.J. McCormick, Eileen Crerne, Maureen Delany, Ray Cairy, M.J. Dolan, Arthur Shields, U. Wright, Kit Rooney, Denis O'Dea.

The following home Players to receive four weeks holiday pay;- Ann Clery, Shelah Richards, Ted Johnson, Cyril Cusack. A payment of £5 to be made to Wm. O'Gorman.

Two weeks holiday pay to be also given to Maighdlin Kelgan, Sanya Morseiwitsch, Ann Yeats and Brid Lynch.

Mr Hunt's report.

Mr Hunt asked the Board to sanction the engagement for one week of Miss Aileen O'Connor, scene painter, to assist Miss Morseiwitsch. The Board agreed.

Mr Hunt submitted an application from Mr Wm. O'Gorman for an increase on his salary of

£3-10-0 per week. The Directors decided they could not grant an increase.

The Festival

Mr Hunt suggested that a ¼ page advertisement be inserted in "Drama" the organ of the British Drama League and that an article on the Festival be written and sent to "Drama". Dr Stokes agreed to write an article and the Board asked Mr Hunt to make enquiries regarding the advertisement and if possible to have it inserted in the June issue of "Drama".

It was agreed that a special meeting of the Board be held on Tuesday, 21st May to consider the publicity for the Festival and that Misses Corrigan & Wilson be asked to submit a small Poster Card suitable for ~~=~~ Railway Stations hotels &c

Barry Fitzgerald

The Board decided that as Barry Fitzgerald was not now needed for the Festival a cable to this effect should be sent to him.

Eamon Rice
24/5/38

24th May 1938. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin on Tuesday, 24th May 1938 at 5.30 p.m.

Present Mr E. Blythe in the Chair, Mr Lennox Robinson, Dr. Richard Hayes.

Minutes. The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

Finance The Secretary reported that the Credit balance was £375-14-1.

Festival advertising The Board approved of the Show Card for the Festival submitted by Messrs Corrigan Ltd and decided that 1000 should be distributed as effectively as possible.

The Secretary reported that a quarter page advertisement had been sent to "Drama" for the June + July issues.

It was decided to invite Mr A.E. Malone to an informal meeting with the Directors on Friday May 27th in order to discuss with him the best methods of publicising the Festival.

A letter was read from Mr Frank O'Connor stating he was opposed to several of the alterations made in the original list of plays suggested for the Festival. He was strongly

opposed to "Maurice Harte" and could see no reason for the inclusion of "Church Street" and "Blanco Point". If Mr Morrison was dissatisfied with the original play chosen it seemed to Mr Connor that the only alternative was "The Big Horse."

Mr O'Connor was seriously perturbed by the dropping of Colum's play "Thomas Muskerry" which in his opinion was the only play ranking with the best work of Synge and Lady Gregory and was one of the few plays encouraged by Mr Pilgrim and himself when they originally organised the Festival. He hoped the Board would reconsider its decision regarding this play.

With regard to the adjudicating of the plays entered for the Gaelic play Competition Mr O'Connor said he did not like Professor O'Brien as final adjudicator and felt that the final decision should rest with the Board.

The Board decided that in reply to Mr O'Connor it should be said that owing to the amount of work to be done in preparation for the Festival it had been found necessary to reduce the number of bills from twelve to ten one bill each week being given two performances. "Thomas Muskerry" was dropped by Common Consent, as it would need recasting and would be difficult to rehearse and produce before the Festival.

The Directors considered "Maurice Harte" a good play which should be done and substituted it for two one act plays

by the same author which had been previously suggested. Mr Robinson did not like "The Whiteheaded Boy" being done and was more anxious that "Church Street" should be played. As this play would fit in with "Maurice Harte" to make a bill the Board agreed to this arrangement.

"The Showing up of Blanco Posnet" was substituted for "The Playe Queen". The Theatre had done many of Shaw's plays and "Blanco Posnet" had its first production in the Abbey in spite of strong opposition from Dublin Castle.

With regard to the Gaelic play competition the Directors agreed that they should make the final decision with the proviso that an outside opinion might be necessary before a decision was reached.

Gaelic Play Competition. The Board decided that the last day for receiving plays entered for the Competition should be the 14th June instead of the 1st June as originally fixed.

New Stage light fixture. An estimate was submitted from Messrs Atlas for the erection of an enlarged suspension light fixture outside the proscenium at a cost of £17-5-0.

The Board accepted the estimate.

Book stall in Vestibule. Mr Robinson reported that Messrs Browne & Nolan were anxious to have an Irish book stall in the Vestibule

during the Festival and had offered a fee of £2-2-0.

The Board agreed accept Browne & Nolan's offer on condition that the stall erected did not in any way clash with the Corporation regulations.

The Board decided that a Garden Party during the Festival would not feasible and that this function be omitted from all future programmes.

Seamus O Rí
2/6/37

2nd June 1938. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre Dublin at 5.30 pm on Thursday, 2nd June 1938.

Present Mr E. Blythe in the Chair, Mr W.B. Yeats, Mr Lennox Robinson, Dr. Walter Starkie, Dr Richard Hayes, Mr Frank O'Connor.

Minutes. The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

Finance The Secretary reported that the overdraft was £444-12-5.

Arising out of the Minutes Mr O'Connor said he was definitely opposed to the dropping of 'Thomas Muskerry' from the list of Festival plays. He was also opposed to

the inclusion in the Festival programme of 'Pauric Haste' 'Church Street' and 'The Shewing up of Blanco Posnet'.

The Board then proceeded to consider the adequate presentation of the Synge plays during the Festival. Mr Yeats criticised the recent productions of 'Riders to the Sea' and 'The Well of the Saints'.

After some discussion it was decided that Mr Hunt should be asked to co-operate with Mr Arthur Shields in the production of these plays. It was also decided that certain changes should be made in the casts of the two plays.

New Producer

The Board considered the question of obtaining a new Producer in place of Mr Hunt who would be leaving at the end of the Festival season.

Mr O'Connor suggested Mr Denis Johnston as most suitable.

Mr Yeats suggested a manager who was not a producer might be appointed for six months and that the Manager could make use of any producer he selected from amongst the members of the Company.

Eventually the Board decided to carry on for three months after the Festival with Mr Arthur Shields assisted by Mr Fred Johnson

Festival Salaries

The Players salaries for the Festival fortnight were fixed as

follows:-

Cyril Cusack £10, Arthur Shields £10, F.J. McCormick £10, M.J. Dolan £10, Eileen Crowe £10, Maureen Delany £10, F. Johnson £8, Denis O'Dea £8, Mia Rooney £8, W. O'Gorman £7, Ray Cruz £6, Sheila Richards £6, Anna Cleary £6, Brefni Forman £5, Liam Redmond £5, J. Stephenson £3-3-0, Christine Hayden £3, Phyllis Ryan £3, A. Wright £2-10/-, all per week.

Aileen Stanners £5, Dolly Sullivan £4, Josephine Fitzgerald £3, Nora O'Mahony £3, Austin Meldon £4, J. Winter £4 per whatever parts they play during the fortnight.

Agreed

10th June 1938. A Special meeting of the Board of the National Theatre Socty. Ltd. was held in the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30 pm on 10th June 1938

Present Mr W.B. Yeats in the chair, M. Lennox Robinson. Lt Richard Hayes, Mr E. Blythe, M. T.R. Higgins.

The meeting was called for the purpose of considering the following letter from M. Frank O'Connor

COPY:

Lynduff,

Woodenbridge.

June 3rd. 1938.

Dear Eric,

At yesterday's meeting of the board of directors I found it necessary to criticise certain changes in the programme of the festival as on a previous occasion I had criticised the business arrangements of the festival. . Yesterday two members of the board very properly stated that it was my duty to have been present at the meetings at which these decisions were taken. I still find myself in disagreement with those decisions and consider the reasons given for them inadequate. One reason in particular, that for the production of BLANCO POSNET as expressed by you in your last letter I consider disgraceful and an insult to my intelligence. As decisions of this sort run directly contrary to my idea of a national theatre and the principles which should guide it; as I am not in a position to be present at most meetings of the board, and am debarred from expressing my opinion by the board's feeling on the matter, I must only resume my privilege of public criticism and resign from the board of directors.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd) FRANK O'CONNOR.

Eric Gorman Esq.,

after consideration the following letter was unanimously agreed on and directed to be sent to Mr O'Connor.

Dear Mr. O'Connor,

The Board exceedingly regret the receipt of your letter of the 3rd inst., tendering your resignation as a Director of the Society. The Directors are sorry that you have taken this action in view of your invaluable services to the Theatre during the years when you have been a member of the Board. The Board is pleased, however, that your resignation from the Board does not mean your resignation from the Society. The Directors, therefore, unanimously ask that you would reconsider your decision and wish to point out that the difficulty of your regular attendance at our meetings does not impair your usefulness to us and the Board would be very glad to let you know of any special business that may arise at meetings which you may find yourself able to attend. If, however, you are unable to reconsider your position, the Board will leave your seat vacant and as you are still a Member of the Society, the Directors wish to be in a position to co-opt you as a Member of the Board at any time you think fit.

Yours faithfully,
THE NATIONAL THEATRE SOCIETY LTD.,

Eric Gorman,

Secretary.

A SPECIAL MEETING of the Directors was held on Friday the 24th June.
Present: W.B. Yeats in the Chair; Walter Starkie; Ernest Blythe; F.R. Higgins; and Lennox Robinson.

The Programme of plays for July was considered and revised as follows;

Week commencing 4th July - "The Silver Jubilee" and "Riders to the Sea."

Week commencing 11th July - "Church Street" and "Damer's Gold".

Week commencing 18th July - "The Shewing-up of Blanco Posnet" and "Maurice Harte."

Week commencing 25th July - "The Moon in the Yellow River".

"Purgatory" a new play by W.B. Yeats has been substituted for "The Rising of the Moon" during the Festival, on Wednesday 10th August, 1938.

Mr. Blythe interviewed Mr. Hunt on the subject of the production and casting in "The Well of the Saints" and "Riders to the Sea", and Mr. Hunt agreed that he should himself tell Arthur Shields that the Directors wished the plays produced in the traditional manner of the Theatre and that he could do this only with Shields help.

The Board then considered the question of Mr. May's illness and agreed that Miss Doyle should be asked to act as his deputy but that Dr. Larchet should be asked as a special favour to take over the orchestrs for Horse Show Week and for the Festival.

FESTIVAL: It was agreed that "The Rising of the Moon" should be omitted from the programme for the 10th August and Mr. Yeats' new play "Purgatory" be substituted.

P.J. CAROLAN DECD. The account from the Mater Hospital in connection with Mr. P.J. Carolan's death was presented by Mr. Higgins; Dr. Hayes had verified it and it was agreed that the Theatre should pay it.

Insert

1st July 1938. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin at 5.30 pm on Friday 1st July 1938.

Present Mr. W.B. Yeats in the Chair, Mr Lennox Robinson, Dr. Walter Starkie, Mr E. Blythe, Mr T.R. Higgins.

Minutes. The Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd June and of the Special meeting held on 10th June and 24th June, 1938, were read confirmed and signed.

Arising out of the Minutes Mr Robinson reported that Dr. Larchet was willing to take over the Orchestra for Horse Show week and for the two weeks of the Festival and that he had suggested six performers for those weeks at a total cost of £25 per week.

The Board agreed to this suggestion.

Finance. The Secretary reported that the Bank overdraft was £688-7-1 but that Mr Higgins was lodging £765=2=0 being the balance in his hands for the American tour.

American Tour. Mr Higgins submitted a financial statement regarding the American tour. This statement showed that subject to final audit the estimated profit

on the tour would be £3115-4-3.

Mr Higgins gave a detailed explanation of the various items in the Statement, which had been drawn up by the Auditors for the information of the Board.

The following report on the tour was submitted by Mr Higgins:-

Office

THE SEVENTH AMERICAN TOUR of the Abbey Players opened in New York on October 2nd, 1937, in the Ambassador's Theatre when we presented "Katie Roche" which was given five performances. The play met with a very bad reception from the critics and the effect on Messrs. Shubert was very detrimental to our future prospects. After playing "The Plough and the Stars" for four performances we produced "Far-Off Hills" and as the receipts immediately jumped with the production of this play Shubertes persisted in retaining the play in performance for as long as possible, with the result that "Far-Off Hills" appeared in New York for six weeks. Afterwards we reverted to our repertoire, presenting "Playboy" and other plays week about. After eleven weeks performance in New York we moved to Boston where we played for three weeks, and from there we went to Philadelphia, playing in that City for two weeks. At the end of our Philadelphian engagement our contract with Shubert ceased, and we began under the management of Grismas for our week's performance in Toronto; two weeks in Chicago; and one week in St. Louis. Our contract with Grisman terminated at the end of the one week in St. Louis, and having negotiated a new contract with E.A. Wickes we moved from St. Louis to San Francisco where we played for three weeks. A further two weeks was spent playing in Los Angeles and afterwards we played for half a week in Arizona, travelling from there to Minneapolis and St. Paul for one week; Milwaukee for a further week and the following three weeks were spent in Indianapolis, Columbus, Cleveland and Washington, and in the latter City the best ~~of~~ business of the tour was received.

The Company spent thirty five weeks in the United States and Canada, during which time they played for thirty one and a half weeks and the balance of the time was spent in travelling and during our final week in New York prior to our return. While the players were travelling and during Christmas week when they were not playing they were paid at half rate per their Contracts.

RECEPTION OF PLAYS: The net receipts of this Tour are higher than those obtained during the previous tour. This was due to the fact that the terms we procured from the American organisations were higher than those obtained previously, but the total gross receipts of the present Tour were much lower than those previously obtained. With rare exceptions we received a most enthusiastic reception from the American Critics as our Press Cuttings will show, but the attendance of the public in the various Cities we visited outside New York was considerably lower than on former occasions. It is

hard to explain this falling off in receipts in view of our enthusiastic receptions but undoubtedly the present financial depression in the United States militated against us considerably as it has also militated against all American Theatres. Outside New York, I noticed that our audiences were mainly composed of old supporters of the Abbey, together with students of Universities and Colleges, and in these centres the main demand was shown for, what one might term, the Abbey Classics, while in New York appreciation was only given to lighter Comedy of a general appeal. I appeAd to this ~~Report~~ Report an analysis of the number of productions and the amount of business procured for each play during our Tour and it will be noticed that the order of popularity on financial average per performance was "The Plough and the Stars" as our leading attraction during the entire Tour, followed by "Playboy" and "Far-Off Hills". Owing to the pessimism of Messrs. Shubert after their "Katie Roche" set-back, they were absolutely opposed to the production of any new play of ours that had not already been produced in the States and the result was that we were'nt able to produce a play such as "The Silver Jubilee" until after we broke with the Shubert control. "The Silver Jubilee" was an undoubted success from our first performance and had it appeared in New York it would have given us another financial success.

FINANCE: Accompanying this Report you will also find a summary of receipts and expenditure prepared by our Auditors for the purpose of giving the Directors an idea as to the approximate result of the Tour. These accounts are subject to final verification of all receipts and vouchers appertaining to the Balance Sheet.

PRODUCERS: After a rather terrifying experience with the vast organisation of Messrs. Shubert, I am convinced that future tours should not be sponsored by such concerns. Their outlandish expenditure of money is out of all proportion to an organisation such as the Abbey Theatre. American Producers feel that the more money expended on a production is the only gateway to success and therefore that mentality produces an extravagence with which we are unable to cope and criticism of such extravagance makes you subject to ridicule. Apart from this attitude, it may be stated that these ~~are~~ large commercial enterprises treat the Abbey Theatre as a drop in their Theatrical Ocean which is subject to the ordinary routine notices and publicity and unless a show produces an immediate success the American organisations is inclined to drop all future productions. They want quick success and are prepared to gamble on a huge return and if these returns do not reach their expenditure they immediately lose heart and are capable of the most dishonest intrigue. My experience with the Shuberts was of a ghastly nature in my endeavour to fully counteract financial trickery which when it is exposed is not met with an apology but with a laugh. The endeavours to countermand such trickery and intrigue entails a financial burden unnecessary for an organisation such as the Abbey and during my dealings with the Shuberts firm unnecessary expenditure was incurred to combat their methods; this would be entirely unnecessary in association with a different type of firm. I had to visit New York at least five times after I left their Boston Theatre about 200 dollars, to fight for our legal revenue and terms. I had also to employ assistance to check the Box Office during every performance to prevent faking of Returns, having discovered that they were capable of doing such faking after my first few days with them. Such items of expenditure are entirely unnecessary in association with an organisation such as Elbert Wickes Organisation, and in my opinion these organisations are more suitable for

handling an Abbey Tour. The Abbey plays are of a specialised nature as far as the American Public is concerned and therefore must be nursed to obtain full American support; publicity of a such nature concentrated on the Universities and Academic bodies are essential. Such publicity was not sought by the Shubert organisation, whereas the firm of Hickes built all their hopes upon such methods of filling houses. Personal contacts in the form of Lectures etc., on the Abbey movement is essential and such lectures are encouraged by the non-commercial type of Producer.

FUTURE TOURS: I am therefore strongly of the opinion that for future tours of the ordinary Abbey repertoire we should not be associated with a large commercial enterprise. If we desire the possibility of large financial success on the other hand, I think we should keep contact with firms such as Shubert and only produce one or two plays of a very light character; not of any Irish appeal, and of such material that will appeal to the Broadway's passing audiences. Anything of a serious nature finds very little appreciation on Broadway; the appeal for such work is usually outside New York.

THE PLAYERS: My experience of the Players on this Tour has been very beneficial as the Manager of the Theatre, and most of the players - at least those who are young players, co-operate loyally with every endeavour of the management to give the Abbey Theatre the prominence that it deserves. Some of our older Players are most difficult to handle; they are mainly concerned with personal publicity and personal pre-eminence, and their lack of discipline and co-operation is likely to have a very bad effect on their juniors. I had occasionally to threaten suspension because of grave breaches of disciplineand I may finally say that unless such players are made to realise that their services to the Theatre are not indispensable, the discipline of the Players not subject to strict control is impossible. Most of the players, however, were very amenable to all suggestions when it was to their personal advantage. Anything outside their own personal ends was the subject of criticism and opposition. The work of all the Players on the stage was creditable and in no wise subject to my criticism.

Royalties on Performances. American Tour 1937/38.

Author:	Times perfrmd.		Royalty.
E. Colman Forbes.	19 Silver Jubilee.		380.00.
Lennox Robinson	96 Far-Off Hills.	4115.55.	
	14 Drama at Inish.	452.45.	4567.80.
George Shiels	27 New Gossoon.		675.00.
Frank O'Connor	10 In the Train.		100.00.
Teresa Deevy	5 Katie Roche		125.00.
Exors. Lady Gregory	23 Rising of the Moon.		230.00.
Sean O'Casey	24 Plough & Stars.	1106.60	
	29 Juno	1079.25.	2185.85.
Exors. J.M. Synge.	33 Playboy.	1229.35.	
	27Riders to the Sea.	170.00.	1399.35.
			9663.00.

GROSS TAKINGS. AMERICAN TOUR 1937/38.

Name of Play.	Times perfrmd.	Total Receipts.	Average per performance.	Order of popularity.
Far-Off Hills.	96.	82,307.23.	857.37.	3.
Playboy	33	30,238.76.	916.33.	2.
Plough and the Stars.	24.	22,133.48.	922.23	1.
Juno	29.	21,343.07.	735.97.	4.
New Gossoon	27.	16,426.34.	608.38.	7.
Silver Jubilee.	19.	12,675.27.	667.12.	5.
Drama at Inish	14.	9,049.15.	646.37.	6.
Katie Roche	5.	3,018.50.	603.70.	8.
	247.	197,191.80		

Average Takings per Performance - 798.35.

Mr. F.F. Ray. The Secretary read a certificate signed by W.J. Merrick M.B., Acting R.M.O., Palmerston Home, Palmerstown, Co Dublin stating that Mr F.F. Ray was a patient in the Home suffering from a nervous breakdown and that he would not be fit to resume his duties for at least three months.

Broadcast. A letter was read from Mrs A. Beers asking for permission to broadcast a short excerpt from an Abbey play during Horse Show week or shortly afterwards the broadcast to form

her marriage wished to keep he position in the Office she could do so.

The following Changes of Cast in the Festival plays were agreed to:-
F.J. McCormick instead of J. Stephenson in "On Baile's Strand"; Arthur Shields as George, Fred Johnson as Tausch, Austin Meldon as Lennigan, Shelah Richards as Blainid in The Moon in the Yellow River"; W. O'Gorman instead of Fred Johnson as Jimmy the Smith in "The Well of the Saints".

(Signed) R.J.
8/7/38

8th July 1938

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30 pm on Friday, 8th July 1938.

Present

Mr E. Blythe in the Chair, M. Lennox Robinson, Dr Walter Starkie, Mr F.R. Higgins.

Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

Finance. The Secretary reported that the Bank overdraft was £7-15-9.

An account was submitted from Dr. Edward J. Leeman for the sum of twenty guineas for attendance on P.J. Carolan dcsd.
The Board passed this account for payment.

A letter was read from Miss Mulhern and Miss Aideen O'Connor asking if they could be paid something for weeks in which they had several rehearsals but were not playing.
The Board decided to defer consideration of this letter until a later date. and it was decided that Miss Mulhern's salary should be £1-16-0 and Miss O'Connor's £2 per week when playing.

School of Acting The Secretary reported that a sub-committee consisting of Mr Blythe, Mr Robinson and Mr Higgins had considered the question of the School of Acting. They agreed in principle with the proposal that the school should be expanded, Mr Robinson stating that it should be possible to obtain up to one hundred pupils.
They also suggested two terms one from the middle of September to the middle of January and one from the middle of January to the middle of May the fee for

each term to be Five Guineas.

It was also agreed in principle that there should be a Principal of the School at a salary of £6 per week and also an assistant. Also that some classes should be taken during each term by Miss Payne and Mr Herbert Mooney, and if there was any demand for a Gaelic Play class Cyril Cusack could be invited to take this.

It was suggested that Mr Robinson should be appointed Principal with Miss Mooney as his assistant, she to act and do the school of acting work as formerly at a salary of £6-15-0 per week.

It had also been agreed by the sub committee that if this scheme was put into force in its entirety the Peacock Theatre would be necessary and that the only letting which should be made would be one week per month to the Gaelic Dramatic

The Board accepted the suggestions of the Sub-committee and agreed that the report be adopted.

Mr Hunt. Mr Hunt reported that he would find it very difficult to find time for rehearsals of "The Jailbird" one of the plays for Horse Show week.

The Board decided that "Shadow and Substance" should be substituted and played on August 1st 2nd and 3rd.

Whytes Premises.

The Board considered the question of letting Whytes premises but decided that nothing could be done until some decision was given by the Government on the question of rebuilding the Theatre. It was also decided that Dr Hayes be asked to see the Minister of Finance about this matter and if Dr Hayes so wished other members of the Board would join him in the interview.

School of Acting.

It was agreed that pupils of the School of Acting should be admitted free of charge to the lectures being given during the Festival.

Agnes Reid
29/7/38

29th July 1938. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin at 5.30 p.m. on Friday 29th July 1938.

Present Mr E. Blythe in the Chair, Mr Lennox Robinson, Dr Richard Hayes, Dr Walter Starkie, Mr F.R. Higgins.

Minutes The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

Arising out of the Minutes Mr Robinson reported

that Miss Mooney was not willing to undertake work in the School of Acting as she found it too difficult during the last season to do the School work and attend evening rehearsals when required.

The Board decided that Mr Robinson should bring forward some of the suggestion re an Assistant in the School.

Mr Higgins reported that he had been interviewed by Miss O'Connor & Miss Mulhern re the Board's decision as to the salaries they would be paid. Mr Higgins said that as it seemed possible that both these ~~ladies~~ ladies might decline to play in the plays which were going on immediately and would be also included in the Festival programme he consulted with the Secretary and decided to give both of them a salary of £2-10-0 per week when playing. Their services could be dispensed with after the Festival if the Board thought fit. The Board approved of Mr Higgins' action.

Finance — The Secretary reported that the Credit balance at the Bank was £70=0=5.

Interviews with Ministers for Finance — It was agreed that Mr Blythe, Dr Starkie and Mr Higgins should form the deputation

to intervene the Minister for Finance on a day during Horse Show Week to be fixed by him.

Matinees. Mr Higgins raised the question of restoring the Saturday matinees. The Board decided to reconsider the matter at a later date and also to consider the question of having a matinee on the first production of a new play.

The Board agreed to hire a piano for Horse Show week and the two weeks of the Festival, Dr Lorchet having reported that the one at present in use was in a very bad condition

Dublin Corpn. A letter was read from the Medical Officer of Health, Dublin Corporation enquiring what steps had been taken to comply with the Corporation's requirements regarding the reconstruction of dressing rooms.
Mr Irby the promised to intervene Dr Russell & explain matters to him.

A.E.T. A letter was read from Mrs Mooney & Mrs Potter representing the Abbey Experimental Theatre stating they hoped they would not be debarred from obtaining the Peacock Theatre for performances during the coming season. They had been informed

by Mr Robinson that the Peacock would be required for the exclusive use of the School of Acting.

The Board decided that the Experimental Theatre should be given the use of the Peacock for some performances and that Miss Morrey be informed accordingly.

B.B.C. It was agreed to accept an offer from the B.B.C. Belfast for a broadcast of "Kathleen ni Houlihan" and "Riders to the Sea" during the week commencing 4th Dec. next.

Clock. The Board agreed to have a clock electrified at a cost of 39/=

The Board also agreed that a new sewing machine be purchased, the old one which is the property of the wardrobe mistress being no longer of any use.

It was agreed that if either Dr Hayes or Mr Higgins were in favour of Mr Robinson's play "Birds Nest" it should be accepted and produced as soon as ready after the Festival.

The Board decided that at their meeting on

Friday 5th August Mr Robinson should give a full statement of all matters connected with the Festival and all information regarding the finances of the Festival.

Agreed
5/8/38

5th Aug 1938. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin at 6.30 pm on Friday 5th August 1938.

Present Mr E. Blythe in the Chair, Mr Lennox Robinson, Dr. Richard Hayes, Mr F.R. Higgins.

Minutes The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

Finance The Secretary reported that the Credit balance at the Bank was £284-8-10.

Re Festival In reply to an enquiry from Mr Higgins as to what arrangements had been made regarding the broadcast at the Festival Reception in the Municipal Art Gallery Mr Robinson said that the broadcast had been arranged by Miss O'Brien. The speakers who

had been asked to broadcast were M. Dunsaley, Mac namara Mr Shields, Miss Delany, M. Robinson and Mr Hunt.

After some discussion on the speakers selected and having considered whether the arrangements for the broadcast should be cancelled the Board eventually decided that Mr Higgins should see and approve of the scripts of the broadcasts to be made by Mr Shields and Mr Hunt.

M. Robinson reported that the performances of "Kathleen ni Houlihan" and "The Rising of the Moon" in the first week and "The Twisting of the Rope" in the second week were being relayed from the stage by 2 R.N.

M. Higgins referred to the Brochure and quoted estimated advertising rates for such a publication He pointed out that if an advertising canvasser had been employed by the Theatre and the Brochure issued by the Theatre a substantial revenue could have been obtained.

Interview with Minister for Finance

Mr Blythe reported on interviews which he, Dr Starkie and Mr Higgins had had earlier in the day with the Minister for Finance. He said that the Government were definitely agreed on the erection of a theatre block and were prepared to spend up to £100,000. The block which would cover the site of the present Abbey Peacock Theatre, the portion of the

laneway behind them and the buildings on Eden Quay would consist of three theatres with seating capacities of roughly 700, 400 and 300, the largest theatre being for the Abbey, the second largest for the Gate and the smallest for An Comhar Drámaíochta.

Mr Bligh the said he did not think that the Govern. ment would agree to build a theatre for the Abbey alone. and that the scheme outlined by the Minister depended on agreement being reached by the three groups mentioned.

The Minister asked that the matter be kept as confidential as possible.

It was decided that at their next meeting the Board should discuss the points to be put before the Gate & the Comhar and it was also agreed that the full Board should then meet representatives of An Comhar.

The Board agreed that the cost of painting the office should be paid when the account came in.

(Cyprian Rigl)
12/8/31

12th August 1938.

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on Friday 12th August 1938 at 5.30 p.m.

Present

Mr E. Blythe in the chair, Mr W.B. Yeats, Dr Richard Hayes, Mr F.R. Higgins.

Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting were read, Confirmed and signed.

Finance.

The Secretary reported that the credit balance at the Bank was £481=0=2.

Mr Yeats drew the attention of the Board to a statement made by Father Connolly of Boston to the effect that he (Fr. Connolly) had read Mr Yeats' play "Purgatory". Mr Yeats said that as the play was not published it was clear that Fr. Connolly must have be given a copy of the Script which Mr Yeats had sent to the Theatre. He said it was most undesirable that anyone Connected with the Theatre should give the Script of a play to an outsider.

Mr Yeats also said he understood that a Mr Strong had made a copy of the play.

The Board decided that the matter should be fully investigated and Mr Higgins was asked

to make discreet enquiries in to the matter.

Back Pit 2/6 at festival

The Board agreed that as many Back Pit seats had been vacant during some of the nights during the Festival, these seats should be sold at the door @ 2/6 each after 8 o.c.

Reconstruction scheme.

The Board decided that Lord Longford & Hilton Edwards or Michael Noe Liamnoir be invited to meet the Directors, if possible on Monday, 22nd August, to explore the possibility of drawing up a scheme for presentation to the Minister for Finance.

Festival

Dr Hayes said he regretted that Mr Robinson was not at the meeting as he wished to enquire who supplied to the press the list of names of those attending the Reception in Charlemont House. He said that in the lists published in the papers the names of the members of the Government present were at the end. These names should have been at the top and it was wrong to have supplied a list as it appeared in the press. It was likely to create a bad impression and in view of the negotiations being carried on re rebuilding it was regrettable that this should have occurred.

Other members of the Board said they wished

to ask M. Robinson for information regarding the Festival and the Board agreed that he should have been present to supply whatever information was required.

Mr Hunts report.

It was decided that Mrs Crowe, Miss Delany, Esther Shields, T.J. McCormick and M.J. Dolan be given a weeks holiday for the week commencing Monday August 22nd.

Mr Hunt suggested for the weeks following the Festival the following plays :- Aug 22 "Drama at Inish", Aug 29 "The Newlyweds" Sept 5 "The Plough & the Stars" Sept 12 Production of "Bird's Nest" by Lennox Robinson.

The Board agreed to this programme and also agreed to the cast of "Birds Nest."

The Board decided that Mr Malachi Keegan Stage Manager be paid an extra £2 per week for the two weeks of the Festival owing to the amount of extra work he was called upon to do. The Board also agreed that after the festival his salary should be increased to £3 per week.

It was decided that the question of the School of Acting be considered at the next meeting and that Mr Michael J Dolan be selected as the assistant in lieu of Miss

money who had been originally selected.

The Board agreed that whenever they contemplated terminating Miss Priseventsch's engagement as Designer she would be notified in order that she could send in her resignation rather than receive a notice terminating her engagement.

Lady Gregory
19/8/38.

9th Aug 1938. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30 p.m. on Friday, 19th August 1938.

Present Mr W.B. Yeats in the Chair, Mr Lennox Robinson, Dr Walker Starkie, Mr E. Blythe, Mr T.R. Higgins.

Minutes The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

Arising out of the Minutes Mr Higgins reported that he had made enquiries regarding the Script of Mr Yeats' play "Purgatory". Neither Mr Dolan nor Mr Redmond had lent their scripts to anyone but Mr F.J. McCormick admitted that he had borrowed a copy from Mr Hunt and had lent it to Fr. Connolly.

Mr Higgins then handed in a letter he had received from Mr McCormick who stated that he had given the script to Fr. Connolly in all good faith and that Fr. Connolly returned it immediately he was asked for it, and that neither he nor Fr. Connolly had copied it.

Mr. McCormick went on to say that he might have been guilty of a technical breach of confidence in giving the script but that everything was done in good faith.

The Board decided that scripts of plays should never be given to outsiders by members of the Company and it was an infringement of the Rules of the Theatre for anyone to do so. It was decided that a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the Theatre be be posted on the Notice Board in the Theatre.

Finance. The Secretary stated that the Credit Balance was £807-0-9.

In reply to a request from Mr Cyril Cusack the Board granted him permission to broadcast from 2 R.N. on Friday 26th August.

Reconstruction Scheme. The Board discussed the outline of the reconstruction scheme to be presented to Lord Longford, Hilton Edwards and Michael MacLiammoir, and it was agreed that Dr Starkie, Mr Blythe, Mr Higgins and Mr McGinnis should

meet them on Monday 22nd August.

Mr Frank O'Connor — Mr Higgins reported that he had seen Mr O'Connor who wished to withdraw his resignation from the Board. Mr O'Connor would come to Dublin for occasional meetings of the Board and when important matters were being considered.

The Board decided that when Mr O'Connor came to a meeting his rail fare to & from Dublin should be paid by the Theatre.

The Festival — The Board discussed the Festival and agreed that it had been a success by reason of the great publicity it had gained for the Theatre.

The question of another Festival was raised but could not be considered owing to the uncertainty as to when the Theatre would be available in view of the reconstruction proposals at present being discussed.

New Producer. — The question of a Producer to succeed Mr Hunt was considered and it was agreed that the Board would not ask him to remain later than the end of October on the understanding that if he wished to go sooner he would be at liberty to do so.

Managers. — The Board agreed that a Manager should be appointed

for a period of six months and Mr F.R. Higgins was suggested for the position. Mr Higgins agreed to accept the appointment as from the middle of September at a salary of £5 per week.

Mr Higgins was authorised to try out persons he might select for the position of Producer, and report the results to the Board.

It was also agreed that except on Confidential matters Mr Higgins should report weekly to the Board, in writing.

It was agreed that Mr Higgins should enquire from Mrs Noiseiwitsch if she were willing to remain on for some period after Mr Hunt's departure

Players Contracts

The question of contracts for Players was considered and it was agreed that Mr. Higgins should examine and report on the whole matter. In the meantime Players who formerly had Contracts were to be treated as if they now had them.

Seamus Ó Riain
2/9/31

2nd Sept. 1938. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society. Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30 p.m. on Friday, 2nd Sept. 1938.

Present Mr E. Blythe in the Chair, Professor Robinson, Dr Richard Hayes, M. J. R. Higgins.

Minutes. The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

Miss Norsworthy. Arising out of the Minutes Mr Higgins reported that he had interviewed Miss Norsworthy who offered reasons to stay on in the Theatre after Mr Hunt's departure. She had asked for time to conside the matter.

Mr Higgins added that he had intimated to her that in all probability the Board would some months hence ask her to resign as Miss Yeats would then be required to carry on by herself.

Contracts for Players. Mr Higgins also referred to Contracts for Players and said he was of opinion that Contracts should not exist the old Players being retained on the same terms as on their former Contracts.

It was agreed that Mr Higgins should furnish a written report on the subject.

Finance. The Secretary reported that the Bank balance was

£521-1-0.

Reconstruction Scheme

Mr Blythe reported that the Directors had had two meetings with Lord Longford, Hector Edwards and Mr Liammoir and that the suggested scheme had been agreed to with some minor alterations.

A meeting had been arranged for Monday 5th Sept. with representatives of An Gaelta Damnuchta.

School of Acting.

Mr Robinson said he was not anxious to work in the School as he had done during the last term and suggested that Mr Dolan & Miss Richards should be given charge. He (Mr Robinson) was quite willing to supervise their work at a nominal fee, as he felt that supervision would be needed.

The Board discussed the matter and decided that Mr Dolan with Miss Richards as his assistant be appointed at salaries of £2-10-0 per week each and that Mr Robinson be paid a nominal fee of £1 per week for supervising. Mr Higgins to look after the financial side.

If there was a demand for a Gaelic class Mr Cusack to be given charge of it.

This arrangement would be reviewed by the Board at the end of three months.

Work Bills.

The Board agreed that "The Jailbird"; "The Plough

and the Stars" and "Shadow + Substance" should be
the bills for Cork. No decision as to the
fourth bill was taken but "Boyd's Shop" or
"Bird's Nest" were suggested.

Belfast. It was also agreed that "Shadow + Substance", "The Jailbird" and possibly "Bird's Nest" should be the bills for Belfast.

It was agreed that the bills for the coming weeks should be:- Sept. 4th "Shadow and Substance", Sept 11th "The Jailbird", Sept. 18th "Boyd's Shop".

It was agreed that "Caesar's Image" by E. J. Carey be accepted if the author agreed to give the Producer permission to cut the play as he considered necessary.

It was agreed that if Dr Hayes agreed to acceptance "The White Steed" by Paul V. Carroll should be accepted and put into rehearsal.

Seán Ó Riada
9/9/38

9th Sept. 1938

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society. Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre Dublin at 5.30pm on Friday, 9th Sept: 1938.

Present

Mr W. Blythe in the Chair, Mr Lennox Robinson, Dr Richard Hayes.

Minutes.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

Arising out of the Minutes Dr Hayes reported that could not agree to the acceptance of "The White Steed" by Paul V. Carroll.

The Board decided that the play be returned to P. Carroll and considered the draft of a letter to be sent to him. It was agreed that this draft be further considered before being issued.

New Producer

The Board considered the appointment of a new producer and decided that Mr Robinson should write unofficially to Mr Denis Johnston asking him if he would accept the position for a period of six months at a salary of £7.10.0 per week.

Mr A Shields.

The Board interviewed Mr Shields who said he had decided to accept an offer of a guaranteed

six weeks engagement in New York.

The Chairman informed Mr Shields that no ill-will was felt at his leaving and that if he came back after this engagement he would be re-employed as an actor in whatever parts were available for him.

"Pilgrims" by Mary Ryan.

On the motion of Mr McDermott seconded by Dr Hayes it was agreed to accept "Pilgrims" by Mary Ryan and that Miss Ryan be informed that the Producer would consult her on any alterations he thought necessary.

"The Great Adventure" by Chas J Tolley.

It was also agreed to accept "The Great Adventure" a comedy in one act which had been returned to the author Chas. J. Tolley for re writing and was now considered satisfactory.

It was agreed that if business justified, "Birds Nest" should run a second week & that "The Great Adventure" be produced and played with it.

School of Acting

The Board decided that Mr Dolan and Mr Cusack be the teachers in the School of Acting and that they be paid 10/= per class Mr Cusack to also take any Gaelic classes at the same rate.

Mr Hunt. Mr Hunt informed the Board that it was possible that he might ask to be allowed to leave the theatre on the 15th October or if not then at the end of that month.

It was agreed that Mr Patk Carey be paid per week £2-10-0 for playing in "Birds Nest".

16/9/38

16th Sept 1938. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on Friday, 16th Sept. 1938, at 5.30 p.m.

Present Mr E. Blythe in the Chair, Mr Lennox Robinson, Dr. Richard Hayes.

Minutes. The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

Finance. The Secretary reported that the Credit Balance at the Bank was £562-9-8.

"The White Steed" by Paul V. Carroll. The Board discussed the letter to be sent to Mr Carroll when returning his play "The White Steed" and it was

decided that it should be as follows:-

Your play "The White Steed" has now been carefully read by my Directors who were very pleased to receive a new play by you. They are, however, of opinion that in it you do not maintain that touch between the actual and the imaginative which distinguishes "Shadow and Substance".

In "The White Steed" not only is there excessive exaggeration of incident and a sacrifice of characterisation to strident propaganda but some of the postulates (important sections of the machinery) used to produce the action of the play, are entirely incredible.

My Directors feel that the theme which so closely resembles that of "Shadow and Substance" needs to be handled with similar sympathy and artistic fidelity in order to provide a worthy successor to that fine play.

If "The White Steed" had not already, as is understood, been accepted elsewhere my Directors would have urged you to re-write it. But as, presumably, it would not now be practicable for you to remodel the play they can only return it to you as unsuitable for the Abbey.

New Producer

a letter addressed by Denis Johnston to R. Robinson was read. Mr Johnston said he was very flattered by Directors' offer of the Abbey producership but that as he was under contract with the B.B.C. terminable by three months notice he feared it would be impossible for him to come to the Abbey when required.

He would ask the B.B.C if they would give him a temporary release and would write again in a few days.

School of Acting

Mr Robinson raised the question of the payment to be made to Mr Dolan + M. Cusack for their work in the School of Acting. He had offered them as originally arranged, £2-10-0 per week each but the

Board had since decided that the payment should be at the rate of 10/= per lesson. Neither Mr. Dolan nor Mr Cusack were willing to accept the new terms offered.

It was decided that the Board would conside the matter further when they received a report as to the number of students accepted as a result of the auditions.

On Mr Robinson's suggestion the Board agreed to the purchase of a roll top desk for Mr Hyppis who would be taking up his duties as Manager in a few days.

Mr Hunt's report

Mr Hunt reported that Mrs Rynne had rewritten the play "Pilgrims" and had greatly improved it.

The Board discussed and agreed on the cast and decided that the play be produced on 10th Octr.

Bills previous to this were agreed on as follows:-
1st Sept. - Bird's Nest & The Great Adventure, 26 Sept.:-
Blind Man's Buff; 3rd Octr. The Jailbird.

It was decided that the following plays be returned to their authors:- "Life Goes On" by Maura Rollay; The House Door by L St. Aston; In Search of Valour by Teresa Deevy; Incurables by O. St. Fogarty.

Secretary

20/9/28

30th Sept. 1938 — Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Socty. Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre at 5.30 pm on Friday, 30th Septr. 1938.

Present — Mr E. Blythe in the Chair, Mr Lennox Robinson, Dr. Richard Hayes, Mr F.R. Higgins.

Minutes. — The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

Finance — The Secretary reported that the Credit balance at the Bank was £710-18-11.

Mr Denis Johnston. — A letter was read from Mr Denis Johnston regretting that it was impossible for him to get temporarily released by the B.B.C. and hoping that the Directors would keep him in mind for the position of Producer, on a later occasion.

Report by Mr Higgins. — Mr Higgins reported that there had been several burglaries in the Theatre during the past few weeks and that so far as was known goods to the value of £50 had been stolen. Two detectives were now on the premises at night.

Mr Higgins said he had made enquiries re insurance against burglary and that the Commercial Union Assurance Co. were willing to issue a policy at a rate

of 4/= per cent.

The Board agreed that this insurance policy should be taken out.

Mr Higgins also suggested that Mr Hunt be asked to stay until the end of October so that he could rehearse "Shadow and Substance" in preparation for its revival and subsequent production in Cork.

The Board agreed to this and also agreed that Mr Robinson and Mr Dolan should arrange and take the rehearsals of the plays to be done in Dublin during the three weeks covered by visits to Cork + Belfast.

Gaelic Play Competition.

It was proposed by Mr Robinson, seconded by Dr. Hayes and agreed that the prize of £50 be divided equally between "Baintighearna an Ghorta" by Seamus de Bhulnot and "Donnchadha Rua" by Seamus ó dTuathe.

It was also agreed that after further consideration some of the other plays entered for the Competition would be accepted for production.

School of Acting.

Mr Robinson reported that as a result of the auditions held, thirty five pupils in all would be in the class for the coming term. This included pupils who were in the School last year and were now rejoining. There would also be possibly six pupils in the Gaelic class.

It was agreed that M Robinson and M Higgins should see Mr Dolan and endeavour to arrange with him that he take three classes per week at a fee of £2 per week, M Cusack to be paid 10/- per class for the Gaelic Classes.

The Board also agreed that old pupils rejoining the School be given a reduction of £1 per term this amount to be repaid by them to the Theatre if they were engaged to play in the Abbey.

The following bills were agreed to:-
Octr. 10th "Pilgrims", Oct 17th possibly second week of "Pilgrims", or "Boyd's Shop", Oct. 24 Juno and the Paycock, Oct 31 "Shadow + Substance".
The bills for Autumn during the Gaelic & Belfast tour to be Nov. 7 The Silver Jubilee with a one act play, Nov. 14 Professor Sin, Nov 21 Boyd's Shop.

Seamus Kelly
7/10/38

7th October 1938. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30pm on Friday, 7th October 1938.

Present Mr E. Blythe in the Chair, Dr Richard Hayes, Dr Walter Starkie Mr T.R. Higgins, Mr Frank O'Connor.

Minutes — The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

Finance — The Secretary reported that the credit balance at the Bank was £802-13-4.

Manager's Report
(Mr. F. R. Higgins)

MANAGER'S REPORT. Dated 7th October, 1938.

TOURS: Final arrangements have now been completed for the presentation of our plays in Cork for two weeks, beginning the 7th November; these arrangements include some minor alterations in cast. During the absence of the Company in Cork, we are putting on the one act "Gaol Gate" with "The Silver Jubilee" in Dublin. Regarding the week in Belfast; I see strong reasons why "The Silver Jubilee", a play gravely reflecting on the South, should not be produced there. It may create strong resentment among certain of our people in the North and strong approval from opponents of the South. I would suggest "Shadow and Substance" as a substitute.

The Board agreed to Mr. Higgins' suggestion that "Shadow and Substance" be substituted for "The Silver Jubilee" in the Belfast bill.

INSURANCE: We have taken out a Burglary Policy with the Commercial Union for £1,000. at a premium of £2. 0. 0. per annum. Certain alterations in the locking of doors in the Theatre and other slight alterations are being made to comply with the Insurance Company's demands.

A Scheme for the pensions of our Staff and Players is also in contemplation, but I shall take no steps in this matter until I present a full report on the subject to the Board at the next meeting and I will have before you estimates from the Insurance Companies.

~~XXXXXXXX~~PRODUCER: At my invitation Mr. Frank McDermddy of the Galway Gaelic Theatre is coming here tomorrow morning at 11 o'clock to interview us regarding possible productions.

Mr O'Connor suggested that Mr Louis D'Alton be approached with a view to appointing him Producer. Mr O'Connor was of opinion that Mr D'Alton would be a very suitable man for the position and if it were given to him, Mr Hunt would remain on for a few months in order to train Mr D'Alton in the Abbey system.

The Board agreed that Mr Higgins should get into touch with Mr D'Alton, interview him on the matter and report the result.

NEW PLAYS: I strongly feel the necessity of a more rapid production of new plays in the future, and with the possibility of two producers and the enlarged number of competent players now available, I am taking steps to see that a new play will appear at least once a month, or if possible, once every three weeks. In that connection I would be glad if the Directors would assist us as much as possible in the reading of new plays, four of which I am now eager to secure early opinions upon. This more rapid production ~~is unprecedented~~ is very essential for the Theatre's success during the coming winter months; and after the Belfast visit this matter should receive our main attention.

COST OF PRODUCTIONS: I also think that, in future, before plays are accepted, particularly plays of doubtful success, details should be available as to the costs of such productions. It is unwise to accept a commonplace play which is not likely to succeed and yet expend considerable sums on the making of new sets for such a play. "Pilgrims" due for next week is a case in point. No play should be finally accepted until first we have an estimate of its likely cost in production.

M. Higgins said he would like the Board to consider the merits of a play in relation to the cost of its production and that he in future would watch and report on the approximate cost of any new play proposed for production.

MAGAZINE: I am making arrangements for the production of a proposed quarterly Magazine in connection with the Theatre to begin in the month of December. This Magazine will be self-supporting and no publication will take place unless the advertising revenue covers the cost of production etc., Mr. Frank O'Connor has agreed, at my invitation, to act as Editor. The question of an editorial fee for his services must be decided. I would suggest a fee of £10. 0. 0. per issue From reports received advertising will meet expenses, together with the cost of printing, estimates for which I have invited from two Dublin Printers and one Country Printer. I will report further on developements.

The Board agreed to the publication of the Magazine on the terms set out by him - the Magazine to be the official organ of the Theatre. It was also decided that the name of the Magazine should be agreed upon by M. O'Connor and M. Higgins.

STAFF: Mr. Cyril Cusack has verbally requested leave of absence for film work covering a period from two to four weeks. I see no objection to granting Mr. Cusack's request after our Belfast visit. Mr. Cusack at the same time has given us a guarantee that he will not extend his leave beyond four weeks.

Miss Ann Yeats has made written application for increase of salary by 15/- per week; in view of Miss Moiseiwitsch's departure at the end of the year, I would recommend to the Directors an increase on her present salary of £1.0.0 to £1. 10. 0. per week.

The Board agreed to grant Mr Cusack leave of absence as set out by Mr Higgins. The Board also agreed to increase the salary of Miss Yeats by Ten Shillings (10/=) per week.

GLASGOW EXHIBITIONS MODELS: The Ministry for Finance have been in touch with us regarding the return of four models of our plays from the Glasgow Exhibition. These models cost the Department £20. 0. 0. and they offer them to us for £5. suggesting they should be exhibited in our vestibule. As our accommodation there is limited and these exhibits would only be of a temporary nature, I am not in favour of acceptance of the offer.

the attraction of

REFRIGERATOR: The Refrigeration in the Pit Cafe has been sold to Mr. Pacitti for 30/-; he offered 25/- which is, according to Mr. Ellis, a fair price.

The Board agreed with Mr. Higgins that the models would not be worth buying, and approved of the sale of the Refrigerator

LOAN OF COSTUMES: An Ceol Cumann have requested the loan of various costumes used by us in "Casadh an tSugain". We have agreed to this loan on the Cumann first depositing a sum to cover the cost which will be returned on the safe return of the costumes to the Theatre.

The Board agreed to the terms laid down by Mr Higgins.

SUNDAY LETTING OF ABBEY: A request from the Mansion House Coal Fund for the hiring of the Theatre on a future Sunday evening has been deferred, at the same time a prohibitive payment has been asked for the hire of the Theatre should we agree to grant their request.

BURGLARY: The material ~~stolen~~ stolen from the Theatre during the past few weeks has been recovered by the Police and is presently in their custody. The thief has also been apprehended.

Acceptance + rejection of Plays.

Mr O'Connor raised the question of the rejection of 'The White Steed' by Paul V Carroll and said that neither he nor Dr Yeats had read the play. He considered that if a play such as this was being rejected, before this was done any Director in favour of it should be notified so that the matter could be further discussed, particularly in the case of an established author such as Paul Carroll.

The Board agreed that this should in future be done and after some further discussion the Secretary was instructed to write to M. Carroll asking him to re-submit his play for further consideration.

In the event of Mr Carroll complying with this request the play was to be sent to Dr Yeats and Mr O'Connor for their opinions.

School of Acting

Mr Higgins reported that M. DeLare had agreed to take the classes (three per week) for one month at a salary of £2 per week. M. Cusack had also agreed to take one Gaelic class per week at 15/- per class.

Mr Hunt.

Mr Hunt was asked by the Board if he would be willing to return to the Theatre for some time in order to train Mr D'Alton who was suggested as the new Producer.

Mr Hunt said he intended going to Russia for the month of November and he would like some time to think over the Board's suggestion.

Mr O'Connor said he was afraid that the discipline in the Theatre would deteriorate unless there was a permanent Producer and he suggested Mr D'Alton as a man who knew the stage and was also a literary man, which was needed.

Mr Dermody might be given a play to produce in order to enable the Board to judge his work, so that he might be considered as a reserve Producer.

It was decided to invite Mr D'Alton to meet the Board at their next meeting, Mr Higgins as already arranged, to see him beforehand and obtain from him full particulars as to his terms if he were willing to consider the offer.

It was agreed that the Board should in future meet fortnightly unless some matter of urgency arose

Eamon O'Dubhghaill
21/10/30

21st Oct. 1938 — Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30 p.m. on Friday, 21st October 1938.

Present. — Mr E. Blythe in the Chair, Mr Walter Starkie, Mr F.R. Higgins, Mr Frank O'Connor.

Minutes — The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

Arising out of the Minutes Mr Higgins reported that Mr F.J. McCormick had asked to be taken out of the part in "Shadow & Substance" as he felt he could not play it. Mr McCormick said that if forced to go on with the part he would do so but he felt that playing would have no sense of reality.

Mr Higgins said that the play had in consequence been taken out of the Cork programme and that the Manager of the Cork theatre had agreed to "Jailbird" being played for the first week. The Board approved of this arrangement.

Finance. — The Secretary reported that the Credit balance at the Bank was £479 = 16 = 1.

Dr. R. Hayes. — A letter was read from Dr. Hayes stating that he had written to the Minister for Finance resigning his position as Government nominee on the Board of

Directors.

It was agreed that Mr Blythe should write a personal letter to the Minister urging him to ask Dr. Hayes to reconsider the matter as he had given and could continue to give very valuable assistance to the Board.

MANAGER'S REPORT FOR FORTNIGHT ENDING 21st OCTOBER, 1938.

TOURS: With the completion of our arrangements for the Cork and Belfast Tour, we find that for the production of the three plays in Cork ~~it is necessary~~ that sixteen players will be required together with a property man. This Company is being sent to produce for a fortnight beginning the 7th November. Mr. U. Wright has been appointed Stage Manager in Cork for that time, while Mr. Malachi Keegan has been retained for stage managing in Dublin. It is also necessary that Mr. Gorman shall play during the first week in Cork. His absence will not to any great extent interfere with Office routine owing to the presence of Mrs. Doyle and myself to attend to details. For our week in Belfast commencing the 21st November, where we are producing two plays, it will be necessary to transfer scenery from Cork and Dublin, and to facilitate transport to the Northern Customs it will be necessary for Mr. Keegan or myself to travel up there and to clear the properties with the Customs.

The Board approved of these arrangements.

INSURANCE: The proposals presented to me by the Commercial Union Assurance Company and the Yorkshire Insurance Company, are in my opinion not worthy of further attention as the premiums are rather high for a small pension and a lump sum of £500. payable at 60 years. I do not think it sufficiently beneficial that we should go further with this matter.

The Board agreed with Mr Higgins' views.

PRODUCERS: 3 Mr. Hugh Hunt sent me a letter comfirming our conversation that he is willing to return to the Abbey for a period not exceeding three months; at the same time he wishes it to be clearly understood that he will be free to drop this offer should suitable work be offered to him in the meanwhile. He has asked also that some authoritative statement should be issued to the Press in view of conflicting statements appearing in the Press regarding his resignation. I do not think that any statement is necessary unless further innuendoes appear in the newspapers.

Last Saturday week I interviewed Mr. Frank Dermody of the Galway Gaelic Theatre, and in my opinion , although he is a quiet unassuming person he seems to possess an underlying strength of will and a knowledge of the Theatre tact which is very necessary in the handling of Players such as those of the Abbey Theatre. I offered him the position of producing an English and an Irish play at a salary of £5. 0. 0. a week for four weeks. I gave him the scripts of three Gaelic plays, together with stage dimensions and full details regarding lighting and props. I have since heard from Professor Murphy granting Dermody one month's Leave of Absence. Mr. Dermody has also written saying that he prefers to produce the Gaelic play by Seamus Wilmot. We have not yet been in a position to give him a new English play for production; and I think special arrangements should be made regarding such a play. As he has agreed to come here in the beginning of November the actors available for his work will not be of the best in the absence of our main Company in Cork and Belfast. I think it would therefore be fairer to Mr. Dermody if he could could postpone his productions until the middle of December and in that way he will have our main players for at least three weeks' rehearsing before the actual productions take place.

Last Monday week I interviewed Mr. Louis D'Alton. My impression of him was not at all as favourable as that of Mr. Dermody. He was undoubtedly very self-confident, very assertive and possessed all the features of a Theatrical man; but I believe that a certain amount of this over-confidence may be due to what I think was slight intoxication. I made him the offer decided at our last Board meeting, including Mr. Hunt's assistance, and he with a certain amount of reluctance, finally accepted; having beforehand led me to understand that he was in a very good way of business. Having discussed the situation with reference to his own players he also decided

that they could easily be dispensed with, and we parted with the understanding that he would appear before our Meeting today and begin work here in the middle of December. Last week I had a second visit from him and was surprised when he told me he was not prepared to take on the work. I admired his frankness of statement; his over-confidence had disappeared and he was coldly sober. He explained that owing to incompatibility of temperment and a Bohemian way of living due to his free life on the road, that he would not be suitable in his opinion to the strict routine of work required in the Abbey. He also stated that he did not wish to dispense with his own organisation, particularly as it would interfere with the work of his wife who acts in that Company. After discussions and explanations on both sides he agreed to come before the Board today to explain his position and to offer his services as a temporary Producer for three months until we had secured the services of a regular ~~Producer~~ man. I suggested that he should come here for about three months and after that time both parties were at liberty to terminate the employment if we found ourselves unsuitable to each other. Mr. Hunt, having heard my opinions of Mr. D'Alton and the subsequent developement is eager to make a statement on the situation.

This morning I received a letter from Mr. J.A. Fanning, of the Little Theatre, Birr, asking for a try-out; applying for the position and enclosing photographs of his own recent productions. I think that his letter should receive your attention.

The Board agreed with Mr Higgins that it was not necessary to issue any statement to the press regarding Mr Hunt's resignation.

With regard to Mr Dermody, Mr Higgins said he was of the opinion that he would be amenable and that while he (Mr Dermody) was of a very quiet disposition he appeared to be a man with a strong will of his own Mr Higgins would like the Board to see Mr Dermody and he would also like Mr Hunt to meet him.

The Board decided that Mr Higgins should see Mr Dermody again and get him to meet Mr Hunt.

Consideration of R D'Alton was deferred until late in the meeting after the Board had interviewed him.

NEW PLAYS: The new version of Mr. Carey's play "Caesar's Image" has been received and Mr. Hunt has reported very strongly in its favour. I have also rapidly read through the script and I consider it very much improved. The Directors have already accepted this play subject to amendment; these amendments have now been carried out.

I have also read "The Fenians" by Mr. Frank O'Connor, and in my opinion this excellent play should be produced as soon as possible. One or two very minor alterations I think are necessary and I would suggest a change of title; otherwise I see absolutely no reason why production of this Play should be postponed.

P.T.O.

Mr O'Connor said there were some alterations he wanted to make in "The Fenians" and that these would not take very long. He also agreed to consider the title of the play.

The Board agreed to accept the play and to produce it as soon as possible.

Mr. Paul V. Carroll has resubmitted his play "The White Steed" having effected various alterations. I sent his versions to Mr. Yeats and Mr. O'Connor and Mr. Yeats has reported against production.

Mr O'Connor said he was also against production of the play. It was accordingly agreed by the Board that the play be returned to Mr Carroll with a letter stating that it had been submitted to the two Directors who had not previously read it and that they were against its production.

PRINTING: From estimates received in connection with the printing of our proposed Magazine to be entitled "The Arrow"; I have noticed that the prices submitted by Messrs. Corrigan and Wilson are very excessive and in view of this revelation it might be a good thing if we sought for estimates for our general printing, as we may thereby be enabled to effect more economies with as good service.

The Board approved of this suggestion.

LOAN OF COSTUMES: A letter has been received from Ceol Cumann agreeing to lay down the suggested deposit of £5. 0. 0. and give the necessary guarantee for the safe return of material loaned. The Ministry for Defence have also written asking for the loan of a few costumes for an Army production of "The Colleen Bawn", and as they have facilitated us on many occasions, we agreed to the loan.

Approved by the Board.

BARNEY MURPHY: The Widow of the late Barney Murphy, our Prompter for over twenty years, interviewd me with a request for financial assistance. She also sent on my suggestion, a detailed statement of her circumstances, which undoubtedly show rather a pitiful case for a Widow with six children. Mr. Wright investigated her circumstances, and as a result I would suggest that the Board would pay Mrs. Murphy, on behalf of her two youngest children, the sum of £1. 0. 0. per week for thirteen weeks, payment to cease after that time.

Payment as above approved by the Board.

STAFF: I had occasion during the past fortnight to reprimand Mr. Fred Johnson for drinking, and to have a notice placed on the Board stating that no intoxicating liquor could be consumed on the premises as there was a growing tendency of bringing in drink to the Dressing Rooms and sharing it with the players. I may be led to taking strong action against Mr. Johnson after our forthcoming tours are over if he persists in his drinking notwithstanding warnings.

During the past year Mr. Mooney has taken photographs of new productions at a cost of over £50. 0. 0. I am convinced that this expense is unwarranted, and I have therefore written to Mr. Mooney dispensing with his services. We obtain absolutely no benefits from his pictures except from the Vestibule photographs, possibly - a very doubtful form of publicity.

As a result of a request for the payment of overtime from a a member of the stagg, I was surprised to discover that the sum of over £180. has been expended during the past year on overtime. For our recent production of "Pilgrims", over £15. overtime was paid. The Workers concerned think that the amount of overtime they are expented to do is altogether absurd, and some of our staff receive considerabdd amounts of overtime money, which brings up their wages to £7. 0. 0. a week. In my opinion there is no need for this amount of overtime if rehearsals were conducted with due consideration to the working hours of the staff. I have therefore given an order that in future no overtime must be worked without my permission and if overtime is worked without permission payment will not be made for same. Overtime is paid at the rate of 3/- per hour for work done during the week, and 4/- per hour for Sunday work.

Approved by the Board.

Mr. Keegan, our Stage Manager, has presently a salary of £3. 0. 0. per week; was promised an increase in wages some months ago. He has now applied for an increase in wages bringing his salary up to £6. 0. 0, per week. I have discussed the application with Mr. Keegan and as a result suggest an increase of 15/-.

At the present time we are not paying for the services of a prompter; these services are presently given by Miss Lynch who works in the Theatre during the day at a salary of £1. 10. 0. I think it is only fair that owing to the laborious nature of this work Miss Lynch should be granted an increase of 10/- a week. She is agreeable to this figure but is doubtful about continuing the work of Prompter for any great length of time as all her evenings are occupied in the Theatre.

The Board approved of an increase of 15/= per week to Mr Keegan and a payment of 10/= per week to Miss Lynch while acting as prompter at night.

REHEARSALS: The players have been warned that the scripts of parts damaged in their possession must be replaced. I have given over the charge of the scripts to Miss Lynch with the necessary instructions as to their custody.

I have had occasion to reprimand the Producer for the cancellation of a rehearsal without due notice to me. The last rehearsal cancellation was on the occasion of a Cinemax pre-view.

ABBEY EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE: This group have applied for the right to Broadcast two plays. I have granted the necessary permission ~~for~~ if the Players are prepared to pay 25% of their fees to us. I ~~will leave~~ believe the players themselves ~~to see about~~ receive no payment ~~of~~ for such Broadcasts as the money received from the Broadcasting authorities go into their funds.

A play by Mr. Jack Yeats which has been seen by some of the Directors and turned down with one exception has been read by the Experimental Theatre and they have asked to be given the right of producing this play. I am in favour of granting their request if the author agrees. I have also written to this group asking them to supply me with details as to their financial condition and names of responsible officers as I am of the opinion that it is necessary to keep this group under observation.

PERMISSION TO BROADCAST: Mr. Ganly, author of "The Dear Queen" has been given permission to have this play Broadcast on payment of the usual fees.

The Board approved of the terms for the broadcasts by the R.E.T.

Mr Dalton. Mr Dalton was interviewed by the Board and after some discussion it was agreed that he should come for three months on trial as a Producer and at the end of that period either side would be at liberty to terminate the arrangement.

The Board decided that on his return Mr Hunt should be the producer for whatever period up to three months he was willing to remain and that M Dermody and Mr D'Alton should be assistant-producers.
No date could be fixed for this arrangement until Mr Hunt had informed the Board when he was returning
Mr Hunt agreed to this arrangement.
It was also agreed that Mr Hunt should go to Galway in order to see M Dermody working in the Taedio Theatre.

M O'Connor agreed to undertake the dramatisation of some novel by Amon Sheehan but said that it would be necessary for him to get into touch with Messrs Longman, Publishers, as the rights of the novels were held by various people.

It was agreed that when Mr O'Connor attended Board meetings he should be paid £1=5=0 to cover travelling and living expenses in Dublin

Copies to (7)
4/11/38

4th Nov. 1938. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society. Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on Friday, 4th Nov. 1938, at 5.30 p.m.

Present Mr E. Blythe in the Chair, Dr. Walter Starkie, Mr J. R. Higgins, Mr Frank O'Connor.

Minutes The Minutes of the last meeting were read, Confirmed and signed.

Arising out of the Minutes Mr Blythe reported that the Minister for Finance had promised to see Dr Hayes as soon as possible and to ask him to reconsider his decision to resign from the Board.

Finance The Secretary reported that the Credit Balance at the Bank was £430 = 14 = 5.

Paul + Carroll Mr Higgins informed the Board that Mr Carroll had asked for a copy of Mr Yeats' report on "The White Steed".
Mr Higgins said he was sending to Mr Yeats a summary of his criticism asking him if he would permit it to be sent to Mr Carroll

MANAGER'S REPORT FOR FORTNIGHT ENDING 4th NOVEMBER, 1938.

Monday 9.30

TOURS: The Company will leave on ~~Monday~~ morning by the ~~1.0.50~~ train for Cork, and during their stay there they have to engage in rehearsals. In view of the fact that Mr. Gorman is playing during the first week in Cork, I have appointed him to act as Manager for that week for the purpose of checking the house and other managerial matters. Mr. Dossy Wright has been appointed Stage Manager, and the matters of the wardrobe are in the hands of Miss Frolie Mulhern and Mr. Victor Boyd. Mr. Gorman returns after the first week.

Mr. Daly of Cork wrote expressing doubts on the reception of "Juno and the Paycock". We have not taken any action in this matter as his letter arrived too late, but when the play was produced on the last occasion in Cork certain alterations had to be made to meet with local approval. These were of a minor nature, but they may be necessary again. If so, we shall have to acquaint the players as soon as possible so that they can rehearse the changes necessary if the Board considers fit.

The players travel straight from Cork to Belfast and are due to return to Dublin for the week commencing the 28th November.

The Board decided they had no authority to alter any of the lines in "Juno and the Paycock" and that the play should stand unaltered.

DUBLIN PLAYS: Mr. Dolan is producing in Dublin "The Silver Jubilee" and "The Gaol Gate" next week. The following week "Professor Tim" comes on and for the third week we have "Boyd's Shop". I have appointed Mr. Dolan assistant Producer for the production of these plays and as he is working on new material I agreed to pay him £2. 10. 0. per week during the period of rehearsals that is for four weeks. These plays are now in a good condition and should be well produced.

approved.

BILLS AFTER TOUR: At the present time the Theatre suffers the loss of five important players who have been in the cast of practically every play presently in use; with the result that we have found it entirely impossible to select the plays for production immediately after the Belfast Tour which will not require intensive rehearsing. Every play in our repertoire has parts missing through the present lack of players. We can only suggest therefore that as we must have a play for immediate production on the players return from Belfast, "Autumn Fire" appears to us the easiest play to get up in time. It will require rehearsing while the players are in Belfast, and it is in our opinion, the easiest play to have performed in a good condition. If the Board does not agree to this suggestion a revival of "The Jailbird" produced a few weeks ago is the best alternative. Towards the end of its last production it was drawing very heavily and a number of people had to be turned away. Following the first week back from Belfast we would suggest the production of a new one act Gaelic play by Dermody; "The Shadow of a Gunman" and either "Purgatory" or "The King of Spain's Daughter" to complete a full night's Bill. "The Courting of Mary Doyle" is a suggestion for a third week.

We strongly recommend the adoption of these suggestions as the only possible way out of a grave difficulty at the present time, but as soon as ~~that~~ three weeks ~~is~~ passed we will by that time be in our usual stride.

The Board approved of "Autumn Fire" to be followed by "The Shadow of a Gunman", a Gaelic Play and "Purgatory" for the next week, the bill for the third week to be further considered.

BROADCASTING: Another difficulty which was unforeseen was the question of broadcasting from Belfast during the week commencing December 5th. Mr. Hunt had been in communication with the Belfast B.B.C. regarding broadcasts and did not report to us what had been taking place. By chance some days ago I discovered that this matter had been in hands and as a result I wrote directly to the B.B.C. and ascertained the facts. We are due to broadcast from Belfast on Friday the 9th December, with two rehearsals which are required by the B.B.C. on the 7th and 8th December prior to the broadcast. These ~~programmes~~ broadcasts also interfere with our programmes, but I have written to Belfast to suggest that the Company to go on the air should be similar to that used for the

American broadcast of "Riders to the Sea" about a year ago, with two additions that of Mr. Gorman and Mr. Denis O'Dea. The plays for broadcasting are "Riders to the Sea" and "Hyacinth Halvey". I am in touch with the Belfast officials regarding the necessary plays. I have asked them to give us the same terms as those secured for our "Playboy" broadcast in 1936, i.e., £12. 12. 0. per player with hotel and travelling expenses.

The B.B.C. had suggested to Mr. Hunt that a broadcast of "Shadow and Substance" was desirable, but no action had been taken in this matter. They require a broadcast at lease once a quarter and this means substantial business to us. I wrote to the B.B.C. offering "Shadow and Substance" for our next broadcast, but I have received a letter from them saying that Mr. Golding Bright, Carroll's Agent, objects to any broadcast before production of that play in London. I have written directly to Mr. Bright pointing out that his objection is not in keeping with the terms of our contract with Carroll and that our agreement to allow the production of that play in London did not forego any further rights. I am now awaiting the agent's reply.

AUTHORS' AGREEMENTS: The foregoing matter shows us that our present agreement with authors does not safeguard the Theatre specifically in its rights. While the agreement prohibits the broadcast of any of our plays it does not specifically give us the right ourselves to broadcast. I therefore suggest the insertion of a new paragraph in the agreement granting us specifically the rights to broadcast and television of any plays contracted by the Abbey Theatre. I also suggest that paragraph 11 of the agreement should be altered. Its present reading appears contradictory; it covers the right of film making of our plays; makes a claim on authors to pay us 10% of their film fees, but at the same time suggests that the authors are at liberty to film their Abbey plays without our consent. Article 11 should there be clarified. At the present time we are not safeguarded against an author acting independently and depriving us of considerable revenue.

The Board decided to await a further report from Mr Higgins re the proposed broadcast of "Shadow & Substance" and also his report re broadcast of "Riders to the Sea" and "Hyacinth Halvey". The Board also agreed to consider the suggested

amendments to the Authors Agreement. M. Higgins being asked to draw up Clauses which he considered suitable.

TERMS TO PRODUCERS: 6 I strongly urge the necessity of making it clear in the terms of a contract ~~what~~ with any future producers that all correspondence sent to him relative to the Theatre should be dealt with by the Office. Mr. Hunt wrote on may occasions, without the knowledge of the Office, with the result that we were entirely bewildered as to what he had been doing in his semi-private correspondence. Furthe rmore ~~any~~ no Producer should be allowed to contact any of our players relative to work outside the Theatre and his assistance in depleting our staff should be considered a grave act of disloyalty.

Approved.

PRODUCERS: 7 I have interviewed Mr. Fanning of the Birr Little Theatre and consider him a suitable person for assistant producer, should Mr. Dermody or Mr. D'Alton be unwilling to take on such work. Mr. Fanning wrote to me to say that he is agreeable to undertake the work of assistant producer as outlined at our last board meeting. I have been in correspondence with Mr D'Alton and he is now in full agreement with our terms, guaranteeing to continue his work with us if we find him suitable. I have written to Mr. Dermody telling him that we will require his services for the production of a one act gaelic play in the course of a few weeks time, and also for the possible production of Mr. O'Connor's play early in December. Mr. Dermody has replied to say that he is agreeable to these suggestions.

Approved.

MAGAZINE: 8 I have had three estimates for the printing of our magazine and as the terms of the Wood Printers is lowest in price and favourable in condition I suggest its acceptance.

The Board apreed that the terms of the Wood

Printers be accepted.

ORCHESTRA: 9 The father of Mr. Fred. May has requested ~~xxxx~~ an extension to the leave granted, without pay, to his son. I have extended his leave to the 31st of next month and have asked that a report should then be furnished as to the condition of Mr. Fred. May.

The Directors approved and decided that as it seemed unlikely that Mr May would be suitable as a permanent Musical Director, he should be allowed to continue in the position for six months when he was available.

Mr Gallagher was suggested as a possible Musical Director, the Board being of the opinion that he would be more suitable for the position. Mr Higgins was asked to sound Mr Gallagher on the matter.

RADIO EIREANN BRAODCAST: 10 I have had a request from Radio Eireann for the broadcast of the first act of Mr. O'Connor's play, together with a social commentary on the attendance. I have not taken any steps in this matter and ask for your suggestions.

The Board agreed to accept the broadcast.

SCHOOL OF ACTING: 11 As Mr. Dolan will be absent from the School during his week in Belfast, I have appointed Mr. Cyril Cusack to take Mr. Dolan's ~~place~~ class on Monday and Wednesday of that week, and Mr. Robinson is agreeable to taking the class on the Friday of that week.

approved.

Mr. Robinson has asked for leave of absence, without pay, for two weeks for a production of "Katie Roche" in London which Mr. Hunt has asked him to do. I have granted that leave as it will not interfere with our work.

Approved.

INCOME TAX: I have written to our Auditor asking him to take the necessary steps to claim a rebate on the payment of Income Tax during the past few years by the Theatre. In the Auditor's opinion we are entitled to a considerable sum as Income Tax had been paid on matters which were not taxable.

Approved.

Bronsley Mac Namara's play. The Board considered the opinions written on Bronsley Mac Namara's play "Martin Walker Lives Again". It was decided that the play be returned as unsuitable

Séamus O Sé
18/11/38

18th Nov. 1938. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society. Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin at 8.30 p.m. on Friday 18th Nov. 1938.

Present Mr E. Blythe in the Chair, Dr Richard Hayes, Mr F. R. Higgins.

Minutes. The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed

and signed.

Dr Hayes. Dr Hayes made a statement in which he said that he had received an urgent request from the Minister for Finance and also from Mr Blythe to reconsider his decision to resign. In view of these requests he had decided to withdraw his resignation.

Mr Blythe on behalf of the Board said the Directors were very glad to have Dr Hayes again with them.

Finance Mr Higgins reported that the credit balance at the Bank was £552-7-5

Cork Tour Mr Higgins who had just returned from Cork reported that the Company were doing very good business at the Opera House. The first week ending on Saturday 12th Nov. had been very successful the Company receiving £282 as their share of the weeks receipts. Business for the current week was even better and the fortnight would be a very successful one.

The Board decided that a visit of four weeks to Cork be arranged for November of 39. It was also agreed that the possibility of including short visits to the towns in a tour should be explored.

This would give an opportunity to more Players and would also afford them a change of work.

The Board also considered the possibility changing casts midweek when revivals are being done. This would enable young players to be drafted in to casts of these revivals.

The White Steed — Dr Hayes raised the question of American publicity in connection with Paul V. Carroll's play "The White Steed". He enquired if any steps could be taken to prevent American publicity being issued which would in any way involve the Abbey Theatre.

The Board decided that it would be better to wait until the publicity was available when the Theatre would be in a position to insist on the withdrawal of any damaging matter.

Bills — The Board agreed to the production of "Purgatory" and "The Playboy" for the week 5th Dec. and the Gaelic plays + "The Gunman" for the week 12th Dec.

Mr Blythe agreed to watch the rehearsals of the Gaelic plays.

Dr Hayes suggested a revival of "The Deuce O Jacks" and the Board agreed that Mr Higgins should consider the possibility of reviving the play.

The Board also agreed that Mr O'Connors new play should be produced on 26th December

if Mr O'Connor had no objection to this arrangement.

The Board decided that M. Arthur Cox, Solicitor, be instructed to obtain Counsel's opinion on Clauses 2, 3 & 4 of the Theatre's Agreement with Authors as to the broadcasting rights covered by these clauses.

Mr Golding Bright agent for Paul V. Carroll had challenged the right of the Society to withhold permission for a broadcast of "Shadow and Substance" maintaining that the broadcasting rights were held by the author

The Board decided that the Gaelic play by J. O'Rafferty which had been entered for the Competition should be accepted for production on the ordinary terms and that all other plays held back for further consideration should be returned to their authors.

Agenda 2/12/38

2nd Dec 1938. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society. Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin at 5.30pm on Friday, 2nd Dec. 1938.

Present Mr E. Blythe in the chair, Dr Richard Hayes,

Mr T.N. Higgins, Mr Frank O'Connor

Minutes. The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

Finance The Secretary reported that the Credit balance at the Bank was £574-5-7

Mr Brinsley Macnamara. A letter was read from Mr MacNamara complaining that his recent play "Makin Walker Lines Again" had been rejected and suggesting that its rejection was decided upon not on the play's merits but for some other reason.

Mr MacNamara also complained of the bad production of his play "The Grand Horse in the City" and of the fact that his play "Margaret Gillan" vanished out of the list of plays for the Abbey Festival without reason or apology & him a notification to the public.

The Board decided that Mr MacNamara should be informed that he was quite mistaken and that his play was critically considered solely on its merits and on that basis it was rejected.

The Board regrets that he was not informed - from time of the alteration of the Festival programme in which it was found necessary to make many changes in the list of plays announced for production.

MANAGER'S REPORT FOR FORTNIGHT ENDING 2nd DECEMBER, 1938.

We are glad to report that as a result of our visit to Cork for two weeks we have made an inclusive profit of £210. 0. 0. Arrangements have already been completed for a season in that city for four weeks in November of next year on the same terms as those procured for the last tour. Our visit to Belfast shows an approximate loss of ~~£25.~~ 16. 0. 0. If Belfast had taken our advice the situation would be reversed as it may be seen from the returns that "The Jailbird" by Shiels was our most successful play in Belfast. In view of the conditions existing with our last contract I have written to Mr. Selby, the Agent for the Belfast Opera House, stating that while we are agreeable to a further week in Belfast next year beginning the 4th December, the terms of the contract for that city must be on the same basis as those existing for the Cork tour, or on the basis of the following terms: 50% on gross receipts for one week up to £500; 55% on gross receipts up to £600. and 60% on the gross receipts over £600. Also, that owing to the cost of transporting scenery, we stated that in future only two plays should be produced in Belfast per week. We think it very necessary that these terms should be insisted upon, otherwise we see no reason why Belfast tours should be continued on the old terms.

The Board agreed that as regards Belfast we should fight for better terms and that the matter be considered at a later date.

PRODUCER: An application has been received from Mr. John Hare, M.A., M.D. for the position of producer. No.

Mr. Frank Dermody has made all the necessary preparations for his two forthcoming productions - for the gaelic play by Seamus Wilmot he is working on a cast consisting of Denis O'Dea, C. O Hickey, F. Howard, T. O'Gorman, P. O'Donoghue and Brid Lynch. Rehearsals have begun and the set as designed by Miss Moiseiwitsch is in preparation for productio on the 12th December. "The Fenians" by Mr. O'Connor, has been cast in conjunction with the author and the following is the result:

ABBY DRISCOLL	EILEEN CROWE.
NANCE	ANN CLERY.
PATRICK	DENIS O'DEA.
DENIS	~~McCORMICK~~ AUSTIN MELDON.
CONLAN	F.J. McCORMICK.
SERGT. DALY	FRED JOHNSON
CORPORAL DARGAN	W. O'GORMAN.
FAHY	V. BOYD
SULLIVAN	J. WINTER
FATHER COSTELLO	M.J. DOLAN.
GENERAL	ERIC GORMAN.
GENERAL'S WIFE	RIA MOONEY.

.. Miss Clery is not eager to play the part of Nance, and Miss Crowe is also not very keen on her part of Abby; if we can get an alternative player in her place she would prefer to be dropped. She, however, is prepared to play the part if we have any difficulty in filling it. These slight difficulties will, I think, be overcome, as the players concerned are suffering from a certain amount of foolish temperment. Rehearsals of Mr. O'Connor's play which will be produced on the 26th December, have begun, and Mr. Dermody is now working hard in preparation for these plays

The Board decided that Miss Crowe and Miss Clery should play the parts for which they had been cast.

Mr. M.J. Dolan is very busily engaged with the School of Acting for three nights per week and at the same time he is preparing for the production of "The Shadow of a Gunman" for the week beginning 12th Dec. which includes a number of new players for vacated parts. Practically all our revivals must now receive as much attention as if they were new productions owing to change of cast. He is also rehearsing "The Playboy" and I am assisting him on that play, taking alternative rehearsals while he is working the School of Acting.

The amount of work on the players is fairly excessive at the present time and certain difficulties are encountered in arranging the necessary rehearsals which must be carried on. As Mr. O'Loughlin and and Mr. Healy were unable to play in the gaelic play by Wilmot, we have placed Denis O'Dea and G. Hickey in their stead - I am giving Mr. O'Dea £2. 0. 0. for his playing in that play owing to the pressure placed upon him in also playing his new part in "Shadow of a Gunman". "Purgatory" by W.B. Yeats is being produced next week by Mr. Dolan and Dolan is playing the Old Man with J. Linnane as the boy; rehearsals are also taking place for this production.

approved by the Board.

BROADCAST: Next week a number of the Company go to Belfast on Wednesday morning for a broadcast on Friday night of "Hyacinth Halvey" and "Riders to the Sea". The following players are travelling and the terms offered to them are as follows:

F.J. McCORMICK	£5. 0. 0.
CYRIL CUSACK	6. 15. 0.
FRED JOHNSON	5. 0. 0.
M. Kinsella	2. 0. 0.
ANN CLERY	4. 10. 0.
MAY CRAIG	5. 0. 0.
PHYLLIS RYAN	2. 0. 0.

approved by the Board.

An application has also been received from the B.B.C. asking for the services of Cyril Cusack and Phyllis Ryan for a broadcast of "The Wild Goose" on Thursday the 5th January, with rehearsals commencing on Sunday the 1st January. The B.B.C. offer us £8. 8. 0. each for their services, plus substenance allowance. I have not yet granted necessary permission before notice of this matter is drawn to your attention, but I think we could afford to allow these players to travel for the days concerned, making a small profit of about £7. 0. 0. for ourselves on the transaction.

Approved by the Board.

Regarding the request from the B.B.C. for a broadcast of "Shadow and Substance" I have written to Mr. Golding Bright a rather stiff letter stating that we shall proceed if necessary to make arrangements for the broadcast of that play from Northern Ireland. Mr. Golding Bright has replied stating that the suggested broadcast from Northern Ireland will be in order, but in our opinion, as that broadcast is likely to be relayed from London, we are still in an awkward position on the English rights as Mr. Golding Bright is silent on the matter. We have written to Mr. Arthur Cox, Solicitor, asking for Counsel's opinion on our authros' agreement in connection with broadcasting rights.

Approved by the Board.

NEW PRODUCTIONS: Mr. O'Connor has now returned "Caesar's Image" by B.F. Carey, and he favours production with a lot of cutting to the last act. I suggest that this play should now be sent to Mr. Louis D'Alton so that he may have adequate time to prepare for a production of this play if the Board is agreeable that it should be undertaken by him. Mr. Dermody's work will finish with us during the week commencing 26th December, and I suggest that Mr. D'Alton should be brought here on the week commencing 2nd January so that no time will be lost in preparation for the next production.

Approved by the Board.

AMERICAN CUSTOMS BOND: We have made application to Mr. Herbert Jones, Customs Broker, New York, for the release of our Bond of 1700 dollars in Washington. He has replied stating that the application has been made to Washington for the release and no doubt in due time the Bond will be released and the 1700 dollars refunded to Sam. H. Grisman.

AUTHORS' PERMISSION: "The Silver Jubilee" by Cormac O'Daly and "A Spot in the Sun" by T.C. Murray are billed to appear in London next week. No application for these productions were received by us from the authors concerned and we have written to them on this matter and have received a belated request. Matters of this nature should be carefully watched in future.

PRINTED MATTER: We have written Corrigan and Wilson and the Wood Printing Works asking for estimates for the printing of all our bills, programmes etc., as I feel that some reduction in cost can be effected in this matter.

Approved by the Board.

MAGAZINE: The canvassing for advertisements for "The Arrow" the Theatre's publication, is proceeding slowly. Up to date we have received gross advertising to the sum of £66. 0. 0. This sum is not sufficient to allow us to proceed with the printing of the periodical and to safeguard ourselves against losses. I am therefore of the opinion that publication should not take place before Xmas, but should take place early in the New Year, as prospective advertisers are asking that we should again appeal to them after the Xmas season as they are too busy to go into advertising matters ~~at present~~. We are certain of sufficient income from advertising to make the paper a success, but it would be injudicious to proceed until our position was very secure.

The Board approved of Mr Higgins' suggestion that publication should take place early in the New Year.

STAFF: An application has been received from Mr. J. Winter for an increase of 10/- a week in salary. Mr. Winter has been playing with us for about ten years and his services are now of growing importance. I suggest an increase of 5/- per week for each week he plays.

The Board agreed to an increase of 5/= per week.

WARDROBE: Miss Yeats has completed a stocktaking of the wardrobe and has catalogued all our material. She has been given £1. 0. 0. to buy a store of material which is badly needed in the way of hats etc.,

I have appointed Mr. R. Sloan as Chief Attendant in charge of the front of the house staff as there was no responsible official looking after that section.

OFFICE EQUIPMENT: The portable typewriter in the office has been in a bad condition for some time past. A Typewriting Company have offered us £5. 17. 0d. for the machine, and we propose to purchase an Underwood Typewriter from them in the sum of £17. 17. 0d., making a nett cost to us of £12. 0. 0d.

Approved by the Board.

Mr Higgins reported that he had asked Mr Dermody if he would be prepared to stay on in the Theatre as Assistant Producer and in charge of the School of Acting if the Directors wished. Mr Dermody had stated that he would be glad to stay if required.

Mr Higgins also reported that he had had an offer from the Dublin Broadcasting Station for a relay of Act I of Mr O'Connor's new play on 16th Dec. The terms offered were Seventeen pounds ten shillings and One guinea fee to the author.

The Board refused to accept these terms and decided that Mr Higgins should endeavour to obtain better terms and that especially the fee paid to author for these relays should be Three guineas.

Mr O'Connor raised the question of the holding of another Festival next year, and suggested that it should be of Contemporary drama running for one week only.

The Board discussed the matter and decided that Mr Higgins should at a late date submit a rough scheme for consideration.

(Certified)
16/12/15

16th Dec. 1938. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin at 5.30pm on Friday, 16th Dec. 1938.

Present Mr E. Blythe in the Chair, Dr Richard Hayes, M. J. A. Higgins, Mr Frank O'Connor.

Minutes The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

Finance The Secretary reported that the balance at the Bank was £ 472 - 10 - 6.

MANAGER'S REPORT FOR FORTNIGHT ENDING 16th DECEMBER, 1938.

CORK TOUR: I am glad to report that I have signed the contract for the Cork season of four weeks beginning the 5th November, 1939. When the contract came to me I found that the Cork management had inserted a clause expecting us to send special players. I refused to sign the contract as long as that clause existed as we could not possibly give a guarantee for the services of the players mentioned. After correspondence the offending clause was omitted and everything is nowx in order.

Approved by the Board.

BELFAST TOUR: I wrote to the London Agents of the Belfast Opera House refusing to allow the company to visit Belfast next year unless improved terms were given to us, and requested 50% on all gross receipts per week up to £500; ~~30%~~ 55% on all gross receipts per week up to £600; and 60% on the gross receipts over £600. These terms were refused by the London agent and alternative terms offered, viz., 50% on the gross takings up to £600 and 55% on figures exceeding £600. A lengthy wrangle then took place between myself and the Agent and as a result they now offer 50% on gross weekly takings up to £600. and 52½% on the gross takings if they exceed £600. per week. These new terms give us an increase of 7½% over the old contract, and had these terms existed during our last tour we would had made a profit on our takings. I am inclined in view of all the arguments on both sides, to accept the 7½% increase if the Board is agreeable.

The Board agreed that the improved terms offered by the Agent should be accepted.

WATERFORD TOUR: I have been in touch with Mr. Breen of the Theatre Royal, Waterford, as to the possibility of a visit to that city next year, and as a result of our correspondence I have been told that the capacity of their Theatre allows for £52. nightly takings; or ~~£384.~~ £364. for a week of seven performances. They have alternative admission prices of a higher figure, bringing in £480. per week of seven performances. The Proprietor of that Theatre has offered us 55% on gross takings - I replied yesterday asking for 60% on gross weekly takings and have also suggested that the visit should take place for the week commencing the 30th October, 1939 i.e., the week before we visit Cork. I am eager to know if the Board agrees to my terms as this contract should be closed as soon as possible.

If we fix up our contract with Belfast I would like to be able to approach the Theatre in Derry, so as to secure if possible one week in that city after our Belfast visit.

The Board agreed that Mr Higgins should sign the contract with Wakefield on the best terms he could obtain.

BROADCAST: As reported at our last meeting I have agreed to Cyril Cusack and Phyllis Ryan broadcasting from Belfast for the week beginning the 1st January, 1939. I have received contracts for these broadcasts and as a result of lending the services of these two players we shall make Eight Guineas on the transaction.

In connection with the recent Belfast Broadcast of "Hyacinth Halvey" and "Riders to the Sea" I must say that the financial results of that undertaking were satisfactory - we made £25. but in my opinion the artistic results were not at all satisfactory. I heard the broadcasts, and to anybody who did'nt know the players I fail to understand how the distinction in characters could be recognised, as there was no comparison between the voices. Liberties were also taken with the text to an awkward degree, and I therefore suggest that any future broadcasts by the Abbey from the B.B.C. should only be done under the direction of one of our own producers, as in my opinion the B.B.C. Producers of our plays are inclined to make a complete mess of the productions.

Approved by the Board.

IRISHBROADCASTS: As a result of last Meeting's discussions regarding terms offered by Dr. Kiernan for the forthcoming broadcast of Mr. O'Connor's play, I got in touch with the Director of the station, and as a result of our conversations it is now agreed that the terms shall be Seven Guineas per act of half an hour, and in addition, the authors to receive from two to three guineas per act for any of their work broadcast from our stage. Taking everything into account these terms are satisfactory and arrangements are now being made for the broadcast of Mr. O'Connor's ~~play~~ first act. The suggestion has also been made that in future we should give the broadcasting authorities advance notice regarding our plays as they hope to broadcast as much of our work as is possible to both parties. They are particularly keen also for one act plays at any time they appear on our stage.

The Board considered that the terms offered were inadequate but decided that they be accepted.

MR. O'CONNOR'S PLAY: Rehearsals for Mr. O'Connor's play are now well in hands notwithstanding the difficulties the producer incurred in the early stages owing to his preparation for the Gaelic play. H e is going to rehearse every day next week, and the sets and costume requirements are also well in hands. We estimate that the production, apart from the salaries of twelve players, will be in the region of £35. 10. 0d. which figure includes the hiring and making of twentyone costumes; the building of scenery in our owk workshop, in addition to special requirements to be made by Messrs. Dolans. The hire of furniture is not included in this estimate.

Approved by the Board.

FUTURE BILLS: It is very necessary in view of intensive rehearsing required owing to the absence of certain players, that we would have our future bills prepared well in advance. On that account I would suggest that Mr. O'Connor's play should appear for ~~two~~ weeks i.e., the week beginning the 26th December, and the week beginning the 2nd January. For the week beginning the 9th January, I would suggest "Birds' Nest" by Lennox Robinson and "The Great Adventure" by J. Foley. These plays appeared last during the week of 19th September, as first productions for two weeks, and our profits were £85. in the first week and £31. in the second week. I would suggest for the week of the 16th January a possible revival of "Paul Twyning" by George Shiels. This play has not been produced since January 1936 immediately after "Coriolanus". It lost £76. on that occasion due in our opinion to the very bad week of the Shakespeare play and its reaction on our audiences. Possible revivals should be considered of, say "John Bull's Other Island" which has not appeared since August 1935 when it made a profit of £126., or of

"Bridgehead" which has been unfortunate in its previous productions because it generally appeared during difficult seasons - it is a play which in my opinon should be revived. I would also suggest a revival of "The Invincibles". Our recent good successes were "The New Gossoon" last produced on the 5th September with a profit of £95. and "The Jailbird" with an increasing audience towards the end of the week which commenced on the 3rd October and made £43. Certain very old plays might be revived to advantage such as "The Retrievers" by George Shiels which was last produced in 1924. This play proved a great success but it was taken off, I believe, because Lady Gregory objected to the treatment of Americans by the dramatist. I would like that we should consider this play because it will be to all intents and purposes a new play. There is also "The Eloquent Dempsey" and "The Lord Mayor". Very popular in the old days, entirely unknown to present audiences, and with slight alterations they could be brought up to date in their allusions. Some of these plays must be picked for after the week beginning the 30th January. On the 23rd January I propose the presentation of "Caesar's Image" the new play by E. Carey, to be produced by Mr. D'Alton; but after his production we must get ahead as quickly as possible on these revivals. We have gone through the ledgers examining the results of these plays and find that our suggestions are the only possible ones in present circumstances.

The Board decided that the plays to follow "Time's Pocket" should be "The Dear Queen" + "Bird's Nest", "Paul Twyning"; "Caesar's Image" to be produced on 23rd January 1939.

It was also decided that "The Invincibles" be revived with F.J. McCormick in the part of Carey and Austin Meldon in the part of Tynan.

The Board also considered the revival of "Retrievers" by Geo. Shiels and a production of "Blind Man's Buff" with the jury-room scene included and also the new version of the Court-room scene.

PRODUCERS: My suggestion is that Mr. Dermody's employment should terminate here during the week of the 26th December. I wrote to Mr. D'Alton and had a subsequent interview with him. It is agreed that he will start working here on the week of the 2nd January, 1939. I have given him the script of "Caesar's Image" so that he can work on it and he is returning the script to me next week for the typing of the parts. We shall cast the play as soon as he arrives so that there will be no delay in getting the play up.

The Board decided that Mr Dermody be appointed

to take sole charge of the School of Acting at a salary of £5 per week and that in addition to his work in the School he should do occasional Abbey productions.

It was decided that Mr Robinson be notified of this new arrangement.

It was also decided that Mr Richael J Dolan be appointed Assistant Producer for the revivals of old plays at a salary of £2-10-0 per week.

AUTHORS' AGREEMENTS: According to your suggestion we submitted our Authors' agreement to Mr. Arthur Cox, Solicitor, for Counsel's opinion on clauses 2 and 3. I have got Counsel's opinion with me for your attention and propose reading the document to you.

Counsel was of opinion that the existing Agreement did not give the Theatre the right to broadcast a play.

The Board agreed that new clauses should be drawn up giving the Theatre the right to broadcast and also the right to refuse permission to broadcast.

STAFF: I have had an interview with Mr. Fred. May regarding the direction of the Orchestra, and in my opinion he is not fit to take over complete charge of the orchestra for some time to come. However, I entered into an arrangement with him that he would come here for two evenings a week, without pay, and take over temporary charge so as he would get used to the work, at the same time keeping on Mrs. Gore, our temporary leader so as to watch that nothing awkward occurs under Mr. May's direction. Mrs. Gore tells me that he is very jiggy and irregular in his attendances. I am convinced that owing to his condition he cannot be relied upon to take complete charge of the Orchestra, and ~~xxx~~ as his leave terminates on the 31st December next, I am inclined to suggest to you that he should be given a further extension of leave, without pay, for one month; while Mrs. Gore will continue her leadership. We cannot

afford to take any risks with the orchestra on account of Mr. May's condition, and the Board will have to come to an early decision as to what it intends to do. I have had a rather pathetic letter from Mr. May who is very eager to get back but very nervous of his own condition.

The Board agreed that N Higgins should write to Fr May Senior and arrange if possible for occasional attendances of his son

I regret to say that Miss Tanya Moiseiwitsch tenders us her resignation owing to ill health. I shall read you her letter and wish to explain that I have asked her to continue her work here until the end of January. She is strongly of opinion that Miss Yeats will be able to take over her work, and to give Miss Yeats the benefit of Miss Moiseiwitsch's advice, it is suggested that Miss Moiseiwitsch should continue as Miss Yeats' assistant until the end of January, so that all responsibility will be on Miss Yeats' shoulders and in that way we shall be able to test her abilities. If it is agreeable to appoint Miss Yeats in Miss Moiseiwitsch's place, I would suggest an increase in her wages of £1. 10. 0. a week after the 31st January.

Approved by the Board.

PRINTING: As a result of enquiries from Corrigan and Wilson for new estimates, I have a letter from them saying that they are unable to reduce their charges for the printing of posters etc., I enquired from other Dublin printers for estimates and find that no other Dublin printer is able to print the large size posters which we require. Corrigan and Wilsons therefore have a monopoly; but they suggest a reduction of 25% in their price if we agree to print our posters in one colour only. We would save about £100. a year on that proposal, but at the same time we must consider the attractiveness of the second colour on present posters. We would like your direction in this matter.

The Board decided that in future the posters be in one colour only.

LOAN OF PROPS: Father Maurice of Church Street has asked me to lend him the scenery of "The Workhouse Ward" for a Charity Conert to be given in the Theatre Royal on Sunday the 19th February. ~~We are agree to the loan~~. Fr. Maurice will pay all expenses of transit etc.,

The Board decided that if the scenery had been

promised to Fr. Maurice it could be lent to him but that in future scenery should not be sent on loan out of the Theatre.

LOAN OF THEATRE: The 1916 Veterans Association ask us for the loan of the Theatre for an hour or two on Sunday the 16th April for a draw on a sweep for the benefit of their unemployed. They are prepared to pay for the cleaning etc., but I have not made any decision and await your opinion.

The Board decided that the Theatre could not be loaned to the Association.

PRESS STATEMENT: As a result of a statement made in a lecture by Mr. Gabriel Fallon regarding our financial losses; after consultation with Mr. Blythe I had a short interview with the Press contradicting his figures and stating the facts. In view of his subsequent reply to my statement I have made a second statement to the Press which appears in today's papers I have no intention of pursuing the matter further, as our facts are sufficient in reply to the libellious misrepresentations.

The Board decided that the matter should be submitted to Arthur Cox, Solicitor with a view to having a demand for an apology sent to Mr Fallon.

ADVERTISING: Airways Ltd., are keen to advertise in some of the Theatre's publicity and it is suggested that they would occupy the space on the back of our booking tickets. I have asked them for £25. 0. 0. per year for this space, and if it is agreeable to the Board I would like to allocate them that space.

Approved by the Board.

It was agreed that a letter should be sent to M. Hunt stating that as he was not available

and as Mr Dalton was now starting his work as a Producer, a new situation had arisen and that the old arrangement under which Mr Hunt was to return to the Abbey no longer held good.

Agreed [illegible]
30/12/38

30th Jany 39 Minutes of a meeting of the Directors held at the Abbey Theatre on Friday, 30th December 38 at 5.30 pm

Present Mr E. Blythe in the Chair, Dr Richard Hayes, Mr T.R. Higgins, Mr Frank O'Connor.

Minutes. The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

Finance. In the absence of the Secretary, Mr Higgins reported that the credit balance was £362-8-6.

MANAGER'S REPORT FOR FORTNIGHT ENDING 30th DECEMBER, 1938:

As instructed at our last Meeting I wrote to Messrs. Arthur Cox & Co., Solicitors, for their opinion on the defamatory statement made by Mr. Gabriel Fallon in a recent attack on the Abbey Theatre. and also instructing him to demand a public apology from Mr. Fallon in four daily papers, two evening papers and one weekly and one monthly. I have had a long letter from Mr. Cox which I propose reading to you, in which he says that there is very little doubt that these statements on the part of Mr. Fallon were libellous. He has replied to Mr. Fallon demanding an apology by 31st December. Mr. Fallon, I have been informed by Mr. Cox, has placed the matter in the hands of solicitors who have asked for time to consider the matter, and in a subsequent letter from Mr. Cox he suggests that it may be easier to negotiate with Fallon's Solicitor after the issue of a Summons instituting proceedings. I therefore wish to have the opinions of this Board on Mr. Cox's suggestion.

Re Board decided that N. Cox be instructed to issue a Summons instituting proceedings and then await furthe instructions.

TOURS: The Proprietor of the Theatre Royal, Waterford, has agreed to the terms suggested by me for an engagement in Waterford for the week beginning the 30th October, 1939; the terms being 60% on the gross takings. They require three plays for the week and three Matinees. I have asked for a guaranteed sum for two of these Matinees, as from our experience matinees are not very productive. I have written to Mr. Breen asking that the terms should be embodied in a formal Contract and am awaiting his reply.

Cambridge: The Arts Theatre of Cambridge have written asking for a visit by our Company towards the end of April or the beginning of May. I have written at length to the Manager there pointing out the financial insecurity to us on such visits owing to loss at home while our main Company are in Cambridge, and suggested that they should offer a guarantee to balance up our finances in relation to Dublin if they are eager to have us in Cambridge. If such a guarantee is forthcoming I think we might consider the visit. However, the matter shall be placed before you for your decision before anything is finally decided.

Belfast: The Contract for our visit to Belfast beginning on the week of the 4th December, 1939 has been signed by me according to the increased terms agreed upon at our last Meeting.

Re visits to Wakefford and Belfast were agreed to and it was also agreed that if suitable terms were obtained, the Company should visit Cambridge.

PLAYS: "Time's Pocket." I regret to say that possibly owing to the very unfair criticism of the Irish Times and Independent against Mr. O'Connor's play, our receipts are very much down this week. We took in about £50. on Monday night; £30. on Tuesday night, £20. on Wednesday night and last night £17. A number of seats booked have not been claimed and the booking for the remainder of the week is exceedingly small. On that account I have been reluctantly compelled to withdraw the play after next Saturday night and I therefore consider putting on a play next week which is likely to balance our finances and which can be produced with little or no difficulty in view of the short time required for rehearsals. The only play that met with these demands was "The Plough and the Stars" last produced in the beginning of August and showing a profit of £80. 0. 0. This play is now advertised for next week's production. The following week we are producing "Paul Twyning"

by George Shiels and the week after "The Dear Queen" by Ganly and "Birds Nest" by Lennox Robinson. I am glad to say that as a result of correspondence between George Shiels and myself, we are promised a new play from that author early next month. ~~as regards production at Resurrection~~ Regarding "Retrievers" I learn from him that he is not favourable to a production at this time of that play as he considers its construction very loose. He, however, is re-writing the play to meet with present standards and hopes to submit it to us also in a very short time.

The Board approved of the production of "The Plough & the Stars" and decided that "Time's Pocket" should be revived in a few months.

The Board also approved of "Paul Twyning", "The Dear Queen" and "Bird's Nest".

MR. D'ALTON'S PRODUCTION: Mr. D'Alton begins his work here with us on next Monday on the production of "Caesar's Image" by E.F. Carey. The parts of the play are now being typed and I propose casting the play with Mr. D'Alton on Monday. Little difficulty will be encountered in this matter as most of the characters are of the O'Casey type and can therefore easily be handled by our players.

Arising out of the play, I would suggest to the Directors that in future plays should be read by others before receiving my consideration, as in my opinion a play that the Directors feel strongly about production should only be read by me in that event, as extra care must of course be taken in the reading of plays likely to be produced and for that reason I would prefer to be the last Director read future plays.

The Board agreed to the suggestion that Mr. Higgins should be the last Director to read plays.

SCHOOL OF ACTING: On Monday beginning this week Mr. Frank Dermody took over the task of teaching in the School of Acting from Mr. Dolan. On next Monday he takes over entire charge of the School, and on Monday evening I hope to meet the students and to suggest to them a remission of 25% of their fees for the forthcoming session, owing to the fact that the casual methods of classes during last session produced a certain amount of dis-satisfaction in the School. Mr. Dermody has prepared a Scheme for the management and work of the School which I think is admirable and should be adopted. As far as possible we should give Mr. Dermody a free hand in matters of tuition. Questions and of actual management will naturally be under the supervision of the Office.

Mr. Dermody proposes to hold two classes every evening of the week from 5.30 to 10 o'clock, as all his students are working people who are prevented from attending regularly in the early evening or afternoon. He also suggests two Gaelic classes during the week on Tuesday and Friday - two hours to each class. He will develop every department of Theatrical work among the students, mainly of course acting, movement etc. but he intends to institute two regular weekly classes on production for additional students; these classes to take place on Wednesday and Saturday, and are mainly intended for teachers and amateur producers. He suggests circularising all the Dublin teachers and all interested persons so that his classes on production shall have a large attendance. Mr. Dermody also suggests the possibility of two afternoon classes solely for children. For the Production classes and for the Childrens' classes I would suggest that the matter of fees should be settled by Mr. Dermody and myself when we see the possibilities of these proposed classes. All the work of the School shall be devoted to the production of Abbey plays and from time to time Mr. Dermody shall put on plays by his students in the Peacock Theatre for inspection by the Directors. It is also the intention of the Principal of the School to seek as widely as possible for talent suitable to the Abbey stage and when likely persons are available he will first bring them to the School for initial instruction. I suggest that a few lines of an advertisement should be placed under the Abbey advertisements in the newspapers to draw attention to the School; and I am convinced that Mr. Dermody is very keen on his work and whole hearted support should be given to his endeavours.

Approved by the Board and it was decided that the School should be fully developed.

STAFF: I had an interview with the father of Mr. Fred. May as suggested at our last Meeting and proposed to him the advisability of his son taking a further holiday. It was suggested by me that Mr. May's doctor should break the news to the son Fred, but when the matter was suggested to the doctor he sent me a report on the condition of young May, and strongly advising his early return to work as the only possibly way to restore the patient to complete health. Fred. May is taking over charge of the Orchestra for two evenings each week with Mr. Gore, the temporary leader, in attendance. I have written to May pursuant to the Dr.'s advice, to return to work here by January 2nd., for one week at half pay with Mrs. Gore still in attendance. If, Mr. May proves alright during the week I propose keeping him on and dispensing with the services of Mrs. Gore on January 7th.

Approved by the Board. Mr Higgins to report at a later date on Mr May's condition regarding his duties.

Owing to the attitude of Miss Ann Clery in making no serious endeavour to play the part of Nance in "Time's Pocket" we had to take her out of that part and bring in Miss Mooney at very short notice. I have suspended Miss Clery and have stopped paying the half salary due to her while not acting, during her temporary suspension. Her next part will be in "The Dear Queen" which we produce in a fortnight's time.

Owing to the fact that Mr. Fred Johnson appeared again drunk at a rehearsal, notwithstanding previous reprimands, I have now cautioned him that on the next breach of his in that direction I shall suspend him immediately without pay.

Mr. Cyril Cusack returns to us on the 9th January after his two broadcasts with Miss Phyllis Ryan from Belfast.

I have written to Mr. Hunt as directed at the last meeting to the effect that there is no need for him to consider us with regard to the future, particularly as Mr. D'Alton begins his work here next week.

All revivals of plays are now in the hands of Mr. Dolan, whom we have appointed assistant Producer and he is working very hard on these matters.

approved by the Board.

It was agreed that Mr Higgins should ask Mr Robinson to attend the meetings of the Board in future.

It was agreed that "She Had To Do Something" by Sean O'Faolain be produced for half a week before the visit of the Company to Cambridge.

It was agreed that "The Heritage" by J C Mortomery be produced if when Mr Higgins reads it, he agrees.

Richard Hayes
13/1/1939

13th Jany 1939. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin at 5-30 pm on Friday 13th Jany 1939.

Present Dr Richard Hayes in the Chair, M. Lennox Robinson, M E. Blythe, M. T.M. Higgins, Mr Frank C O'Connor.

Minutes The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

Finance The Secretary reported that the Credit balance at the Bank was £ 381-9-5.

MANAGER'S REPORT FOR FORTNIGHT ENDING 13th JANUARY, 1939.

FALLON LIBEL: As instructed at our last meeting Messrs. A. Cox & Co. Solicitors took steps to issue a Writ against Fallon for libel and as a result of that a lengthy communication was received from Fallon's Solicitors. In reply, Arthur Cox asked for a complete apology, with the result that Mr. Cox and I drafter up an acceptable letter and sent it to the Solicitors for the Defendent; that letter has since been published in full in the Irish Press. in part in the Independent and Herald, and no appearance has been given in the Irish Times. A letter from Mr. Cox now states that satisfaction has been obtained and the matter should end there. It is of course understood that Fallon is to pay as stated in his apology, all legal costs incurred by us in the matter.

The Board directed that M. Higgins should write to Messrs Cox and ask them to write to M. Fallon's Solicitor re the non appearance in the Irish Times of his apology.

In the event of M. Fallon's Solicitor stating that the letter was sent to the Irish Times, it was agreed that Mr Higgins should then write to the Irish Times in the matter.

CAMBRIDGE: A letter has been received from Norman Higgins of the Arts Theatre, Cambridge, stating that the Theatre is now managed by a Trust, and that for certain programmes they are able to obtain exemption from Entertainment Tax. He states that if we could let them have our suggested repertoire for our two weeks in Cambridge, they could make application to the Commissioner to obtain the necessary exemption in our case. If exemption was granted to us, according to Higgins, it would result in our receiving something like £100. more in receipts than on our last visit, when our gross takings were £946. I am therefore of the opinion that we should supply the Cambridge Arts Theatre with a list of plays likely for production there so that Higgins may apply for exemption, and if exemption is obtained I strongly favour the proposed Tour.

The Board decided that if the Cambridge management were prepared to add £100 to the guarantee required the visit as suggested should be arranged.

PRODUCER: Mr. D'Alton began his work with us on last Monday the 9th inst., He is taking two rehearsals daily for the forthcoming production of "Caesar's Image".

PLAYS: Rehearsals of "Caesar's Image" show up in a very striking way the weaknesses of that play - one is inclined to doubt its possible success, but now as we have advanced so far there is no use altering our decision as the upset to arrangements would be too grave. The play only occupies a little over an hour in actual playing time; a one acter is therefore necessary and we propose a revival of "The Shadow of the Glen" by Synge with the following cast:

DAN BURKE	M.J. DOLAN.
NORAH BURKE	RIA MOONEY
~~XXXXX~~ TRAMP	W. O'GORMAN.
MICHAEL DARA	ERIC GORMAN.

The following are the proposed productions for the forthcoming weeks: Next week - Paul Twyning. Week commencing 23rd January "The Jailbird". Week commencing 30th Jan. - "Caesar's Image" and "The Shadow of the Glen". Week commencing 6th February - "Drama at Inish". Week commencing 13th February - "The New Gossoon". Week commencing the 20th February "Bird's Nest" and "The Dear Queen"; and proposed new play for the week commencing the 27th February. These programmes have all been chopped about and altered a lot ~~xxxx~~ because of the grave obstacles we are up against in casting by reason of many players being absent from casts, but by the beginning of next month all these difficulties will have disappeared.

Approved.

NEW PLAYS: All the directors have reported on "Heritage" by J.K. Montgomery and while they are all more or less favourable they are not very enthusiastic. Mr. Robinson is strongly in favour, and I am strongly in favour of production. This play, if accepted, will have to be cut down very severly and I suggest the entire elimination of the first act, and also the elimination of the character of Mackey the Clergyman, who is of no vital interest to the story. I feel that this play when pruned would become a likely success.

It Board apeed that the author be asked to see Mr Higgins with a view to have the suggested pruning carriedout, and that the play be accepted subject to amendment as above.

The play "Disenchanted" by Maeve O'Callaghan is a competent piece of work about skittish student life; of no vital interest to anyone but might prove a popular play with Dublin's 'Bright Young Things'. With the exception of Mr. Robinson, none of the Directors are keen for production - this is a matter for decision.

Play to be read by Dr Hayes before a decision is taken.

"Life Spreads a Thread" by Gerald Malone is rejected unanimously, but I think the Author should be given encouragement.

It Board decided that Mr Dermody be asked to produce the play with the Abbey Experimental Theatre in the Peacock Theatre.

Mr. Sean O'Faolain some time ago began working on a play for us, but owing to his financial circumstances he had to drop the play for some time. He is keen to return to this play and asks ~~for~~ the Board were agreeable to grant him an advance of £20. on Royalties; he would then be prepared to give us the play within a month after the first February. In view of the present lack of plays, I feel that Mr. O'Faolain should be encouraged in his idea as one feels that ~~which~~ any work from him is bound to attract attention. We are not committing ourselves to any greve financial gamble, and I therefore strongly suggest the adoption of his suggestion.

It was apeed that a sum of £x be paid to Mr

O'Faolain, £15 to represent the payment made on acceptance of the play and £10 on account of royalties payable on the performances.

Mr. Denis Johnston writes in reply to our recent query regarding "Blind Man's Buff" that he is glad for the revival of that play and suggests that we should follow the printed version as he has developed the character of the leading lady into the trial scene. He is not exactly in love with our suggestion regarding the addition of the Jury room scene in his play. He points out that the main objection to this scene in the original version was due to the fact that it extended the length of the play until about 11.30 at night. It was only dropped for reasons of length. I suggest that we should follow Mr. Johnston's advice and prepare for production of the new version on the date already suggested viz., the 6th March.

The Board decided that if possible the Jury scene should be included and suggested that if the performance started at 8 p.m. instead of 8.15 it might be possible.

SCHOOL OF ACTING: On January 2nd., the School was taken over by Mr. Dermody. I attended the School and adressed the students introducing th Principal. There were 31 names on Roll of School handed to Mr. Dermody by Mr. Dolan. So far only 24 of these have attended. One girl, a Miss Vere Murray was in Hospital and send word to this effect. Those who attended have taken a keen interest in the various exercises in relaxation, balancing and movement which he has shown them, and are very enthusiastic. He is holding the first fortnightly examination this evening before going on to the course in Voice Production. He has made out a Record Sheet for each pupil in which he will record from time to time the profress made by each individual. He has not yet chosen plays for production as there are only seven men in the Class. Fourteen applications have been received in reply to advertisements: two for Childrens' Class; four for Gaelic class; and ten for ordinary class. Miss Aine Ni Cheannain, Secretary of Schools' Drama League, has asked for particulars of Gaelic and Childrens' classes - also a Mrs. O'Keeffe. A number of applicants interested in the Gaelic and Childrens' classes only, consider the fee of Five Guineas too much for classes which are held only twice weekly. There are seven ordinary classes at the same fee. Mr. Dermody suggests a reduction in fees for Gaelic and Childrens' Classes. (Reduce)

The Board decided that M. Higgins in Consultation with Mr Dermody should decide on the fees for the Gaelic classes and Children classes.

STAFF: Mr. Fred May is working here now on full time and according to reports from his colleagues in the Orchestra, is satisfactory. I wrote to Mrs. Gore thanking her exceedingly for her services and regretting her departure.

Mr. Cyril Cusack has had his leave extended until the 4th February. He has given us guarantees for his return on that date and his contract with the Theatre has been extended for one month so as to make up for his lost time with us.

approved by the Board.

BOX OFFICE: I have given instructions to the Box Office that in future no free passes are to be given out to anybody except to the Directors, the Stage Manager, the Press and to persons exhibiting our publicity. All other applications for complimentary seats must in future be passed by the Office.

approved.

ABBEY EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE: The Experimental Theatre have written asking for permission to do "Harlequin's Positions" by Jack Yeats which I have granted and have also requested permission from the Author. I have made it quite clear to the Experimental Theatre that we accept no responsibility whatsoever for that production in relation to finance or general expenditure.

Owing to the fact that the Committee Meetings of the Experimental Theatre have caused a certain amount of inconvenience here I have given instructions that the key must be held by an authorised person, such as Miss Mooney the Chairman of the Committee, otherwise we cannot allow them to be here and roam all over the place as formerly.

Approved by the Board.

"Curlew Call" It was agreed that "Curlew Call" a play in one act be given to the Abbey Experimental Theatre for production.

Miss Ann Clery. Mr Higgins read a letter from Miss Clery in which she asked to be relieved of her part in "Caesar's Image".

The Board decided that as this was the second part Miss Clery had recently asked to be taken out of, she should in future be paid only for weeks in which she was actually playing and that she should not be treated as a regular playing member of the Company.

Time Sheet of performances. Mr O'Connor suggested that in future a time sheet be kept by the Stage Manager showing the playing times of each act of a play in every performance. This would enable a check to be kept on the actual playing at each performance.

It was agreed that the Stage Manager be instructed to keep these records.

Mr Higgins reported that Mr O'Faolain had sent him a pamphlet in connection with the recent criticisms of Mr O'Connor's play. Mr O'Faolain has asked to have permission to distribute this pamphlet in the Vestibule of the theatre. The Board having discussed the matter decided by a majority that permission should not be given, Messrs Blythe, Robinson and Hayes being against the proposal, Messrs O'Connor and Higgins

in favour of it.

"The Arrow" It was agreed that before the publication of the first issue of "The Arrow" the policy of the paper should be discussed by the Board.

Carried
27/1/39

27th day 1939. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30 p.m. on Friday 27th January 1939.

Present Mrs. Blythe in the Chair, Mr Lennox Robinson, Dr Richard Hayes, Dr Walter Starkie and Mr F.R. Higgins

Minutes The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

"Curlews Call" Arising out of the Minutes it was decided that Mr D'Alton be asked to read "Curlews Call" by Lairin Gregan and that the Board at its next meeting shall consider his report.

"Disenchanted" Dr Hayes having read Miss Callaghan's play

"Disenchanted" it was decided that as a majority of the Board was against acceptance the play be returned to the author.

Finance — The Secretary reported that the balance at the Bank was £419 = 0 = 6.

MANAGER'S REPORT FOR FORTNIGHT ENDING FRIDAY 27th JANUARY, 1939.

REBUILDING: ~~The Scheme~~ After a conversation with Dr. Hayes regarding the Scheme submitted to the Minister for Finance for the rebuilding of the Theatre, I saw Mr. MacEntee on the possibility of his receiving a deputation from the Board. As the Minister is particularly busy at the present time and is not receiving any deputations he invited me to write to him on the matter. I sent a letter urging the Minister to give early consideration to our proposals and at the same time pointing out that we were losing £500. a year on the vacancy of Whyte's premises through a lack of decision, and I reminded Mr. MacEntee in my letter that that fact was made known to him over a year ago. My letter was sent on the 26th inst., and of course there is not yet time for a reply.

Approved by the Board.

CAMBRIDGE TOUR: I wrote to Higgins of the Arts Theatre, Cambridge, suggesting a guarantee of £100. profits for a Cambridge tour of a fortnight as instructed at the last Board meeting. As no reply was received from Cambridge I sent a reminder a few days ago with the result that the following telegram arrived yesterday: LETTER IN POST CONTAINING OFFER PRINCIPAL COMPANY WITH AGREED REPERTORY FORTNIGHT AT FEE OF FIVE HUNDRED AND FIFTY POUNDS SUBJECT TAX EXEMPTION - HIGGINS ARTS THEATRE CAMBRIDGE. So far the letter referred to in the telegram has not been received.

The Board decided that the terms as set out above should be accepted.

FALLON LIBEL: I wrote to Mr. Arthur Cox as suggested at the last Board meeting asking for the insertion of Fallon's apology in the Irish Times. As a result of Mr. Cox's approach to the Solicitors for Fallon, the apology appeared last Saturday in that paper. I have since had a letter from Mr. Arthur Cox enclosing cuttings of the apology which has appeared in the Irish Times, Irish Press, Irish Independent, Evening Herald, and the Leader. The apology did not appear in the Evening Mail nor in the Cork Examiner. I am personally of the opinion that the matter should now end as we have received due satisfaction from the publicity already given.

fallen libel. The Board agreed that the matter should now end.

CORPORATION INSPECTORS: As a result of a paragraph appearing in the newspapers I had a letter from Mr. O'Connor asking me to attend a meeting of the Corporation on last Tuesday night at which the appointment of Inspectors for the Dublin Theatres would be under discussion. Mr. O'Connor was strongly of the view that representations should be made by us at that Meeting, and steps taken to protest against the appointement of such Inspectors, as such appointments are the forerunner of the establishment of a Board of Censors for the Theatres. I was not keen to follow up Mr. O'Connor's suggestion, being of the opinion that any protest from us would undoubtedly draw attention to our interest in the matter and possibly lead to further difficulties. I referred the matter to Mr. Blythe and Dr. Hayes and they agreed with my attitude and I therefore took no steps in the matter. Since then, according to the newspapers, the appointement of six inspectors for the Dublin Theatres has been made by the Corporation to watch shows and to report to the City Manager on matters of indecency and obscenit appearing on the Dublin stage. We have received no intimation from the Corporation of such appointment, and of course on that account we have taken no steps in the matter, but I have given instructions to our chief Attendant not to admit any person to the Theatre without authorisation from the Office; that, of course, does not include Corporation Inspector Stapleton or the Police.

Approved by the Board.

CORPORATION REQUIREMENTS: Mr. Wright has reported to me that the Electrical Inspector requires a hand lamp on flex for boiler. We have one in stock. The Bowl fires in the Box Offices are to be replaces by tubular heaters, at a cost of about 25/- each. Mr. Wright also reports that we might be compelled at a later date to instal emergency lighting controlled at the two main Exit doors ofthe auditorium - this would be a big job, costing approximately £20. Other minor requirements of the Corporation have been carried out.

PRODUCER: Mr. Louis D'Alton has been working here for the past three weeks on the play "Caesar's Image" for production on next Monday night. He has the play now in a very good condition for production although I am afraid that the play is not likely to prove a great attraction. In rehearsal, it appears very thin, with little dramatic moments, and has all the appearance of a very derivative O'Casey. I doubt for its success, although I sincerely hope I am wrong. Mr. D'Alton is proving himself a very efficient producer, capable in his handling of the players, and in his determination to get the effects he requires produced with the least possible trouble; although "Caesar's Image" does not give him a fair chance to test his ability; he nevertheless is shaping very well and I feel sure he will prove a success.

PLAYS: At the present time there are 27 plays in circulation among the Directors, and I would earnestly ask that they would speed up the reading of these plays so as to enable us to reach decisions. We are in a very bad way for new work and every endeavour must be made to look for the best possible productions. At present I am asking Mr. D'Alton to read plays which come in so as to weed out the more suitable work which can then be sent to the Directors. I think that in future no hopeful play should be declined until there is a possibility given to the author to rewrite his work in the hopes of making it presentable. In such a direction Mr. D'Alton and myself can doctor up plays and encourage writers, instead of our recent tendency to reject plays too ruthlessly. Owing to the fact that the business side of the Theatre is now under regular control more attention must be given to consideration and pursuit of good work, and if at all possible I would like the Directors to assist us by reading plays which have been in their hands for some time past so as to clear up arrears.

I have written to Mr. Montgomery the author of "Heritage" which we accepted at our last Meeting subject to amendments. I have pointed out to him suggested alterations and Mr. Montgomery is coming to see me tomorros on these matters. Mr. D'Alton has also read the play and agrees to my suggestions and both of us will interview the author and see that these are carried into effect. However, it will take a few weeks before these alterations can be effectively carried out and as we require a new play for production on the 27th February I would be glad if the Directors would hurriedly read a new play by Mr. D'Alton, entitled "Tomorrow Never Comes". The preliminary reports from the Directors who have read this play are exceedingly favourable and if the remaining Directors read this play and the majority were in favour, I would be able, if they would empower me, to prepare it for production immediately and it could then be presented on the 27th February - otherwise, with the possible delay in altering Mr. Montgomery' play, we have no new work for presentation on the 27th February. It is our hope, when arrears in play reading have been overcome, to produce a new work at least every three weeks. Repeated productions is our only safeguard in the present slump - the Public is getting too many revivals..

I have had a letter from Mr. Sean O'Faolain accepting the Directors' invitation to write a play and he is at the present time working on a manuscript and he hopes to deliver it within about six weeks time. Mr. George Shiels is also working on his new play which has been promised to us in about a months' time.

Mr. Denis Johnston writes to say that he cannot find the missing Jury room scene of "Blind Man's Buff", which as you may remember we wish to include in the next revival of that play. He thinks that the scenes referred to may be buried somewhere in his Dublin papers but he is not likely to return here for several weeks. At the same time he is eager that we should revive the play according to the printed version which gives an enlarged Trial scene.

Mr. Gerard Malone in a few very impertinent letters has rejected with scorn our suggestion that his play should be produced by the Experimental Theatre in the Peacock.

A new play has also been received from Mr. O'Connor entitled "The Statue's Daughter" which is presently in circulation.

The Board agreed to accept the printed version of "Blind Man's Buff"

SCHOOL OF ACTING: Out of 73 applications for membership of the School of Acting as a result of our recent advertising; Mr. Dermody has accepted 45 new students, bringing the present total of the School up to 72 students. He has 14 children in his class for children and about ten in his gaelic class. The membership of the Gaelic class is not very satisfactory and Mr. Dermody is therefore circularising a letter, in gaelic, to Schools, Gaelic league branches and dramatic societies asking for Gaelic students. We have reduced the fees for students attending the gaelic classes to Two Guineas per session, and to the same figure for the Childrens' classes as an inducement to further membership. Several members of the ordinary classes have asked if they would be allowed to attend the gaelic classes for the ordinary fee of Five Guineas. Mr. Dermody suggests that they should be allowed to do so.

A gymnasieum mattress is required in the School. Mr. Dermody has procured estimates for such a mattress and asks that we would accept the price offered for a mat measuring 6 x 4 x 3; costing £4. 5. 0.

In my opinion the School is now very capably organised and Mr. Dermody is giving great attention to the work. He is preparing for t the production of a play by his students which he hopes to produce towards the end of February.

The Board agreed that members of the ordinary classes be allowed to attend the Gaelic classes without extra charge.
The Board also agreed to the purchase of the mattress required.

WORLD FAIR: I had a telephone request from the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, asking if the Abbey Theatre would be agreeable to submit two Models ~~fmx~~ of our recent Gaelic plays for exhibition in the New York World Fair. The Department will be responsible for all expenses incurred By the preparation and transport of these Models to New York, similar to their request for the recent Glasgow Exhibition. I have told the Ministry that we will be agreeable and asked if it were possible to also exhibit a model of one of our Irish plays in English. This is a matter they have presently under consideration as they have also asked the Gate Theatre to submit models for English work.

The Board decided that M. Higgins should discuss the matter with Miss Moiseiwitsch and see if she would be willing to undertake the work.

MAGAZINE: Our Canvasser has presently secured over six pages of advertising for the Arrow; showing a gross income for the first issue of over £70. As Mr. O'Connor is presently away, I think the publication will not take place before another month, and by that time I hope to have over eight pages of advertisements, assuring its financial success. Publication will not take place until the Directors have had the opportunity of studying the first Editorial which will cover matters of policy.

The Directors after some discussion decided that there should be established in connection with the Magazine an editorial Board consisting of Mr E. Blythe, M. Lennox Robinson and Dr. Richard Hayes. It was also agreed that Mr F.R. Higgins should act as Manager.

TANYA MOISEIWITSCH: As Miss Moiseiwitsch is leaving us tomorrow I made arrangements for a Luncheon to be given to her today in the Shelbourne Hotel and as there was no opportunity for the Directors' formal approval I now wish you to endorse my action. Yes.

Approved by the Board.

Mr D'Alton's play. The Board agreed that Dr Hayes and Dr Starkie

should read Mr D'Alton's play "Tomorrow Never Comes" as soon as possible and if they agree that the play be accepted and put into rehearsal at once.

Agreed
10/2/39

30th January 1939 Minutes of a special meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd held on Monday 30th Jany 1939 in the Abbey Theatre, Dublin at 8 p.m.

The meeting was called in consequence of the death on Saturday 28th January 1939 of Mr W.B. Yeats.

Present Mr F. Blythe in the Chair, Dr Walter Starkie, Dr Richard Hayes, Mr P.J. Higgins.

Mr Higgins reported that Mr McGinnis had on the previous day (Sunday) received a wire from Mrs W.B. Yeats stating that Mr Yeats was dead.

The following resolution was passed:-
"The Directors of the Abbey Theatre tender to the family and relatives of W.B. Yeats, founder of the Theatre, Creator of the Irish dramatic movement and one of the great inspiring forces of the new Ireland,

their profound sympathy on his death."

Mr Higgins stated that during the day he had been in touch with some of the Directors who had approved of Mr Robinson travelling to the Dutch of France to see if there was any possibility of arranging with Mrs Yeats for the bringing back of the remains for burial in Ireland.

Travellers cheques for £20 and £30 for personal expenses had been given to Mr Robinson who had left for France on that (Monday) night.

On the motion of Dr Starkie seconded by Dr Hayes approval was given to this expenditure.

It was decided that nothing further could be done until a report was received from Mr Robinson.

The Board decided that the Theatre should remain closed for the week and should reopen on Monday 6th February.

It was also decided that the Staff should be paid for the week.

Eamon a Phi
10/2/39

10th Feby 1925. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held on the 10th February 1925 in the Abbey Theatre at 5.30 p.m.

Present — Mr S. Blythe in the chair, M Lennox Robinson, Dr Richard Hayes, Mr F.R. Higgins.

Minutes — The Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Board held on 27th January 1925 and of the Special meeting held on 31st January 1925 were read, confirmed and signed.

Arising out of the Minutes the Board considered the question of discussing with Mrs Yeats as to how W.B. Yeats' body could be brought home for burial in Ireland. It was decided that the matter be further considered at the next meeting.

It was also decided that the approval of Mrs Yeats be sought for the production of "Cuchulain" a new play which Mr Yeats had written shortly before he died.

Finance — The Secretary reported that the Credit balance at the Bank was £288-13-7 but that the outstanding accounts were paid there would be a debit balance.

Mr L. Robinson's journey to France.

Mr Lennox Robinson submitted to the meeting the following report on his journey to France which was authorised by the Special meeting held on 30th Jany. 1939

There is nothing to say about my journey to Cannes. I arrived there at 4 p.m. Tuesday. From there I took a bus to Nice arriving about 4-30. I wanted to see the British Vice-consul there to see if it was possible to remove the body. His office closed at 4-15 but I found out his private address and met his wife but he had not got home and she didn't know when he would be in. I then took another bus to Cap Martin arriving at the hotel there a little before seven, only to be told that Mrs Yeats had left that afternoon for London. I spoke to Miss Mathieson on the phone (she was staying with Lady Dorothy Wellesley at Beaulieu about forty minutes by car away). She seemed annoyed and excited, said that they had had Mrs Yeats with them for two nights, had put her on the train at 4 that afternoon and were worn out and going to bed, but she askedme if I could to go to lunch next day. She said Mrs Yeats had bought a grave for a year, that there was no hope of my extracting the body and that the British Vice-consul in Menton knew all about it.

Next morning I took a bus to Menton getting there at 10-15. The consul was not in but I saw him about eleven. He was very friend ly - his name is Dean - and I thnked him for the help he had given Mrs Yeats. He said that nothing - in the question of moving the body could be done without Mrs Yeats consent, that the formalities were very complicated but that it would be just as easy to remove the

body in a years' time as now. He also said that the regulations in France require that the funeral takes place twenty-four hours after the death. Bringing the body through England to Ireland would also mean additional formalities. Probably in this particular case the English and Irish governments would have made special facilities but we must remember that Mrs Yeats had been in ceaseless attendance on Mr Yeats for three days and nights. Our wire to her did not reach her till just before she left for England because she had moved from the hotel at Cap Martin to Lady Wellesley's villa. She was very upset that she was not in time to stop my journey. After lunch Miss Mathieson drove over and we went to the cemetary at Roquebrue. A beautiful situation nigh over the Mediterrean. Mr. Dermod O'Brien who had been staying near Monte Carlo had arranged for the burial service and he and his wife and three or four other people were at the funeral. I caught the four O'clock train back that afternoon. I tried to keep my expenses as low as possible and have furnished them to Mr. Gorman.

Approved by the Board.

Death of the Pope.

It was agreed that a message of sympathy on the death of His Holiness Pope Pius XI be sent to the Archbishop of Dublin and to the Papal Nuncio.

It was also agreed that the Theatre should close on whatever day was fixed as the day of general closing.

MANAGER'S REPORT FOR FORTNIGHT ENDING 10th FEBRUARY, 1939.

THE POPE'S DEATH: I got in touch this morning by telephone with some of the Directors regarding closing the Theatre for tonight in view of the death of the Pope. Three Directors were in favour of closing and the Gaiety Theatre and the Gate were awaiting our decision as they felt that the National Theatre should take the lead in the matter. I subsequently received a telephone call from the Secretary of the Irish Cinemas and Theatres Association who told me that his Association were not closing tonight in view of the short notice, but that they were likely to close their Theatres on the day of the Pope's Funeral, and they asked if we would fall in line with that decision so as to avoid any charges of disrespect. After getting in touch with some of our Directors, I agreed to fall in line with the Cinemas and Theatres Association's decision and informed the Gate Theatre to that effect. We are placing an announcement in tomorrow's papers that the Abbey Theatre shall be closed on the day of the Pope's Funeral.

Later Report: Owing to the fact that the Gaiety Theatre has decided to close through the action of Jimmy O'Dea and Harry O'Donovan, we naturally have decided to close the Theatre, and the Gate Theatre is following our example.

Approved by the Board.

REBUILDING: On January 30th I had a letter from the Secretary to the Minister for Finance stating that owing to pressure of departmental work the Minister was unable to give his attention, so far, to our proposals but that he has arranged that the examination will be pushed quickly ahead and he will communicate with us as quickly as possible.

Mr Higgins also reported that the Secretary to An Comhar Drámaíochta had written to the Theatre asking what developments if any had occurred in connection with the agreed Scheme.

The Board decided that a copy of the Correspondence of the Theatre with the Ministry for Finance be sent to the Comhar and that a copy of the Comhar's letter mentioned by Mr Higgins be sent to the Ministry for Finance.

CAMBRIDGE TOUR: We have had a letter from Norman Higgins of the Cambridge Arts Theatre, proposing to offer us the sum of £550. for a Fortnight's visit in his Theatre . That figure is not subject to any charge apart from the usual transport expenses and get-out expenses which in the ordinary way we would pay. He suggests that our visit should become an annual event, and if the figure proposed is acceptalbe he is eager to have a suggested Repertoire. This figure is a big advance on our takings from the last Tour when we received £486. 10. 9d. Out of that sum we had to pay £24. 0. 0. for advertising, which is not now being charged against us, and our Freight and Stage expenses were about £90. You can appreciate therefore that on the basis of the present offer the guaranteed sum of £550. should show a considerable profit for our fortnight. I suggest the following Bills for our two weeks in Cambridge:

First week: "The Far-Off Hills" by Lennox Robinson for the lst 3 days. "Riders to the Sea" by Synge ~~and~~ or "~~The Dear~~ Queen" by Canly for the last three days, "Shadow of a Gunman" and "Purgatory"

Second week: "The Jailbird" by George Shiels for lst three days, and "The Plough and the Stars" by Sean O'Casey for the last three days.

From the experience of our last Tour O'Casey and Shiels produce the best results , and owing to the audience being mainly Universtity, it is felt that Yeats and Synge should be included in the Repertoire. I was eager to include Paul Carroll's "Shadow and Substance" and I wrote to Golding Bright, Carroll's Agent, asking for the necessary permission in view of the fact that we had already foregone playing that play in England for a period of two years from 3rd February 1938. Golding Bright replies to say that he has referred the letter to Mr. Carroll, but he thinks that permission is not likely as the play is expected to appear in London some time in the Month of May. I also wrote to Mr. Arthur Shields in New York asking him for information regarding the date of his likely return to Dublin; so far I have had no reply. We also thought of the possible production of "Blind Man's Buff" in Cambridge and of "The Invincibles", but the heavy cast required for such plays makes a production in Cambridge very difficult; on account of the expense and the procuring of the additional players.

The Board approved of a fortnights visit but decided that for the last three days of the first week the bill should be "The Workhouse Ward", "Purgatory" and "The Shadow of a Gunman".

NEW YORK WORLD FAIR: Miss Tanya Moiseiwitsch has been in touch with the Department of Industry and Commerce regarding the making of models from the Abbey Theatre for exhibition at the New York World Fair. Miss Moiseiwitsch has presented the Department with an estimate of the cost in the sum of £28. 0. 0. £20. of which is Miss Moiseiwitsch's fee. We, of course, are not paying Miss Moiseiwitsch any salary during her stay here in Dublin for this work. She is quite satisfied with the sum offered. The sets being modelled are from "Baintighearna an Ghorta" and "Casadh an tSugain".

Approved by the Board.

PLAYS: The takings so far on "Caesar's Image", up to and including Thursday night, is £96. 0. 0d. and as we are not likely to cover our expenses, I feel that a revival of the play next week is not advisable. Next week we are producing "Drama at Inish" and the following week "Blind Man's Buff" by Denis Johnston. We are playing from the printed version of this play which contains many alterations in the script and the Author has developed his first Act and also the Trial scene to a great extent. However, rehearsals are in progress and Mr. Dolan, the Producer promises a good performance.

Mr. D'Alton has carried out all the necessary cuttings and alterations to his play "Tomorrow Never Comes". The set has been designed by Miss Yeats, and rehearsals are to begin next Monday. The following cast is suggested by Mr. D'Alton, and as we have gone into all the questions of suitability, we feel that this cast is the best available for the Play. We therefore propose:

LAR BRODERICK	F.J. McCORMICK.
MARY BRODERICK	RIA MOONEY
J. McELVELLY	M.J. DOLAN.
D'ARCY	W. O'GORMAN.
CLAFFEY	CYRIL CUSACK
HENNESSY	DENISO'DEA.
MRS. COUNIHAN	MAY CRAIG
GUARD BANNON	J. WINTER
SERGT. HARRIGAN	AUSTIN MELDON.

Production date suggested: week beginning 6th March; which allows three full weeks for rehearsal.

With the exception of J. Winter for the part of Guard Bannon the Board approved of the above cast. It was decided that Mr Higgins and Mr D'Alton should further conside the casting of the part of Bannon.

I would like the Board to give a decision on "The Birth of a Giant". Three readers are strongly in favour of this play; two strongly against, and three not enthusiastic and yet not against production.

Mr Robinson said he would like to read this play again. It was agreed that he should do so and that Mr Higgins should also read it again and report his opinion to the Board.

NEW PLAYS: Mr. J.K. Montgomery, the author of "Heritage" has carried out all the suggestions made to him by Mr. D'Alton and by myself. He has returned the revised script and we now feel that as he has very much improved the play that his Contract should be presented to him and his play should be the next for production, during the month of April.

The Board agreed that a Contract for 'Heritage' be sent to Mr Montgomery.

The Directors have already received a report on "Curlew's Call" by M. Creegan, and we are eager to know if it is agreed ~~kkk~~ to produce the play with the alterations suggested by Mr. D'Alton, or if I should see the Author and discuss the matter of these alterations with her before a decision is reached.

The Board decided that a rewriting of the play did not promise to improve it in any way, it would be better if Mr Higgins wrote to the author giving her a criticism of the play and asking her to try another subject.

"The Statue's Daughter" by Frank O'Connor, has been considered by all the members of the Board, with the result that two members are against production; one in favour of production, and two in favour of production with alterations.

The Board decided that as the two sisters in the play were identifiable as the Misses Terence Rae Sweeney the play would require alteration so as to remove this objection and Mr Higgins

was asked to write to Mr O'Connor telling him this and suggesting that he should leave the play aside for a while and then re-write it.

"Bring our Your Dead" by George Mitofsky. This play is non-Irish in treatment, yet has been very well reported on by Mr. D'Altori; and it is felt that a production of it by the Abbey Experimental Theatre, might be exciting. yes

The following plays have been considered and have been returned to the Authors with lengthy comments as the possible improvements and stating that they should return these plays again if the suggested alterations are considered effective. These plays all show merit and therefore it is felt that they should not be rejected with an opportunity being afforded to the Authors of improving them:

"Bitter Rue" by D. Giltinan.
"Holding the Place" by M.J. Murphy.
"Variations on a Theme" by Purefoy.
"Tohnnie" takes a Turn" by Kathleen O'Brennan.

It was agreed that 'Bring Out Your Dead' be rejected for production by the A.E.T.

BROADCAST: The B.B.C. Belfast have written asking if the Abbey Players would be available to perform "The Big House" by Lennox Robinson during the week commencing the 9th April. This is Easter Week, and if it were possible to muster suitable players of quality for this Broadcast, without interfering too much with our ~~xxxxxxxx~~ own performances during that week, I would be agreeable to the Broad cast. The B.B.C. are very eager to have Broadcast from us every Quarter and this suggested broadcast meets with the general scheme.

The Board agreed that if the broadcast could be done without interfering with the production in the Theatre the date should be accepted.

SCHOOL OF ACTING: During the past fortnight fourteen applications for membership of the School have been made. So far Mr. Dermody the Principal has not finally accepted them. An application has also been received from Miss Aine Ni Cathain asking for a reduction in fees on behalf of a group of 15 to 20 School children whose parents are poor. The students of the No. 1. class are anxious that a play be produced. There was no production of a play in the School during last term and now it is felt desirable that a play should be put on, and it is suggested for production, Lady Gregory's "The Would-be Gentleman" and Synge's "Riders to the Sea" if the Directors approve. From Monday next Mr. Dermody is holding a morning class for adults, from 11 to 1, for three days of the week. Mr. Dermody is very attentive to the work of the School and is now going ahead gallantly.

The Board decided that Mr Higgins and Mr Dermody should consider the question of reducing the fee for the group of School children and if they thought well of it, fix a smaller fee for this group.

Play Competition. Mr Hayes raised the question of holding another Play Competition and the Board decided that Mr Higgins should draw up for consideration at the next meeting an advertisement which might be inserted in the papers.

Mr T.R. Higgins as Manager. Mr Blythe raised the question of Mr Higgins continuing as Manager at the conclusion of the term of six months which had been the period of his original appointment.

Mr Higgins asked leave to withdraw while the matter was being discussed and the Board then considered the matter.

Mr Blythe said that Mr Higgins had stated that

he found it impossible to carry on his outside work and the theatre work but that if he was to continue in the Theatre he could make arrangements for having his outside work done for him.

Mr Blythe said he thought Mr Higgins's services would be needed in the theatre for a considerable time and suggested that Mr Higgins be appointed for another year and that his salary for the first six months be as at present £5 per week; after six months this salary to be reconsidered with a view to increasing it. This was agreed to by the Board.

It was also agreed that the appointment be subject to one months notice on either side.

Sets

STAFF: I have asked Mr. Dolan in future to give me weekly confidential reports on the standard of revivalsunder his direction. He is to report to me on the acting, ~~effects,~~ and lighting on each week's plays as the play is being produced and to make all suggestions possible for the improvement of revivals. Mr. D'Alton is also to let me have a weekly report on the progress of his rehearsals of a likewise confidential nature. I shall state in future on my own weekly report, the actual financial returns of each revival up to the Thursday of the week the Board meets. It is essential that we watch carefully the profress of revivals and that everything possible should be done to keep up to standard.

As I am not satisfied that sufficient care is being taken by the Stage Manager to cut down overtime; in future, no overtime will be permitted unless approved of by the Producer or the Assistant Producer. These Officials must countersign all dockets before payment for overtime shall be made.

In future a Time Book must be signed by certain members of the Staff to ensure punctuality and full attendance.

ABBEY THEATRE LETTINGS: Applications from Miss Sara Payne and Miss Lyndon for bookings of the Theatre have been rejected as such bookings are not profitable to us and create confusion and difficulty.

24/2/39

24th February 1939. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society. Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30 pm on Friday, 24th February, 1939.

Present Mr E Blythe in the Chair, Mr Lennox Robinson, Mr F.R. Higgins.

Minutes. The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

Finance The Secretary reported that the overdraft at the Bank was £372-6-11.

Mr Higgins reminded the Board that there was roughly £730 due to the Theatre from the last American Tour and that he was taking steps to have this money recovered.

MANAGER'S REPORT FOR FORTNIGHT ENDING 24th FEBRUARY, 1939.

RE-BUILDING: As instructed at the last Board Meeting we despatched to the Minister for Finance a copy of the letter received from the Comhar; and sent to the latter body the correspondence which passed between us and the Minister for Finance. We have had no further developements.

CAMBRIDGE TOUR: On the basis of our discussions at the last meeting I wrote to Higgins of the Cambridge Arts Theatre suggesting the plays proposed for our visit and so far have had no further reply. Mr. Paul V. Carroll, through his agent Golding Bright, has written prohibiting production of "Shadow and Substance" in England in accordance with our agreement with him.

HOLY WEEK: I am strongly of opinion that owing to the many recent closings of the Theatre that we should not close during Holy Week except on Good Friday and on the following night. It has been the custom here to close the Theatre, but in the year 1924, a production took place during Holy Week of "The Story Brought to Bridget" by Lady Gregory. If we remain closed during that week our expenses are estimated at £150. and I therefore think that we should endeavour to cut such losses by giving a production during that week of "The Story Brought to Bridget". I have circulated among you a proposed cast for that play, and additional expenses for such a production, including salaries, advertising, costumes etc.,

amount to about £62., which is a conservative figure. In 1924 when this play was produced our takings for five performances, including a Matinee, amounted to £70. If it is agreed to proceed with the production suggested I propose to circularise the Dublin Schools and Colleges advertising the play to students with admission reduced by 50% for groups of not less than ten persons. ~~Thank~~ Such advertising should begin early in view of the fact that most of the Schools and Colleges are closed during Holy Week. If the Board is not agreeable to the suggestion of that play, I think it should be definitely decided to have some other production in the Theatre, and to avoid a serious loss. "Shadow and Substance" might be produced as an alternative.

The Board decided that "The Story Brought by Brigid" should be played every night in Holy Week with the exception of Good Friday night, and agreed that reduced terms should be given to the Schools as suggested by Mr Higgins.

PLAY COMPETITION: I have also circulated among you this evening a draft copy of the proposed advertisement announcing this competition and if the draft is accepted I would suggest that our advertising should include one or two insertions in the Literary Supplement of the London Times so that Irish writers in England should be acquainted with details of the competition.

The Directors approved of the following advertisement being inserted in the Irish Press, Irish Times, Irish Independent, Irish News & Whig in Belfast & the Cork Examiner.

For the best play, lasting not less than 2½ hours, by an Irish author, the Directors offer a prize of £50 and a contract for production on the usual royalty basis. Contracts are also offered for plays entered for the Competition which are considered worthy of production.

A Committee of Adjudicators will consider all plays submitted.

Each manuscript must be entered under a mon-de plume and submitted before 1st Septr. 1939.

Plays by dramatists whose work has already appeared in the Abbey Theatre and plays already offered to the Theatre are not eligible.

Further particulars from the Secretary.

PROPOSED REVIVALS: It is quite evident that our present revivals are not pulling in the Theatre during recent weeks, as you may recall from our financial returns we are suffering severe losses. We have now the services of three Producers and a large complement of players; and I therefore fail to see why an attempt should not be made to produce a

new play at least every three weeks, and revivals of old plays which have been dropped for some years past in the intervals. You have before you a list of old plays which may bear revival and I therefore ask you to seriously consider this list and to make a selection from these plays so as to revive interest in work which is not very well known by present day supporters of the Abbey.

The following plays were selected as worth consideration for revival:-

"The Doctor's Dilemma" , "You Never Can Tell" by G.B Shaw,
"The Land of Heart's Desire" , "The Player Queen" by W.B Yeats
"Mixed Marriage" by St John Ervine
"The Dreamers" by Lennox Robinson
"Insurance Money" by Geo Shiels.
"Grania" by Lady Gregory (never produced)
"The Casting out of Martin Whelan" by R.J. Ray.
"The Kingdom of God" by Sierra.
"Days Without End" by Eugene O'Neill.
"The Man in the Cloak" by L.A' Alton (revised version)
"The Bribe" by Seumas O'Kelly.

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAMME: The revised version of "Blind Man's Buff" in rehearsal under Mr. Dolan's direction, is being produced next week. We hope that this new version may give added interest to the play and therefore secure a second week's performance. If this is not possible I suggest a revival of Mr. Dolan's production of "Professor Tim" last given with great success when the Company was in Cork. It is the only play which can presently bear revival.

Approved by the Board.

MR. D'ALTON'S PLAY: As you are aware Mr. F.J. McCormick was cast for the part of Lar Broderick in "Tomorrow Never Comes" by Mr. D'Alton. It is a very heavy part - in fact the whole play is carried on that one part and the script for it alone amounts to 93 pages. Mr. McCormick was given the part ten days ago to prepared for production on the 13th March, but I regret to say that as Mr. McCormick appears to be seriously ill he finds himself entirely unable to rehearse. He has no energy for the part, and to try to assist him I had already agreed to postpone the play for one week i.e. from the 6th March to the 13th. Mr. McCormick appeared more hopeful in view of that postponement, but last Wednesday he reported to me that notwithstanding his keeness to play he finds he cannot possibly carry on, unless endangering himself and the Theatre by a likely breakdown.

As the part is so heavy, and the time available now only two weeks before production, it is suggested that Mr. D'Alton the author; and as you know an experienced actor; should play the part. I told Mr. D'Alton to begin rehearsing the part as I felt the Board would agree with the suggestion in the extreme difficulty under the circumstances. Mr. D'Alton is now rehearsing with the Company and is making a very fine character in the play. If you accept this suggestion I propose that Mr. D'Alton should receive £5. 5. 0. for the week of playing. We, of course, are saving the salary which would have been paid to Mr. McCormick. Mr. McCormick is carrying on ~~xxx~~ as usual in his parts for revival and feels that after some relief from new plays he will be able to resume his old activity for ~~xxx~~ our new play suggested for Easter week.

Approved by the Board.

NEW PLAY: Mr. J.K. Montgomery has now received his Contract for "Heritage" for production during Easter Week. I propose the following cast for that play:

MRS. NORTON	MAUREEN DELANY
NATHANIEL NORTON	F.J. McCORMICK
JOSHUA NORTON	M.J. DOLAN
TOM MARTIN	DENIS O'DEA
NANCY PETTIGREW	E. CROWE.
YOUNG PETTIGREW	C. CUSACK
EILEEN NORTON (Tom's Wife)	KIA MOONEY.
ADAM MEEK	W. O'GORMAN
JANET, the maid	FROLIE MULHERN.

I would like to have this cast passed as soon as possible so that the parts can be circulated, which are presently being typed, to speed up the work of rehearsing.

Approved by the Board.

FURTHER NEW PLAYS: During the past fortnight I have written to the following authors, inviting them to submit new plays to the Theatre: Mr. Shaw, asking for his "Geneva" as suggested by the late W.B. Yeats - so far Mr. Shaw has not replied. Mr. Sean O'Casey, and he has replied promising to let us have his new play "The Star turns Red" although he doubts its acceptance by the Dublin audiences. To Mr. Denis Johnston who has completed a new play but has already promised it to Lord Longfo? and is now putting up such difficult terms to Longford that the latter may refuse to consider the play; in which event Mr. Johnston promised to send the play to us immediately. To Mr. St. John Ervine who replie promising us his forthcoming Ulster play which he will complete as soon as free time is available from present undertakings. To Mr. Lynn Doyle who has completed a play and is submitting it to us next week. To Mr. George Shiels who is working on a play which has been held up owing to ill health but he hopes to let us have it in the course of a few weeks. To Mrs. Yeats asking for "Cuchulain" by the late W.B. Yeats, and she promises us the play as soon as the typing of same is completed. To Mr. Daniel Corkery for his play "Clan Halvey" which is not published, and so far we have not received any reply from the author.

BROADCASTING: I have received from Mr. Lennox Robinson his proposed cast for a broadcast during Easter week of his "Big House". All the players he suggests are available, with the exception of Arthur Shields and Shelah Richards; who according to Mr. Shields are returning to us in a fortnight's time. Also, Mr. McCormick and Mr. Dolan who are not keen to broadcast as they consider the work too heavy under present conditions and would prefer to remain with us in Dublin for the performance of "Heritage" by J.K. Montgomery during the week of the suggested broadcast. I should like a direction from the Board and from Mr. Robinson on the filling of the latter two parts, and I shall then get in touch with the broadcasting authroties for their approval.

The Board decided that Mr Higgins and Mr Robinson should endeavour to find a cast which would satisfy the B.B.C.

TRUSTEESHIP: I had a letter from our Solicitor, Mr. Arthur Cox, asking for the appointement of two Trustees in place of the late Lady Gregory and W.B. Yeats. I have written to Cox telling him that the matter would be placed before this meeting and had a reply urging the appointments on the grounds of utmost importance.

The Board decided that Mr Blythe and Dr Starkie should be the new Trustees and that Mr Cox be notified accordingly

REQUEST FOR CUP: The Secretary of the Gaelic Drama Society for Schools has written a lengthy letter pointing out the good cultural work which they are doing for the promotion of gaelic drama and the language through their Society. They have received promises of support from various organisations in the City in the form of cupswhich are offered annualy for competition to various School Dramatic societies; and as they feel that the Abbey Board are interest in their work they ask if we could see our way to presenting the Society with a Cup. I have replied to the Secretary pointing out that the matter will come before this meeting. I await your direction.

The Directors decided they could not give a Cup as to do so would result in similar requests from other organisations.

PHOTOGRAPHY: During the past we have found that the services of our Photographer, Mr. Mooney, are not exactly satisfactory, and I have therefore invited Messrs. Chancellors to give quotations for the same work. They quoted me the sum of Three Guineas for photographing sets and players in new plays. The work would undoubtedly be better than that presented by Mr. Mooney but their price is slightly higher. They have asked for a year's Contract but I suggest that they should be given a trial on Mr. D'Alton's new play and if the work is suitable the contract then should be placed with them. We would certainly get better publicity through Chancellors than through Mooney.

approved by the Board.

STAFF: I have had a request from Miss Ann Clery for an increase in her wages from £4. 10. 0. to £6. 0. 0. Miss Clery is not now a regular player and is only being paid week by week when she is playing. I would like the Board's direction on this matter.
Mr. Fred Johnson is now playing most of the parts played by the late P.J. Carolan and while he has certain faults at the same time I feel that he is presently indispensable to us. He has asked for an increase in his salary from £4. 5. 0. and I have agreed to give him a 5/- increase from this week.

The Board decided that Miss Clery's salary when playing should be £4-10-0 pr week. Approval was given for the increase of 5/- pr week to Mr Johnson.

Annual General Meeting.

It was agreed that the Annual General Meeting of the Society be held on Tuesday, 7th March 1939.

Articles of Association.

Mr Blythe referred to the Articles of Association and submitted a draft of some new Articles which he suggested would be useful additions to present Articles dealing with the issue and allocation of shares and the appointment of Directors.

The Board decided that copies of the suggested new Articles be circulated and that an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society be held on Tuesday, 7th March 1939, at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting, the resolutions submitting the new Articles for acceptance to be proposed at this Extraordinary General Meeting.

Issue of Shares to Dr Hayes.

It was proposed by Mr Lennox Robinson, seconded by

Mr F-R. Higgins and passed:- "That one hundred £1 shares in the Society be issued to Dr Richard Hayes."

Lennox Robinson
March 7th 1939

7th March 39. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, 7th March. 39.

Present Dr Walter Starkie in the Chair. Mr Lennox Robinson, Mr E. Blythe, Mr F-R. Higgins.

Annual Statement of Accts. The Statement of Accounts for the year ending 28th. February 1938 and the Report of the Directors and of the Auditors to be presented to the Annual General Meeting of the Society were considered and passed.

The Board then adjourned until the conclusion of the Extraordinary General Meeting which was held at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting.

At the resumed meeting of the Board the chair was taken by Mr Lennox Robinson, Dr Walter Starkie & Mr E. Blythe and Mr F-R. Higgins being present.

Issue of Shares to Dr Hayes.

Mr Higgins reported that D. Arthur Cox had written regarding the proposed issue of shares to Dr. Hayes. Mr Higgins had explained to M. Cox that the Board wished all the Directors to have shares as a matter of policy and that when the shares were allotted to Dr Hayes he would be in the same position as every other member of the Board. Mr Cox agreed with these views and saw no reason why shares should not be issued to Dr Hayes as desired by the Board.

Mr Hy the said he was of opinion that at a later date all the shares held by the Directors should be re-allotted equally among the members of the Board.

Trusteeship

Mr Higgins also reported that Mr Cox had written stating he was consulting Counsel regarding the position and the question of appointing new Trustees.

Plays.

The Board agreed that Lynn Doyle's play be returned to him as unsuitable.

Mr Higgins reported that he had applied to Mr Shaw for permission to produce Geneva but had been informed that the provincial rights were not available

Mr Higgins also reported that the one act play which Mr. B. Yeats had finished shortly before he died

had been sent in by Mrs Yeats.

The Board considered the possibility of producing it together with Lady Gregory's "Grania" which had never been played.

It was agreed that Mr Higgins should consult Mrs Yeats and discuss with her the programme.

It was also agreed that Mr Robinson be asked to produce the Yeats play whenever a date had been fixed.

The Board agreed that Mixed Marriage by Joseph Connor and The Village Wooing by G.B. Shaw be the bill to follow Dr Worrens Never Comes.

It was agreed that Mr D'Alton be asked to read the play sent in by Dr Collis and that he be asked to give his opinion on its merits for production purposes.

Shares held by W.B. Yeats

The Secretary read a letter he had received from Mrs Yeats in which she said she had decided to take no responsibility for the allocation of the shares held by Mr Yeats and that he had intended to divide them among the Directors. She did not wish any of these shares to remain in the hands of his family or of anyone outside the Board.

Mrs Yeats added that she could not hand over

the shares to the Board until after the will had been probated.

It was agreed that the second Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society should be held on Friday, 28th March 1939, at 5.30 pm.

Chairman

24/3/39

28th March 1939. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin on Friday 24th March, 1939.

Present Mr E. Blythe in the Chair, Dr Richard Hayes, Mr F.R. Higgins.

Minutes The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

Finance The Secretary reported that the debt balance was £567=16=4.

Marrowbone Lane by Robt. Collis Mr Higgins reported that as decided at the last meeting Mr D'Alton had been asked to report on this play and that he did not consider it was suitable for production.

The Board agreed that the play be returned to Mr Collis

with an outline of Mr D'Alton's criticism.

Allotment of Shares to Dr. Hayes.

The following resolution proposed by Mr E. Blythe and seconded by Mr T.R. Higgins was passed:-
"That the Seal of the Company be affixed to the agreement already prepared between the Company and Dr. Richard Hayes providing for the allotment to this gentleman in consideration of past and future services of one hundred fully paid Ordinary Shares in the Capital of the Company, and an application for such allotment having been received from him it is hereby resolved that one hundred fully paid shares in the Capital of the Company Numbers 691 to 790 inclusive be and the same are hereby allotted to Dr Richard Hayes in pursuance of the terms of the said agreement."

As two Directors form a quorum Dr Hayes took no part in the discussion of the matter.

MANAGER'S REPORT FOR FORTNIGHT ENDING 24th MARCH, 1939.

CORPORATION INSPECTION: On the 13th March last a gentleman introducing himself in an over-pleasant manner as Mr. Hugh Allan visited the Office and stated that he required free admission to the Theatre as an Inspector for the Corporation. I asked him in what capacity he was to inspect and he said that he had been asked by the Corporation to watch our shows and to see that nothing of an objectionable manner appeared; at the same time he pointed out that it was merely a formality so far as the Abbey and Gate Theatres were concerned but that nevertheless he would like to see our first Productions and that of course his supervision would in no wise interfere with our performances. At the same time he produced a Warrant signed by the City Manager, a copy of which is now before you. Having

read the Warrant I claimed that the document did not state in what capacity he was inspecting the Theatre and that I knew nothing officially about his appointment, and that the existing bye laws, so far as I was aware, had nothing concerning his appointment in the capacity suggested by himself. He argued with good humour and banter that the whole thing was a formality and that I should not be so officious. I asked him for a copy of the Bye Laws referred to in the Warrant and as he could not produce any such Bye Laws I then told him that if these could be produced the matter would have our further consideration. He replied that he would have to acquaint the Law Agent as to my attitude and to ask him to let us have the necessary Bye Laws governing his appointment. Mr. Eric Gorman was present during our conversation.

The following day Mr. Allen returned in a somewhat different mood and stated that he had consulted with the Corporation and was instructed to tell me that unless I admitted him as an Inspector under the terms of the Warrant that proceedings would be taken against us. He asked me was I prepared to admit him to that night's performance and I refused. He then stated that he would present himself to the Theatre for admission that night and after he left the Office I gave instructions to the Box Office and to the attendants that Mr. Hugh Allen was not to be admitted.

I consulted that afternoon with Mr. Cox, Solicitor, and was told that in his opinion our action was quite in order according to law but that he would consult Council on the matter. That night Mr. Allen claimed entrance to the Pit at about 8 o'clock and was refused admission by Attendant Harty on the grounds that Mr. Allen had not a ticket. I received subsequently from Mr. Cox, Council's opinion, in which he states that the only legal authority to impose a censorship on the Abbey Theatre was the Executive Council to whom the Lord Lieutenant's powers were transferred after the Treaty. Having gone into the other legal matters the Council stated that we acted perfectly rightly in refusing admission to Mr. Allen, and that we could maintain that attitude. Mr. Cox received intimation from the Corporation's Law Agent on the 21st March that as we had refused Mr. Allen admission there was no alternative save to prosecute, and after Mr. Cox had held a conversation with Mr. Rice I was informed by him that Mr. Rice admitted that the Corporation's ~~xxappointmentxofxMrxAllenxxxx~~ Censor had not appointed Mr. Allen as a Censor but as an ordinary Inspector under the Statutes and Bye Laws in relation to Public Safety and that his admission was to be carried out on that basis. Mr. Cox states that in these circumstances the Corporation are definitely quibbling and that our wisest course is to admit him as an Inspector and that for the moment at least the repudiation by Mr. Rice of any other motive lying behind the appointment will protect us at least to some extent. I have replied to Mr. Cox's letter containing Council's opinion and I have stated that in my opinion proceedings in open court would reveal the trickery of the appointment but that the question of Mr. Allen's admission must be decided by my colleagues on the Board. If, however, the Board decided to admit Mr. Allen as an Inspector I would advise the Board to treat Mr. Allen as an Inspector under existing Bye Laws for Public Safety and that having carried out his inspection in a regular manner he would then be asked to leave the Theatre; in other words, he would not be allowed to take a seat in the Theatre unless he pays for it as a private citizen. Today the Irish Press publish a paragraph stating that the Abbey have refused to admit one of the Inspectors appointed by the Dublin Corporation to visit Music Halls and Theatres with a view to Censorship. I now ask for the Board's direction.

After some discussion the Board decided that Mr Cox be instructed to write to the Corporation's Law Agent saying that Corporation Inspectors had at all times been admitted to the Theatre for the purpose of carrying out their duties, that Mr Hugh Allen would be admitted as an Inspector of the Corporation on matters of Public Safety and that he would be admitted solely in the belief that he was acting in that capacity his inspection being similar to that carried out for a number of years by Mr Stephen Stapleton and that when Mr Allen had carried out his inspection in a reasonable manner he would be expected to leave the Theatre, that he would not be allowed to occupy a seat unless he had purchased a ticket in the ordinary way nor would he be allowed to stand in passage ways in violation of the regulations.

BELFAST BROADCAST: We have signed a Contract with the B.B.C. Belfast for a Broadcast of "The Big House" by Lennox Robinson on Easter Monday the 10th April - rehearsing begins in Belfast on Good Friday, and we are sending to Belfast a cast of eight players viz., W. Brambell; T.W. Purefoy; P.H. Considine; Elizabeth Young; Eric Gorman; Christine Hayden; A. Shields and Shelah Richards. The absence of these players will not interfere with Dublin productions and we are likely to make about £25. on the Broadcast. In that connection I have written to the Broadcasting authorities protesting against productions in the name of the Abbey Theatre given on the air by Producers who do not understand our plays. In the course of my letter I said that we could not allow any productions or players to take part in a Broadcast which is produced in a manner likely to undermine public confidence in the Theatre and that therefore we must regard future broadcasts of our plays through the B.B.C. with vigilance, particularly in view of the fact that such plays are advertised as Abbey Theatre productions.

Approved by the Board.

PRODUCTIONS: Mr. Dolan is completing his rehearsing of "Mixed Marriage" and "The Village Wooing" for production next week.

Mr. D'Alton is also intensively rehearsing "The Heritage" by J.K. Montgomery for production during Easter Week. There is however a query as to the advisability of opening "The Heritage" on Easter Saturday. Apart from the fact that two or three of the players in the Gregory play will not be available for Easter Saturday prevents a production of that play on Easter Saturday, this day of course is not a very good one for a religious production, and it therefore may be advantageous if we opened on Saturday with "The Heritage", having the extra attraction of getting the Saturday night's audience as well as the holiday audience of Easter Monday. Mr. D'Alton states that he will be in a position to open "The Heritage" on Easter Saturday night. We await the Board's decision so that we can advertise.

Mr. Dermody is likewise is well on the way with his rehearsing of "The Story Brought by Brigit" for production during Holy Week. We have issued a statement to the papers announcing this play for production during Holy Week, and schools and Colleges have also been circularised offering free admission for groups exceeding ten students at a 50% reduced admission price. A copy of the Circular letter is before you. Further publicity of a similar nature will be given to the press during next week.

The Board agreed that "The Heritage" should open on the Saturday before Easter.

FUTURE PRODUCTIONS: As Shelah Richards, Aideen O'Connor and Arthur Shields have returned to the Theatre from America, I think it is advisable that we should produce "Birds Nest" and "The Dear Queen" during the week following the production of "The Heritage". "Shadow and Substance" with Arthur Shields in the main part to be produced the week following "Birds Nest". In connection with the production of "Shadow and Substance" there was a slight difficulty in view of the fact that Miss Ryan, who as you are aware, plays an important part in this play, had been looking for work for some time in London. Apart from her importance in "Shadow and Substance" the loss of the services of such a promising player would be very grevious to the Theatre. I have therefore taken the responsibility of writing to Miss Ryan asking for her return for "Shadow and Substance" and at the same time promising her the possibility of a small Contract for regular work in the Theatre. I think it is very important that we should hold this player, while at the same time not committing ourselves to any grave financial liability. I propose for her a salary of £2. 10. a week, with half salary when not playing.

Aideen O'Connor, Shelah Richards and Arthur Shields have asked me what their position is in the Theatre under present conditions and I have informed them that we shall give them back their old parts except in cases

naturally where they are outgrown their usefulness and also unless their parts were filled by other players in their absence in which case we are not prepared to remove the substitute players from their parts if thei~~r~~ ~~xxx~~ playing is satisfactory.

The Directors agreed that the bills "Birds Nest" & "Dear Queen" and "Shadow & Substance" should follow "The Heritage"

The Directors also approved of a contract being offered to Miss Ryan and agreed that Miss O'Connor Jim Richards & Arthur Shields be engaged for parts as suggested by Mr Higgins.

NOTICES TO PLAYERS: Owing to the fact that some of the players have during the past fortnight accepted parts in plays and afterwards handed them back, I have had a notice placed on the Board that in future ~~any~~ no player must accept any part unless he or she is prepared to play it and to give punctual and regular attendance to all rehearsals and instructions from the Producers. Attendance and punctuality of late have not been what they should be. Notice has also been given that players shall be suspended if they are late for their cues during performances.

Owing to the fact that Mr. F. May appeared on two occasions in the Orchestra Pit in a state of intoxication, I was compelled to give him notice of suspension on the 14th March. His father interviewed me pleading for leni~~e~~ncy and on receipt of an apology and an assurance from his son that his conduct would not again be subject to correction, I agreed on this occasion to withdraw the suspension, but on the next breach of behaviour he would be dismissed without further notice. These conditions are acceptable to him.

Approved by the Board.

CAMBRIDGE TOUR: A letter has been received from Norman Higgins of the Cambridge Arts Theatre in connection with our forthcoming Tour. He suggests the inclusion of "The New Gossoon" and "The Playboy" in our Season, on account of the former's success on the occassion of our last visit to Cambridge, and on account of the latter's present success in London. I have replied saying that we could meet with the suggestion of substituting "The New Gossoon" in place of "The Jailbird", both plays having strong attractions, with a special advantage in favour of "The Jailbird" being the newer play - I leave the final decision to them. "Playboy" has already been given in Cambridge on our last Tour and as Ashley Dukes is likely to tour the provinces with that play when its

present run in London is finished I have told them that I doubt if we can have the necessary permission to produce the play in Cambridge from Synge's agent in view of Ashley Duke's being in front of us. I have asked for their opinions on the matter. Mr. Keynes also suggests that we should devote at least one night to a production of Yeats plays, together with readings of his verse. I left that decision to the Board in that matter but have suggested to Cambridge that I thought that a production of "The Land of Heart's Desire" and "Purgatory" together with, say "The Death of Cuchulain" and the inclusion of verse reading, a likely Bill. The Cambridge Theatre have not yet replied to those points.

The Board approved of these suggestions with the exception of "The Death of Cuchulain" which was not considered suitable.
It was decided to consider the matter further on hearing from Cambridge.

NEW PLAYS: In response to my letters of invitation plays have been received from Lynn Doyle; W.B. Yeats; Daniel Corkery; and George ~~x~~Shiels. These plays are presently in circulation. ~~Plays~~ Replies were also received from Bernard Shaw and Denis Johnston, ~~the following~~.

REVIVALS: On the basis of our selection of old plays for revival, I think that after our forthcoming production of "Shadow and Substance" it may be advantageous to produce "Days Without End" by Eugene O'Neill; or "The Kingdom of God" by Sierra. Both plays are included in the approved list of plays for revival.

The Board selected "The Kingdom of God" as the most suitable play for revival.

TRUSTEES: Arthur Cox, Solicitor, has sent us a draft copy of the Appointment of New Trustees. I should like the Board to consider the document as Mr. Cox has stated that the Deed must be completed by the Theatre and also by the Executors of Lady Gregory and W.B. Yeats. He states he is getting in touch with the former executors and that we should get in touch with the latter. So far no word has been received from him regarding his approach to Lady Gregory's representatives.

The Board decided that the draft would be considered at a late meeting.

REBATE OF INCOME TAX: Through our Auditors we have learned that Income Tax for the past number of years has been paid on the Government's Grant-In-Aid of £1,000. per year. As this Grant is not a regular Annuity, but is subject to yearly approval, we have instructed the Auditors to claim a Rebate for such payments as soon as the forthcoming £1,000. has been received by the Theatre from the Government.

Approved by the Board.

PLAY COMPETITION: Advertisements have been inserted in the Irish News and Irish Whig, Belfast; the Cork Examiner; Irish Times , Irish Press and Irish Independent, with instructions for insertion on the Wednesday and Saturday of the next three weeks. Already replies have been received and the conditions of the Competition supplied. Copy of the conditions are before you.

Approved by the Board.

TENANCY: The Irish Ballet Production Society, an adjunct of the Abbey Ballet School, has asked us to let the basement of the Pit Cafe to them for their work on the production of Ballet. The basement is in a bad condition and requires a lot of repairing and painting - this work will be borne by the Society if we agree to the letting. It is quite a small basement and I think that a weekly rent of 10/- is adequate under the circumstances. If the Board approves of this letting I shall draw up a Contract governing the conditions and have it signed.

Approved by the Board.

SALARIES: Mr. Denis O'Dea has written me a letter stating that he has a verbal understanding with the Office to the effect that his salary would be increased by 10/- a week from 1930. Since then he has received no increase; his present salary remaining at £4. 10. 0d. and he now asks that his salary be increased to £6. 10. 0d. per week. I await your instructions.

The Board agreed that Mr. O'Dea's salary be increased to £5 per week.

DR. HAYES' DINNER: Arrangements are being made for a dinner to be given to Dr. and Mrs. Hayes in the Shelbourne Hotel on Sunday the 2nd April at 7 o'clock, in celebration of their Marriage. It was suggested that we invite the Minister for Finance and Mrs. MacEntee, together with General and Mrs. Richard Mulcahy.

Approved by the Board.

The Directors had under consideration the resolution passed at the meeting held on 7th July 1937, setting out the terms of the appointment of Mr. F. R. Higgins as Manager of the Company going on tour to America.

The Board ordered that it should be put on

record that the Salary of 175 dollars per week paid to Mr Higgins was based on a personal salary of 150 dollars (a similar salary to that paid to Mr Arthur Shields who was in charge of the production side) and a sum of 25 dollars to cover expenses incurred by Mr Higgins on behalf of the Theatre, it being clearly understood that if 25 dollars did not cover these special expenses Mr. Higgins should inform the Directors of the fact and he would be granted whatever extra money he needed.

Eamonn Rafter
14/4/39

14th April 1939 Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society. Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30 pm on Friday, 14th April 1939.

Present Mr E. Blythe in the Chair, Mr Lennox Robinson, Dr Richard Hayes and Mr F.R. Higgins.

Minutes. The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

Finance. The Secretary reported that the Credit balance was £582.7.7.

Issue of Share Certificate to Dr. R. Hayes. The following resolution was proposed by M. Lennon Robinson seconded by Mr. F.R. Higgins and passed:-

"That in accordance with the resolution passed at a meeting of the Board held on the 24th March, 1939, the Seal of the Company be affixed to Share Certificate Number 18, one hundred shares of £1 each, numbered 691 to 790 inclusive, to Dr. Richard Hayes".

This resolution was passed after the Share Certificate had been submitted, examined and passed. It was then sealed, signed and agreed to be issued.

MANAGER'S REPORT FOR THREE WEEKS ENDING 14th APRIL, 1939.

AMERICAN TOUR: I have had a letter from Mr. Herbert L. Jones, Insurance Broker, stating that he has secured the release of our Bond of 2,000 dollars from Mr. Sam Grisman. Mr. Grisman has already been written to by us for the return of the 1,700 dollars he withheld from us as a guarantee for the release of his Bond. Mr. Jones now informs me that Mr. Grisman is making no endeavour to pay the Broker's fees on the release of that Bond and that he is taking legal proceedings against Grisman for the recovery of his professional fees. Our appeals to Mr. Grisman have produced no response and I think that we should also instruct a lawyer in New York to take the necessary steps to recover the money due to us By Grisman.

The Board agreed that action should be taken against Grisman for the recovery of the amount due.

Mr. Elbert Wickes, also in response to our letters, has sent me a lengthy reply whining over his financial condition and appealing for the cancellation of the debt of 1,800 dollars which he owes us on the strength of our Contract with him made in February, 1938. I have written to Wickes in the Board's name, stating that we will not cancel the debt and demanding the payment on his Promissory Note dated 25th May, 1938 and suggesting payment on the basis of three instalments of 600 dollars each; the first payment to be made on the 20th May, 1939 , to be followed by two further payments payable in July and August, 1939. I have stated to him that if the first

payment is not made by the 20th May next we shall be reluctantly compelled to revert to legal methods for the collection of the full amount. Mr. McCauley, the Irish Consul in New York, in response to our request, recommends to us the name of Paul Turner as a reliable lawyer for the collection of such debts. Mr. Turner, by the way, is the lawyer to the Actors' Equity Association of which our players were members during the time these debts were incurred. He would therefore be a very strong man for the proposed job.

Approved by the Board.

CORPORATION INSPECTOR: As advised at our last Board Meeting I wrote to Mr. Arthur Cox, Solicitor, informing him of the Board's decision to admit Mr. Hugh Allen to the Theatre solely in the capacity of Inspector under Corporation Bye-Laws, but I advised him that we would only permit Mr. Allen to carry out his duties as Inspector in the usual orderly manner, and that he would not be allowed to occupy a free seat in the Theatre after his inspection was carried out, nor would he be permitted to stand in passage ways contrary to Corporation regulations. At the same time I asked Mr. Cox to inform the Law Agent that at all times we were courteous to Corporation Inspectors and had no intention of acting otherwise in the future so long as their work was carried out in an orderly manner. In reply, I have had a letter from Mr. Cox stating that the Law Agent acknowledged his letter conveying our opinions and stating that it had been forwarded to the Public Health Department for attention. That letter was received on the 30th March and since then there has been no further developements

The Board decided that no further action need be taken until it was known what action, if any, the Corporation proposed to take in the matter.

BELFAST BROADCAST: On Easter Monday "The Big House" by Lennox Robinson was broadcast from the Northern Ireland station of the B.B.C. and as a result of same we have made a profit of £21.

Mr Robinson referred to a letter sent by Mr Higgins to Belfast criticising an earlier broadcast. He said that as a result of this letter the B.B.C. had been inclined to cancel the broadcast of "The Big House", and he asked that the question of the production of Abbey plays by Belfast be discussed with them.

Mr Higgins in reply said that Belfast had suggested sending a representative to Dublin to discuss the question of production and that he had said in reply that he

agreed with the suggestion and would be glad to discuss the matter with a representative of the B.B.C. whenever he came to Dublin.

The Board approved and decided that Mr. Higgins should after the interview report on the points raised.

A telegram was received from Mr. Mair of the B.B.C. asking for the release of Cyril Cusack for a poetry recital on the 2nd May. I informed Mr. Mair that we were unable regretfully to meet with his request as Mr. Cusack is playing here on that date in "Shadow and Substance".

Approved by the Board.

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS: As "The Heritage" by J.K. Montgomery is doing very good business this week we are continuing performances during the forthcoming week. Afterwards we are producing "Birds Nest" by Lennox Robinson and "The Dear Queen" by Andrew Ganly for the week beginning 24th April. For the week beginning 1st May, we are producing "Shadow and Substance" with Arthur Shields in his old part and we have concluded an understanding with Miss Phyllis Ryan for her return to us from the Mercury Theatre, London, also to fill her old part in this play. According to my last report I have offered Phyllis Ryan a contract and as soon as she arrives here on the 24th inst., I will conclude the business with her. I suggest offering her a salary of £3. 10. 0. per week while playing and half salary when not playing, and as she has already filled most of the parts previously played by Aideen O'Connor, she will be constantly in work for many weeks to come.

During the absence of our main Company in Cambridge we propose to produce "Insurance Money" by George Shiels, and Mr. Shiels has supplied us with a revised script of this play. The production will be in the hands of Mr. D'Alton, and a copy of the cast is presently before you. As this play is somewhat short it requires a one act play to fill an evening's bill and various suggestions have been made in that connection, such as a production of "Never The Time and the Place" or "The Gaol Gate", and I would therefore like the Board's guidance in the matter. For the week beginning 15th May I suggest in keeping with your previous advice, a production of "Donnachdah Ruadh" which shared the prize of £50. in recent Gaelic play competition, and I have instructed Mr. Dermody to prepare for this production. Mr. Dermody is casting this play from students in his Gaelic class, which includes members of the Gaelic players, and he tells me that he will have it in good shape in time for the production date.

The bills for 24th April and 1st May as suggested by

Mr Higgins were approved and the Board approved of Mrs Ryan's contract.

Mr Robinson having agreed to the production of "Never the Time and the Place" the Board approved of this play with "Insurance Money" as the bill for 8th May, the bill for 15th May to be "Donnachadah Ruadh" and "Insurance Money".

CAMBRIDGE TOUR: I have had a letter from Mr. Higgins, Arts Theatre Cambridge, dated the 5th inst., which has somewhat interfered with our previous arrangements for productions here. We are required in Cambridge for the week beginning the 8th May, when we open with "Far Off Hills" to be followed by "The Shadow of a Gunman"; "Purgatory"; and "The Workhouse Ward". On the following week beginning the 15th May, we play "The Jailbird" and "The Plough and the Stars"; each play to have four performances i.e., three nights and a Matinee. Owing to the short notice we have received from Mr. Higgins, I have informed him that we would find it impossible to give the suggested Yeats Memorial evening's performance. We could not possibly rehearse the necessary Yeats plays and give a presentable production at the short time presently available; particularly as the players have intense rehearsing for the work they are already billed to do in Cambridge, apart from the rehearsals due for production here before they leave for Cambridge. I have had a wire from Mr. Higgins stating that he agrees to drop the Yeats evening in the circumstances. You have before you copies of the casts for the four plays to be produced in Cambridge.

The Board considered and passed the casts for the Cambridge productions.

THEATRE HOLIDAYS: The Theatre is due to close during the month of June as heretofore. I, however, feel that an endeavour should be made to keep the Theatre open this year during the month of June. As you are aware when the Theatre is closed we still lose roughly £150. in overhead expenses, and by putting on suitable productions I feel that we would reduce that weekly expense to some extent, as our only extra expenditure would be for players' salaries and Authors' royalties. Arrangements can, if necessary, be made for the players to receive their usual holidays in groups over the summer period. If you approve of keeping the Theatre open during the month of June, I can present you at our next meeting with a list of plays suitable for production during June. None of the other Theatres closes during any holiday period.

The Board discussed the difficulty of arranging casts if the Players were given their holidays in Xmas and decided it would be better to close the Theatre for a period of three weeks. If however Mr Higgins saw the possibility of arranging for a shorter closed period he could report on the matter at a later date.

PLAY COMPETITION: Already 182 applications have been received in the Office for details regarding the forthcoming play competition according to conditions passed by you at our last Meeting.

SCHOOL OF ACTING: Mr. Dermody reports that since our last Meeting three new students have been enrolled in the School, and the average attendance in all classes is 65% of Membership. Six hours weekly are devoted to the Gaelic acting class but as only five members are, according to Mr. Dermody, really fluent speakers of Irish, a good deal of his time is occupied with the language itself. A number of students are enquiring as to the advisability of holding a Summer Course. If this is at all possible I think it would be very suitable as it also means an increase in our revenue. Mr. Dermody asks if it is possible for us to issue a limited number of Certificates to second year students who have reached a certain standard of proficiency and have had at least 60% marks for attendance.

The Board decided that a maximum of three or four Certificates might be given to students as suggested by Mr. Dermody.

MR. D'ALTON: On the 9th inst., I had a letter from Mr. D'Alton expressing his willingness to remain in the Theatre now that his three months engagement has expired and asking at the same time for an increase in salary which he thinks is necessary in his circumstances. I should like to give a verbal report on Mr. D'Alton's work before you come to a decision on this matter. Mr. D'Alton has also asked me, verbally, if his wife could be employed as a player in the Theatre. While it may be possible to use her occasionally in small parts, I think it is against policy to use her to any great extent as it may undermine his personal authority, apart from the fact I personally think Mrs. D'Alton may not fit into our type of plays.

Mr Higgins said he did not consider that the productions done so far by Mr D'Alton were very good. As a

Producer he seemed inclined to let the Players merely produce themselves and did not appear to give much thought to any definite line of production before commencing the rehearsals of a play.

After some discussion the Board decided that Mr D'Alton should be informed that the Directors were satisfied with his work so far up to a point but that they thought there should be more drive in the method of production, that the plan of production should be prepared by him in advance and that he should guide the Players at every point.

They decided that they would like to see his work for a further three months before committing themselves to a definite contract and that in the meantime Mr D'Alton's salary should remain at the present figure.

The Board also agreed that Mr D'Alton might be tried in some small part if one thought suitable was forthcoming.

STAGE MANAGER: For the past number of weeks Mr. Malachi Keegan, Stage Manager, who receives a weekly salary of £3. 15. 0d. has received on an average £1. 10. 0d. a week in overtime. We keep a regular check on overtime worked by the Staff, but I think that it is not a good working arrangement that a man in Mr. Keegan's position, in authority over the staff, should himself be in receipt of overtime money. In some respects Mr. Keegan is not considered the ideal man for the position , and all things considered I feel that Mr. Keegan should be put on a regular salary , say of £4. 5. 0d. a week as from the 1st June, and cut out all overtime from him.

The Board agreed that overtime should not be paid.

MR. DENIS JOHNSTON'S play "The Golden Cuckoo" is appearing in the Gate Theatre in a fortnight's time. This is the play which, as you may remember, we enquired if we could have for the Abbey but as Mr. Johnston was under an obligation to Lord Longford, he has fulfilled that obligation by giving him the First Production. Mr. Johnston now informs me that if the Directors like his play he is prepared to give it to us as soon as Lord Longford has had his First Production. I think that we should see his play with a view to taking it over if the Directors consider it worth their while. Lord Longford is not presenting Mr. Johnston with a Contract and Mr. Johnston is producing the play himself.

The Directors agreed that they should see the production at the Gate.

THE COUNTRY DRESSMAKER: A few years ago we wrote to Mr. George Fitzmaurice, author of "The Country Dressmaker" asking for the necessary permission to produce that play in the Abbey, but he declined our proposals and cheque. We now hear from Mr. Arthur Shields that "The Country Dressmaker" is likely to appear in America as Mr. Fitzmaurice has given permission for such a production. I am keen to approach Fitzmaurice again, but do not wish to do so unless I have the Board's permission under the circumstances.

The Board agreed that Mr Higgins should again try to get the play from Mr Fitzmaurice.

BALLET SOCIETY: We presented the Directors of the Irish Ballet Production Society with a Contract for the renting of the Pit Cafe basement to them on terms outlined at our last Meeting. I am now informed by Miss Cullen that the floor of the basement is in a very bad condition, full of holes, and that there is no foundation. She writes to me to say that she has received an Estimate from Morgans of South Richmond Street, Dublin, for the repairs necessary to the floor at a cost of £18. I have suggested to her that they carry out the repairs themselves and that we may be in a position to forego the first quarter's rent, viz. £7. 10. 0. Needless to say improvements will be to our benefit, but if the Board will not approve, I shall cancel the proposed contract.

The terms suggested by Mr Higgins were approved by the Board.

THE ARROW: I am keen that we should go ahead as soon as possible with the production of "The Arrow" for which Mr. Frank O'Connor was appointed Editor at a salary of £10. per issue. We have not recently been in touch with Mr. O'Connor, but Mr. Robinson very rightly suggests that our first number should be a Yeats Memorial Number, Shall I therefore write to Mr. O'Connor to ask if he will proceed with the work immediately according to Mr. Robinson's suggestion, and if Mr. O'Connor will not agree I would like you to appoint a Editor in his stead. Otherwise monies expended on advertising commission, now a fairly considerable sum in the region of £30. will be lost.

The Board agreed that the first issue should be a Yeats issue, that Mr O'Connor be invited to proceed with it and that failing Mr O'Connor, Mr Robinson be invited to undertake the work.

Carrington
28/4/39

28th April 1939. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on Friday 28th April 1939 at 5-30 p.m.

Present Mr E. Blythe in the Chair, Dr Richard Hayes. Mr T.R. Higgins, Mr Frank O'Connor.

Minutes. The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

Arising out of the Minutes Mr O'Connor informed the Board that he wished to resign the Editorship of "The Arrow." The Board decided that as agreed at the last meeting a Yeats Memorial Issue should appear as soon as

possible, that Mr Robinson be the Editor and that the editorial Board should consist of M.E. Blythe, Dr Richard Hayes and Mr F.R. Higgins.

Finance

The Secretary reported that the Credit balance at the Bank was £429=5=1.

MANAGER'S R

REPORT FOR FORTNIGHT ENDING 28th APRIL, 1939.

AMERICAN TOUR: No further developements have taken place in connection with our applications for payment to Sam Grisman and Elbert Wickes for outstanding debts due to us from the last American Tour.

CORPORATION INSPECTOR: We have had no further communication from the Corporation or from the Solicitors regarding the censorship of plays by Mr.Hugh Allan, but Mr. Cox has informed me, verbally, that he does not believe there will be any further developements, in the matter.

ALTERATIONS TO ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION: We have been informed by Mr. Cox, Solicitor, that Clause 10a of the Articles of Association which was adopted by the Board of Directors about four years ago had never been submitted to the Registrar of Companies by our former Solicitors. Mr. Gorman gave details of this clause to the former Solicitors and nothing further happened. This may be due to the fact that the Meeting that actually passed the Clause was not legally called. We, however, were not notified on this matter by our old Solicitors and when the Meeting was legally called eventually no further steps to register the Clause were taken. It is now ascertained that the recent Clauses which we have passed at a Meeting about two months ago and Clause 10a, have no legal standing by reason of the fact that Clause 10a was never registered. It will therefore be necessary to call as soon as possible an Extraordinary Special General Meeting to adopt again all these clauses, including Clause 10a; and that a further Extraordinary General Meeting must be called fourteen days after the first meeting to confirm these resolutions. According to Mr, Cox, our Solicitor, thematter will then be in order.

The Board agreed that further Extraordinary General Meetings be called and held within the legal time limits

BELFAST BROADCAST: We have had a letter from Mr. McMullen of the B.B.C. Belfast informing us that the Programme Director will visit us on Tuesday or Wednesday of next week and asks that the Board of Directors be here to meet him. I have replied notifying him that I have been authorised to meet him on behalf of the Boardand suggested a Meeting for next Wednesday during the afternoon.

The Board decided that Mr Higgins should meet the Programme Director and report to the Board on the points raised by him.

CAMBRIDGE TOUR: All details regarding the Cambridge Tour are now fixed. The Company leaves here on Saturday the 6th May to open on Monday the 8th May. Arrangements have been made regarding Customs; the providing of revolvers and ammunition in England and all such details regarding Income Tax, and so far everything is in order. Mr. Robinson intends to bring before the Board, if he is present, a suggestion that a representative of the Board should go to Cambridge during the Company's visit. If Mr. Robinson is not present he has written a letter which may be now before you, suggesting that the Managing Director if possible should travel. With such a suggestion I am entirely in the hands of the Board and will act, needless to say, upon their instructions. However, I must point out that owing to our recent claim for an Income Tax rebate, I have had an intimation from the Auditors stating that our claim will be heard before the Income Tax Commissioners on Wednesday the 10th May. I have forwarded the Auditor's letter to our Solicitor for advice on the suggestion of the Auditor, and I therefore feel that it may be necessary for me to attend with Mr. Gorman to give evidence in support of our claims; and if such is the case needless to say I cannot be away during the first week of the Cambridge Tour, but I am free to go during the second week if it is considered necessary.

Mr Higgins said he was not anxious to go to Cambridge for more than two or three nights. He suggested that if the Board thought a Director should be there, Mr O'Connor be invited to go.

Mr O'Connor said he could not decide at the moment and the Board agreed that if Mr O'Connor were willing, he should go. If he found he could not go, it was agreed to let the matter drop.

Mr Higgins also reported that he had asked Mr F.J. McCormick to do the business management for the Company while in Cambridge. This was approved.

As you are aware "Purgatory" by W.B. Yeats is to be included in the Cambridge bills, though they had asked for a Yeats Memorial evening which was not possible owing to limited time. I suggested that a short talk on the work of Mr. Yeats in founding this Theatre might be a suitable substitute, together with a reading of some of his poems. They agreed to that suggestion but left the details entirely to ourselves as the matter is now one of minor importance. Your instructions are therefore invited.

Mr Higgins said he thought that the reading of the Irish poems could be dropped and the Board agreed.

HOME PRODUCTIONS: During the absence of the main Company in Cambridge we are producing in Dublin "Insurance Money " and "Never the Time and the Place" for the first week; and "Insurance Money" and "Donnachdha Ruadh" for the second week. Rehearsals for the first two plays are well advanced but rehearsals for "Dinnachdha Ruadh" are somewhat held up as Mr. Dermody us inable to fill the part of Donnachdha Ruadh, a small but important part. Seumas Healy of course is suggested for the part but there is the usual difficulty with Mr. Healy in gaelic plays, that is his association with the Comhar Dramuiochta which prevents him from acting with us unless an acknowledgement for his services in such a play is made on the programme to the Comhar. I suggest that under the circumstance it might be better to use Healy, making the necessary acknowledgement on the programme, in gaelic and thereby avoiding undue recognition of the Comhar's facilities and importance.

The Board decided that instead of engaging Seamus Healy (with the necessary acknowledgement to the Comhar) it would be better to obtain some other actor. Mr O'Connor recommended a man whom he had been playing in Ships and it was agreed that he should be invited to play the part. If he were not available Mr Dermody to be asked to endeavour to get someone from the Galway Theatre.

STAGE MANAGER: I have appointed Mr. D'Alton to act as Stage Manager for the two weeks the Company are in Cambridge as no other competent official is available. I have not yet suggested the question of additional salary.

The Board agreed that Mr D'Alton be paid and that Mr Higgins arrange with him the amount, not more than £2 per week.

PRODUCTIONS AFTER CAMBRIDGE: The Company return from Cambridge the week ending the 20th May and two plays are necessary for production before the holidays. The Company's services will be required on the evening of their return and I propose for the first week "Juno and the Paycock" which has not been produced since October and for the following week "The Silver Jubilee". It is necessary that we produce plays for these two weeks that will not require changes in cast or heavy rehearsals as all the time of the players is fully occupied previous to Cambridge and during their visit there.

approved by the Board.

FUTURE TOURS: I have written to the Manager of the Opera House, Derry suggesting a week's productions in that City beginning the 11th December. the only available week left in our season. Sean O'Casey in the course of a letter to me has suggested productions by our players in at least half a dozen English Cities, such as Birmingham, York, Liverpool, Manchester, Croyden and Golders Green. I have replied to O'Casey pointing out the difficulties of fulfilling such engagements during the present year and suggesting the possibilities of such a tour in the Spring of next year. If the Board consider this idea worthy of adoption I shall get in touch with the various Cities that are considered suitable for the purpose of fixing up a Tour during the forthcoming Spring, a season of the year which is always financially lean.

The Board agreed that Mr Higgins should as soon as possible, get into touch with the Agent recommended by Mr O'Casey, that he should explore the possibilities of arranging an English tour and bring the matter before the Directors at a later date.

PLAY COMPETITION: 245 applications for details of the forthcoming Play Competition have been received to date.

SCHOOL OF ACTING: As instructed, I have written to Mr. Dermody agreeing to the issue of a limited number of certificates based upon very severe conditions and Mr. Dermody is now making arrangements to hold an examination for a week beginning the 31st May for the purpose of awarding such Certificates. 35 pupils are attending his English class; 14 the Irish Class; and 15 children in his Juvenile class. He is rehearsing four plays in English, three plays in Gaelic and giving his usual lessons in make-up voice production and movement to all classes.

PRODUCER: I have explained to Mr. D'Alton in the terms of our discussion of the last meeting and we shall have an opportunity of judging his work on the basis of these comments during his production of "Insurance Money". He is quite agreeable to our suggestions.

The Directors agreed that Mr D'Alton's production of "Insurance Money" would give them an opportunity of judging his work as Producer.

I have written to George Fitzmaurice asking for permission to produce his "Country Dressmaker", "Piedish" and "Dandy Dolls" but so far have had no reply.

Miss Deevy has written asking for the date of the production of "Holiday House" as our Conract with her for the production of that play is nearly expired. I have replied stating that question will be presented to the Directors at the next Meeting and I shall inform her of their decision.

The Board decided against the production of "Holiday House" and agreed that the contract with Miss Deasy should be allowed to lapse.

A letter of sympethy has been sent to Mrs. L. Byrne on the death of her husband Mr. Andrew E. Malone.

New Trustees.

Mr Secretary reported that Mr Arthur Cox had forwarded for execution the deed of appointment of the new Trustees.

It was proposed by Mr Frank O'Connor, seconded by Dr. Hayes and passed - "That Mr Ernest Blythe and Dr Walker Stanlie be nominated as the new Trustees in place of Lady Gregory decd., and W.B. Yeats decd."

Scholarships in the School of Acting.

Mr Blythe informed the Board that he was adjudicating at the Dramatic Competition held in connection with the Father Mathew Feis, and he suggested that as there were some very promising players in some of the competing groups the Directors might consider the advisability of giving to one or two of the best of these players Scholarships in the School of Acting.

The Board agreed with this suggestion and agreed that when Mr Blythe was giving the awards at the Competition he should announce that he would formally recommend one or two of the best players for Scholarships in the School.

Mr O'Connor referred to the talent there was in the amateur dramatic Societies in the Country and mentioned the good work he had seen at the Ships Fete. He said he would like to hear of some method by which these Societies could be linked up with the Abbey Theatre and which would enable the Theatre to assist them in various ways. He referred to the system running in Wales.

The Board agreed that the matter was worthy of further discussion and that it should be considered at some late meeting.

Carrie A Gy
12/5/39

12th May 1939. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on Friday, 12th May, 1939, at 5-30 p.m.

Present Mr E. Blythe in the Chair; Mr Lennox Robinson, Dr Walter Starkie, Dr Richard Hayes, Mr J. R. Higgins.

Minutes. The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

Finance The Secretary reported that the Credit balance at the Bank was £170-19-10.

Resignation of Mr Frank O'Connor

Mr Frank O'Connor

The Secretary read the following letter which he had received from Mr Frank O'Connor on 1st May 1939.

Received on 2nd May 1939.
Eric Fraser
2/5/39.

Lynduff
Woodenbridge.

My Dear Eric,

Further to my telephone message of yesterday, I wish you to tell the Directors that I cannot go as their representative to Cambridge nor can I have any further association with them or with the theatre.

My reasons are few but sufficient. Early last week I was informed of a certain hostility to myself which had developed among members of the Board and of certain incidents which revealed it. I came to last Friday's meeting to discover if my informant had exaggerated. I was then presented with a letter informing me that the Board were now repudiating their contract with me as editor of 'The Arrow'. Without giving any reason they informed me, in so many words, that I was not a responsible person who could be entrusted with this task, and so must act under the supervision of an editorial committee consisting of Dr.Mayes, Mr.Blythe and Mr.Robinson. In order to avoid a quarrel with quarrelsome men, I refrain from commenting upon the sense of responsibility shown by one of the three (it is fresh in the memory of every member of the Board); or on the opinion of him expressed by another of this editorial committee who described him as unfit to be a member of the Board at all. Not unfit to supervise my work as editor though! I do draw attention to the offensive form in which the resolution is framed; 'that (I quote from memory) in the event of my refusing to act under such a committee, the editorship of the paper should be entrusted to Mr.Robinson.' I had already stated quite clearly that I should accept the editorship only if I were given complete responsibility. The resolution then can only mean 'when I refused to act'; it is in fact my dismissal before a single number of the paper has appeared, and the appointment in my place of Mr.Robinson. My opinion of Mr. Robinson's influence on the theatre and Mr.Robinson's public apology for his savage attack on 'The Invincibles' during its first production provide a sufficient commentary upon the justice and propriety of all this. It is an intimation to me that if I am to continue as a member of the Board of Directors, I must, for the future, interpret only the policy laid down by Dr.Mayes, Mr.Blythe and Mr.Robinson and abandon all claim to independent existence as an artist. None of these has ever written one line upon the arts to which I should subscribe; some of them have written things

with which I strongly disagree; all are committed to a policy for the theatre which to my mind is not a policy at all - of conciliating public opinion, of not producing

Received 2nd May 39.
Rec'd 1/5/39.

unpopular or dangerous plays, of producing bad plays because the authors are eminent or influential persons; in fact a policy of currying favour with a Government from whom it expects a great deal. There is something to be said for that point of view, but it is not one which I, as an artist, can share. I deplore the production of plays in the Irish language which, if they had been submitted to us in English would never have been considered, and the Government's desire to encourage the Irish language seems to me quite irrelevant.

I, as an independent writer, not ready to be silenced or to act as the mouthpiece for the collective opinions of Dr.Mayes, Mr.Blythe and Mr.Robinson, am naturally suspect. As you are probably aware, and as members of the Board are certainly aware, my dismissal from the editorship of 'The Arrow' is only one of a series of similar insults, some grosser and more gratuitous. I shall not deal with these, because while they seem to be matters of common knowledge in Dublin, the Board has not seen fit to inform me of them. These incidents, it is plain, are intended to reflect upon my character as a man - they reflect only upon the sense of dignity, of purpose and of corporate loyalty possessed by members of the Board and emphasise the loss it has suffered in the death of W.B.Yeats.

On the occasion of the rejection of Paul Carroll's play 'The White Steed' I spoke at some length on Mr.Carroll's claim to be treated with respect, the necessity of considering his work with calm and decorum, regardless of his character and opinions, and the impropriety of returning it with a letter deliberately intended to give pain. While I have never treated with anything but respect moral objections seriously maintained, I venture to remind the Board once more that there is a barbarousness of manners which delights in finding offence and in attributing base motives to its opponents, and which abandons all recognized codes of behaviour in the endeavour to defame and wound.

While I know the immediate purpose of these incidents can only be to force my resignation, I do not feel I am in a position to withhold it, since by doing so I should involve myself in a great deal of unpleasantness, with no higher object than that of asserting my right to be treated with proper respect by members of the Board - an object which, even if I attained it, would afford me no gratification. Accordingly, I resign my seat on the Board of Directors, and in doing so, I should like to thank you personally for a

courtesy and kindness which has had nothing to do with our respective positions.

Yours sincerely,

Francis Rowan

The Board instructed the Secretary to write to Mr O'Connor and say that the Directors accepted his resignation with regret and thanked him for the services he had rendered to the Theatre during his period of Directorship.

100 shares held by Mr O'Connor.

The Board decided that in consequence of Mr O'Connor's resignation he should be asked to transfer the 100 shares held by him to the newly appointed Trustees of the Society, Mr E. Blythe & Dr Walter Starkie, to be held by them as Trustees, until a Director in succession to Mr O'Connor had been appointed.

It was agreed that Mr Cox be asked to draw up the necessary Deed of Transfer and that he be asked to send it to Mr O'Connor for signature with a covering letter reminding him of the agreement he signed in January 1936, when the shares were allotted to him.

It was also agreed that in the first instance Mr Cox be asked to submit to the Board a draft of his proposed letter to Mr. O'Connor.

Appointment of a new Director.

The Board discussed the question of appointing a Director in the room of Mr Frank O'Connor resigned, and decided that the matter was not an urgent one and could be considered at some later date.

The holding of further Extraordinary General Meetings.

It was decided that the Extraordinary General Meetings which must be held in order to amend the Articles of Association, need not be

called until the transfer of Mr O'Connor's shares to the Trustees has been completed.

MANAGER'S REPORT FOR FORTNIGHT ENDING 12th MAY, 1939.

HOLIDAYS: We have decided to close the Theatre after the production of "The Silver Jubilee" i.e. with the week beginning the 5th June; for three weeks ending 24th June. The players will be required back on the 26th June to begin rehearsals for whatever play we are putting on for the opening of next season on the 3rd July. The question remains unsettled as to whether we should pay our former contract players full salary as formerly during the holiday period, or half salary. My own opinion is that they should receive full salary, because these players were informed by me that although they were not receiving contracts they would receive the full benefits of the contracts. Incidentally some of the previous contract players when invited to accept contracts refused them. Those players who are actually on contract at the moment are M.J. Dolan, as Assistant Producer; Cyril Cusack whose contract expires at the end of the holidays and Miss Phyllis Ryan who only received a contract a fortnight ago. F.J. McCormick; Denis O'Dea; Eileen Crowe; Ria Mooney; Maureen Delany and May Craig our former contract players are not now ~~contract~~ under contract although receiving the benefits of the contracts. Mr. Shields refused a contract when last offered one and his position at the present time is rather awkward in view of the fact that he is only playing here with us during the past fortnight since last September. My own feeling in his case is that he would be very fairly treated by us if he was given half pay during holiday period, but these matters are for your decision today.

The Board decided that the following Players be paid full salary for the three weeks holiday. viz F.J. McCormick, Eileen Crowe, Maureen Delany, M.J. Dolan, May Craig, Cyril Cusack, Phyllis Ryan, Ria Mooney, Denis O'Dea.

COMPLAINTS: Miss Shelah Richards and Miss Aideen O'Connor have complained bitterly to me about their lack of parts at the present time in the Theatre. I have pointed out to them that owing to the fact that they left us in certain difficulties to go to play on their own in New York, we could not therefore guarantee the return to them of parts which were given to other players who performed satisfactorily in their absence. I was driven to point out to these two players that they were only concerned with their own welfare and convenience and not with the Theatre's position, and that it would therefore be unfair to remove players who have been placed in their former parts and who have stood by us loyally. Miss Richards and Miss O'Connor agreed with the fairness of such an attitude but that did not prevent them from complaining. I had to point out to them that during their recent visit to America they accepted reduced salaries from their American management, under conditions to which they would never have agreed if the Abbey was driven to reduce their salaries under similar conditions.

We have no guarantee that these players are going to remain with us and, as a matter of fact, Miss O'Connor who was complaining to me on these matters last Friday, left on Saturday night for an engagement in London of which she had not informed me.

Mr. Arthur Shields has made no complaints to me whatsoever on his conditions. He was placed on half salary from the moment he began rehearsing here, and of course received full salary during productions. It is rumoured that he is also leaving us in the Autumn ~~of next year~~ and I do know that during our recent Tour in the States, Mr. Shields was very eager to get work away from us. He did not succeed in his endeavours and now falls back on the Abbey as the best of a bad bargain. I am strongly opposed to any convenience being given to players who are merely using us as a stop-gap until they get other employment. If we show them leniency we are only encouraging indiscipline and disloyalty in our other players who, if they want to leave us, can always point out to our kinder treatment of such disloyal players.

Approved by the Board.

BELFAST BROADCAST: On last Wednesday week I had an interview with Mr. Sutthery of the Belfast B.B.C. He was commissioned to arrange all details relative to the production side of our plays through the B.B.C. but his powers did not extend to the financial end. As a result of our interviews I had a letter from Mr. Sutthery on the 4th inst., confirming our conversation and subject to your approval. It is agreed that in the matters of production the Abbey Theatre shall, if desired, send up a producer nominated by itself to assist and advise the B.B.C. producer in the case of any broadcast production. It is clearly understood that in the case of any differences of opinion the B.B.C. producer shall have the right to over-rule. If, however, the Abbey nominee feels that a point of grave policy is involved he shall explain his point of view to Mr. Sutthery personally and the final decision will be left for arbitration between the Abbey and Mr. Sutthery, one or other travelling immediately to see the other.

The Cast for any B.B.C. production shall be agreed at least six weeks in advance to the entire satisfaction of the B.B.C., and no member of the Abbey Theatre will be withheld on the score of strengthening the current production in Dublin. This paragraph is accepted by us only on the clear understanding that financial adjustments for such broadcasts are satisfactory to the Board of the Abbey Theatre. I proposed to Mr. Sutthery that we should receive a round sum of £175. per broadcast, we paying expenses and salaries from that sum. If that was not acceptable to the B.B.C; my counter-proposal was that they pay all salaries, travelling expenses, and maintenance allowance and the Abbey Board receive 50% above that entire sum as their profit. This claim was made on the grounds that during the absence of our main players in Belfast our productions in Dublin through the playing of a second company are considerably reduced, and that naturally we ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ could not permit any losses in Dublin without certain compensation from the B.B.C. Mr. Sutthery stated that our financial views would be placed before their executive Mr. Mair who will go into the matter.

It is also agreed that the B.B.C. would work with us on a basis of four Broadcasts per year, of which three would take place between October and March and the fourth between April and June. There would be no broadcasting during the three summer months, July, August, and September.

Mr. Mageean, the B.B.C. producer, is shortly coming to Dublin to discuss plays with us, and in the meantime we are to get together a number of suitable scripts to send to the B.B.C. for study

The B.B.C. will not in future approach any artist under contract to us with a view to individual broadcast with first obtaining our consent. With a fiew to facilitating this arrangement we are, as soon as possible to send the B.B.C. a full list of all those under contract at the present time, keeping them informed of alterations and additions as they may take place.

I have confirmed our conversations in a letter to the B.B.C. on the 10th inst., and stated that I awaited Mr. Mair's opinions on the financial suggestions; also, that if it is desirable I could run up to Belfast for a day to meet Mr. Mair and fix up points at issue, or I should be very pleased to meet him if he comestto Dublin.

Approved by the Board.

CAMBRIDGE TOUR: As you are aware the main Company is this week in Cambridge and we have had a telegram from Mr. McCormick who is acting as our Business Manager, stating that our claim for the abolition of Entertainment Tax has been agreed to and under the terms of our contract with the Cambridge Arts Theatre Ltd., we are now entitled ~~him~~ to the full sum of £550. for the two weeks. Reports from Mr. McCormick and Mr. Dolan show that productions are going favourably although the audiences are not too great. Press criticism is quite enthusiastic.

INCOME TAX: Mr. Gorman and I accompanied by Arthur Cox, Solicitor and F.R. O'Connor, Accountant, attended a sitting of the special Income Tax Commissioners in the Castle on last Wednesday. We are claiming for the abolition of Income Tax against the Abbey Theatre and also a possible rebate of Income Tax paid in the past. Our claim is based upon the fact that we are a cultural organisation, not working for profit, and that fact has been recognised by the American and English Revenue authorities; also that the Government Subsidy of £1,000. being subject to Income Tax defeats to some extent the intention of the Government's financial assistance. Mr. Cox believes that our claims shall be granted but at our meeting in the Castle on Wednesday the arguments were purely of a legal nature and the sitting was postponed until various legal formalities were complied with. It will be necessary, according to Mr. Cox, to employ Mr. Fitzgibbon K.C. to make our claim. If this claim is granted it will have a very important bearing on future developements of the Theatre particularly in relation to any rebuilding scheme which takes place.

Approved by the Board.

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS: Next week we are continuing our production of "Insurance Money" with a new production of "Donnchadh R uadh" which Mr. Dermody reports is in good condition. The following week as already agreed upon, we are producing "Juno and the Paycock" to be followed by "The Silver Jubilee" and "Meadowsweet". After the production of these plays the holiday season begins. At our next meeting we will present you with a possible programme for our opening weeks after the holidays. "The Doctor's Dilemma" by Shaw and "Give Him a House" by Shiels are possible new productions. After the holidays we must immediately open with something light so as to avoid excessive rehearsing.

PRODUCER: Last week Mr. Louis D'Alton wrote me a letter asking that if he tendered his resignation would it relieve us of a difficulty as he may be anticipating the decision of the Board. He wished us to reach a decision as soon as possible so as to enable him, if necessary, to make other arrangements. I would like your direction in this matter.

The Board decided that Mr. D'Alton's resignation be accepted and that he be paid an extra £5 in addition to his last week's salary.

SCHOOL OF ACTING: The School of Acting finishes its session at the end of this month and will not open again until the beginning of September. Mr. Dermody and I have been considering the advisability of running two Summer courses in Irish and English of one month each, for School teachers. We propose a fee of ThreeGuineas per course or Five Guineas for the two courses of two months; each course to include acting, movement, voice production in English and Irish, and elementary production. It is suggested that Mr. Hubert Rooney should also be employed to assist in English voice production and his name might likely prove a draw to teachers. The suggestion that the Classes be devoted to teachers is based upon the fact that Summer holidays for teachers exist during our proposed courses and that Mr. Dermody's experience in the Galway Theatre showed that such courses arelikely to prove successful as he conducted such a course at £2. 0. 0. per week and had fifty four teachers in attendance. It is suggested that we could approach the Minister for Education on the matter of granting the teachers an additional week's holiday as was given to the teachers attending the Galway Theatre and it is also suggested that we advertise the course, if approved, in the School Weekly, as well as circularising all the teachers individually.

I am strongly in favour of this scheme as it is likely to prove of great financial benefit, but also in view of the fact that Mr. Dermody in the usual way would be out of work until September which would naturally inflict a hardship on him. Should the scheme be adopted Mr. Dermody would go on holidays for three weks during the month of June and begin preparations for the Course during the last week of June the Course to begin in the first week of July.

The Board approved of the scheme and agreed that Mr Rooney be engaged.

REBUILDING SCHEME: A letter was received from An Comhar Dramuiochta asking how matters stood in connection with the re-construction scheme. I have replied to the Secretary stating that the matter was still under consideration by the Minister for Finance and that I would keep them advised on all developements.

Mr Blythe informed the Board that he understood the Minister was at present considering the Scheme.

The Board decided that in a fortnight's time an effort should be made to obtain a further interview with the Minister.

PROPOSED ENGLISH TOUR: Mr. Walter Peacock of London has written to me on Mr. Sean O'Casey's suggestion, asking about the advisability of an English Tour for our Company during the Spring and enquiring if I could see him in London on the matter. I replied stating that before the question of a visit to London need arise we should open negotiations through correspondence. I have had a letter today asking if we proposed to finance the Tour ourselves and to share agreements with provincial Managers, or if we wished to engage a touring Manager who would be responsible for financing the project. I replied in favour of the latter suggestion and asking him for further details. He is willing to assist us in every possible way.

Approved by the Board.

VISIT TO DERRY: I wrote to the Derry Opera House offering a visit to that City of our No. 1. Company following the Belfast Tour; and received a reply stating that the Theatre had now become a Cinema. I have written to the Manager asking him if he could suggest other premises suitable to our requirements and have had no reply.

FITZMAURICE PLAY: Having written to George Fitzmaurice asking for permission to produce his "Country Dressmaker" I had his usual evasive reply stating that he would like to meet me to clear up misunderstandings. I have replied inviting him to meet me at his convenience but have had no acknowledgment.

THE ARROW: Messrs. Easons have written enquiring for details relative to the Arrow, and I have replied stating that they will receive all details in the course of a few weeks when the Editor has completed his arrangements.

Mr Robinson informed the Board that he had invited