ABBEY THEATRE
LOWER ABBEY STREET, DUBLN 1
PEACOCK THEATRE

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

To

MINUTE BOOK
14TH JANUARY 1932
TO
27TH JANUARY 1936

No. .....

Minutes of a Meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on Thursday 14th January 1932 at 3. P.M.

Present: W. B. Yeats, Walter Starkie.

In attendance: J. H. Penin. G. H. Tullock.

T.W. Yeats stated that he had received a letter from the Manager of the Munster and Leinster Bank, O'Connell Street pointing out that he had written to the Secretary on three occasions with reference to the Bank overdraft, and had failed to get any reply. It was pointed out to the Secretary that this constituted a very serious breach of his duties, he having been definitely instructed that all letters must be replied to on the day of receipt. Mr. Penin was further told that the Directors could not understand why he had not brought these important communications to the notice of one of the Directors or of Mr. Tullock. Mr. Penin explained to the Meeting that he did not think it necessary to reply to the letters, as the Bank were secured by a Mortgage up to £2.000; and that he was

waiting for a Meeting of the Board to bring the letters before the Directors While regarding this explanation as anything but satisfactory, the Directors agreed to overlook the matter, at the same time warning Mr. Perrin of the consequences of any further neglect on his part to attend to correspondence

Mr. Tulloch reported that the Bank Account was now overdrawn to the extent of £2.168 and stated that he was in negotiations with the Bank for a temporary increase of the overdraft up to £2.500

It was resolved that the Bank should be requested to give the Society liberty to overdraw their account up to the sum of £2.500 pending the receipt of the Government subsidy for the year ending 5th April 1932 and pending the receipt of remittances from the United States of America of money advanced by the Society in respect of the American Tour.

Mr. Tulloch stated that he had written to the Minister for Finance with a view to obtaining payment of the Subsidy for the year ending 5th April 1932, in order to relieve the overdraft

Mr. Tulloch was asked to send a cable to Mr. Penrose Robinson pointing out the urgent necessity of a remittance from America to cover at

least the monies advanced by the Society for the Tour.

It was decided owing to the difficulty in letting the theatre to reduce the rent for a week of seven performances from £86. to £75.

Dr Lanchet is to receive £10.10.0 per week for payment of Orchestra during the weeks the theatre is not let.

The Secretary is to write to Miss de Valois and draw her attention to the large amount due by Miss Boyne for School of Ballet-fees. If she makes no effort to pay the amount due she is to be expelled from the School.

Westgate
3rd June 1932

Minutes of a Meting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the 42. Fitzwilliam Square. Dublin. on Thursday 2nd. June 1932.

Present: W. B. Yeats, Walter Starkie, Lennox Robinson

In attendance: G. H. Tulloch. J. A. Perrin

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed.

It was decided to instruct Mr. Keller to collect the fees due by Geraldine Byrne for tuition in the School of Ballet

A letter from Miss Sara Allgood was read

It was decided that the Company should broadcast from the Belfast station of the B.B.C twice each month.

The question of the renewal of author's contracts was left to Mr. Robinson to deal with

The following reduction in salaries was agreed:

Lennox Robinson from £400 to £350 P.A.
J. A. Perrin from £300 to £275 P.A.
M. J. Dolan's School of Acting salary from £4 to £2 per week.
V. Wright from £7. to £5. 10. 0 per week

Denis O'Deas acting salary is to be increased from £2. to £2.10. per week

The date of the Annual General Meeting was arranged for Thursday 30th June.

It was decided that the work of the office should in future be divided between Mr T. J. Robinson and Mrs J. H. Perrin as joint Secretaries.

W Bryant June 14th 1932 -

Minutes of a Meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at 42. Fitzwilliam Square on Tuesday 14th June. 1932.

Present (W. B. Yeats (in the Chair) Walter Starkie
Lennox Robinson.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed.

The letter from the Secretary of the Minister for Finance was considered and Mr. Robinson's letter, already circulated among the Directors, was approved.

In addition Dr. Starkie agreed to write a letter to the Secretary of the Minister for Finance pointing out the great importance of the coming tour in the States and stressing the financial embarrassment of the Theatre and the fact that already certain considerable reduction in salaries had to be made.

W B Yeats

Minutes of a Meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre on Tuesday 5th July. 1932.

Present: W. B. Yeats (in the chair) Lennox Robinson

In attendance: G. H. Tulloch, T. J. Robinson and members of the Company. J. V. Perri

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed.

Mr. Tulloch presented the accounts for the last American Tour and approved of a payment of £18:13:4 to those members who were entitled to same under Agreement. It was pointed out to the Company that the Contract with our American Agents for the tour of the States and Canada commencing October next was no so favourable as was anticipated when the Directors offered double salaries for this tour. The Company agreed to accept two-thirds extra of the salaries paid during the last tour Travelling Expenses of £1 per day while in America or Canada to be paid as previously.

The Agreement between the Directors and American Agents was signed, and a letter from Mr Wicks was read to the Company.

It was agreed that one-third of the profits in excess of £1.000 on the

the next tour in America should be divided between the members of the permanent Company.

The Directors pointed out that everything possible was being done to bring down the expenses of working the theatre. W. Wright's travelling with the Company would be a saving and the Directors are closing the School of Ballet at the end of November. Many other economies had been effected

Yeats

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd held at the Abbey Theatre Dublin on Friday 30th September 1932 at 4. P.M.

Present: W. B. Yeats (in the chair) Lennox Robinson
Walter Starkie.

In Attendance: J. A. Perrin

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed.

Dr Walter Starkie having resigned his position as Director of the Society appointed by the Government. It was proposed by W. B. Yeats and seconded by Lennox Robinson that Dr. Starkie be appointed Director of the National Theatre Society Ltd. The necessary transfer of shares to Dr Starkie will be made on the return of Mr. G. A. Tulloch.

Mr. Robinson read letters from pupils of the School of Ballet offering to run the School and pay the Theatre for rent etc. Mr. Robinson is to get Miss Brookings opinion.

A proposal from Madame Kirkwood Hackett to run a School of Acting was rejected.

A letter from the Minister of Finance was read regretting that he could not be present this

afternoon when Miss Purser is presenting her portrait of Miss Sara Allgood to the theatre.

Dr Starkie approved of the programme of plays arranged from the 17th October to 25th November 1932

Walter Starkie

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd, held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin. on Saturday 26th November 1932.

Present: Lennox Robinson. Walter Starkie (in the chair)
~~In attendance: J. M. Perrin~~

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed.

It was decided to produce "The Big Swop" and a one act play for the week commencing 26th. December, and that other plays should be produced from time to time

It was decided to advertise a School of Acting under the Direction of Mr. Robinson and if there was sufficient response a School of Acting would be held in the Theatre during the Spring

It was agreed that Miss de Valois should produce a work of Ballet at the Abbey as soon after Christmas as it could be arranged.

W B Yeats

March 7th. 1933.

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin on Wednesday, March 1st 1933

Present. W. B. Yeats (in the chair), Walter Starkie, Lennox Robinson

A letter from the Secretary, Department of Finance was considered and Mr Yeats' reply to it was unanimously approved.

Mr Robinson was directed to send a copy of the correspondence to President de Valera and a covering letter to him and to the Secretary, Department of Finance stating the Directors proposed to publish the correspondence on Monday 6th inst.

A letter from Mr Wicher asking that the weekly payment in U.S.A. should be reduced by $250.00 was considered. Mr Robinson was directed to reply that a decision could not be arrived at pending a settlement of monies due from the previous tour.

W B Yeats
(March 7th 1933)

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Soc. Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre Dublin on Tuesday March 7th 1933.
Present: W. B. Yeats (in the chair) Walter Starkie, Lennox Robinson.
The minutes of the last two meetings were read and signed.
A letter written by Mr. Yeats was read and approved and it was decided to send it to the press on ~~Tuesday~~ Wednesday evening March 8th :.

W B Yeats
19/5/33.

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre on 19th May 1933

Present: W. B. Yeats & Lennox Robinson
In attendance J. L. Perrin

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed.

Estimates were considered for painting and repairs to the Abbey Theatre and Mr. R. C. Landon's estimate amounting to £56 was accepted

Messrs Millar & Beatty's estimate for carpeting for Abbey and Peacock Theatres was accepted

An estimate for alterations to heating system so as to heat wardrobe better was accepted

The loan of a portrait of Mr. Lennox Robinson was accepted

It was decided that a copy of a portrait of Lady Gregory should be obtained for the theatre

New Agreements are to be obtained for "Look at the Heffernans", "The Glorious Uncertainty", "Professor Tim", "The New Gossoon" and "Paul

Turning", "Autumn Fire" and "Michaelmas Eve"
"The Plough and the Stars", "Juno and the
Peacock" and "The Shadow of a Gunman"
The following plays were selected for
production during the first five weeks
of the season:

June 26th. "Juno and the Paycock"
July 10th. "The New Gossoon"
" 3rd. "Autumn Fire"
" 17th "Margaret Gillan"
" 24th "Professor Tim".

W B Yeats

Minutes of a Meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society, Ltd held at the Abbey Theatre Dublin. on 3rd July. 1933

Present: W. B Yeats. Lennox Robinson

The minutes of the previous meting were read and signed

"Professor Tim" and "Drama at Inish" was arranged as the programme for Horse Show Week and "Michaelmas Eve" for the week of the Teachers Congress.

It was decided to place Miss May Craig under contract at a salary of £7. 10. 0 per week

The Directors decided that it would not be advisable for our players to visit the United States of America this autumn but if possible a tour might be arranged for the 1934/35 season

The Annual General Meeting will be held in August on whatever date is convenient to Mr. Lennox Robinson

Minutes of a Meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society. Ltd, held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on Monday 25th September, 933 at 12.15 P.M.

Present: W. B. Yeats, Walter Starkie, Lennox Robinson.

In attendance; T. J. Robinson. J. D. Perrin.

It was decided that a Meeting should be held as soon as possible when Mr. Tulloch returns to Dublin for the purpose of explaing to the Company the results of the American Tours and figures are to be placed in the Lands of the Company explaing that the profits on these tours did little more than wipe out previous losses.

The Meeting passed a resolution of thanks to Mr. Charles Manners for his gift of music to the Society.

A Tour is to be arranged for the Company next February covering Belfast, Glasgow. Manchester and Liverpool.

The question of obtaing a copy of a portrait of Lady Gregory was left to Mr. Yeats to deal with.

Estimates of John Dolan & Sons for repairs to the roof and the installation of a wash hand basin were accepted, the estimate total £26. 13. 10

The sum of £50. was voted to Mr. H. Wright in recognition of his loyal services to the theatre.

The salary of Mr. Denis O'Dea was increased from £2. 10. 0 per week to £3 0. 0 per week.

A School of Acting session under the direction of Mr. M. J. Dolan is to be started as soon as possible. Mr. Dolan to receive an extra £2. 0. 0 per week during this session

The following plays were selected for production.

October 2nd "Look at the Heffernans"
" 9th "Paul Twyning"
" 16th "Drama at Inish"
" 23rd "Words upon the Window Pane" and "The Courting of Mary Doyle"
" 30th "Rising of the Moon" and "The White-headed Boy"
November 6th First production of "Jrogan and the Devil"

Monday 9th October at 3 P.M.

Walter Starkie and W. B. Yeats with Mr. J. H. Tulloch in attendance interviewed the seven members of the Company who are entitled to share in the profits of the American Tour. Mr. Tulloch pointed out to the players that the profits on the American Tour covered the losses incurred at the Abbey Theatre since February 1929 and the Society despite the large profit on the Tour of 1932/33 is now only approximately £300 better off than at February 1930. The Directors decided

not to deduct the £70. 0. 1 excess payment made to the players in respect of the 1st. Tour which leaves the amount now to be divided £1,249: 15: 7 or £178. 10. 9 to each of the following players: Maurice Delany, Eileen Crowe, Arthur Shields, Michael Dolan, P. J. Carolan, T. J. McCormick, Barry Fitzgerald.

W B Yeats

10/1/1933? 34

Minutes of a Meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society. Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre. Dublin on Wednesday 10th January 1934.

Present: W. B. Yeats. Walter Starkie. Lennox Robinson.
In attendance: J. M. Perrin

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed.

The Directors considered the question of a tour of the United States this autumn. It was decided that it would not be a financial success to visit the States if the dollar should depreciate in value. If a contract was signed it should have a clause inserted allowing the Directors to break the contract if the rate of exchange was unfavourable.

The question of a tour of Belfast. Glasgow. Manchester and Liverpool was discussed and it was decided to suggest to Mr. Selby the following plays from which a selection could be made. "The New Gossoon". "Juno and the Paycock". "The Far. off Hills". "The Playboy of the Western World"; + "Grogan and the Fenet" for Belfast.

The following plays were selected for production during the next few weeks. "Peter". "The Moon in the Yellow River". "The Marriage Packet". "Fanny's First Play".

1/2/34

Minutes of a Meting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society, Ltd held at the Abbey Theatre. Dublin, on Thursday 1st February 1934 at 5. P.M.

Present. W. B. Yeats, Walker Starkie, Lennox Robinson
In attendance: Miss Bodkin, J. M. Perrin

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed.

It was decided to visit the Opera House. Belfast. for the week commencing 26th February. The plays suggested being 'Progan and the Tenet' and 'The Playboy of the Western World' with 'The Words upon the Window Pane'

The profits made on the two American Tours were compared with the losses incurred at the Abbey Theatre for the corresponding months and it was decided that it would be to the advantage of the Society to tour the United States this autumn. It was considered that the Government should be ~~consulted~~ consulted and Mr Robinson undertook to write to the Minister of Finance asking for an interview. as he (Mr Robinson) will be out of Dublin for the next two weeks the interview is not

to be arranged before his return.

The question of paying Mrs Robinson for her designs for costumes and scenery was considered and the Secretary instructed to write to her offering £5. for each scene designed and £2. for each costume.

It was suggested that G. Bernard Shaw's "Candida" should be produced at the theatre the week following Belfast and "Misalliance" should be considered for production next year.

20th April 1934

Minutes of a Meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Soc. Ltd. held at Riversdale Rathfarnham on Friday, March 30th 1934
Present: W. B. Yeats, Dr Richard Hayes, Lennox Robinson.
The minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed.
After discussion, the following list of plays for the proposed American tour 1934-5 was agreed to and it was agreed that it should be sent to the Government for their consideration

Lady Gregory
Spreading the News
The Workhouse Ward
Hyacinth Halvey
The Rising of the Moon
The Gaol Gate

W.B. Yeats
Kathleen ni Houlihan
The Words Upon the Window Pane
Oedipus the King

J.M. Synge
Riders to the Sea
The Shadow of the Glen
The Well of the Saints
The Playboy of the Western World

George Shiels
The New Gossoon
Grogan and the Ferret

Sean O'Casey
The Shadow of a Gunman
The Plough and the Stars
Juno and the Paycock

Brinsley Macnamara
Margaret Gillan

T.C. Murray
The Pipe in the Fields
Autumn Fire
Sovereign Love
Birthright
Maurice Harte

Lennox Robinson
The White-headed Boy
The Far-off Hills
Is Life Worth Living?

LM Yeats
26/4/1934

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society. Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre. Dublin on Thursday 27th April 1934 at 5 P.M.

Present: W. B. Yeats. Dr. Richard Hayes. Lennox Robinson. Walter Starkie.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed.

A letter from the President of the Executive Council was read and considered and Mr. Lennox Robinson was requested to draft a reply.

A letter from Mr. Elbert Wickes dealing with the forthcoming American Tour was read and noted.

The following plays were selected for production:

May 7th "Look at the Heffernans"
14 "An Imaginary Conversation"
"Church Stret" 1st. Production
"The Corner"
21st "Mountain Dew"
28th "The Plough and the Stars"

It was agreed to send a donation of £25. to the funds of the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

W. B. Yeats
26 May.

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd held at the Abbey Theatre Dublin on ~~Thursday~~ Friday May 25th 1934

Present W. B. Yeats, Dr Richard Hayes, Dr Walter Starkie, Lennox Robinson. Mr G. Hill Tulloch was in attendance.

The minutes of the previous meting were read and signed.

The unsatisfactory conduction of the business of the office was considered and it was decided to dispense with the services of the Secretary Mr J. M. Perrin. In view of his long service with the Company it was agreed to give him one months notice and a bonus of six months Salary Such notice to be given on June 1st and that if he ~~expired~~ preferred to leave immediately his request should be granted. Mr Tulloch agreed to write to him and interview him and also to interview Mr Eric Gorman who might succeed Mr Perrin as Secretary.

Mr Robinson reported that he had approached Mr Tyrone Guthrie and Mr Gurney with a

view to their becoming producers at the Abbey Theatre next season in case the Company went to America. ~~Mr R~~ Both had refused. Mr Robinson was instructed to approach Miss Esmé Church.

Walter Starkie.
June 21st 1934.

A meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society was held in the Abbey Theatre on June 21st 1934.

Present Walter Starkie (in the chair) Lennox Robinson and Mr G. H. Fullock in attendance -

The minutes of the preceeding meeting were read and signed
Mr Robinson reported that Miss Esné Churcl had declined to act as producer next autumn and he was requested to ask Mr William Armstrong of the Liverpool Repertory Theatre if he could suggest a producer - failing that, it was suggested that Miss Sara Allgood might be approached.

1. The following Share Transfers were submitted, examined and passed:-

No. 7. 69 shares of £1 each numbered from 71 to 139 inclusive from the Representatives of the late Lady Gregory to Lennox Robinson.

No. 8. 70 shares of £1 each numbered from 1 to 70 inclusive from the Representatives of the late Lady Gregory to William Butler Yeats.

No. 9. 50 shares of £1 each numbered from 1 to 50 inclusive from William Butler Yeats to Walter Fitzwilliam Starkie.

No. 10. 50 shares of £1 each numbered from 71 to 120 inclusive from Lennox Robinson to Walter Fitzwilliam Starkie, and the relative new Share Certificates Nos. 10 to 12 and Balance Certificates Nos. 13 and 14 were sealed, signed and agreed to be issued.

2. Appointment of Mr. Gorman as Joint Secretary.

Mr. Eric Gorman was appointed Joint Secretary in place of Mr. J. H. Perrin, at a salary at the rate of £200 per annum payable monthly. Mr. Gorman is to be on duty daily from 9.30 a.m. to 3 p.m. (with one hour for lunch) and to attend in front of the house at all evening performances, except when he is acting, at which times a deduction will be made from his salary of 10/- a week to provide for a payment to his substitute in front of the house. The following is an outline of Mr. Gorman's duties:

To write up Wages and Salaries Book, pay wages and salaries and keep insurance cards stamped up to date.

To draw cheques for payment of monthly accounts in accordance with list prepared by Mr. T. Robinson, issue the cheques and file the receipts.

To arrange for theatre lettings and keep all records, contracts, ledger etc. in connection with same.

To write up School of Acting Cash Book and post ledger in connection with same.

To collect rents, advertising receipts and other outstandings and see that same are paid up to date.

To post up ledger at the end of each month and extract a quarterly Trial Balance.

To reconcile the Bank Account each month.

To attend meetings and write up the minutes.

To attend the front of the house at night as arranged.

3. A letter from the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada re Scheme for Pension Insurance was considered and it was decided that the scheme proposed is not suitable to the circumstances of the Theatre.

It was agreed that when Mr Forman was acting and unable to attend to the

front of the house a deduction of 10/-
a week should be made from his
Salary Such money to be paid to Mr
T. J. Robinson for his attendance on
five nights of the week, it being understood
that Mr Seumas Robinson would be
in attendance on Monday night and on
Saturday afternoon.

The following plays were agreed to

July 2nd The New Jerusalem
- 9th The Shadow of the Glen - Mary Doyle
- 16th On the Rocks
- 24th " " "
- 31st Kathleen ni Houlihan, The Resurrection
The Ring of the Big Clock Tower.

Ans yes

31.7.34

Minutes of a Meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd., held at the Abbey Theatre Dublin on Wednesday 11th July 1934 at 5.30 p.m.

Present: W. B. Yeats, Lennox Robinson

In attendance: Eric Forman.

Mr Walker Starkie and Dr Richard Hayes were unable to attend as both of them were away

It was proposed by Mr W.B. Yeats and seconded by Mr Lennox Robinson and passed

"That in future cheques should be signed by one of the following Directors - Mr W.B. Yeats, Mr Walker Starkie, Mr Lennox Robinson, Dr. Richard Hayes and countersigned by Mr Eric Forman, Secretary.

A letter from Mr Elbert Wickes outlining plans of the forthcoming American Tour was read by Mr Robinson but no decision was come to, pending Mr Wickes' visit to Dublin at the end of July.

The question of advertising in "United Ireland" was considered and it was decided not to do so.

It was agreed to contribute the sum of £3-3-0 to the funds of the Celtic Congress at present being held in Dublin, the Congress having paid £3-3-0 rent for use of the Peacock Theatre.

It was decided to put Mr Denis O'Dea on the permanent

permanent list of Actors and that he be given an increment of £1 per week as from 12th July 1935

The following plays were provisionally selected for the dates as set out below :-

July 16th "Shadow of the Glen" & "Mary Doyle"

July 23rd "All's Over Then"

July 30th "Resurrection", "The King of the Clock Tower" and "Church Street."

August 6th (Horse Show Week) Juno & the Paycock for half the week and Dances by Miss de Valois, Birthright & "Hyacinth Halvey" for the other half of the week the bills to be alternated.

If Miss de Valois is unable to remain for this week "Grogan & the Ferrett" to replace the bill of which she formed part.

August 13th. Days without End.

It was agreed to pay to Mr T. J. Robinson the sum of £4 amount due to him for attending at the Theatre two nights per week for twenty weeks up to the 30th June up to the payment being at the rate of two shillings per night

Lloyd's

31st July 1934

Minutes of a Meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Limited, held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on Tuesday, 31st July 1934 at 4 p.m.

Present :- W. B. Yeats (in the Chair), Dr. Richard Hayes, Dr. Walter Starkie, Lennox Robinson.

In attendance :- Eric Gorman.

The Minutes of the Meetings held on June 21st 1934 and on July 11th 1934 were read and signed.

Correspondence with the Revenue Commissioners regarding arrears of Income Tax due by Mr P. J. Carolan was considered.

Mr. Carolan was interviewed and told that he must at once furnish the Income Tax Authorities with the Return of Income required by them, and it was decided to pay the claim of the Revenue Commissioners, deducting £3 (three pounds) per week from Mr. Carolan's salary until the amount of the claim had been repaid by him.

Mr. Carolan, during the interview, made a claim for full salary when not acting, on the plea that his duties as Assistant Stage Manager necessitated his attendance at the theatre whether he was playing or not.

This claim was considered and it was decided that to grant it would create a bad precedent and that when Mr. Carolan is not playing he should only receive half his acting salary in accordance with the terms of his Contract.

Mr Elliott Wickes was then interviewed. He outlined his proposals

proposals for the coming American Tour and after some discussion it was decided that the following major plays should be tested for production during the Tour viz:- The Playboy of the Western World, The Whiteheaded Boy, The New Gossoon, The Far-Off Hills, Juno and the Paycock, The Plough and the Stars, The Well of the Saints, Look at the Heffernans, Church Street, Drama at Inish.
The decision regarding other long plays was deferred until Mr Wickes had seen performances of some that were suggested as suitable.

It was also decided that the following One Act Plays should be included in the list viz:- The Resurrection, The King of the Great Clock Tower, Spreading the News, Kathleen ni Houlihan, Riders to the Sea, In the Shadow of the Glen.
further One Act plays to be added to this list at a later date.
Owing to the inclusion of The Plough and the Stars it would be necessary to raise the strength of the Company to fourteen, one extra actor being needed, and after some consideration Mr Wickes agreed that he would be responsible for the payment of this extra fare to and from America and also for the payment of the actor whilst with the Company on the Tour.

Ayers
23rd August
1934

Minutes of a Meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Limited, held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin on Thursday the 23rd of August 1934 at 5 p.m.

Present:- W. B. Yeats (in the Chair) Dr. Richard Hayes, Mr. Walker Starkie, Lennox Robinson.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed.
An application by Mr Denis O'Dea for an increase of salary was considered and it was decided to raise his salary from £3 to £3-10-0 per week, the increase to take effect as from Monday 27th August.
It was agreed that Mr Frederick Ashton should be engaged as Producer at a salary of £10 per week, from early in September until the middle of December, and be paid from the date of his arrival.
The following plays were suggested as his repertory:-
Coriolanus, Parnell of Avondale, Wreck, Taking of Spain's Daughter, The Player Queen, a new Play by T. R. Stythes
The productions to be from 1st October to 15th December.

W. B. Yeats

29th August 1934.

Minutes of a Meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Limited, held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin on Wednesday the 29th August 1934 at 2.30 p.m.

Present :- W.B. Yeats (in the Chair)
Lennox Robinson

In attendance: G.H. Tulloch and Eric Gorman

It was proposed by W.B. Yeats and seconded by Lennox Robinson That the Directors' Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ending 28th February 1934 be approved.

A letter was read from Mr Frederick Ashton declining the appointment as Producer, and it was decided to make enquiries as to the possibility of obtaining the services of Mr Oliver Reynolds or Mr Robert Milton.

Accepts,

27th September 1934.

Minutes of a Meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd., held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on Thursday, the 27th ~~October~~ September 1934 at 3.30 p.m.

Present :- Mr W.B. Yeats in the Chair,
Dr. Walter Starkie, Lennox Robinson.
Dr. Hayes regretted he was unable to attend.

It was proposed by Mr W.B. Yeats and seconded by Dr. Walter Starkie
"That in accordance with Rule 32 of our Articles of Association we, the Directors of the National Theatre Society Limited, consent to an application being made to the Munster & Leinster Bank Limited, O'Connell Street, Dublin, for an increase of the overdraft on the Society's account, from One thousand pounds (£1000) to Two thousand two hundred pounds (£2,200)."
This resolution was passed unanimously.

It was agreed to engage Mr Gladon Peake as producer at a salary of Twelve pounds (£12) per week, and Mr F.J. Bould as designer at Seven pounds per week (£7) the period of their engagement to be from 15th October 1934 to 15th December 1934.
The Secretary was instructed to write to Mr Peake accordingly and also to write to him stating that in the event of the season being continued after Christmas, the services of Mr Bould might would not be required. Mr Peake was also to be informed that

the

the amounts of the salaries being paid to himself and to Mr Lovell were to be treated as strictly confidential and were not to be mentioned to anyone.

Mr Robinson spoke of the possibility of the Abbey Theatre Company being invited to go to Hollywood for the production of film versions of some of the plays. He referred to conversations which he had had with Mr Walker McNally and it was decided that when necessary, Mr Robinson should go to New York to carry on the negotiations.

The question of abolishing Saturday matinee performances was considered and it was decided to reconsider the matter after Christmas.

A proposal to charge twopence for the programme in all parts of the house was considered and it was decided that the Secretary should ask the printers if it would be possible to obtain from the advertisements, sufficient income to cover the actual cost of the programmes to the Theatre and so allow for the free distribution of the programme, without incurring any loss.

Mr Yeats expressed the opinion that when Mr Robinson resumes duty as a Producer his salary should be £10 per week.

WB Yeats

4/12/1924

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at Botanic House, Lansdowne Road, Dublin on October 19th 1934.

Present Mr W.B. Yeats in the Chair
Dr Walter Starkie, Dr. Richard Hayes, Mr Lennox Robinson.

Mr Yeats' letter to the Irish press, in connection with a statement made by the "Sunday Times" was considered and approved.
It was agreed that Mr Robinson should see Messrs Whitney, Moore + Keller at once, as to whether legal action should be taken in the matter.
Mr Robinson reported the latest news from Mr Casey of America, as to the possibility of the Company making pictures in Hollywood.
The meeting then adjourned.

W B Yeats.

4/12/1934

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of The National Theatre Society, Limited, held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on Tuesday, the 4th of December, 1934 at 4 p.m.

Present:- Mr W. B. Yeats, in the Chair
Mr Lennox Robinson, Dr. Richard Hayes.
Mr G. H. Tulloch was in attendance.

The following resolution proposed by Dr Richard Hayes and seconded by Mr Lennox Robinson was passed unanimously:-
"That the Directors of the National Theatre Society Limited tender to the Selection Committee of the Thomas Hanerty Trust their best thanks for the generous gift of Mr Sean O'Sullivan's portrait of Mr W. B. Yeats, and that they agree to the terms upon which the gift is made, these terms being set out in a letter dated 5th October, 1934, addressed to Mr Lennox Robinson by the Secretary to the Thomas Hanerty Trust"
It was decided to continue Mr Hilton Peake's season from the 31st December 1934 to the 9th February, 1935, and the Secretary was instructed to let the theatre if possible for two weeks during this period, one week early in January and one week at the end of January so as to have the Theatre occupied in the intervals between Mr Peake's productions. The question of the plays to be produced was left over for the consideration of Mr Yeats and Mr Robinson in consultation with Mr Peake.
A letter from the Secretary to the Gaelic Players was read in which

he stated that his Committee were of the opinion that the rent of £25 per month which they were being charged for the Peacock Theatre was to much and asking that the rent be reduced to £3 per week. He also stated that Flood lights formerly part of the equipment of the Stage had been removed and that his Committee had been put to the expense of purchasing new ones.

The Directors having considered this letter instructed the Secretary to reply that they could not consider the reduction of the rent to £3 per week but that they were prepared to meet them on the question of the expence incurred in purchasing new Flood Lights. The meeting then adjourned.

Walter Starkie.

21. 12. 34

Minutes of a Meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Limited, held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on Friday, 21st December 1934, at 4.15 p.m.

Present :- Dr Walker Starkie, in the Chair
M. Lennox Robinson, Dr. Richard Hayes.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and signed.
A letter from M. W.B. Yeats to M. Robinson was read, in which M. Yeats suggested that as the losses incurred during M. Peake's season had continued to be very great it would be better to finish the season at once or after the production of "At Mrs Beam's", and then let the Theatre or put on some such plays to be produced by M. Robinson.
M. Yeats also suggested that if M. Peake was to be retained he ~~M. Peake~~ turned like ~~M. Peake~~ to see produce M. Robinson's play "The Dreamers".

The Directors having considered the losses incurred, decided that it would be better to finish the season at the end of the run of "At Mrs Beam's" and having interviewed M. Peake, informed him that his engagement would terminate on the 5th January 1935.

The Secretary was instructed to notify M. Bould that his services would not be required after the 29th December 1934.

~~Yeats~~ W B Yeats
2/3/35.

Minutes of a Meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Limited held at Riversdale, Willbrook, Rathfarnham, Co. Dublin on Thursday, 24th January, 1935 at 5.30 p.m.

Present: Mr W.B. Yeats, Dr. Walter Starkie, Dr Richard Hayes.

Mr Yeats read the following anony mous Memorandum which had been received by him.

PROPOSALS TO THE BOARD OF THE NATIONAL THEATRE CO. LTD.

It is evident that the Abbey Theatre - once the headquarters of Irish literary affairs - has largely ceased during recent years to quicken imaginative literature in this country. Drama enticing to the intellect and delighting the eye is now found upon another stage; and while resourceful and experimental, that stage deflects main attention from the National Theatre. Indeed the more lively minds among dominant playgoers are not frequenting the Abbey; for them the Abbey Theatre is not sufficiently refreshing; and even the audience that remains is now declining from lack of novelty. A consistent attempt should be made to stem that drift and to revive the aims of a National Theatre.

Advisory Committee.

The Board of Directors is therefore requested to establish an Advisory Committee; and to empower that Committee with the right of advising the Board and of conferring with it on all matters appertaining to the policy and efficiency of the Irish National Theatre.

Constitution and Functions of the Committee. nominated by the Proposer

The Advisory Committee should consist of four persons appointed by the Directors. Three members to form a quoram. Each member must be competent to value one of the four special aspects of the Theatre: i.e.(1) General Artistic Aims, (2) Plays, (3) Acting and Producing, (4) Management and Audience.

Persons to fill vacancies on the Committee should be nominated by the remaining members of the Committee and such persons should represent the particular aspects of the Theatre's work as represented by their predecessors. Such nominations must be approved by the Board of Directors; and the election must be decided by the votes of the Board and of the Committee voting as one body.

One member of the Committee shall be entitled to attend - in a liaison position - all meetings of the Board. Each member of the Committee to hold this position for not more than six months at a time. Should a member of the Committee be appointed to the Board of Directors he shall resign his membership of the Committee. When necessary, the Advisory Committee shall obtain, <u>for its confidential use</u>, full details regarding (a) The General Policy of the Board regarding organization and tours, (b) forthcoming plays, (c) finance, (d) management and staff; the Committee shall be empowered to advise the Board on such forementioned matters and also on matters of (3) Production (f) Players and (g) Premises.

<u>Unanimous</u> recommendations from the Advisory Committee to the Board of Directors can only be rejected by an <u>unanimous</u> vote of the Board, The Committee shall have the right of attending the final rehearsals of any Plays and if necessary to advise the Board or its officers before thefirst performances.

The Advisory Committee shall be dissolved only by a three fourth majority of the Board and Committee voting together as one body.

The following resolution proposed by Dr. Starkie and seconded by Dr. Hayes was passed :- "That an advisory body be appointed to act in conjunction with the Directors".

The Secretary submitted a proposal received from Mr Daniel Gibbons, that a play of Mr Gibbons's be produced by the Abbey Theatre on a fifty - fifty basis. He was instructed to inform Mr Gibbons that the Directors could not agree to such an arrangement.

W B Yeats

2/3/35.

Minutes of a Meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Limited held at Riversdale, Willbrook, Rathfarnham, Co. Dublin on Saturday, 2nd March 1935 at 5.30 p.m.

Present: W. B. Yeats in the Chair
Dr. Walter Starkie, M. Lennox Robinson, Dr. Richard Hayes.

The Minutes of the meetings held on 21st December 1934 and 24th January 1935 were read and signed.

As Mr. Yeats felt that he might not be able to remain for the entire meeting he vacated the Chair which was taken by Dr. Hayes.

The following resolution was proposed by Mr. W.B. Yeats and seconded by Dr. Walter Starkie was passed unanimously:- "That Mr F.R. Higgins and Mr Brinsley McNamara be appointed as the first members of the proposed Advisory ~~Board~~ Committee for a period of one year to 1st March 1936."

Mr Higgins and Mr McNamara were then invited to meet the Directors which they did, and after some discussion the following resolutions embodying the Constitution of the Advisory Committee were passed unanimously:-

It was proposed by Dr. Starkie and seconded by M. Lennox Robinson "Clause 1." That the Advisory Committee is to consist of four persons nominated by the proposers Mr Brinsley McNamara and Mr F.R. Higgins and appointed by the Directors, three members to form a quorum and the Chairman to have a casting vote. Each member must be competent to judge of ~~the~~ the Theatre's artistic and business requirements. Persons to fill vacancies on the Committee shall be nominated by the

remaining members of the Committee. Such nominations must be approved by the Board of Directors and the election must be decided by the votes of the Board and of the Committee voting as one body"

Clause 2. It was proposed by Mr Lennox Robinson and seconded by Dr. Starkie :-

"One member of the Committee shall be entitled to attend - in a liaison position - periodic meetings of the Board as arranged, and at not less than four meetings per year. Each member of the Committee to hold this position for not more than six months at a time. Should a member of the Committee be appointed to the Board of Directors he shall resign his membership of the Committee. When necessary, the Advisory Committee shall obtain, for its confidential use, full details regarding (a) the general policy of the Board regarding organization and towers (b) forthcoming plays (c) finance (d) management and staff. The Committee shall be empowered to advise the Board on such forementioned matters and also on matters of (e) selection of plays (f) production (g) players (h) premises."

Clause 3. It was proposed by M. W-B. Yeats and seconded by Dr. Starkie :-

"Unanimous recommendations from the Advisory Committee to the Board of Directors can only be rejected by an unanimous vote of a Board meeting at which the majority of the Directors are in attendance.

The Committee shall have the right of attending rehearsals of any plays and if necessary to advise the Board or its officers before the first performances"

It was proposed by Dr. Starkie and seconded by Mr Lennox Robinson :-

Clause 4.

"That the Advisory Committee is to be appointed annually and can be dissolved by a full meeting of the Board, voting unanimously"
The meeting then adjourned until Wednesday, 6th March 1935.

W Hayes

6/3/1935.

Minutes of a Meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Limited, held at Riversdale, Willbrook, Rathfarnham, Co Dublin, on Wednesday, the 6th March, 1935 at. 5.30 p.m.

Present :- Mr W.B. Yeats (in the Chair)
Mr Lennox Robinson, Dr. Richard Hayes.

Dr Walter Starkie regretted that he was unable to attend.
Mr J.R. Higgins and Mr Brinsley McNamara were also present, having been invited by the Directors to attend.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and signed.

The Chairman ruled that Clauses three and four of the Constitution of the Advisory Committee as passed at the last meeting were out of Order.

After some discussion it was proposed by Dr. Hayes and seconded by Mr Lennox Robinson "That, instead of forming an Advisory Committee power be sought to increase the number of Directors". This resolution was carried unanimously.

It was then proposed by Mr Yeats and seconded by Dr. Hayes "That in the mean time Mr J.R. Higgins and Mr Brinsley McNamara be invited to attend the meetings of the Directors in order to give the Directors the benefit of their advise."

The meeting then adjourned until Monday, 11th March 1935.

W B Yeats

11/3/35.

Minutes of a Meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society, Limited held at Riversdale, Willbrook, Rathfarnham, Co. Dublin, on Monday, 11th March 1935 at 5.45 p.m.

Present: Mr W.B. Yeats (in the Chair)
Mr Lennox Robinson.

Mr F.R. Higgins and Mr Thursley McNamara were also present, having been invited by the Directors to attend.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and signed.

It was agreed that an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society be held as soon as can be arranged, to make it possible for the Directors to add to the Board, Mr Keller to be asked to make all the necessary arrangements.

Mr Robinson read a Report on Mr Peake's Scheme for an Irish Provincial Tour. This Report had been drawn up, at Mr Yeats's request, by Mr Fred Johnson, Mr Joseph Linnane and the Secretary, who was requested by the Directors to thank Messrs Linnane and Johnson for their work in connection with it.

It was decided that the Secretary should make enquiries as to the possibility of booking the Town Hall Theatre, Galway, for the week commencing 29th July. It was also decided that the Secretary should write to Mr P.A. Selby regarding the possibility of arranging for the Autumn a tour to Liverpool, Manchester, Glasgow and Belfast.

It was decided that the Company should resume playing at Easter with "Parnell of Avondale", Mr Robinson to be the Producer. Other plays to be considered for production were "The First Legion"

"Don Abel wrote a Tragedy" and a One Act play by Sean Ràsey.
"Fanny's First Play" for which Mr Robinson had undertaken to re-write the Prologue and Epilogue was also mentioned.
It was agreed that when new scenes were required, Dublin artists should be asked to design them.
Mr Yeats suggested Mr T. J. Robinson as publicity writer for the Theatre and Mr Lennox Robinson promised to interview him on the matter.
It was agreed that "The Arrow" be revived and Mr F. R. Higgins consented to act as Editor.
It was agreed that Senator Ernest Blythe be invited to join the enlarged Board of Directors.

Lennox Robinson.

3/4/35.

Minutes of a Meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Limited held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on Wednesday, 3rd April, 1935 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:- Mr Lennox Robinson (in the Chair)

Dr. Richard Hayes

Senator Ernest Blythe, Mr T.M. Higgins and Mr Brinsley Macnamara were also present, having been invited by the Directors to attend.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and signed.

Mr Brinsley Macnamara reported to the Directors that he had endeavoured to get into touch with Mr George Fitzmaurice in order to obtain from him permission for the Abbey Theatre to produce "The Country Dressmaker", but had not, as yet, been successful. Mr Macnamara however, hoped that he would soon hear from Mr Fitzmaurice.

After some discussion it was decided that the bills for the Easter Season should be :-

First week :- "Drama at Inish" or "The Country Dressmaker"

Second week :- "Wrack" and "The King of Spain's Daughter"

Third week :- "The Country Dressmaker" or "The Dreamers" or "Maurice Harte"

Fourth week :- possibly "Mary Baker Eddy"

A letter was read from Mr T. Hardiman, Lessee of the Town Hall Theatre, Galway asking for particulars of the repertoire in connection with the proposed visit of the Abbey Theatre Company to Galway for Race Week, Commencing 29th July next.

The Secretary was instructed to inform Mr Hardiman that the bills

Proposed were :- "The New Gossoon" and "The Rising of the Moon" to be played for three nights and "Kathleen ni Houlihan" and "The Glorious Uncertainty" for three nights.

Correspondence with Percival H. Selby was read regarding the proposed tour of the Abbey Theatre Company to Belfast, Liverpool, Manchester and Glasgow. The Secretary was instructed to send to Mr Selby a list of the principal plays in the repertoire including the plays of Sean Casey, T.C. Murray, Brinsley Macnamara, Lennox Robinson J.M. Synge, W.B. Yeats, Lady Gregory and to suggest to Mr Selby that the choice of the plays to be done in each city might be left to the local management.

A Statement on the change of policy of the Abbey Theatre was presented to Messrs Blythe, Higgins and Macnamara and a discussion followed as to the contents of the agreed Statement to be issued to the press on Monday the 8th April, after the Board of Directors had been enlarged.

Richard Hayes
8 April 1935

Minutes of a Meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre Dublin on Monday 8th April 1935 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:- Dr. Richard Hayes in the Chair
W. Lennox Robinson.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and signed.

It was proposed by Dr Richard Hayes seconded by W. Lennox Robinson and passed "That in accordance with the powers conferred by Clause 5 b. of the Articles of Association the following additional Directors are hereby appointed, namely Senator Ernest Blythe, Mr Brinsley Macnamara and Mr. F. R. Higgins.

W. Lennox Robinson

April 8th 1935

Minutes of a Meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre Dublin at 5.45 p.m. on Monday, 8th April 1935.

Present:- Lennox Robinson (in the Chair)
Dr. Richard Hayes, Senator Ernest Blythe, Brinsley Macnamara
J. A. Griffin.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and signed.

A letter from Mr George Fitzmaurice was read regarding the permission being sought by the Directors to perform "The Country Dressmaker". After some discussion it was decided that Mr Brinsley Macnamara should endeavour to see Mr Fitzmaurice and if possible, obtain from him, the necessary permission.

A deputation from An Comhar Drámaidheachta interviewed the Directors with reference to the rent to be charged for the Peacock Theatre for the period 1st October 1934 to 31st March 1935. After some discussion the Directors agreed to accept £110 instead of the sum of £150 due in accordance with the terms of the Agreement signed on the 25th September, 1934.

The question of the plays for the third and fourth weeks of the coming season was discussed and it was decided to leave the matter open in the hope that Mr Fitzmaurice would consent to the production of "The Country Dressmaker". Re play "Mary Baker Eddy" having been considered it was decided that the play was not

Suitable for production.

Mr Higgins raised the question of the procedure to be adopted by the Directors when reading plays and suggested that each Director should give a written opinion, these opinions to be filed for future reference. The Directors agreed to this suggestion.

The Directors agreed that statements for the press should be made through the Secretary after approval by the Board and that no statement of policy should be made to the press by individual Directors

[illegible] 18/4/55

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, 18th April 1935.

Present :- Senator Blythe in the chair.
Lennox Robinson, Brinsley Macnamara, F. R. Higgins.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and signed.
It was decided that for all future meetings of the Board a copy of the Agenda should be sent by the Secretary on the day before the meeting to each Director and that the Agenda should consist of (a) Minutes of the last meeting, (b) financial statement, (c) important correspondence (d) any other business that might arise.

Mr Higgins referred to a letter he had received from Mr Monryo Wall thanking him for the acceptance of Mr Wall's play "The Phoenix and the Cockatoos," a play which Mr Higgins had not read.
Mr Robinson explained that this play and another by the same author had been sent in to the Theatre about eighteen month ago but that no decision had been come to by the Directors until January last when it was decided to accept "The Phoenix & the Cockatoos" and to return the second play "Glenmalure."
The sending of the notification to the author had been inadvertantly delayed until early in April but the decision as to the acceptance of the play had been arrived at in January and consequently prior to the appointment of the new Directors. Mr Robinson added that the Agreements for "The Phoenix & the Cockatoos" and "The King of Spain's Daughter" were the only Agreements

recently signed.

A letter from M. George R. E. Maurice was read declining to enter into an agreement for the performance of "The Country Dressmaker" and returning a cheque for £3-3-0 advance royalty which had been sent to him.

It was decided that it was useless to pursue the matter further at the present time.

"The Parnellite" by Seamas O'Kelly and "Deirdre of the Sorrows" by J. M. Synge were selected as the plays for the third and fourth weeks respectively of the present season.

Mr. Michael Scott, Architect, was then interviewed by the Board to whom he explained his plans for the re-modelling of the Vestibule. After some discussion it was proposed by Mr. Robinson and seconded by Mr. Higgins "That the alterations to the Vestibule in accordance with Mr. Scott's plans be carried out and that Messrs John J. Dolan & Sons be employed to carry out the work." This resolution was passed unanimously

The question of painting and decorating the Auditorium and outside of the Theatre was considered and it was decided that estimates should be obtained from Messrs Dolan and two other firms for work that would be specifically shown to them by Mr. Robinson, the question of the painting of the Peacock to be considered of a later date.

A letter from An Comhar Damaitheachta was read asking that certain dates in the autumn of 1935 and Spring of 1936 be reserved for their productions in the Peacock Theatre and also enquiring if the Directors would consider the purchase of a radio gramaphone used by An Comhar during their last season.

Out of this letter a discussion took place as to the rent to be charged in future for the Peacock Theatre and it was decided that for odd nights

the charge be three pounds per night with the service of an electrician, for a week the charge to be eight pounds without staff.

The Secretary was instructed to inform the Comhle Drámaíocht that they could have the weeks they asked for at eight pounds per week without staff.

A letter was read from P. A-Selby stating that he was unable to arrange bookings in Liverpool, Glasgow and Manchester but that he could book Belfast and Cork for certain stated dates. The Directors decided to accept Belfast for November 11th and Cork for November 15th.

A letter was read from Mr J. Hardiman, Town Hall Theatre, Galway stating usual prices charged for admission and giving his terms as 33⅓%. It was decided that the Secretary should go to Galway and report on suitability of the hall for a visit by the Company.

On the question of finance it was proposed by Mr Robinson and seconded by Senator Blythe and passed "That Mr Macnamara and Mr Higgins be asked to consider and examine the salaries and wages being paid in the Theatre and to present to the Board their recommendations as to any alterations which they might consider necessary."

Mr Higgins suggested the advisability of holding a meeting of the Directors to consider the question of production. This suggestion was agreed to.

Mr Robinson referred to the advisability of allowing smoking in the auditorium and it was decided that before proceeding further the Secretary should find out how the Fire Insurance Policy would be effected by the change.

Mr Higgins enquired as to the possibility of having a bar in the Pit Café. Senator Blythe stated that it would be a matter for the Executive Council who would have to grant a new patent to the Theatre and that he was strongly of the opinion that such

a Patent would not be granted by the Executive Council.

25/5/35

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 25th April 1935.

Present :- Senator Blythe in the Chair
M. Lennox Robinson, Mr Brinsley Macnamara
M. J. R. Higgins.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and signed.

Arising out of the Minutes, the Secretary was instructed to ask Messrs. Whitney, Moore + Keller (as Agents for the Commercial Union Assurance Co.) if the Fire policy at present held by the Society would in any way be effected if smoking were permitted in the auditorium of the Theatre.

Mr Brinsley Macnamara referred to the shabby appearance of the outside wall of the Theatre on the Abbey Street side and also raised a question as to the possibility a Neon Sign or other electric Sign on that wall which could be seen from the corner of Abbey Street + O'Connell Street. He also mentioned the possibility of erecting a sign on the building at the corner of Eden Quay + Marlborough Street, which could be seen from O'Connell Bridge. The Secretary was instructed to enquire as to the probable cost of erection + upkeep of such signs.

Mr Macnamara then read the following Report on Salaries to be drawn up by himself and Mr Higgins in accordance with the terms of the resolution passed at the meeting of the Directors held on the 18th April 1935.

REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEE ON SALARIES ETC.,

To the Directors, National Theatre Soc., Ltd.,
Abbey Theatre,
DUBLIN.

Gentlemen,

At a meeting of your Board held on April 18th 1935 we the undersigned Directors were appointed as a Sub-Committee of the Board, to examine the financial affairs of the Abbey Theatre, particularly in relation to salaries,and we were instructed to present you with our opinions and recommendations on these affairs.

During the past week we have made our examination and as a result we now offer you this Report especially recommending economies, by way of salary reductions approximating to £1,340-0-0 per annum, from those employed by the National Theatre Society Ltd.,

These reductions are imperative; they are gravely urgent for the progress of the Theatre and we are convinced that every Director, eager to maintain the "Abbey" prestige,will see the necessity of immediately operating our proposals.

The total sum of our suggested economies directly provides us with funds, without the need of calling on external sources for support. Such funds are particularly now and always required, for the very necessary and immediate improvements demanded in our present methods of production and for the stimulation of Irish Drama in the National Threatre. Our aims towards improved productions and stimulated drama are, we believe, in keeping with Government policy which provides this National Theatre with a subsidy. The expenditure of that subsidy in directions other than those of such improvements is, in our opinion, un-

justifiable; and while it subjects the work of this Theatre to public criticism it also endangers the prestige of our State support. It is possible in the near future that the Department of Finance may demand details or the Auditor-General question the expenditure of this Grant in Aid towards the Expenses of the Society; in that event this Report might conceivably go before the Minister for Finance — should justification of our present stewardship be considered necessary.

For the purpose of this Report we required details from the office and as far as seemed possible various figures and facts were efficiently placed at our disposal by your Secretary. We carefully examined the attainable details regarding individual salaries, with due consideration to the personal interests of our entire staff; and therefore we must now ask you to adopt the following recommendations.

(1) Management.

It is proposed by us that for the future no individual shall hold the position of Manager of this Theatre; this office must be invested in the present Board of Directors and the Board will issue its instructions directly to the Staff, through the Secretary. All items of expenditure must be sanctioned by the Board at its weekly meeting; and on the same occasion the proposed outlay on forthcoming productions must receive its approval, through the Producer who shall be in personal attendance. This supervision by the Board over weekly expenditure is essential, in view of our opinion, after a hurried scrutiny of the Books, that undue extravagence has been permitted through a lack of steadiness in controlling the Society affairs and an apparent casualness in passing essential details involving expenditure.

Players.

We propose that no contracts be made nor renewed with players in this Theatre after the expiration of contracts presently existing between the Society and nine of its Players. Before these contracts expire the Board must consider the new conditions of employment for these players; and also make adequate preparations to maintain the Theatres work for a period of not less than 46 weeks per year.

We strongly recommend that for the future an actor's salary must not exceed £7.10.0 for a full working week; and that the salary of an actress must not exceed £6.0.0 per full working week. Players on the present non Contract list must not be paid more than £3.10.0 unless by the approval of the Board.

On the basis of the foregoing recommendation we therefore propose that the weekly salaries of Miss.Delany, Miss.Crowe, and Miss.Craig be reduced by 30/= each per week. The maximun salary of each of these actress to be £6.0.0. per full working week as from the termination of their present agreements with the Society.

The salary of Mr.Arthur Shields as a player should be also reduced, from the same time, by 30/= per week; a further reduction of £1.0.0 per week in his salary as Stage Manager and Assistant Producer, is also demanded. As a result of these reductions Mr. Shield's future salary will be £7.10.0 fpr a full working week. On some occasions it appears as if Mr A. Shield has received his full weekly salary as an actor although his name does not appear as an actor & speaking parts on the programmes for those occasions.

Mr.M.J.Dolan should receive £7.10.0 per work week;- but we propose that any extra payments received by him for work in connection with the Abbey School of Acting etc., should cease. We are convinced that the Abbey School of Acting has proved a too costly experiment and its results does not justify its existance. We strongly recommend that this School should be abolished.

A reduction of 30/= per week is proposed in the salary of Mr.P.J Carolan as an actor and a further reduction of I0/= in his salary as Assi Stage Manager. His future salary from the Society should therefore be £6.15.0 per full working week.

We are of opinion that the I0/- per week paid to Mr.F.J.McCormic for photographic work is not in any sense justified and that it must cease.

Orchestra.

In consideration of the services rendered to the Theatre we strongly recommend that the sum of £3.0.0 per performance paid to Dr. Larchet for the Orchestra be reduced to £2.5.0 and to £3.0.0 for Sunday performances. No payment should be made to the musicians when the Theatre is closed; but under the new policy of the Directors it is hoped to keep the Theatre working for not less than 46 weeks per year.

Staff. Stage.

Your Sub-Committee sees no reason why Mr.U.Wright should be paid £5.I0.0 for his work as Electrician and for his other incidental services. He also works as an Actor at £2.I0.0; and on some occasions it appears as if Mr.Wright has received his full weekly salary as an actor although his name does not appear as an actor on the programmes for those occasions. We propose that in future his weekly wage as an Electrician and for his other incidental work be £2.I0.0

House Staff.

We regret to propose the necessity of dispensing with the services of Mr.M.J.McGuinness, Pit attendant (at 3/11 per show) with one Stall's ~~Staff~~ Attendant, (at 3/7d per show) with one Balcony Attendant (at 3/7d per show) and with Mrs. Martin, Cleaner at £1.17.6d per week.

The position of Pit Attendant should be filled by Mr.P.Harty from the Pit Cafe. Mrs. Harty should be removed from the Stalls Box Office

and take up work in the Stalls as an Attendant. Miss M.Bennett should be removed from the Stalls cafe and be offered Mrs. Martins position at the same wage.

We recommend that two young women be employed to manage the business of the two Cafes; and one of these is expected to assist in the Stalls box office, if necessary, during the rushed ¾ hour after the Theatre opens at 7.30 p.m. each evening.

Owing to this rearrangement of the House Staff the only position we suggest should cease is that of one Balcony attendant.

Office Staff.

Your Sub-Committee sees no reason for the retention of the services of a Financial advisor; its therefore strongly recommends the abolition of that office, already costing £50. per year. The Sub-Committee also suggest a reduction of £50. per year in the salary of Mr.T.J.Robinson, as the present condition of the office work does not warrant a position of £150 per year to assist Mr.E.Gorman.

It is very much regretted that the Sub Committee is unable to accept the recommendation made by Mr.W.B.Yeats at the Board meeting of 27th September 1934 regarding an increase of salary to the present producer; such a recommendation is not justified, in our opinion, under present circumstances.

The Suggestion for an increase in the salary of Mr.E.Gorman received our favourable consideration; we however do not think it opportune to offer you our report on this suggestion until the 1st. July 1935.

The Sub-Committee wish to express its regret that certain records of salaries for years prior to 1926 were not available; we are therefore unable to offer you any official comparison as between the salaries paid to

players before the Society received the Government subsidy and these salaries paid at the present time.

Signed ..... J R Higgins

..... Brinsley MacNamara

dated: April 25th 1935.

After some discussion it was proposed by Mr Macnamara "That the Sum of £3 per performance paid to Mr Larchet for the Orchestra be reduced to £2=5=0 and to £3 for Sunday performances; no payment to be made to the musicians when the Theatre is closed". This resolution was seconded by Mr J. R. Higgins and passed.

The question of Mr H. Wright's salary as Electrician was discussed and it was decided that the sum of £3 be substituted for the sum of £2-10-0 mentioned in the Report. It was then proposed by Mr Macnamara, seconded by Mr Higgins and passed "That in future the weekly wage paid to Mr H. Wright for his work as an Electrician and for his other incidental work be £3".

After consideration of the Report on the Office Staff it was proposed by Mr. Macnamara "That the office of Financial Advisor

be abolished and that the Salary paid to Mr T. J. Morrison be reduced by £50 per annum" This resolution was seconded by Mr. Higgins and passed.

It was decided that consideration of the following matter be postponed until the next meeting of the Directors :-

Players' Contracts and Salaries
Salary of present Producer
House Staff.

The Secretary was instructed to get into touch with the Secretary to the Theatrical Branch of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union and to inform him of the changes in the House Staff suggested in the Sub-Committees Report, and to obtain the Unions views on the proposed changes.

The meeting then adjourned until Thursday, 2nd May, 1935 at 5.30 pm.

Walter Starkie

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, 2nd May, 1935.

Present:- Dr Walter Starkie in the Chair
Mr Lennox Robinson, Dr. Richard Hayes, Senator E. Blythe, Mr Brinsley Macnamara.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and signed.

Arising out of the Minutes the Secretary stated that he had written to Messrs Whitney, Moore & Keller regarding the Fire Policy but had not as yet received the required information from them.

He also stated that Messrs Bewley of Eden Quay had promised to supply information as to the probable cost of erection and up-keep of electric signs outside the Theatre.

With reference to the proposed changes in the House Staff, the Secretary stated that he had informed Mr Robbins, Union Secretary of these changes and that Mr Robbins had expressed a wish to interview the Directors on the subject.

It was agreed that Mr Robinson and Mr Higgins should at a late date meet Mr Robbins.

It was decided that "The Rising of the Moon" should go on with "Deirdre of the Sorrows" and it was agreed that Lyons's play be billed as "Deirdre".

It was proposed by Mr Lennox Robinson, seconded by Dr. Richard Hayes and passed unanimously :- "That in future, cheques be signed by one of the following Directors :- Mr W.B. Yeats, Dr Walter Starkie, Mr Lennox Robinson, Dr. Richard Hayes, Senator Ernest Blythe, Mr Brinsley Macnamara, Mr J.R. Higgins and countersigned by Mr Eric Gorman, Secretary."

It was agreed that Contracts be signed for the appearance of the Company in Belfast on Nov. 11th 1935 and in Cork on Octbr 21st 1935, the original date agreed upon for Cork viz. Nov. 25th not being now available.

Estimates for the painting of the Theatre were submitted by Albert Roberts & Co., 133 Lr. Baggot Street, J. F. Keatinge & Sons 42 Grafton St., John J. Dolan & Sons, 10 Belvidere Court. The estimates were respectively £67-15-10, £61-8-6, £64-2-6. It was decided to give the contract to Jno. J. Dolan & Sons who will be carrying out the alterations to the Vestibule.

and it was proposed by Mr Macnamara, seconded by Dr. Starkie and passed "That the contract be given to Jno. J. Dolan & Sons"

A letter from the Secretary to the Theatrical Branch of the Irish Transport and General Workers Union was read with reference to M. J. McGuinness, Pit Ticket Checker and it was decided that his services be dispensed with at the end of the present season, as this proposal was already embodied in the recommendations made by the Sub-Committee on Salaries &c.

A letter from the St John Ambulance Brigade requesting a Subscription was read and the Secretary was instructed to say that the matter would be considered by the Board at a

later date.

It was decided that the Motion standing in the names of Mr Macnamara and Mr Higgins which was on the Agenda should be postponed until the next meeting and that Mr Macnamara be asked in the mean time to redraft the Motion

On consideration of the Sub-Committee's Report on the Players Salaries it was decided, after some discussion that Senator Blythe should revise the form of Actors Contract at present in use and that the as revised, it be considered at the next meeting.

Mr Johnson and Mr Macnamara were requested to go into the question of the Authors Agreements with the Society and to submit their suggestions as to the alterations they considered desirable.

Senator Blythe expressed the opinion that an Author should be paid £5 for a one act play when accepted and £15 for a three act play when accepted, these amounts to be paid over and above the royalties payable when the plays were performed.

The meeting then adjourned until Thursday 9th May 1935.

W Alfie Starkey

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, 9th May 1935.

Present :- Dr Walter Starkie in the Chair
Mr Lennox Robinson, Dr. Richard Hayes,
Senator Ernest Blythe, Mr Brinsley Macnamara.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and signed.

Arising out of the Minutes the Secretary read a letter from Messrs Whitney, Moore and Keller as agents for the Commercial Union Assurance Co. stating that the Fire Policies held would not be affected by the permission of Smoking in the Auditorium of the Theatre.

It was proposed by Mr Robinson, seconded by Mr Macnamara and passed "That in future, smoking be permitted in the Auditorium of the Theatre and that the necessary arrangements be made for the fixing of ash trays to the backs of the seats."

A cable from Arthur Shields was read asking ratification of the proposal that the Company should finish the American Tour with the matinee in Boston on June 8th. thus enabling them to immediately embark on the Scythia instead of waiting until the following week for a late boat. Mr Robinson's cable in reply agreeing to the proposal was approved of.

The question of the royalties payable to Miss Deevy & Mr Pender O'Donnell for the week ending May 4th was discussed and it was

decided to pay to Mr Deevy £ s. d. 16/9 royalty - addition to the sum of £1-1-0 already paid to her and that no additional payment be made to Mr O'Donnell who had already received £ 3-3-0 advance royalties.

It was decided that the Theatre should reopen on Monday 1st July the programme for July to be :-

July 1st Juno and the Paycock
" 8th "The Playboy of the Western World" and "The King of Spain's Daughter"
" 15th "Look at the Heffernans."
" 22nd. "Maurice Harte" and "Meadowsweet."
" 29th "Parnell of Avondale"

It was decided that the Players should be given two weeks holidays on their arrival from America and that they should each get a further two weeks before the middle of September.

On the question of Producer, Senator Blythe expressed the opinion that if possible, it would be good to have different Producers for certain periods and after some discussion it was suggested that Mr Robinson take charge of the productions until after Horse Show week, when the matter could be further considered. Mr Robinson agreed to this proposal.

Mr Macnamara suggested that the revised motion regarding management of the Theatre to be postponed until the next meeting, and this was agreed to. Some suggestions made by Senator Blythe for the revision of Players Contracts were discussed and it was agreed that the matter be again considered at a later date.

A revised Agreement with Authors was submitted by Mr Robinson and Mr Macnamara. After some discussion Some amendments were agreed to and Mr Robinson was asked to submit the Agreement to the Incorporated Society of Authors Playwrights and Composers for their opinion. With reference to the reading new plays it was suggested by Mr Robinson that all the plays received during any one month should – the first instance be read by one Director, each Director to undertake this duty in turn. The suggestion was agreed to and it was arranged that Mr Robinson should deal with the plays of April, Senator Blythe with May and Mr Macnamara with June.

The following Memorandum by Senator Blythe, embodying proposals for a new Play Competition was then discussed, a copy of the Memorandum having been already sent to each Director

4th May, 1935.

Eric Gorman, Esq.,
Abbey Theatre,
DUBLIN.

Dear Mr. Gorman,

I should like to have the following considered by the Directors at an early meeting of the Board.

It is clear that one of the reasons why the Abbey has encountered financial difficulties in recent years is that a sufficient number of good, or fairly good, new plays have not been forthcoming. The Abbey theatre cannot live, or fulfil its functions satisfactorily, unless there is a reasonably steady output of new Irish plays of at least moderately good quality. I know that money can have only a limited effect in stimulating the production of plays. At the same time, I think that in present circumstances the money factor ought to be brought into play as far as possible. English publishers who hold prize Competitions for novels, seem to find new talent and incidentally to get very effective publicity for the books for which the prizes are awarded.

It is true that some years ago the Abbey offered a prize for new plays, and that the competition did not produce very important results. I think the reasons why that particular competition was rather unsuccessful were the following amongst others:

a. The prize offered was too small.
b. Adjudication was made difficult and delayed by the fact that a large number of worthless plays were submitted, and no arrangement had been made for a preliminary weeding-out.

c. The public was not enabled to participate in the making of the final decision.

I suggest that a new Competition should be instituted along the lines set out below:

1. A prize of at least £ 100. should be offered for the best play received; and there should be a second prize of , say, £ 25. or £ 30.

2. MSS. submitted for the competition should be accompanied by an entrance fee of 10s. 6d. The object of this condition would be to reduce somewhat the quantity of rubbish submitted and to pay part of the costs of a preliminary weeding-out process.

3. Before the MSS. were considered with a view to determining which was the best play submitted, all should be sent out for criticism by independent readers.

4. The outside readers, who might include the dramatic critics of the Dublin papers, and other people with some interest in the drama, should be asked (for a fee of, say, 10s. 6d. each) to read the plays sent to them, and to write a short note on each, distinguishing clearly between the plays which they thought merited further consideration, and those which they thought should be promptly returned. Every play should be seen by two readers, to ensure against any possibility of mistake. The competitors' entry fees would thus pay half of the cost of outside reading.

5. When the 10, 15, or 20 plays meriting further consideration had been separated from the chaff, the Directors, or adjudicators appointed by the Directors, would select the 2, 3,4 or 5 plays which they regarded as worthy of, and suitable for, production in the Abbey.

6. The plays thus selected for the final round of the contest should be staged in the Abbey as ordinary new plays would be staged at a rate of, say, one a month.

7. Before production of the competing plays began, a jury of, say, 60 regular Abbey patrons should be formed to make the final selection. Each person undertaking to act as a Juryman, or Jurywoman, should get a free ticket, or two free tickets, for the part of the house

in which he, or she, regularly sits for one performance of each of the plays.

8. Slips should be inserted in the programmes for the first week's performance of each of the competing plays, on which there would appear an order of merit, such as " Excellent ", " Good", " Fair", " Poor", " Disappointing ", and on which there would be printed an invitation to each member of the audience to strike out the terms which he did not think were applicable to the play in question and to drop his slip in the box at the door as he left the theatre.

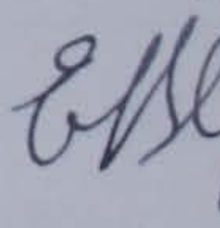
9. After all the plays had been produced, a meeting of the Jury should be held in, say, the Peacock theatre. The opinions of the audiences generally as indicated by the slips above referred to should then be submitted to the members of the Jury. A discussion should take place, the Press being present, and each Juryman being free to advance arguments in favour of the play which he thought best. After the discussion a vote should be taken and the plays placed first and second by the Jury, should be awarded first and second prizes.

In order to prevent plays which are now ready, or nearly ready, in the hands of authors from being withheld from submission till the closing date of the competition, it should be stated that any play submitted to the Directors in the ordinary way between the announcement of the competition and the closing date and accepted by them for production in the Abbey Theatre might be included in the competition at the author's request on payment of the fee.

I believe that a scheme of this sort would probably bring out one or two plays which might become items of the theatre's repertoire.

I believe also that it would rouse sufficient interest to ensure that each competing play regarded as fit for production would draw fairly good houses and make some profit for the theatre. Taking the business as a whole, it ought to give the theatre much valuable publicity, and it ought to increase audiences sufficiently to pay for all outgoings, including the prizes, losses on jurors' seats, etc..

Yours sincerely,



M. Robinson declared that he was entirely opposed to the Scheme as outlined in the Memorandum. He stated that the adjudication of the

plays in the last Competition was delayed owing to the failure of the two judges Mr W= Armstrong and Mr Nugent Monck to cope with the work, but that the competing plays were ultimately dealt with effectively and expeditiously by Mr P. O'Hegarty and Mr Brinsley Macnamara. He stated that no new playwrights were discovered and that one of the winning plays had already been accepted by the Directors. He was utterly opposed to the proposed method of judging the plays and would never agree to it. He would agree to the selection of two outside judges but they must be persons whom the Directors considered thoroughly competent to carry out their duties and he would insist that the final decision should remain in the hands of the Board whome he considered quite competent to judge the merits of any play submitted.

Mr Macnamara agreed in the main with Mr Robinson and stated that he too, was entirely opposed to the proposed adjudication by outsiders.

After some further discussion it was agreed that the matte be taken up again at the next meeting of the Board.

Senator Blythe referred to the poor receipts from the matinees during the last year. He stated that it was obvious that the Theatre lost money by giving matinees regularly every Saturday and after some discussion it was decided that in future no matinees be given save on such special occasions as would be decided by the Board, such as Horse Show Week &c.

It was decided that as the Theatre would be closed from the 18th May until the 1st July, the front of the House Staff, the cleaners

and temporary Stage Staff be paid for an extra fortnight in lieu of holidays and that the Box Office Clerks, Mrs Wilkie, Miss Ryan + Mrs Hartley be paid full pay for two weeks in lieu of holidays and half pay for the remainder of the closed period.

It was also agreed that Mr Eric Gorman should be given a months holidays in August.

The meeting then adjourned until Thursday, 16th May 1935.

Richard Hayes
16 May 1935

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, 16th May 1935.

Present :- Dr Richard Hayes in the Chair.
Mr Lennox Robinson, Dr. Walter Starkie, Senator Ernest Blythe, Mr Brinsley Macnamara.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and signed.

A letter from Arthur Shields was read asking for instructions as to the disposal of furniture and scenery purchased in the United States. The Directors decided that as none of the Stuff would be of any use in the Abbey, Mr Shields be directed to dispose of it for whatever it would fetch.
A letter from Mr MacEgan was read suggesting the purchase by the Society of a drawing of Mr Macnamara by Mr MacEgan. It was decided not to purchase the drawing.
A request made by Mr Mick Nono for the return of a balance of £2 deposit paid on Lovings of the Theatre which were cancelled by Mr Nono, was considered. The Directors decided that as a refund of £4 had already been made to Mr Nono who had been very fairly treated in the matter, the request for a refund of the balance of £2 be refused.
The Secretary read the following letters addressed to him by Mr W.B. Yeats.

17 Lancaster Gate Terrace
Hyde Park, London W.2.
May 13.

Dear Mr Gorman,

Would you please read this letter to the next meeting of the Directors - I am dictating it to my wife. I am recovering from my second attack of Congestion of the lungs, and will return to Ireland as soon as the doctor tells me that my lung is clear. I hope the Directors understand how sorry I am not to be able to give my vote on the matters now being discussed, and share responsibility for the decision, whatever it is. I am told that Mr Robinson will not be in Dublin during the months of June and July. I wonder if the Directors would care to empower me to make enquiries here as to a possible producer who could take his place for these two months. If they wish this, they should let me know at once. The kind of man I have in mind is some man who understands the latest methods and could assist Arthur Shields to modernise our work. I am not at all confident of finding such a man at such short notice, especially as he should be, if possible, of Irish extraction or birth. All I can do is enquire through various friends.

Would you please also let me have some general account of what has been decided or proposed at recent meetings.

Yours sincerely
W. B. Yeats.

17. Lancaster Gate Terrace
W. 2.
May 14, 1935.

Dear Mr Gorman,

I want to make a correction. In a letter which I have asked you to read to the Directors, delete the sentence "to help Arthur Shields and modernise production" and substitute the following " to help Arthur Shields and to produce certain plays which require very modern methods of production".

The last thing I wanted to suggest was that the Abbey Theatre production as a whole required modernisation. Lennox Robinson's best work is above criticism.

Yours
W. B. Yeats.

The Secretary was instructed to say to Mr Yeats in reply, that the Directors did not consider it advisable to put on a production by a new producer until the end of September, allowing three weeks beforehand for rehearsal. Hence after this first production, a further interval of three weeks for the rehearsal of a second new play, the weeks intervening between these productions to be filled by plays not needing very much rehearsal and the producer to be engaged for the production of two specified plays.

The names of two producers were mentioned, namely Tyrone Guthrie and Miss Fryne Church, both of whom are Irish, and the Directors suggested that if Mr Yeats could get into touch with these people he might enquire if they would accept an offer to come to the Abbey for six weeks, if the Directors decided to invite them.

a letter was read from the Secretary to The League of British Dramatists, (a subsidiary branch of the Society of Authors) returning the draft Authors Agreement sent by Mr Robinson and stating that altho' Dr. Yeats, Dr. Starkie and Mr Robinson were members of the Society of Authors, none of them appeared to have joined the League and suggesting that they should do so in order to make use of its services.

It was decided that Mr Robinson send the draft agreement to Mr Keller and obtain his advice on the matter.

A letter was read from Mr G. H. Tulloch stating that the Fire Insurance Policies held by the Society were as follows :- Theatre Premises £10,000 and £1,000, Peacock Theatre £2000, 27/r Abbey St. £1600, Furniture &c £3000, Scenery stored at Whytes £400

The Secretary reported on his visit to Galway and stated that Mr. Hardiman suggested as an alternative date to Race Week, the week commencing 19th August. The Directors decided to accept Race Week and selected the following bills :- Kathleen ni Houlihan and The Shadow of a Gunman : The Rising of the Moon and The Glorious Uncertainty : Paul Twyning.

The bills for the first three weeks in August at the Abbey were fixed as follows :- Week commencing Aug 5. (Horse Show Week) The Plough and the Stars and John Bull's Other Island. August 12th Bridgehead : August 19 The Phoenix and the Cockatoos.

The following estimate furnished by A.G. Autry was read :-

Neon Sign with Arrow and 30" letters Abbey Theatre	£140
Neon Sign vertical one-sided, 18" letters	£95
do double sided	£180

Neon Signs guaranteed for 3000 hours.

Keatake Letters 30" with Arrow £110
18" vertical Single sided £85
18" do double sided £160.

The Directors decided not to proceed further in the matter.
to Peacock Theatre
Senator Blythe suggested that it should be opened in the second or third week of July with a new play or with the revival of an old one. After some discussion it was decided that success was more likely late in the season and September was suggested as a suitable time.

Mr Macnamara's motion re Management of Theatre &c was postponed until the next meeting.

The following alteration in the Players Contract suggested by Senator Blythe was agreed to. The sentence in Paragraph one commencing "In consideration of which" and ending "for that week or weeks" be deleted and the following sentence substituted:- "In consideration of which the Manager agrees to pay to the Artist during the continuance of this Agreement except when the Artist as hereinafter provided is specially required to play in the Peacock Theatre, a weekly salary, while playing, of £ ..... for seven performances and one-seventh for every additional performance. The Manager may specially require the Artist to play in the Peacock Theatre for not more than five weeks at a salary of £ ..... When the Artist is not playing he shall receive £ ..... as salary for that week or weeks."

It was decided that a prize of £50 be offered in the Play Competition.

the conditions being that plays submitted had never been produced by a professional Company, that they play for not less than two and one quarter hours and that the author be Irish or the subject of the play be Irish.

Mr Macnamara raised the question of the Theatre making arrangements with the Broadcasting authorities for the relaying of acts of plays from the Stage and it was decided that Senator Blythe should interview the new Director of Broadcasting and report the result to the Directors.

It was agreed that in future the meetings of the Directors be held on Fridays instead of Thursdays, an arrangement more suitable for Dr. Starkie.

The question of paying the Cleaners during the period that the Theatre would be closed was considered, and it was decided that Mrs Howlett and Mrs Dunne be paid £1 per week each.

The meeting then adjourned until Friday 7th May 1935.

Seamus Ó hÍ 24/5/35

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, 24th May, 1935.

Present :- Senator E. Blythe in the Chair
Mr Lennox Robinson, Dr. Walter Starkie, Mr Brinsley Macnamara.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and signed.

A letter from the Secretary to the League of British Dramatists was read asking the Directors to reconsider their decision not to join the League. It was decided that further consideration of the matter was not necessary and that the League's letter be suitably acknowledged by the Secretary.
Correspondence with the Manager of the "Irish Times" was read regarding the extra charge of half-a-crown a day made for inserting the new block in the Theatre's advertisement. It was decided that the Secretary should again write to the Manager and that the question of future advertisements in the paper be considered at a late date.
A letter from the Secretary to the Gaelic Players was read requesting an interview with the Directors in order that his Committee might discuss the question of the rent being charged for lettings of the Peacock Theatre. It was decided that as the

rent of £8 per week exclusive of staff had been fixed after careful consideration, no useful purpose would be served by granting the interview as requested.
A letter from Miss Deevy was read thanking the Directors for allowing the extra royalty on her play "The King of Spain's Daughter".
A letter from Dr. Larchet was read asking the Directors to grant him an interview in order to discuss the question of the Orchestra and the reduction of the payment which had been decided upon. It was decided that Dr. Larchet be asked to meet the Directors at their meeting on Thursday 30th inst.
Mr Michael Scott, Architect was interviewed by the Directors to whom he explained his plans for the proposed double door entrance and the widening of the Stalls exit. He stated that Messrs Dolan estimated the cost of widening the exit at roughly £89 but that he doubted if it would cost so much.
After some discussion it was decided that, for the present, the idea of the double door entrance should be dropped and Mr Scott was instructed to find out if the Corporation authorities would allow the present Stalls exit to remain without widening. In the event of the Corporation insisting on the widening, the work to be carried out in accordance with their requirements.

Mr Brinsley Macnamara reported to the Board the result of an interview which he and Mr Robinson had with the Secretary & the Theatrical Branch of the Irish Transport Union regarding the front of the house Staff. The agreement reached was as follows :-

Ticket Checkers - Stalls - Manweiler
Balcony - Sloan
Pit - Hoffy.

Box Office Clerks - Miss Ryan, Mrs Welton, Mrs Hoffy.
Mrs. Mannix.

Attendants - Stalls - Miss Bushell, Miss Sproule
Balcony - Miss Bennett, Miss Barlow.
Pit - Miss Martin.

Stalls Café - a new girl.
Pit Café - Miss M. Bennett
Cleaners - Mrs Martin, Mrs Dunne, Mrs Howlett.

It was decided that in the case of the old plays down for production during the coming season Agreements up to 31st December 1926 be sent to the Authors for signature.
The Directors decided to hold on Friday, 7th June at 5 p.m an audition of people who had applied for parts in future productions.
It was agreed that as Mr Robinson was leaving town on Thursday night the 30th inst the meeting of the Directors should be held on that evening at 5-30 pm instead of Friday 31st.

The following motion proposed by Mr Macnamara and seconded by Dr. Starkie was passed :- "That the management of the Theatre shall be controlled by the Board of Directors who will issue their instructions through the Secretary, and that all proposals involving extraordinary expenditure as well as proposed outlay on forthcoming productions shall be submitted to the Board for sanction."

The Report of the Sub-Committee on Salaries &c was then further considered and the following Salaries were fixed :-

Arthur Shields - Acting Salary £7-10-0 plus £2 for work as assistant-producer and Stage manager.

P. J. Carolan - Acting Salary £6-15-0 plus 15/= as Assistant Stage manager.

F. J McCormick -	Acting Salary	£7-10-0.
M. J. Dolan	do.	£7-10-0
Barry Fitzgerald	do.	£7-10-0
Eileen Crowe	do.	£7-10-0
Maureen Delany	do.	£7-10-0
May Craig	do.	£7-10-0

It was agreed that if Arthur Shields was employed to produce a new play special payment should be made to him for this work.

It was suggested that if the School of Acting was re-opened, Miss Nia Rooney might be engaged to take the Classes. It was also suggested that in the event of the

School being re-opened, classes should be held at night and the Secretary was instructed to enquire if an arrangement could be come to with Mrs Kelly for the use of the Ballet room as a rehearsal room.

On the question of Production, Mr Macnamara stated that he was not in favour of engaging an outside producer but would like Mr Robinson to continue in his capacity of producer. After some discussion the Directors decided that if a suitable outside producer could be engaged for a limited period it would be advantageous to the Theatre and that when Mr Robinson was producing he should be paid his present salary.

The draft of the new Agreement with Authors as revised by Mr R.N. Keller was approved of and accepted.

The conditions for the new Play Competition as revised by Mr R.N. Keller were considered and it was decided that no author should be eligible to compete who had had a full-length play produced in any Professional Theatre. The Conditions were amended accordingly and passed.

Mr Macnamara read a letter he had received from the Director of Broadcasting suggesting that a discussion between Mr Macnamara and Mr Sean O Faolain on the Abbey Theatre should be broadcasted in June. The Directors, having heard the suggested outline of the discussion, decided that they could not approve of it. They asked Mr Macnamara to interview the Director of Broadcasting with a view to arranging a

a more suitable scheme for a broadcast on the activities of the Theatre. Mr Macnamara mentioned that Miss Ria Mooney had informed him that she had been engaged to play in a film version of "Riders to the Sea" to be produced in Ireland in July and had asked if the Directors would relieve her of the part of Mrs O'Shea in "Parnell of Avondale" as the film might not be completed by the date on which the Parnell play was due for production. The Directors decided to grant Miss Mooney's request as refusal might mean considerable financial loss to her. At the request of Mr F. R. Higgins who is ill, Mr Macnamara raised the question of the necessity of the new Directors holding shares in the Company in order to legalise their position and the Secretary was instructed to write to Mr Keller and obtain his opinion.

The meeting then adjourned until Thursday, 30th May at 5.30 p.m.

Ernest Blythe
30/5/35

Minutes of a Meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Limited, held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30 pm on Thursday, 30th May 1935.

Present :- Senator E. Blythe in the Chair,
Mr Lennox Robinson, Dr. Walter Starkie, Mr Brinsley Macnamara.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and signed.

The following letter from Messrs Whitney, Moore and Keller, Solicitors, was read:-

46 Kildare Street
Dublin, C.2.
28th May 1935.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of to-day, it is not necessary for the additional Directors appointed under the New Article 5B. to hold shares in the Company for the reason that this new Article expressly exempts the additional Directors to be appointed under it from the operation of Article 10 under which the qualification for a Director is the holding in his own right of 100 Shares of the Company. The position as we understand it is that there are 3 Directors appointed under Article 5 each

holding 100 or more Shares, a Director appointed under Article 5a. (to represent the Government) who requires no qualification, and newly appointed Directors not exceeding four in number who have been appointed under the new Article 5b., and who require no qualification. All the necessary legal requirements in connection with the new Article have been fulfilled.

Yours faithfully,
Whitney Moore and Keller.

Eric Gorman Esq
Secretary.
Abbey Theatre,
Dublin C.8.

Dr. Larchet interviewed the Directors to whom he explained that if the payment he received for the Orchestra was reduced from £3 to £2-5-0 pe performance he would have to reduce the size of the Orchestra by dispensing with the double-bass player. He stated that the players were paid 10/= per performance each which was the standard rate of pay for theatre orchestras.

Mr Morrison said he was against the reduction of the size of the Orchestra. He would like Dr Larchet to get different music, something brighter and more variety. He would also like him to do new music.

Dr Larchet in reply stated that he had bought a lot of

new music but that owing to his illness he had not been able to play any of it during the last season. He hoped however to do so during the coming season. He thanked the Directors for granting him an interview and then withdrew. After some discussion the Diection decided that the original proposal of a payment of £2-5-0 per performance be amended as follows:-

£3 per performance when Dr Larchet was in personal attendance

£2-10-0 per performance when Dr Larchet was not in personal attendance.

a letter from Mr F. Hardiman, Town Hall Theatre, Galway, was read suggesting that "Cathleen ni Houlihan" and "The Shadow of a Gunman" be played on the Monday and Saturday of Race Week and that on the Race Nights, Wednesday and Thursday there be a change of bill. He also stated that Irish Theatre Orchestra consisting of a pianist, Cellist, and Violinist would be available at a fee of £3 each for the week. The Directors agreed to these terms and decided that the Orchestra should be engaged.

The Secretary was instructed to submit to the Director of Broadcasting, a proposal that on the return of the Company from America, Mr F.J. McCormack might broadcast a Talk on the Tour.

Mr Macnamara reported that he had interviewed Dr. Kiernan

regarding Abbey Theatre broadcasts and that Dr Kiernan will at a later date, put his proposals before the Board.
It was agreed that the electric light needed by the Stage Carpenter in Whyte's store be supplied.
On further consideration of the date of re-opening of the Theatre and the casts of the plays down for production, it was decided that owing to the difficulty of re-arranging casts if some of the Players were on holidays, the date of re-opening should be the 15th July instead of the 1st of July as originally fixed. The bill for 15th July was selected viz. "Vigil" and "The Playboy of the Western World" to be followed on 22nd July by "Maurice Harte" and "Meadowsweet" and "Parnell of Avondale" to be done on 29th July as originally arranged.
The Secretary was instructed to cable to Barry Fitzgerald and ask him to say what his plans were.
The question of inviting the Ministers the Diplomatic Corps etc to the re-opening of the Theatre was considered and it was decided that the matter be brought up again at a later date.
Messrs Ellimans quotation for Ashtrays for the Auditorium was considered. Having examined the two samples submitted it was decided to select the large size at 8/9 per dozen plus about 1/3 per dozen for firing.
Mr Robinson referred to a portrait of J.M. Synge by Nicholson which had been for sale and suggested that

if it were still available, the Directors might consider the question of buying it. Mr Macnamara promised to enquire into the matter and report to the Board.

It was decided that as Miss Nia Rooney was not now available for the part of Mrs O'Shea in the Parnell play, the Directors should, at the Audition on the 7th. inst consider the possibility of filling the part by one of the ladies to be heard on that day.

It was decided that the Directors should meet the Players as soon as possible after their return from America.

The meeting then adjourned until Friday, 7th June.

Richard Hayes
7 June 1935

Minutes of a Meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin on Friday, 7th June 1935 at 6.30 p.m.

Present :- Dr Richard Hayes in the Chair,
Senator E. Blythe, Mr Brinsley Macnamara.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and signed.

The Directors considered the merits of the people who had been heard at the Audition earlier in the evening and suggested Miss Nora Lilian and Miss Doris Killeen as possible ladies to play the part of Mrs O'Shea in the Parnell play. It was decided that the final choice be left to the Producer. A list was made by the Secretary of those whom it was considered would be useful in various types of parts.

A cable from Arthur Shields was read stating that Mr Barry Fitzgerald would interview the Managers of the Film Company on June 10th and that he would not be able to state definitely the date of his return to Dublin until after this interview.

A letter from Mr G. H. Tulloch was read regarding the notification he had received that the Directors were no longer able to avail themselves of his services as Financial Adviser. He stated that the Society's investments were registered in his name, jointly with Mr Lennox Robinson, and said he would be glad to know the wishes of the Board in regard to this matter. He also stated that he had the

custody of the Society's Insurance Policies (other than those held by the Bank) and also the Company's Share Register and Share Certificate Book and would be glad to know the wishes of the Board regarding these matters. He also enquired if he was to continue to look after the Annual and other Returns that have to be filed with the Registrar of Companies.

It was decided that Messrs Whitney, Moore and Keller be asked to take charge of the Company's Share Register and Share Certificate Book.

A letter from Messrs Hilton Bros., Townsend St. was read asking for permission to reseat a section of the Pit seating free and also one of the Stalls seats in order that the Directors might have to test and examine their work. It was decided to grant the permission asked for

A letter from the Broadcasting Station was read stating that the time from 8.30 pm to 8.45 pm on the 18th June would be allocated for a talk by Mr F. J. McCormick on the Visit of the Abbey Company in U. S. A.

A letter from the Secretary to the Gaelic Players was read stating that they could not possibly pay the rent fixed by the Directors for the Peacock Theatre and asking them to give the matter further consideration. The Directors decided they had nothing to add to the letter sent by the Secretary to the Secretary to the Gaelic Players on the 27th May and that they could not consider the matter further.

It was decided that in a week when no matinee was given, no

deduction be made from the salaries of Players who sign new Contracts altho the clause in the Contract specifies a certain weekly payment for eleven performances.

It was decided that that the royalties payable to Authors who sign renewal Agreements for old plays should be at the new rate viz. 5% of the Gross takings when these do not exceed £40, 7½% when they exceed £40 but not £60; 10% when they exceed £60.

It was decided that the new Agreement with Authors which was approved of by the Directors at their meeting on the 24th May 1935 be printed.

The question of shelving old plays or, alternatively, of re-casting them was then considered.

Mr Macnamara stated he was in favour of re-casting these plays and of having them completely rehearsed as new productions.

Senator Blythe was also in favour of re-casting with enough changes in the major parts to ensure a new production.

Mr Macnamara also referred to the inadvisability of re-opening the Theatre with a whole series of old plays which he considered was not in accordance with the policy adopted by the enlarged Board.

Consideration of Questions in regard to Mr T. J. Robinson's Salary was postponed until the next meeting.

It was decided that estimates should be obtained for the

supplying of new Electric fittings in the Auditorium.

The Secretary then read the following letter which he had received from Mr F. R. Higgins on the morning of the 7th inst. the date on which the meeting was held.

Mr Gorman, will you be so kind as to read this rough letter to the Board. May I ask your pardon for the extra labour entailed, namely by bad script & rugged ideas.

very foolish

DÚRLAS
LR. DODDER ROAD
RATHFARNHAM
DUBLIN

6: 6: 1935

PJ
You can now send me any documents you consider necessary. ie notices of meetings, returns &

Dear Mr Gorman,

Thanks exceedingly for your letter of the 18th inst attaching the copy of the Solicitor's statement regarding the legal position of the new Directors. It is quite evident, that notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the original Articles of Association, our positions are held without the necessity of obtaining Qualifying shares and that our individual appointments are not controlled by Shareholders' meetings. If these appointments are subject to the goodwill of the Shareholders, then I am strongly of opinion that the new Director should be the holders of shares entitling them to attend all meetings of the Company — a privilege which is not theirs at the moment. That is the point which I consider most important. Please let me have a copy of the amended Articles, at your convenience.

I deeply regret my inability to attend Director meetings at the present time when matters of

have importance are under discussion. Mr Lennox Robinson has been to see me & I have received news from him as to the new arrangements in connection with the reopening of the Theatre in July. May I therefore ask my fellow Directors to carefully ~~thoroughly~~ consider the real necessity of obtaining improved productions of plays from the first reopening.

I am told that Mr Arthur Shields is to produce the first plays in Mr Robinsons absence. This arrangement is surely of a temporary nature only. I feel that if the productions of these men are to follow old lines then the intentions of the new Directors are not being fulfilled; and personally I could not support the continuity of the old methods.

May I therefore ask that new sets or designs be obtained for the forthcoming productions of plays under Mr Shields direction. It is essential that some noticeable improvements be made; and if the Directors wish suggestions or designs for productions from one of our younger artists then Mr Shield's work may be enhanced. If you are unable to improve the dialogue of an old play such as the "Playboy" — then I think the reopening of the Theatre

should be postponed until a production is forthcoming of such a quality to justify the Theatres statement of aims & the appointment of the new directors.

In my opinion the most important aspect of the Theatres future work rests with improved productions— that aspect cannot be casually considered and it is therefore excellent that the whole position of productions

and producer is once left undecided. In view of these circumstances I think that the question of authors' Agreements should be deferred.

I am very strongly of opinion that the overwhelming comedy element in the Theatre's repertoire should be greatly reduced; and particularly in view of an intention to increase plays of a more distinguished literary quality from younger dramatists. It may therefore be advisable to withhold new agreements until a Theatre programme has been outlined for the forthcoming

season — a season from which I wish to eliminate the comedies of, let me say, George Shiels.

The new Board must very carefully prepare its forthcoming programme with particular consideration to improved productions, sets, plays & casting — Otherwise the old time shoddiness will leave the new Directors open to a form of criticism which I could not refute.

Please excuse these hasty remarks — my main grievance at the moment is that I am compelled to stay away from meetings in which I am very keenly interested — this however will be only for another week or so. Yours with all good wishes F R Higgins

It was decided that the Secretary should obtain from Mr Keller his opinion on the point raised by Mr Higgins as to the necessity of the new Directors holding Shares in the Company.

On the question of production, it was decided after some discussion, that the matter be considered again at the next meeting of the Board.

The Directors decided to accept "Summer's Day" by Maura Mollroy and also to produce "Village Wooing" by George Bernard Shaw.

The Board then adjourned until Friday, 14th June.

W M Yeats
14/6/35.

Minutes of a Meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on Friday, 14th June, 1935, at 5.30 p.m.

Present: Mr W. B. Yeats in the Chair,
Dr. Starkie, Dr. Hayes, Senator Blythe, Mr Brinsley Macnamara,
Mr F. R. Higgins.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and signed.

It was decided to hold a further Audition ~~the Last~~ on Friday 28th June at 5 p.m.

The question of sealing the new Agreements with Authors was considered. As it would be necessary to impress a sealed Agreement with a ten shilling stamp, it was decided that these Agreements should be signed across a sixpenny stamp and not be sealed.

Mr Ml. Scott, Architect, interviewed the Directors and explained that the reseiling of the Vestibule would cost an extra sum over the amount which had been quoted in the tender for the work of re-modelling. The Directors agreed to the extra expenditure as the work must be done. After some discussion it was decided to alter the decision come to by the Directors at their meeting on 7th May and to authorise the construction of the double door entrance to the Vestibule as originally suggested by Mr Scott. It was also decided that the woodwork at present painted black, be painted some light colour as selected

by Mr Scott who was asked to obtain estimates for new electric fittings for the Auditorium.

It was decided that the reduction in the Salary payable to Mr T. J. Morrison from £150 to £100 come into force as from 21st June and that a salary of £4 per week be paid to him for doing the work of the office during the absence on leave of Mr Eric Gorman. It was further decided that the Question of Mr Robinson's position should be further considered in September.

Mr Yeats informed the Board that when in London, he had seen Mr Sean O'Casey who stated that he was willing to permit the Theatre to produce any of his plays the Directors might select. A discussion followed as to the selection of "Within the Gates" or "The Silver Tassie" as a first production and it was decided that instead of opening the season on the 15th July with old plays the Theatre should open on Monday, 5th August with "The Silver Tassie" to be produced by Arthur Shields.

Mr Yeats said he was of opinion that the Board should endeavour to get new plays, plays that were in the vein and suggested that two or three of the Directors should be appointed to read current American & Continental plays with a view to submitting to the Board, any they considered suitable for production in the Theatre.

Mr Higgins referred to the small economies which the Board had so far been able to effect and asked that the Report of

the Sub-Committee on Salaries etc. should be reconsidered. Mr Yeats suggested that as regards the Players' salaries, two or three of the Players be called into consultation with the Directors in order that this matter be discussed with them. This was agreed to.

A letter from Mr Edward Synge was read objecting to the Agreement sent to him for "The Playboy of the Western World" as this Agreement would, among other things, debar him from making arrangements for any performance of the play in England.

The Secretary was instructed to ask Mr Synge to amend the Agreement as he wished and return it for consideration.

A cable from Miss Maureen Delany was read asking for permission to remain in the States until 20th July in order to enable her to accept a four weeks engagement in Hollywood.

As four of the Directors had individually given their sanction to the requested extension the cable notifying Miss Delany that the Directors granted the permission asked for, was approved by the Board.

The Board then adjourned until Friday, 21st June.

W B Yeats

21.6.35.

Minutes of a Meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on Friday 21st June 1935 at 5.30 p.m.

Present : Mr W. B. Yeats in the Chair
Senator E. Blythe, Mr Brinsley Macnamara, M. J. R. Higgins.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and signed.

A letter from Dr. Starkie was read regretting his inability to be present and stating that Bryan Hurst who is producing a film version of Synge's "Riders to the Sea" had asked him if the Directors could see their way to loan some costumes for the production, as there was not time to have them made. Dr. Starkie added that he personally thought that Mr Hurst's request might be acceded to.
The Directors decided to hire the costumes to M. Hurst at a charge of five shillings per costume per week and on condition that the costumes were insured by M Hurst.
The Directors interviewed M. Arthur Shields who gave them a short report on the recent American Tour. He said the plays had been as successful as on former tours and that the press notices were generally very good. The rate of exchange had been against them and he did not think that M. Wicks was a very good business man. Mr Shields was of opinion that if the

Directors contemplated another tour at a later date it would be necessary to bring some new plays and that all plays would need better mounting. He added that the most successful bill had been "Riders to the Sea" and "The Playboy of the Western World".

The Directors interviewed Mr Michael Scott, Architect, who submitted designs for the new electric fittings in the Vestibule. These were approved of. It was decided not to alter the fittings in the Auditorium.

Mr Hinchy Macnamara informed the Board that Mr Dermot O'Brien was making enquiries about the portrait of Synge by Nicholson and hoped to have some information at a later date.

A letter from Mrs Hartry, Box Office Clerk, and wife of P. Hartry, now Pit Ticket Checker was read asking if the Directors would advance them £50 to enable them to complete the purchase of a house. Mrs Hartry proposing that the amount be repaid by the amount due to and paid to her weekly as Box Office Clerk. The Secretary was instructed to obtain full particulars of the financial position of Mrs Hartry and her husband, and report to the Board at their next meeting.

A letter was read from Messrs Whitney, Moore & Keller suggesting that as the position of financial advisor was not being filled the Company's investments standing in the names of Mr G. H. Tulloch and Mr Lennox Robinson should be transferred to the Company, and also suggesting that the Company's Share

Register and Share Certificate Book be placed in the custody of the Company's auditor.
The Secretary was instructed to ask Messrs Whitney Moore and Keller to prepare the necessary resolution for the transfer of the investments to the Company.
The following letter from Messrs Whitney, Moore and Keller was read :-

K.R

WHITNEY, MOORE & KELLER
SOLICITORS
PARLIAMENTARY AGENTS
R. NESBITT KELLER.
WILLIAM T. MACKAY
COMM. FOR OATHS
PERCIVAL H. BROWNE, LL.D.
E. GERALDINE KELLER, LL.D.
TELEPHONE:
62730
TELEGRAMS:
VALID, DUBLIN

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE
1

46, Kildare Street,
Dublin, C.17.

18th June 1935

Dear Mr Gorman,

The National Theatre Society Ltd.

In reply to your letter of the 13th inst. it is very natural that Mr Higgins should raise the question as to the legal position of the new Directors which is not really apparent without a very careful examination of the Articles of Association of the Company which are of a somewhat unusual character.

The total issued capital of the Company is only 390 shares. I give you overleaf particulars showing how the shares are held. You will see that out of a total of 390, 159 stand in the name of Dr.Yeats and 123 in the name of Mr Lennox Robinson, a total for these two holdings of 282, but I may say that actually 382 shares out of the total of 390 are in the beneficial ownership of Dr.Yeats and Mr Lennox Robinson, Dr.Yeats being the beneficial owner of 209 shares and Mr Lennox Robinson 173 shares, Dr.Yeats and Mr Lennox Robinson having each loaned 50 shares to Dr.Starkie which he will re-transfer to them when he ceases to be a director.

This arrangement was made when the office of Director could only be held by a person holding at least 100 shares in the Company. The necessity for the share qualification was removed in the first instance to enable the Government Director to be appointed, and subsequently in connection with the appointment of additional Directors.

The first Directors were Lady Gregory and Dr.Yeats. So long as Dr.Yeats remains qualified under Clause 10 of the Articles his Directorship is not in any way controlled by the shareholders. One of the other directors must retire at every Ordinary Meeting, but may be re-elected by the shareholders at such meeting. You will see therefore that in this way the Directorship of every Director except Dr.Yeats is in effect in the control of the shareholders. We should also point out that the new Directors hold their position by virtue of Article 5b which it is in the power of the shareholders to change.

As Dr.Yeats, Mr Lennox Robinson and Dr.Starkie are the only Directors holding shares it follows that they are the only Directors who are qualified to vote at General Meetings. No shareholder however could reasonably object to a Director of the Company, not being a shareholder, being present and taking part in the proceedings at a meeting of shareholders, so long as he did not vote.

The Directors other than those we have mentioned, not being shareholders, would not be entitled as a matter of right to receive notice of meetings of shareholders, but we can see no objection to instructions being given by the Board that all Directors, whether shareholders or not, should be given notice of all meetings of shareholders, as if they were shareholders. The Articles provide that any Director may in certain circumstances be entitled to take the Chair at a General Meeting.

Yours faithfully,

Eric Gorman, Esq.,
Secretary,
Abbey Theatre,
Dublin C.8.

Dr. Yeats	159	
Mr Lennox Robinson	123	
Dr. Starkie	100	
Miss Sara Allgood	4	
U. Wright	2	
Sir Philip Hanson	2	
	390	

After some discussion the Board decided that it was necessary that the new Directors should attend all meetings of the Company and the following resolution proposed by Mr F. R. Higgins and seconded by Dr Brinsley Macnamara was passed:-
"That, while postponing the question of the allocation of shares to the new Directors, these Directors be invited to attend all meetings of the Company".
A letter from the Director of the Dublin Broadcasting Station was read asking for particulars of plays suitable for relaying from the Theatre and stating that the fee would be at the rate of £10 per hour with, in addition, the authors royalty of one guinea.
It was decided that Arthur Shields and the Secretary should report to the Board on plays suitable and also on the financial aspect of the broadcasts from the Belfast Station of the B.B.C.
Arising out of this question of broadcasts from the Theatre the Secretary was instructed to draw up a clause for insertion in the new Agreement with Authors giving the Society the

necessary permission to broadcast.
A letter was read from Mr Edward Synge stating that he did not wish to be placed under any sort of restrictions as regards the rights of the Synge plays and that he did not know of any circumstances that made a change from the old arrangements necessary.
The Secretary was instructed to inform Mr Synge that the old arrangement would be continued as he wished to have it so.

It was decided that as the rehearsals of The Silver Tassie would commence on 15th July it would be necessary to cancel the arrangement for sending the Company to Galway for the week Commencing 29th July.

It was decided that the Secretary should write to the Players who have been on contract asking them to nominate three of their number, as Actress and two actors, to interview the Directors and discuss the terms of the future engagement of the Players. The date fixed for the interview was Friday, 19th July. It was decided that in the meantime the Players should continue on their present terms subject to a fortnights notice, and that R H. Wright should continue on similar terms. His position to be also considered on the 4th July.

The decision come to by the Directors on the 14th June was altered and it was decided that the bills for Horse Show week be "Bridgehead" on the 5th 6th and 7th August, "The Plough and the Stars" on the 8th, 9th + 10th August.

It was decided that "The Silver Tassie" be produced on 12th

of August and that Mr McConnigle be invited to design the sets. the play & be produced by Arthur Shields and rehearsals to begin on 15th July.

Leave of absence was granted to Mr Eric Gorman for Saturday 29th June and Monday 1st July.

Mr T. J. O'Brien raised the question of the legality of the action of the Board in reducing his salary without giving him a months notice, and it was decided that Mr O'Brien should write a letter to the Board and raise the matter by that means.

The Board then adjourned until Friday 28th June.

£13 yeats.

28. 6. 35.

Minutes of a Meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on Friday, 28th June 1935, at 5.30 p.m.

Present: Mr W.B. Yeats in the Chair,
Dr. O'Farkie, Senator Blythe, Mr Wheatley Macnamara
Mr J.R. Higgins.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and signed.

The Directors considered the merits of the people who had been heard at the Audition earlier in the evening and a list was made by the Secretary of those whom it was thought would be useful and would be worth a trial.

Arising out of the Minutes, the Secretary reported to the Board on the financial position of Mrs Hanby and her husband who had asked for a loan of £50 to assist them in the purchase of a house. After some discussion it was proposed by Senator Blythe and seconded by Mr J.R. Higgins that Mrs Hanby's request be refused. This resolution was passed.

A letter from Mr T. J. Morrison was read with reference to the notification he had received of the reduction of his salary as from 21st June, 1935, and claiming that under the terms of his appointment he should be given one month's notice of the

reduction. Mr Robinson also asked that if such notice were given to him, the Directors would give him an opportunity of being heard in connection with the matter.

The Directors having heard the terms of Mr Robinson's appointment decided that he was clearly entitled to one month's notice of the proposed reduction and the Secretary was instructed to send it to him so that the reduction would take effect as from 31st July 1935. The Directors also agreed to hear Mr Robinson at their next meeting.

A letter from Miss Maureen Delany was read thanking the Directors for allowing her to remain in the States until 20th July 1935.

An estimate by Mr A. H. Scott, Electrical Engineer, for the necessary electrical work in the Pesthouse was read. This estimate had been examined by Mr H Wright who considered it very reasonable, the total amount being £12 = 10 = 0. The Board accepted the estimate and approved of the expenditure.

A letter from Messrs Whitney Moore & Keller was read regarding the investments at present standing in the names of R. G. H Tulloch and M Lennox Robinson and the following resolution proposed by Mr W.B. Yeats and seconded by Dr. Starkie

was passed :- "That the following investments of the National Theatre Society Ltd. at present standing in the joint names of G. H. Tulloch and Lennox Robinson Esquires, be transferred into the name of The National Theatre Society Limited:- £500 5% First National Loan, £500 5% Second National Loan, £500 4½% Third National Loan, £3000 4½% Land Bonds, and that Messrs Whitney Moore & Keller be instructed to carry out the transfer."

It was decided that Mr Macnamara should see Mr Kenoff with a view to getting from him designs for new scenes for Acts 2 and 3 of "The Plough and the Stars".

The plays to follow "The Silver Tassie" were selected as follows:- "Days Without End", "The Doctor's Dilemma" or "John Bull's Other Island", "Parnell of Avondale". The dates were not definitely fixed in view of the possibility of "The Silver Tassie" playing for a fortnight.

The Secretary reported that the Corporation authorities had informed him that they considered it necessary that a proper emergency exit be provided from the dressing rooms and that an iron ladder be fixed on the wall down into Old Abbey Street.
The Board instructed the Secretary to ask Mr Mc Scott to report on the matter.

The Secretary reported on an interview he had had with Mr Albert Macleod, Editor of The Library Review, Glasgow. Mr Macleod had suggested that the Company might play in the Alhambra Theatre, Glasgow and expressed the opinion that good business could be done there for two weeks as it was twenty years since the last visit of the Abbey Co. He also suggested that Edinburgh might be included and that a visit to that city would also be profitable. The Secretary was instructed to communicate with the Manager of the Glasgow theatre and report the result.

Three schemes of decoration for the Vestibule were submitted by Mr W.L. Scott and Scheme No. 1 was selected by the Board as the most suitable.

The Board then adjourned until Friday, 5th July.

W.B. Yeats

5th July 1935.

Minutes of a Meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin on Friday, 5th July, 1935 at 5.30 p.m.

Present : Mr W.B. Yeats in the Chair,
Dr Walter Starkie, Senator E. Blythe, Mr Brinsley Macnamara, Mr F.R. Higgins.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and signed.

A cable from Mr Barry Fitzgerald was read asking if the Directors would agree to his postponing his departure from the States until 20th July.
As Mr Macnamara had already authorised the Secretary to reply in the affirmative, this reply was approved of by the Board.

A letter from Mr Sean O'Casey was read expressing his pleasure at hearing that "The Silver Tassie" was to be produced in the Abbey and wishing the Theatre a very successful season.

It was decided that the sum of £3 be paid to Miss Jill Norris Thormond, Skjo for two gentlemen's suits sent by her to the Theatre

Mr Arthur Shields was interviewed and a design for Act II of "The Silver Tassie" submitted by Mr Rosinyle was considered.

It was decided that Mr Mcfarlane be asked to attend the next meeting of the Board in orde that his proposals for sets to be used could be fully discussed.

Mr Shields stated that he was not anxious to continue for any considerable time as Producer owing to the difficulties likely to arise with the Company if plays already in the repertoire were being recast. He was however quite willing to carry on for the present.

The Board interviewed Mr T. J. Morrison who complained that he had been notified of a reduction in his salary from £150 to £140 per annum and that no explanation had been given to him as to the reason for this reduction. He wished to know if the Board were dissatisfied with the manner in which he did his work.

The Chairman informed him that the Board were not dissatisfied with his work but that for reasons of economy it was found necessary to reduce his salary.

Mr Morrison then pointed out that the Board proposed paying him £4 per week for doing all the office work during the absence on leave of Mr Gorman and he stated that as other activities kept him engaged during the afternoons it would be necessary for him to return to the Theatre in the evenings and that he would be away from home from 8.30 am until close on midnight. He would be compelled to dine in town and consequently he did not think that the extra payment offered to him of £2

per week was fair remuneration for the work.
The Board considered Mr Robinson's statement and decided to increase the amount from £4 to £4-10-0 per week for the period involved. Mr Robinson was informed of this decision and thanked the Directors.

It was decided that Messrs Craig Gardner be requested to audit the accounts of the American Tour just concluded.

Arising out of the statement made by Mr Arthur Shields that he was not anxious to continue as Producer for any considerable time, Mr Yeats mentioned a Mr Hugh Hunt who had written to him offering himself for consideration as Producer. After some discussion it was decided to hold a special meeting of the Board on Monday, 8th July and to then discuss the question of future production.

The Board then examined specimen seats which had been re-upholstered by Messrs Hilton, who quoted the following prices :- Tip-up seats @ 13/6 each, Bench seats @ 10/= each.

It was decided that the Directors would consider the matter at their meeting on Monday 8th July.

The Board then adjourned until 8th July 1935.

W B Yeats
12.7.35

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on Monday, 8th July, 1935 at 5.30 p.m.

Present : W.B. Yeats in the Chair
Dr. Walker Starkie, Senator E. Blythe, M. Brinsley Macnamara, Mr. F.R. Higgins.

This special meeting had been called to consider the Question of Production.
Mr Higgins in opening the discussion said that in view of Mr Arthur Shields's unwillingness to continue after the production of The Silver Tassie it would be necessary to procure some other Producer. Mr Higgins stated that in his opinion the Players were not properly disciplined and that they should be under the control of the Producer.
M Macnamara agreed with this opinion and emphasised the fact that what was needed was a Producer who would control the Players. He considered that this need could only be supplied by engaging an outside Producer, and he said that Mr Arthur Shields had also definitely expressed this opinion.
Mr Yeats then asked the Board to conside the engagement of a Mr Hugh Hunt who had written to him from London. Mr Hunt stated that he was a past president of the Oxford University Dramatic Society, that he had produced for

Six months at Nugent Monck's theatre at Norwich. Since then he had been the permanent producer to the Croydon Repertory Theatre and had produced "King Lear" "Children in Uniform" and "Othello" at the Westminster Theatre. He had produced several Irish plays at Croydon, including "The Playboy of the Western World".

It was decided that M. Hunt be invited to interview the Board on Friday, 12th July at 5.30 p.m. or if not on that day, on the earliest day possible.

The question of additional Stage lighting of the apron that used was then considered and it was decided that M. H. Bright should be interviewed at the next meeting in order that he might give an estimate of the additional lighting necessary and of the probable cost.

The estimate submitted by Messrs Hilton for re-upholstering the seats in the auditorium was considered and it was decided to authorise Messrs Hilton to carry out the work in the Stalls and the Pit, the prices to be 13/6 each per Stalls seat and 10/= each per Pit seat.

The Board then adjourned until Friday, 12th July 1935

W.S. Yeats

12/7/35.

Minutes of a Meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin on Friday, 12th July 1935, at 5.30 p.m.

Present :- Mr W.B. Yeats in the Chair
Dr Walter Starkie, Senator E Blythe, Mr Brinsley Macnamara, Mr F.R. Higgins.

The Minutes of the meeting held on Friday, 5th July and of the special meeting held on Monday, 8th July were read and signed.

The Directors interviewed Mr Hugh Hunt who gave them particulars of his work as Producer at the Maddermarket Theatre, Norwich and at the Croydon Repertory Theatre. He submitted designs and photos of some of his productions including Ghosts, Macbeth, Much Ado About Nothing, Lear, The Rivals. After some consideration the Directors to offer Mr Hunt an engagement for three months at £10 per week and Mr Hunt agreed to these terms. It was arranged that Mr Hunt should commence on Monday August 19th and that for the first couple of weeks he should see the performances in order to get some knowledge of the personnel of the Company and the capabilities of the various players. It was also decided that Mr Hunt should submit a list of plays he had already produced so that the Directors could select one for his first production.

Mr Maurice Redmyle was interviewed by the Board and discussed with them his designs for The Silver Tassie. It was decided that he should endeavour to get a student to do the necessary painting at a fee of £5 pe week.

It was decided that four spot lights be erected on the Balcony. Mr H Wright gave the approximate cost as £18, for Dimmers costing £8 and the wiring about £10.

A Letter was read from the Manager, Theatre Royal Waterford, asking if a date could be booked there for the Autumn. The Board decided to conside the matter at a later date.

In reply to an enquiry from Mr Brew MacMaster the Secretary was instructed to say that the Theatre would not be available during the Autumn or winter.

Letters were read from the Manager, Glasgow Alhambra and from the Booking Agent in London enquiring as to the possibility of the Company being booked for a visit during the Autumn. It was decided that no visit could be arranged for a date earlier than next Spring. It was also decided that a visit to Edinburgh suggested in a letter from Mr R-D. Rackcord could not be undertaken until next Spring.

A letter was read from the Director of the Dublin Broadcasting Station suggesting that they might take a broadcast during those flow Weeks The Directors decided to conside the matter later.

The debt due by the Gaelic Players to the E. S. B. for current used in the Peacock Theatre for the six months from 1st October 1934 to 31st March 1935 was considered and it was decided

not to move in the matter in the hope that the Gaelic Players would soon be in a position to pay the amount due.

A pattern of a material for the re-upholstering of the seats in the Auditorium was submitted by Messrs Hilton and was approved of.

It was also decided that the back of the Stalls seats be remodelled at a cost of sixpence each.

It was decided that the morning rehearsals should commence at 11 a.m. and continue for as long as required.

It was decided that estimates be obtained for new uniform Coats and caps for the Ticket Checkers.

The question of advertising in a new publication called The Dublin Diary was considered and it was decided not to advertise.

The Board then adjourned until Friday, 19th inst.

W B Yeats

19/7/35.

Minutes of a Meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on Friday, 19th July 1935 at 5.30 p.m.

Present :- Mr W.B. Yeats in the Chair.
Dr. Richard Hayes, Senator F. Blythe, Mr Brinsley Macnamara, Mr T.A. Higgins.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and signed.

The following Players were jointly interviewed by the Directors :- the Misses Crowe and Craig, Messrs. Arthur Shields, T.J. McCormick M. J Dolan, P.J. Carolan, Denis O'Dea.
Mr Yeats pointed out the difficulty of running the Theatre and stated that the profits on the American Tours went to pay off the losses incurred at home. He stated that in order to keep the Theatre alive it would be necessary to either increase the audiences or to economise in the expenses of the Theatre. The Directors had considered the reduction of the Players' Salaries but had decided that for the present no reductions would be made and that new Contracts for six months would be offered to the Players who had been on Contract. At the end of this period the position would be reconsidered.
Senator Blythe added that the Directors considered there should be an infusion of new blood and that new people should be tried for small parts with a view to enlarging the

Company and having a greater variety of Players.

In the discussion which followed, Mr Shields suggested that more attention should be given to the work of publicity. He also suggested that the Directors might consider the possibility of an English tour taking in such places as Oford, Cambridge, London, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Liverpool and Manchester. Mr Higgins replied that the question of publicity was being considered and that it was intended to revive the theatre's publication "The Arrow".

Mr McCormick suggested that there might be more co-operation between the Board and the Players and that the Players might be encouraged to bring before the Directors any ideas they might have for the increased success of the Theatre. Mr Yeats in reply said that the Board would at all times welcome any suggestions the Players might have to make and would give them full consideration. He added that the question of the School of Acting would be considered at the next meeting.

It was decided that the Board, at their next meeting, should interview Mr H. Wright with reference to his future position in the Theatre.

The Secretary reported that Mr Maurice McGonigle had informed him that his fee for the designs of "The Silver Tassie" would be £20, also that he had procured a student of the School of Art who

would do the necessary painting at £5 per week. Mr McSorley had also suggested that the Directors should, if possible, plan new productions well ahead as such a policy would enable them to have designs done at less expense than if the work had to be done at short notice.
The Directors expressed the opinion that the fee charged by Mr McSorley was very reasonable and the Secretary was instructed to thank him.
An estimate from the Gas Co. for irons for the Café was considered and it was decided to obtain two two-gallon irons at £5 each.
Estimates for new uniforms and caps for the Ticket Checkers obtained from The Kildare House, McInerneys and Hyams were considered and it was decided to order one coat at £5, two Jackets at £3-7-6 and three caps at 12/6 from Messrs. Hyams.
It was decided that no matinee be given either in Horse Show week or in the week of the Tivoli Fassie.
A letter addressed by the Director of Broadcasting to Mr Arthur Shields was read, suggesting a radio debate with Mr. J.T. O'Rourke, formerly a member of the Abbey Co.
It was decided that Mr Shields should decline the offer.
The Secretary reported that he had been informed by Mr Rl. Scott, Architect, that the Corporation would not sanction the proposed raising of the floor of the Auditorium and that any new floor would need to be laid on a concrete foundation.

Mr Scott also stated that the present height of the balcony above the ground floor did not conform with the Corporation regulations and that this matter would have to be considered in conjunction with any future plans for the remodelling of the Balcony.

The salary to be paid to Mr S.G. Little (Edward Leay) for playing in Bridgehead and the Silver Tassie was fixed at £3-3-0 and Miss Aideen O'Connor's salary was fixed at £2-10-0.

The question of the extra charge of 2/6 per day made by the Irish Times for inserting the new block in the Theatre's advertisement was considered and it was decided that Mr F.R. Higgins should see the Manager of the paper and discuss the matter with him.

A letter was read from Mrs Carey enquiring if she could rent the Peacock Theatre for a season and it was decided that the matter be postponed until the question of the School of Acting had been considered.

The Directors considered a suggestion made by Mr A. Wright that 25 watt White Pearl lamps be substituted in the Auditorium for the 40 watt Amber at present in use. The alteration would mean a saving of 3d per hour and would brighten the Auditorium. The Board decided that the suggestion be adopted.

The Board then adjourned until Friday, 30th July.

Lennox

26.7.35.

Minutes of a Meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on Friday 16th July 1935 at 5.30 p.m.

Present: Mr W.B. Yeats in the Chair
Senator E. Blythe, Mr Brinsley Macnamara, Mr F.R. Higgins.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and signed.

It was decided that new Players taken on without experience should be paid from £1 to £1-10.-0 per week when playing.

The Secretary reported on an interview which he had had with the Director of Broadcasting and Mr John Mc Donagh who had suggested various cuts in Act I of The Silver Tassie so as to enable a relay to be taken from the Theatre performance. The Directors decided that this would not be done and that the question of a relay be postponed until the performances of either The Doctors Dilemma or John Bull's Other Island.

It was decided that in future the curtain should rise at 8.15 p.m. sharp except in the case of a long play which might necessitate an earlier start.

The Directors interviewed Mr. H. Wright to whom Mr Macnamara explained the difficulty that had been found in reconciling the salary paid to Mr Wright with the duties that had to be performed.

Mr Wright explained that his duties were:- Control of all the lighting and repairs to same in the Abbey & in the Peacock, the working out of lighting

schemes for all plays produced in the Abbey, and the making out of lighting plots for the guidance of Mr O'Malley, attending dress rehearsals on Sundays, taking down the lighting used in the previous week and setting up for the next week; attending at night as well as O'Malley, during a heavy show, looking after all repairs and renewals in the entire building, overseeing the cleaners, looking after lets in the Peacock and setting up any lighting and staging required.

Mr. Wright further explained that he was formerly a member of the Electrical Union but had to leave on taking up a position as Assistant Manager with a firm in the City. His hours in the Theatre were 10 am to 2 pm and 3 pm to 5.30 pm. His salary was £5-10-0 per week plus £2-10-0 a week paid him when he acted.

The Directors considered Mr Wrights statement and after some discussion it was proposed by Mr T.R. Higgins, seconded by Mr Thos. Macnamara and passed: That Mr Wright be employed as a full time electrician in the Theatre that he do the work at night instead of Mr O'Malley and that his hours be from 10 am to 2 pm and from 7.30 pm until the performance is over.

It was decided that the Contracts with the Players should run from 1st July 1935 to 31st Dec. 1935.

It was decided that the question of the School of Acting be adjourned until Mr Robinson would be able to attend, probably at the next meeting.

A letter from Mr H. Fine, Publicity Agent, was read suggesting a salary of £4-10-0 per week for complete publicity or alternatively three guineas a week for Press publicity.

The Board agreed that before coming to any decision in the matter, Senator Hy the should see Lord Longford and enquire if there was any objection to the

Abbey employing the Fire.

It was decided that a short advertisement of the Play Competition should be printed in the Programme. It was also decided that an offer by Messrs Hilton of £8 per 13 weeks for a full page and £4 for a half page advertisement be rejected.

The question of the Free List was discussed and it was decided that all accredited representatives of the Press should be admitted free and that the admission of free-lance journalists and others should be left to the discretion of the Secretary.

It was decided that the Annual General Meeting of the Society should be held on Friday the 9th of August.

Mr Higgins informed the Board that he had interviewed Mr Symington of the Irish Times who explained that his paper made it a rule to charge extra for a display advertisement on the leader page. He promised however, in view of the fact that the other papers did not make any extra charge to the Theatre for the insertion of the new block, to have the matter further considered and to notify Mr Higgins at a late date of the decision come to.

Mr Higgins raised the question of the Board altering decisions already come to and expressed the opinion that all decisions on questions of policy or expenditure should appear in the Minutes in the form of resolutions duly proposed, seconded and passed. Then, if at a late date the Board wished to alter any of these decisions a motion rescinding the previous resolution should be passed. This procedure would ensure the legality of decisions come to by the Board.

The Directors agreed that in general this practice should be followed.

~~The Board then adjourned until Friday 2nd of August.~~

Mr Yeats read a letter he had received from Mr Hugh Hunt suggesting that the Directors might select one of the following plays for his first production -
The Three Sisters, Ghosts, The Rivals, Faustus by Marlowe.
It was decided that Marlowe's Faustus be selected for Mr Hunt's first production and that The Joy Cart or Hoop-la be suggested to him for his second production.

The Board then adjourned until Friday, 2nd August.

W B Yeats,

2/8/35.

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 2nd August, 1935.

Present: Mr W.B. Yeats in the Chair.
Mr Lennox Robinson, Dr. Walker Starkie, Senator Blythe,
Mr Brinsley Macnamara, Mr F.R. Higgins.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and signed.

Arising out of the Minutes Senator Blythe stated that he had spoken to Lord Longford who raised no objection to Mr Fine being employed by the Directors as a Publicity Agent. He added that Lord Longford had given no indication of his opinion of Mr Fine's capabilities.

Mr Robinson stated that Mr T. J. Robinson had been appointed by the Board to deal with the publicity and he asked why it was necessary to employ Mr Fine in addition at £4-10-0 per week. After some discussion it was decided that the matter be postponed.

Mr Robinson read a letter he had received from Mr Bullock of the Belfast Station of the B.B.C. asking if the Theatre were anxious to resume broadcasting from Belfast.

Mr Macnamara said he was of opinion that the Monday visits to Belfast with the consequent closing of the Theatre for that particular night was bad for the general business. Mr Robinson pointed out that these broadcasts had been a source of considerable revenue to the Theatre, the profit on

..
six fixes during the financial year Feb. 1934 to Feb 1935 amounting to £202-5-0.
Mr Yeats said he would like to have details of the profit on each broadcast and further consideration of the matter was postponed until the next meeting when the Secretary would give the details required.

Mr Higgins raised the question of the plays to be produced by Mr Hunt and enquired if he was only engaged to produce certain new plays as Mr Higgins was under the impression that the engagement was as general producer for the three months that Mr Hunt was here. If another producer were to be employed in addition to Mr Hunt who would receive £10 per week it would mean a very heavy expenditure.
Mr Higgins suggested that Mr Hunt should be commissioned to produce during his stay some of the following plays:- "The Playboy" done in modernistic style 'The Dinkers Wedding', 'The Risen', 'The Doctor in Spite of Himself', 'The Phoenix and the Cockatoos', 'The Saint in a Hurry', 'One Fine Day', 'Parnell of Avondale', 'The White Cockade'.
Mr Macnamara considered that the engagement of Mr Hunt was an experiment and that he should be responsible for all the plays put on during his engagement.
Mr Robinson stated that if another producer were engaged for plays done in the weeks between Mr Hunt's productions the Theatre would be paying altogether too much money for this work.
Mr Yeats said it was essential that one good production of an Irish work should be done by Mr Hunt.
After some further discussion it was proposed by Mr Robinson, seconded by Dr. Starkie and passed "That Mr Hunt be responsible

for all productions during his three months engagement, with Arthur Shields as assistant-Producer.
A letter from M. H. Wright was read asking if, in view of the new arrangement of his duties, he would still be able to increase his salary by occasional acting.
The Secretary was instructed to inform Mr Wright that he would still be able to act when the part did not interfere with his duties as Electrician
The question of the plays for Cork on Oct. 21st and Belfast on Nov. 11th and also the plays and Players for Dublin during these weeks was postponed until after Mr Hunt's arrival on the 15th August.
The Secretary was authorised to discharge the debt due to the E.S.B. for current used in the Peacock Theatre since 1st October 1934, the major part of the amount being due by the Gaelic Players.
A letter was read from Messrs Craig Gardner & Co giving details of the sums due to the Players as their share of the profit of the last American Tour. The Secretary was authorised to pay these sums and also the sum of £20 to Craig Gardner & Co as Audit Fee.
A letter from M. J. McGuinness formerly Pit Ticket Checker was read and also the reply to same issued by the Secretary. The Board decided that no further reply was necessary.
A letter from Mr Carey was read regarding the renting of the Peacock Theatre for five weeks for a Dramatic School and also renting the Abbey for a lecture on a Sunday night. The Board decided that the rent of the Peacock be £8 per week and the charge for the Abbey be £10-10=0.

Mr Robinson was selected as Leader of plays for August.
It was agreed that a salary of £2-10-0 be paid to Miss M. Maddern for playing in 'The Plough & the Stars'.
It was decided that invitations for the opening night of "The Silver Tassie" be issued to all the Government Ministers and also to certain members of the Diplomatic Corps and others selected by Mr Robinson and Senator Blythe.

The question of re-opening the School of Acting was considered and it was decided that Mr Dolan's service would not be required. The Secretary was instructed to notify him that the retaining fee of £1 per week at present being paid to him would cease as from the 17th August 1935.
It was proposed by Senator Blythe, seconded by Dr. Starkie and passed: That the School of Acting be re-opened and that a session should run from October to Christmas, the fee for the session to be £4 paid in advance, and that the teaching of the classes be offered to Miss Nia Mooney at a rate of ten shillings per class."
The Board then adjourned until Friday, 9th August 1935.

Yours
Objects.

Minutes of a Meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin on Friday 9th August 1935 at 6 p.m.

Present: W.B. Yeats in the Chair
Lennox Robinson, Senator Blythe, Brinsley Macnamara, F.A. Higgins.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and signed.

It was proposed by Mr Lennox Robinson seconded by Mr F.A. Higgins and passed "That the Directors Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ending 28th February 1935 be approved".

The meeting then adjourned until 6.30 p.m. & the Annual General Meeting of the Society to be held.

On resuming the Secretary read a letter from Mr Arthur Shields stating that he had been advised by his doctor that he should for about six months confine himself to acting as his work in the American Tour had been very heavy and as a result he was very run down. Mr Shields reminded the Directors that he had at an interview requested that they should relieve him of work as Producer as soon as The Silver Tassie went on

after some discussion it was proposed by M. F.A. Higgins, seconded by Senator Blythe and passed "That Mr Shield at the end of the week of The Silver Tassie be given four weeks holidays at £10 per week and that for this period M. M.J. Dolan be asked to do the work of Producer at a payment of £2 per week in addition to his acting Salary of £7-10-0 per week."

A letter was read from the Tattoo Committee, Department of Defence, enquiring if certain costumes of 1798 and 1867 could be hired from the Theatre.

As such costumes are not in stock the Secretary was instructed to refer them to P.J. Bourke, Costumier.

A letter was read from M. Hugh Hunt agreeing to do 'Faustus' as his first production and suggesting 'The Dog Cart' as a second production in preference to 'Hoppla' which would be difficult to stage.

After consideration it was decided that M. Hunt be asked to suggest some other Toller play and also a play by Eugene O'Neill.

A letter was read from M. M.J. Nolan Business complaining that no Unemployment or Health Cards had been stamped for him whilst in the employment of the Theatre. The Secretary was instructed to enquire if Mr. Nolan Business had other employment while working in the Theatre.

The recommendation of the Sub-Committee with reference to Mr. Eric Coomans salary was referred to by M. F.R.

Higgins who stated that the last Secretary, R Perrin had a larger salary than R Forman and that he (R Higgins would propose an increase of £50 per year in R Formans salary.
Mr Robinson stated that R Forman was engaged at a lower salary than R Perrin but that at the time it was hoped the Directors at a later date would be able to increase it. He was all in favour of the increase suggested by R Higgins.
Senator Bly the said he would like to defer the increase and after some further discussion it was proposed by Mr J-R. Higgins seconded by Mr Lennon Robinson and passed "That an increase of £50 per annum be made in the Salary payable to R Eric Forman".
The Secretary gave particulars of the profits made on six broadcasts in Belfast during 1934 and after some consideration the Board decided that Senator Bly the and M Brinsley Macnamara should go in to the question of future broadcasts in relation to the closing of the Theatre for the night or which the Company would be in Belfast.
The Question of payment to M J.J. McCormick of £2 2s per an. for taking photos of the sets of new productions was considered and the Board decided that for such work in future Mr McCormick should be offered a fee of 10/6 per set photographed, this payment to cover all expenses including cost of plates, developing and printing.

It was decided that The Silver Tassie should not run for longer than one week and that the selection of either "John Bull's Other Island" or "The Doctor's Dilemma" as the play to follow be left to Mr Dolan as changes of cast would be necessary owing to the absence of Mr A-Shields and Mr E. Forman. The Board were of opinion that it was undesirable to run a play for more than one week except in very exceptional circumstances.

Chairman 16/8/35

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Directors held in the Abbey Theatre on Wednesday 14th August 1935 at 5.30 p.m.

Present. Mr Lennox Robinson (in the Chair), Mr F.R. Higgins, Mr Brinsley McNamara. An apology was received from Mr E. Blythe.

Mr McNamara stated that he objected to the first few minutes of Act II of the Silver Tassie as in his opinion the music suggested a travesty of portions of the liturgy of the Catholic Church.

Mr. Higgins said that, while he would be opposed to giving way to popular clamour, he would be entirely against anything which might offend the religious susceptibilities of any portion of the audience.

Mr Robinson was of opinion that, the play having been accepted, it ought to be produced as written.

After discussion it was proposed by Mr. McNamara, seconded by Mr. Higgins and passed (Mr. L. Robinson dissenting) "That the beginning of Act II of The Silver Tassie be spoken and not chanted."

The Meeting then adjourned.

Seamus O'Kelly
16/8/35

16th Aug. 1935

Meeting of Directors held at the Abbey Theatre at 5.30. p.m.

Present.

Senator E. Blythe (in the Chair), Messrs. F. R. Higgins, B. McNamara & L. Robinson.

Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting on the 9th Aug. 1935 were read, confirmed and signed.

The Minutes of the Special Meeting on the 14th Aug. 1935 were read, confirmed as amended and signed.

Photos of New Sets.

The Secretary reported that Mr. F. J. McCormick had informed him that he did not wish to continue the photographic work in connection with new productions. The Secretary was instructed to invite tenders from a number of photographic firms for doing this work.

Mr. Hunt.

A letter from Mr. Hugh Hunt dated 14th Aug. was considered. It was decided to leave the decision as to plays to follow "Faustus" till Mr. Hunt arrived. ~~on the~~ On the motion of Mr. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Higgins, it was decided to engage the lady scene-painter recommended by Mr. Hunt at

Scene Painter

to make further enquiries on the point and report.

Mr. Dolan as Stage Manager

It was agreed that Mr. M. J. Dolan should act as Stage Manager as well as Producer during Mr. Shields's absence and receive an extra 10/- per week, making his salary £10 in all. Mr. Carolan to continue as Assistant Stage Manager.

Fire Drill + Extinguishers

It was proposed by Mr. Robinson, seconded by Mr. McNamara and passed that Fire Drill should be carried out once per month. The Secretary was instructed to ascertain whether there is a sufficient number of Minimax Extinguishers in the Theatre and, if not, the cost of supplying those necessary, also whether any allowance on Fire Insurance premium would be made if additional extinguishers were installed.

Box Office Curtains.

Mr. Scott's Estimate and samples for curtains in the Box Office were approved and it was ordered that they be fitted.

Pictures.

Mr. Scott's letter with reference to the hanging of the pictures in the Vestibule was considered and the Secretary was directed to instruct him to proceed with the secret hanging of the pictures.

Box Office Seats.

The Secretary was instructed to arrange for seating of a suitable height in the Box Office by means either of higher stools or a false floor.

Brinsley MacNamara

23rd August 1935

23rd Aug. 1935

Meeting of Directors held at the Abbey Theatre at 5.30 p.m.

Present

Mr Brinsley MacNamara (in the Chair). Messrs F. R. Higgins and Lennox Robinson.

Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting on the 16th August 1935 were read, confirmed and signed.

Arising out of the Minutes the Secretary reported that Mr Scott was obtaining curtains for the Box Office and that a raised floor had been put in. Mr Scott wished to know if the position of the pictures in the vestibule had been finally decided before he proceeded with the rehanging. It was decided that no change should be made, but that the portrait of Miss Nora O'Neill should be reframed.

Vestibule Pictures

Stair carpet.

It was decided that Mr Scott be instructed to obtain a new carpet for the stairs to the Balcony.

Fire Extinguishers

The Secretary having reported as to the number of ~~Fire~~ Fire Hydrants and Extinguishers in the Theatre and pointed out that the equipment had recently been considered by the Corporation Officials in connection with permission for smoking in the Theatre, it was decided not to increase the number of extinguishers.

Fire Drill

The Secretary was instructed to ask Mr P. J. Carolan to take charge of the Monthly Fire Drill.

Mr McGuinness

The Secretary reported that he had been unable

to obtain any definite information on the question of whether Mr McGuinness had or had not been otherwise employed while in the service of the theatre; but that there was a general impression that at one time he had been an Insurance Agent. The Secretary hoped to obtain further information that evening from Mr. Allgood of the Unemployment Department. A letter from Mr McGuinness was read and the matter was postponed for further enquiries from Mr Allgood and Mr Robbins.

Producer.

It was proposed by Mr Higgins, seconded by Mr Robinson and passed that the Producer be in attendance at each meeting to report.

Interview with Mr. Hunt

Mr Hugh Hunt was interviewed. Future plans were discussed and it was decided that his first production should be "Faustus" on the 23rd September. It was arranged that he should submit estimate of the probable cost of costumes. He stated that he could obtain masks for the Seven Deadly Sins at 30/- each and one for Mephistopholis at about £2/-/-. On the motion of Mr Robinson, seconded by Mr MacNamara he was authorised to purchase these masks. Mr Hunt reported that Miss Tanya Moiseiwitsch, the Lady scene painter, would arrive in Dublin on Wednesday the 28th August. It was arranged that Mr Hunt should try out all the non-contract players and also those

whom the Directors had picked out at the auditions in June.

Mr. M. J. Dolan

Mr. M. J. Dolan was interviewed and reported that "Grogan and the Ferret" and "Far Off Hills" were ready for production. Mr. Dolan asked for a clarification of his position vis-à-vis Mr. Hunt. The Chairman explained that Mr. Dolan was responsible for the production of those plays which had been entrusted to him, but that Mr. Hunt might assist by way of suggestions as to 'sets' &c.

Mr. Dolan having protested against interference with him in his capacity of Producer, it was ordered on the motion of Mr. Higgins, seconded by Mr. MacNamara, that a notice defining the position be posted in the Green Room and the Back Stage.

School of Acting

The Secretary read a telegram from Miss Ria Mooney agreeing to take charge of the School of Acting.

Peacock Theatre

The Secretary was authorised to set the Peacock Theatre to the Keating Branch of the Gaelic League for the second week in October.

Photographs

Estimates for photographing "sets" were considered and on the motion of Mr. MacNamara, seconded by Mr. Higgins, the Estimate of Mr. H. W. Lewis, 108 St. Stephens Green, of 6/6 per photograph was accepted.

Ash Trays in Balcony

The Secretary raised the question of danger from smoking in the Balcony. He was instructed to obtain Ash Trays.

Mrs O'Connor & Mr. O'Gorman

It was agreed that Miss Aideen O'Connor and Mr. W. O'Gorman's salaries should continue at the same rate as before the American Tour, namely £3/10/- and £3/15/- respectively.

Mr. Higgins raised the question of applications for reemployment from actors who has previously been with the Company. It was agreed to leave all such applications to Mr. Hunt to be dealt with on their merits.

Those Directors present signed a Specimen Signature Card for the Bank.

Lost cheque.

The Secretary reported that Mr. Barry Fitzgerald had lost his cheque for share of profits for of the American Tour and that the cheque had been stopped at the Bank. It was decided to wait a fortnight before issuing a duplicate cheque.

Accounts.

Payment of Accounts of Messrs. Hilton Bros and H.E. Harrison was postponed. The Secretary to report to next meeting the position as regards Bank Balance.

Dr. Larchet

The Directors noted Dr. Larchet's letter stating that he would be absent from Dublin for about a fortnight.

W. E. Magill

The Secretary was instructed to inform Mr. W. E. Magill that the Directors favoured the idea of an Article on the Theatre in his Christmas Shopping Annual, but considered some payment should be made by him to the writer of such an Article.

Cyriax [illegible]
30/8/35

30th Aug. 1935

Meeting of Directors held at the Abbey Theatre at 5.30 p.m.

Present.

Senator Ernest Blythe (in the Chair), Dr. Richard Hayes, Messrs. F. R. Higgins, Brinsley McNamara and Lennox Robinson and Dr. Starkie.

Minutes.

The Minutes of the Meeting on the 23rd August, 1935 were read, confirmed and signed.

Arising out of the Minutes the Secretary reported that Mr. Scott had the matters of the new carpet and the new picture frame in hand; that Mr. Carolan had agreed to take charge of the Fire Drill; that he had heard nothing further from Miss Ria Mooney; that he was arranging for the fitting of Ash Trays in the Balcony, and that the Bank Balance that morning was £428/10/4.

Fire Drill

On the motion of Mr. Robinson the Secretary was instructed to obtain from Mr. Carolan for submission to the Board a written statement as

to his organisation of the Fire Drill.

Cheques drawn. On the proposal of the Chairman it was ordered that cheques be drawn in payment of the accounts of Hilton Bros. £208/18/- and H. E. Anderson £24/14/3, for new seating in the auditorium and electrical fittings respectively.

Mr Hunt. Mr Hugh Hunt appeared to report. He stated that he had tested all the non-contract players and found them weak in verse-speaking. He had not yet succeeded in finding suitable actors to take the parts of Faustus and Mephistopheles and feared he could not have 'Dr Faustus' ready for the 23rd Sept.

Mr M. J. Dolan Mr M. J. Dolan was then called into consultation as to the future programme and after discussion the following was agreed upon

Programme

9th September. Look at the Heffernans.
16th do . Maurice Harte & The Dance of Jacks.
23rd do . Days Without End.
30th do . The Village Wooing & Candida (Mr Hunt)
7th October . The Cat & the Moon and The Countess Cathleen (Mr Yeats)
14th do . Dr Faustus (Mr Hunt)
21st do . Parnell of Broadale

Mr Hunt and Mr Dolan to consult with Mr F. J. McCormick as to whether he could cope with Dr Faustus and Parnell in successive weeks.

Cork It was decided that 'Autumn Fire' should be

one of the plays to be taken to Cork on Oct. 21st as the Manager of the Cork Opera House had specially asked for this play.

Mr. Dolan was authorised to obtain a new 'set' for 'The Deuce of Jacks.'

Miss Noiseiwitsch. Miss Noiseiwitsch was interviewed. She showed her designs for 'set' and costumes for 'The Deuce of Jacks'. She was authorised to proceed with the costumes, cutting up if necessary any existing costumes in the Wardrobe.

Players interviewed At their own request the following players were jointly interviewed by the Directors — Miss May Craig, Miss Eileen Crowe, Miss Maureen Delany, Messrs. P. J. Carolan, N. J. Dolan, F. J. McCormick, A. Shields, W. Shields and D. O'Dea.

Mr. McCormick said that they wished to protest against the statement by Mr. Brinsley MacNamara which appeared in the press on the 29th inst. in as far as it referred to the players. They considered that the statement was not true. The players had no knowledge that they had any power to secure alterations in the text of a play. Personally he had disliked appearing in 'The Silver Jassie'; but had done so out of loyalty to the theatre. It was completely false to say that the players had a special reverence for Sean O'Casey's plays.

Mr. McCormack states that what he did say was that as a Catholic of the 19th century after years he had not have played in the Silver Jassie if he had known the text as he did now.

R.H.

W 13/7.

[illegible] Silver Jassie

Miss Eileen Crowe thought that the Directors ought to make a public statement that the players had no power to alter the text of plays. She also considered that a public apology was due from Mr. MacNamara.

Mr. MacNamara expressed regret that it should have been necessary to involve the players in his statement; but he felt that the particular statement which he had made was absolutely necessary in order to save the theatre. He repeated his statement as to the steps which he had taken to secure modifications before the play was produced and added that the players must have realised that the play would be offensive.

Mr. Carolan said that the subject of discussion was not the merits of the play, but Mr. MacNamara press statement.

Mr. MacNamara said he stood by his statement. He said not a word had been cut in the play.

Mr. A. Shields, as producer, said this was not correct, as he could show where cuts had been made. He said the players had no preference for one author over another.

Mr. W. Shields said that what they resented was the attempt which they considered had been made to throw the responsibility for the play upon the players.

The Chairman, Mr. Higgins and Dr. Starkie expressed their agreement that the Board must bear the full responsibility for the plays produced.

Miss Crowe mentioned that she had lost a part some years ago because she protested against some of the words and had not been given another part for a considerable time afterwards.

Mr. MacNamara said that his great objection had been to the use of the chant.

Mr. Higgins pointed out that the question of the chant had been settled at the meeting on the 14th inst. If Mr. MacNamara had any complaint to make about the players he should have made it at that meeting.

The Chairman stated that ~~Mr. McNamara~~ Mr. McNamara had expressed the opinion to him that everything in the play could be defended except the chant.

Mr. MacNamara said that he thought that, if the chant were dropped, the words would be dropped also.

The Chairman expressed the opinion that Mr. MacNamara's statement in the press was grossly unfair and unjust to the players.

Mr. McCormick pressed for a definite statement clarifying the future position of the players. -

The Chairman said Mr. MacNamara had agreed to

the production of 'The Silver Dassie' and should therefore be prepared to stand by it.

Mr MacNamara said he had expressed disapproval of the proposal to produce "Within the Gates"; but had expressed neither approval nor disapproval of 'The Silver Dassie', though he disliked the play.

Mr McCormick stated that he objected in principle to censureship of plays by the players, but if they were to be held responsible, he personally would in future decline to act in any play to which in his opinion objection might be taken.

The Chairman assured Mr McCormick that if a player objected to a part it would not be forced upon him, and he would not subsequently be penalised for his action.

The players stated that they would feel obliged to issue a public statement if the Directors did not do so. They were prepared for outside criticism ~~criticism~~; but the matter became very serious when they were publicly criticised by one of the Directors

Mr Starkie said that the Board must uphold the players.

The players then withdrew with the exception of Mr A. Shields, who stated that Mr MacNamara's objections were first mentioned to him by Mr Gorman

When the play had been in rehersal for about two weeks. He consulted the musician who was training the players and was assured that the music was not similar to that used in the service of the Church. He subsequently consulted Dr Larchet, who said that a skilled musician would be able to detect a similarity in one or two phrases, but that the ordinary listener would notice no resemblance. He later arranged a special rehersal to afford the Directors an Opportunity of judging for themselves; but none of them attended.

Mr Shields then withdrew.

Directors' discussion.

Mr MacNamara stated that the necessity for his statement to the press was rushed upon him. When asked for a statement he enquired whether any other Directors had made statements and was informed that Dr Starkie and Mr Higgins had done so, their statements were read to him over the phone. He considered that these statements were insufficient, but that, as they had been made, he was at liberty to make one also. He felt that the statement which he had made was necessary in order to avert a great danger. He considered that Mr Shields should have come and consulted he. He was a busy man with no time to attend rehersals.

Mr Higgins said Mr MacNamara should not have accepted a journalists version of what he (Mr Higgins) had said. He had as a matter of fact said he could

make no statement as a Director, but had expressed the personal opinion that many criticisms of the theatre were due to ignorance. He was not in agreement with Mr. MacNamara's attitude. He had not heard of the special rehersal until after it had taken place. He considered Mr. MacNamara's action in revealing what had occurred at Board Meetings very treacherous and entirely disassociated himself from it. He pointed out that the fact that Mr. MacNamara had written his statement to the press showed deliberation.

Mr. MacNamara said he was compelled to make a statement.

The Chairman said that in his opinion such a statement should have been followed by Mr. MacNamara's resignation. He considered the statement treacherous and false.

Mr. MacNamara suggested that the Chairman should express these views in a letter to the press, but

The Chairman declined to enter into a press controversy.

Mr. Robinson considered Mr. MacNamara had not satisfactorily explained why he did not attend the special rehesal. He drew attention to the Resolution of the Board on the 8th April 1935 that statements to the press should be made only through the Secretary after approval by the Board. In view of

this resolution Dr Starkie's and Mr Higgins's statements, though very mild, ought not to have been made. Mr MacNamara's statement however disclosed what took place at meetings of the Board and thus made free discussion at future meetings impossible. He was not prepared to remain a member of the Board if Mr MacNamara continued a Director. He moved that Mr MacNamara be asked to tender his resignation. No seconder was forthcoming.

Mr MacNamara said he would not resign.

Mr Higgins said Mr MacNamara had committed a breach of confidence which made the future conduct of business impossible as long as he remained a member of the Board.

The Chairman and Dr Starkie concurred in Mr Higgins opinion.

Dr Hayes thought the matter was not quite as serious as that, but considered Mr MacNamara had committed a lamentable indiscretion.

The Chairman asked Mr MacNamara to reconsider his decision not to resign.

Mr MacNamara refused, but said if the Directors would put on 'The Silver Lassie' for another week he would resign. He declined to admit that he had even committed an indiscretion.

The question of the statement to be issued as to

Statement for Press

the position of the players was then considered. In view of the lateness of the hour it was decided, on Mr. Higgins suggestion, to hold a meeting at 5.30 p.m. on the 2nd September to deal with this matter. Dr. Starkie promised to prepare a draft statement for consideration.

It was agreed to postpone to the meeting on the 2nd September the remaining items of business on the Agenda.

Mr. J.R. Higgins handed the following statement to the Secretary

I wish to have it recorded on the Minutes of this Board meeting that I entirely disassociate myself from the unwarranted and [redacted] inaccurate statement by Mr Brinsley MacNamara as published in the Dublin Newspapers of August 29th 1935; and I also protest against the incorrect manner in which he introduced my name into that statement. My disassociation from Mr. MacNamara's action is, mainly due to my opinion that certain passages in his statement are breaches of the Board's confidence and therefore detrimental to the success of a policy for the Theatre as evolved by Mr. MacNamara and myself.

J R Higgins

-----oOo-----

Typed.

2nd Sept 1935

Meeting of Directors held at the Abbey Theatre at 5.30. p.m.

Present

Mr W. B. Yeats (in the Chair), Messrs F. R. Higgins, Brinsley MacNamara and Lennox Robinson and Dr R. Hayes and Dr Walter Starkie.

Apology.

An apology was received from Senator E. Blythe.

Minutes.

The Minutes of the Meeting of the 20th August were read. Mr MacNamara asked that certain words used by Mr F. J. McCormick should be inserted in those Minutes. As there were differences of recollection as to exactly what Mr McCormick had said Dr Hayes spoke to him on the phone and obtained from him the words he had used, to the best of his recollection. The words as reported by Dr Hayes were inserted in the Minutes, which were then approved and signed.

Resolution

The following resolution was proposed by Mr Lennox Robinson and seconded by Mr F. R. Higgins

"In the opinion of this Board Mr Brinsley MacNamara's statement to the press on August 29th was a grave breach of confidence."

Mr MacNamara

The Chairman having ruled, as against Mr Higgins, that any discussion as to the accuracy or otherwise of the statement was irrelevant, Mr MacNamara stated that he had always resisted efforts of the press to draw statements from him; but that he had felt in this case that the occasion

demanded such action as he had taken.

The resolution was then passed, Mr MacNamara dissenting.

The Chairman suggested to Mr MacNamara that, in view of the resolution just passed, he ought to ~~send~~ Send his resignation ~~to~~ to the Board. He was prepared to wait for his resignation, until Friday the 6th September, after which he would not accept it, but the Board would take other measures.

Mr MacNamara expressed his regret that he had felt obliged to take the action he did. He had felt that the position was very dangerous and he still thought that the step he had taken was a wise one.

The Chairman expressed his surprise that at no meeting before the production of 'The Silver Jassie' had Mr MacNamara stated his objections.

Mr MacNamara said his position was a delicate one as one of a religious minority on the Board.

The Chairman said Mr MacNamara's duty had been to act then. He had no right to wait to protest till the play had been produced.

Resolution appointing Sub. Committee.

Mr Lennox Robinson proposed and Dr Starkie seconded the following resolution

"That a Sub. Committee be appointed consisting of Mr W. B. Yeats, Mr Lennox Robinson, Dr Walter Starkie, Dr Richard Hayes, Mr J. R. Higgins and Mr Ernest Blythe, ~~with power to add one to its number~~. That

this Sub-Committee be empowered by the Board to act for the Board till 15th October 1935."

Dr. Hayes suggested that if Mr. MacNamara would admit the commission of a fault it might be possible that he should continue a member of the Board.

Mr. MacNamara asked for two or three days to consider this suggestion.

Mr. Higgins considered that Mr. MacNamara had done a grave injury to the Theatre by his action and that any apology should be made as publicly as the original statement had been.

Dr. Hayes said this had been his intention when making the suggestion.

Mr. MacNamara said that he also had so understood it.

The Chairman said that the resolution before the meeting was still necessary

The resolution was then passed with the addition of "with power to add one to their number" Mr. MacNamara dissenting.

Mr. MacNamara asked to be allowed to make a copy of the resolution. This was agreed to and Mr. MacNamara then withdrew.

W. Wyse

2nd Sept 1935

Meeting of Sub Committee of the Directors held at the Abbey Theatre at 6.15 p.m.

Present

Mr. W.B. Yeats (in the chair), Mr. F.R. Higgins, Mr. Lennox Robinson, Dr. Walter Starkie and Dr. Richard Hayes.

Statement for Press

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Lennox Robinson, the Secretary was directed to send the following statement to the press

Mr. Brinsley MacNamara writes in a statement to the press of August 29th. "I was not at any time in favour of the production of the "The Silver Tassie". At no Board Meeting did Mr. MacNamara state his objections to the production of this play. There is not one word in the Minutes on this subject. His protest against the production of the play was only made when attacks in the press began. Comment seems unnecessary. His whole statement is an obvious breach of confidence according to the proceedure of all public and private boards. He then goes on to attack the players for speaking the author's words as they had been given them to them. All players are expected to speak the words that are given to them and the charge receives a touch of comedy precisely because it is made by Mr MacNamara. Owing to representations made by him at a recent meeting of the Board instructions were issued to the Company that no word of a play's text should be altered or omitted by a player. As any breach of this regulation would have caused serious consequences to the player, it is obvious that the Directors of the Theatre alone are responsible for what is spoken on their stage. Mr. MacNamara goes on to state that the players in performing Mr. O'Casey's plays "have shown a reverence for his work which has not been given to any other author who has ever written for the Theatre," and this vague sentence means, we suppose, that they act O'Casey better than they act anyone else. This is a matter of opinion, but in our opinion our players have played whatever work has been put into their hands to their utmost ability.

He complains that our audience for the last ten years "has shown a wholly uncritical - - - - -almost insane admiration for the vulgar and worthless plays of Mr. O'Casey." He do not consider our audience uncritical, and we point out that it is this audience which has made the reputation of his own plays.

(Signed)

W.B.Yeats
Walter Starkie
Lennox Robinson
Richard Hayes
F.R.Higgins.

Alterations in Articles of Association

Mr R Morrison raised the question of amending the Articles of Association so as to provide power to expel a Director if necessary. Mr. Higgins pressed for an increase in the Quorum in view of the enlargement of the Board. After discussion it was decided to deal with these matters at the meeting on Friday 6th September.

M.J. McGuinness

The Secretary reported that he had failed to obtain any information as to whether M.J. McGuinness had had other employment while with the Theatre, he was inclined to the belief that, whatever may have been the case when he originally came into the Theatre's employment, McGuinness had not had other employment for some years and that the Theatre was therefore liable for his insurance. He was however informed by Mr Allgood that insurance could not be claimed retrospectively for more than five years. The Secretary was authorised to make whatever payment might be necessary to discharge the Theatre's liability in this matter.

Signatures

Dividend Request Forms in respect of 2nd National Loan and also Specimen Signature Card were signed by the Directors present.

Reader

Mr F.R. Higgins was appointed reader of plays for September.

The Secretary was instructed to inform Mr Richard Hayward that the Theatre would not be available

for letting during the winter, and to inform the Manager of the Cork Opera House that the programme proposed for the visit to Cork in October would be sent to him at an early date.

Date. 6th Sept 1935

W B Yeats

6th September 1935

Meeting of Sub. Committee of the Directors held at the Abbey Theatre at 5.30 p.m.

Present. Mr W. B. Yeats (in the Chair), Mr Lennox Robinson, Dr Walter Starkie, Dr Richard Hayes, Mr Ernest Blythe and Mr F.R. Higgins.

Minutes The Minutes of the Meeting of Directors on the 2nd Sept. were read, confirmed and signed.

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Sub. Committee on the 2nd September were read, confirmed (as amended) and signed.

The following letter from Mr. Brinsley MacNamara was read

47 Waterloo Road
Dublin
3rd September 1935

To the Directors
Abbey Theatre
Dublin

Dear Sirs

Owing to the difference of opinion which has

arisen between us over the production of "The Silver Jassie" I cannot any longer remain a member of the Board of the Abbey Theatre. I must, therefore, ask you to accept my resignation.

Yours very truly

Brinsley MacNamara.

The Secretary was directed to send the following reply

Dear Mr. MacNamara

I placed your letter of the 3rd. September before the Board today and am instructed to say that the Board deeply regrets that they have had to part from a Director who has worked so hard in the interests of the Theatre.

Your publication of certain parts of their proceedings made it absolutely essential that they should pass the resolution, passed upon last Monday, stigmatising that action as a breach of confidence and that, having done so, they should ask for your resignation. At the same time they all thank you for the hard and valuable work you did upon the Board and regret the necessity of parting.

I am

Yours very truly

Thomas J. Robinson

Secretary.

Meeting of Directors

On the motion of Mr. Higgins, seconded by Mr. Blythe, the Secretary was instructed to summon a meeting of the Directors on the 13th September 1935 and to report to that meeting that the Sub-Committee saw no reason for its continued existence and therefore surrendered its powers to the Board.

Articles of Association

The amendment to the Articles of Association, drafted by Messrs. Whitney, Moore and Keller, giving the Board power to expel a Director was approved and the Secretary was instructed to summon the necessary General Meetings for the purpose of having it adopted and confirmed.

Mr. Hunt
Mr. M. J. Dolan

Mr. Hunt and Mr. M. J. Dolan were interviewed. Mr. Hunt said that if a new play were to be produced every fortnight the hours of rehersal would need to be increased. After discussion he was informed by the Chairman that he was entitled to call the players for rehersal at such hours and for such length of time as he thought necessary; but was recommended to discuss the matter with them so as to meet their convenience as far as possible.

Rehersals

Programme.

It was agreed that 'The Spook Sonata' or 'The Ivy Cart' should be put on instead of 'Dr. Faustus' on the 14th October and that 'Dr. Faustus' should be put on on the 4th November. The Secretary was instructed to post the programme for the next few weeks on the board in the Green Room.

Cork

It was decided that the plays to be taken to Cork should be 'Autumn Fire', 'Spring' and 'The Courtship of Nary Doyle."

Barry FitzGerald

Mr. O Slan submitted a request from Mr. Barry FitzGerald for permission to go to London for a film test. Permission was granted for the 15th September, Mr. Robinson to speak to him in the meantime as to the bearing of any possible film ~~contract~~ engagement upon his Contract with this Theatre.

Eileen Crowe

Miss Crowe was given leave of absence for the 14th October.

School of Acting

Miss Ria Mooney was interviewed with reference to the School of Acting. She suggested that all pupils should wear a simple uniform; that they should produce a group of one-act plays every couple of months to be witnessed by the Directors and producers, for these there would be no costumes or scenery, and that at Easter there should be a more elaborate production by a caste chosen by her and the Directors as a result of their experience of the tests. General approval was given to Miss Mooney's ideas and she was requested to obtain estimates of the cost of the proposed uniforms for submission to the next meeting.

Stair carpet

The Secretary stated that Mr. M. Scott informed him that his Estimate dated 23rd August covered the cost of carpet for the stairs to the auditorium as well

as to the Balcony. In view of this, purchase of this second carpet was authorised.

Smoking in Balcony.

The question of the danger from smoking in the Balcony was again considered and the Secretary was instructed to obtain estimates for sheeting the rails with metal.

Flag poles

The Secretary was authorised to have the flag poles adjusted & so as to lessen the tendency of the flags to become entangled.

Belfast Broadcasting

It was agreed that Mr. R Bonsier & Mr. Higgins should go into the figures with reference to Broadcasting from Belfast prepared by the Secretary and should report to the Board.

Frolic Nuthern

It was decided that Miss Frolic Nuthern's salary should be £2/1- per week when acting.

Duplicate cheque

The Secretary was authorised to draw a duplicate cheque in place of that lost by Mr. Barry Fitzgerald as reported to the meeting on the 23rd August 1935.

Those Directors who had not previously done so signed the Dividend Request Forms with reference to 5% ~~Second~~ National Loan, 5% Second National Loan and 4½% Third National Loan.

W Bryant

13th Sept. 1935.

13th Sept. 1935. Meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Soc. Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30 p.m.

Present W. B. Yeats (in the Chair), Lennox Robinson, Dr. Walker Starkie.

Minutes. The Minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Committee of the Directors held on the 6th September 1935 were read, confirmed and signed.

Sub-Committee The Secretary reported that the Sub-Committee appointed on the 2nd September 1935 saw no reason for its continued existence and therefore surrendered its powers to the Board.

Resolution. It was proposed by Lennox Robinson, seconded by W. B. Yeats and passed "That the Sub-Committee appointed on the 2nd September 1935 be and is hereby dissolved".

Mr Barry Fitzgerald. Mr Robinson reported that he had interviewed Mr Barry Fitzgerald regarding the arrangement to be made if Mr Fitzgerald were offered work by a Film Company and that it had been agreed that during the term of Mr Fitzgerald's Contract with the Theatre, 10% of any salary he received from a Film Company should be paid to the Theatre.

Resolution re affixing of Seal. It was proposed by Dr. Walker Starkie, seconded by Lennox Robinson and passed "That the Seal of the Society be affixed to the Request being sent to the Chief Transfer Officer of the Bank of Ireland, Dublin, asking him to forward to the Munster and Leinster Bank, 10 Lower O'Connell St., Dublin, all Dividend Warrants due and to become

due and payable on the 5% National Loan Stock, 1935-45, standing in the name of the National Theatre Society Ltd."

2nd Resolution re affixing Seal.

It was proposed by Dr Walter Starkie, seconded by Lennox Robinson and passed "That the Seal of the Society be affixed to the Request being sent to the Chief Transfer Officer of the Bank of Ireland, Dublin, asking him to forward to the Munster and Leinster Bank, 10 Lower O'Connell St., Dublin, all Dividend Warrants due and to become due and payable on the 5% Second National Loan Stock standing in the name of the National Theatre Society Ltd."

3rd Resolution re affixing Seal.

It was proposed by Dr Walter Starkie, seconded by Lennox Robinson and passed "That the Seal of the Society be affixed to the Request being sent to the Chief Transfer Officer of the Bank of Ireland, Dublin, asking him to forward to the Munster and Leinster Bank, 10 Lower O'Connell Street, Dublin, all Dividend Warrants due and to become due and payable on the 4½% Third National Loan Stock standing in the name of the National Theatre Society Ltd."

Mr Hunt.

Mr Hunt was interviewed and suggested that in view of the fact that the Gate season would soon begin it would be advisable for the Directors to publish in the press and in the programmes a list of plays which were being considered for production. It was agreed that Mr Robinson and Mr Hunt should draw up a list for consideration at the next meeting.

Mr Dolan

Mr Dolan who accompanied Mr Hunt at the interview suggested that The New Gossoon be substituted for Days Without End as the play for the week commencing 23rd Sept. This was agreed to.

Village Wooing & Candida.

It was decided that the Secretary should write to Mr G. Bernard Shaw asking for permission to play Village Wooing & Candida, Mr Shaw to be also

asked to state his fee for a relay of Village Wooing to the Dublin Broadcasting Station.

Broadcasting — The Secretary informed the Board that the Dublin Broadcasting Station were anxious to relay Village Wooing on 3rd October if the play were first on the bill. It was decided that if the broadcast was arranged the required play should be played first on that night.

School of Acting. — Mr O'Connor reported that from enquiries made, the cost of the material for uniforms suggested by Miss Rooney to be worn by the pupils would be 5/= per uniform. He added that these uniforms could be made by Miss Devoy, the wardrobe-mistress.

Gaelic Players. — A letter was read from An Comhar Drámaíochta asking for a reservation of the Peacock Theatre for seven weeks in 1935 and 1936. The Board decided that if the debt at present due by An Comhar to the Theatre was paid the lettings asked for would be made on condition that the rent for each letting was paid in advance.

Dublin Little Theatre Guild — It was agreed to let the Peacock Theatre at a rent of £8 per week to the Dublin Little Theatre Guild for the weeks commencing 2nd Dec. 1935 and 16/3/36.

Keating Branch — It was agreed to let the Peacock at £8 for the week commencing Nov. 25th. to the Keating Branch, Gaelic League.

Cork. — It was decided to play Drama at Leisk in Cork in addition to "Spring" and "Autumn Fire".

Belfast — It was decided to ~~[illegible]~~ suggest to the Manager of the Belfast Opera House Drama at Leisk, Grogan & the Ferret, Juno and the Plough and the Stars. as plays from which he could select what would suit him for the Company's coming visit.

Ulster Players — It was also decided that the Ulster Players be asked if they would care to

take the Abbey for that week.

Gate Theatre. Mr W.B. Yeats who had been asked at the previous meeting to have conversations with Lord Longford regarding the possibility of amalgamating the Abbey and Gate Theatres reported that at present no arrangement could be arrived at.

Letter to the Dublin press. It was decided that the Secretary should send the following letter to the Irish Times, The Irish Press, The Independent, The Evening Herald

Dear Sir,

In today's issue of your paper Father Gaffney is reported as having said in an address to the Academy of Christian Art " the Abbey Directorate deserve commendation for taking off the "Silver Tassie" at the end of the week following the first protest, despite the fact that the theatre had been booked out for its showing for three weeks."

Father Gaffney has been misinformed. In the past a succussful new play has sometimes been continued for a second, though never for a third week. Before the opening of the present season the Directors of the Abbey Theatre decided to return to an earlier custom and never put on a play for more than a single week at its first production. In spite of the crowds that came to "The Silver Tassie" or applied for seats the Board did not consider even for a moment ~~their~~ altering this decision.

Yours etc.

W B Yeats.

Date: 20th Sept. 1935.

20th Septr. 1935.

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin on Friday, the 20th September 1935, at 5.30 p.m.

Present

W. B. Yeats (in the Chair) Lennox Robinson, Dr. Walker Starkie, T. R. Higgins.

Sir Philip Hanson C. B. who had earlier attended an Extraordinary Meeting of the Company, was invited by the Chairman to attend this meeting of the Board and accepted the invitation.

Minutes

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

G. B. Shaw.

A letter was read from Mr Bernard Shaw's Secretary granting permission for the production of "Candida" and "Village Wooing" but refusing permission for proposed relay of "Village Wooing" by the Dublin Broadcasting Station.

Mr Denis O'Dea.

A letter was read from Mr Denis O'Dea asking for an increase as July 1935, of £1 per week. This increase, he stated, had been agreed upon when signing his contract in August 1934.

The Board agreed that the increase should be given as should be retrospective as from 15th July 1935.

Mr Fred Johnson.

A letter was read from Mr Fred Johnson asking for an increase of salary from £3 to £3-10-0 per week and also asking that his name be considered when the question of contracts was next being discussed.

The Board decided that no increase of salary could be given to Mr Johnson at present.

Hilton Bros.

An estimate submitted by Messrs Hilton Bros. for Chromium Ashtrays for the Balcony at 12/6 per dozen was accepted.

School of Acting.

Mr Robinson reported that the material for the uniforms for the pupils of the School of Acting would cost about 5/= per uniform. It was decided that these uniforms be made by Miss Devoy, Wardrobe Mistress

Future productions

On the question of the issue of a statement regarding the proposed productions by Mr Hunt, Mr Higgins said he felt very strongly about this question, and that there was no justification for employing Mr Hunt unless new productions were put on. He suggested that a Sub-Committee of the Board should be appointed to go into the question of future productions and it was eventually agreed that Mr Lennox Robinson, Dr Walter Starkie and Mr F.H. Higgins be appointed to form the Sub-Committee to report to the next meeting of the Board, as to the plays which should be done after 28th October.

Programme.

The following plays were selected for production up to 28th October inclusive:-

Septr. 23rd.	The New Gossoon
" 30th	Candida, Village Wooing.
Octr. 7th.	The Cat & the Moon, The Courting of Mary Doyle
" 14th.	Parnell of Avondale.
21st.	Drama at Inish
28th.	Juno & the Paycock.

Mr Hunt.

Mr Hunt reported that Dr Fearon was very anxious that "Parnell of Avondale" should be played by the first Company.

and the Board decided that it should be produced on October 14th instead of October 21st as had been originally arranged.

Mr Hunt also suggested that some junior player might be appointed at a nominal salary to hold the script during rehearsals and make notes in it of positions. The Board agreed and the Secretary was instructed to enquire if a suitable person could be procured.

School of Acting

The Board appointed the Secretary to assist Miss Rooney at the auditions of applicants for the School of Acting

Mrs Lane.

The Secretary was instructed to convey to Mrs Lane the thanks of the Directors for the supply of labels which she kindly presented to the Theatre.

W B Yeats

27th Sept. 1935.

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on Friday, 27th Sept. 1935 at 5.30 pm.

Present

W. B. Yeats (in the Chair) Lennox Robinson, Dr. Walker Starkie, F. R. Higgins, Dr. Richard Hayes.

Minutes.

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

M. W. O'Gorman

A letter dated 24th Sept. 1935 was read from M. Wm O'Gorman asking the Directors to increase his salary from £2-10-0 to £3-15-0 per week. The Directors decided that could not pay M. O'Gorman more than £2-10-0 per week.

Ulster Theatre.

A letter from M. Fred Morrow, Hon. Secretary to the Ulster Theatre was read, accepting the week commencing 11th Nov. 1935 for a visit of the Ulster Theatre to the Abbey.

P. M-Selby.

A letter was read from M. P. M. Selby asking if the Company could play in Cork for the week commencing Oct. 14th as well as the week commencing Oct. 21st. The Board decided that this could not be done.

M. Denis O'Dea

A letter from M. Denis O'Dea was read, asking the Directors to grant him approximately ten weeks leave of absence from October 27th 1935. M. O'Dea came before the Board and explained that he had been promised a part in a New York production if he were available during the first week in November. He stated he had no contract and would have to travel to New York at his own expense. He stated he had not signed his contract with the Abbey

Theatre as he was anxious to know what decision the Board would come to regarding this application.

The Board asked Mr O'Dea if he considered it wise to go to New York under such indefinite conditions and informed him that if he decided to go and at a later date returned to Dublin his services would be availed of when possible but that no guarantee of regular work could be given.

Mr O'Dea promised to consider the matter further and inform the Directors of his decision.

Mr R. Duff — a letter was read from Mr Arthur Duff suggesting that some Broadside Ballads be included in future programmes. The Board having considered the suggestion, decided that nothing could be done in the matter until after Christmas.

Mr G. H. Tulloch — a letter was read from Mr G. H. Tulloch enquiring if the Stock Certificates relating to the Society's investments were to remain in the custody of his firm. The Board decided to ask Mr Tulloch to retain them.

Birmingham Rep. Theatre. — The Secretary reported on an interview he had had with a Dr. Frank Forty who suggested a visit by the Company to the Birmingham Repertory Theatre at the end of the Spring season. The Secretary stated that Dr. Forty's visit was quite unofficial but that he had promised to lay the matter before the management of the Repertory Theatre and ask them to supply such information as would enable the Directors to consider the proposal.

the Board decided that the matter should be fully considered when the required information was available.

Sub-Committee on Plays.

The Sub-Committee appointed on Sept. 20th. submitted the following programme which they suggested for the months of November and December.

Nov.	4th	Noah
"	11th	(Company in Belfast)
"	18th	The Glorious Uncertainty.
"	25th	Days Without End.
Dec.	2nd	Paul Twyning or Professor Tim.
"	9th	A Court in a Hurry
"	16th	The King of Spains Daughter, Shadow of a Gunman
"	26th.	The Critic.

Mr Lennox Robinson as Producer.

Mr Yeats raised the question of engaging Mr Lennox Robinson as a Producer in addition to Mr Hunt with a view to speeding up production and having a new production every second week, Mr Robinson to be paid £10 per week. Mr Robinson objected to the salary of £10 per week which he considered was too much for the Theatre to pay in addition to the salary being paid to Mr Hunt. After further discussion it was agreed that Mr Robinson's salary should be £7-7-0 per week his engagement to commence on the 4th Nov. of 35 and to be for four months, Mr Robinson to be free to leave if he wished to do so by giving one months notice. It was also agreed that if the receipts warranted it, the difference between

seven guineas a week and £10 a week be paid to Mr Robinson at the end of the term and that the increase be retrospective as from 4th Novr. It was also agreed that Mr Hunt be engaged for a further four months.

Resolution — It was proposed by W. B. Yeats, seconded by F. R. Higgins and passed " That when actual productions were being discussed by the Board neither Producer should be present except expressly invited to attend".

School of Acting — a letter was read from Miss Mia Mooney suggesting that an advertisement for the School of Acting be inserted in all the papers for the week commencing 30th Sept. The Board agreed that this should be done.

Mr Hunt. — Mr Hunt raised the question of letting the Abbey on Sunday nights to outsiders and spoke of the great inconvenience it caused the Players, Stage staff and electrician, and the enormous amount of extra work these lettings involved.

The Secretary informed the Board that the profit on these lettings was notably about thirty shillings or one pound.

The Board decided that no further Sunday lettings be made except for lectures which would not involve any interference with the work of the Theatre.

Peacock. — It was decided that Mr Hunt should on the 16th Dec. produce in the Peacock producer "The Three Sisters" by Chekoff. Walter Starkie

4th October 1935.

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin on Friday 4th October 1935 at 5.30 p.m.

Present

Dr Walter Starkie in the Chair which was later taken by Mr W.B. Yeats, Lennox Robinson, F.R. Higgins.

Minutes.

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

Mr Denis O'Dea.

A letter from Mr Denis O'Dea was read stating that he had made arrangements to sail from Cobh on the 27th October.

Mrs E. Crowe.

A letter from Mrs Crowe was read asking the Directors where she might leave her bicycle when working in the Theatre. The Board decided that bicycles could be kept in the Scene dock at the owners risk.

Mr A Shields re advertising.

A letter from Mr Arthur Shields was read suggesting that some artist capable of making cartoons be invited to dress rehearsals and that a fee be paid to the artist for any cartoon published in the daily papers.

The Board decided that Mrs Grace Plunkett should be invited to undertake this work.

New Director

The question of appointing a new Director was considered and Mr Higgins suggested M. Frank O'Connor, and the suggestion was approved of by the Board. The Secretary was instructed to ask Mr O'Connor if he would be willing to become a Director and if he would be prepared to attend the meetings of the Board.

Reader for October.

Dr. Starkie was appointed Reader of Plays for October.

Mr Hunt.

Mr Hunt was interviewed and stated he would like the decision on the questions of the productions to be done by Mr Morrison and by himself. He wished to know if the Board would decide.
The Directors agreed that they would decide and Mr Yeats added that he thought that both Producers should make suggestions as to plays they would like to produce.

Miss Mia Money.

A letter from Miss Mia Money was read asking that her salary be increased to £5 per week when playing.
The Board agreed that in future her acting salary should be £5 per week.

W. B. Y.

11th October of 35.

Minutes of a Meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society. Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on Friday 11th October 1935 at 5.30 p.m.

Present

Mr W.B. Yeats in the Chair, Dr Richard Hayes, Senator E. Blythe, Mr T.R. Higgins.

In a letter read at the meeting Mr Robinson apologised for his absence as he would be in London on the day of the meeting.

Minutes.

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

A. de Blacam.

A letter was read from Mr A. de Blacam suggesting that the play "A Saint in a Shrony" might if possible be produced during the first week in December as the feast of St. Francis Xavier falls on Dec. 3rd. The play was down for production on Dec. 9th (the second week of Dec.) and the Board did not think that this date could be altered.

Broadcast debate by Mr L. Robinson & Mr St. J. Ervine.

A letter was read from Mr Lennox Robinson stating that he had been asked by the Dublin Broadcasting Station to debate with Mr St. J. Ervine early in November, and had been asked to suggest a topic. He considered the obvious topic would be the Abbey Theatre but as individual Directors were not allowed to express their views individually about the Theatre, he would like to get the Directors' views on the subject. The Board agreed that Mr Robinson was at liberty to take part in the proposed debate provided he did

did not discuss or make any statement on any policy which was undecided or unannounced.

Letter from M-L. Robinson re Sunday sittings & Drama League

A letter was read from Mr Lennox Robinson stating that it was hoped to revive the Dublin Drama League and that as it was impossible to get the Gate theatre, would it be possible to have the Abbey Theatre for four Sundays, one probably before Christmas and three after. They would probably like Mondays as well but understood that they could not have a Monday before Christmas.

After some discussion the Board decided to postpone further consideration of the matter until Mr Robinson's return.

Election of Mr Frank O'Connor.

A letter was read from Mr Frank O'Connor accepting the invitation to become a Director and it was proposed by Mr F.R. Higgins seconded by Senator Blythe and passed unanimously that Mr Frank O'Connor be appointed a Director of the National Theatre Society Ltd.

Date of closing Play Competition

It was decided that the last day for accepting plays for the Play Competition be the 30th of November 1935 instead of the 31st October 1935 and that if anyone who had already sent in a play ~~the~~ wished to have it returned in view of the extension their request should be complied with.

Mr. Hunt.

Mr Hunt submitted an account which he had received for £14-14-0 the cost of eight masks ordered for the production of Dr Faustus. The Board sanctioned the payment of this account.

Mr Yeats referred to a suggestion made by Mr Hunt that he should produce Coriolanus and it was agreed that it should be done immediately after Christmas, to follow "The Critic."

a discussion followed as to the production of new plays and the new production of old plays of literary quality, and it was agreed that Mr Hunt in collaboration with Mr Higgins and Mr Dolan should submit a scheme which would embody:-

the production of new plays and new repertory productions to be dealt with by Mr Robinson and Mr Hunt, and revivals to be dealt with by Mr Dolan the scenery for Mr Dolan's revivals to be renovated and improved as far as possible.

Mr Dolan.

Mr Dolan reported that the Stage Carpenter, Mr Balon, required more space for storing scenery & suggested that this could be procured by scrapping such old stock at present in Whyte's Store, as was of no further use. The Board decided that Mr Dolan should make a report on the old stock which could be dispensed with.

Mr Dolan also reported that the storing of bicycles

in the Scene dock was inconvenient to the stage staff and dangerous. He also stated that the Corporation officials would object to bicycles being left in the dock. The Board decided that in the circumstances bicycles should not be put in the scene dock and that owners might leave them chained inside the railing at each side of the front entrance in Marlborough St.

Script Press.

The Board sanctioned the enlargement of the Script Press in the press Room as it is now overcrowded.

Mr T. J. Robinson

Mr Robinson raised the question of the payment to be made to him for attendance in the front of the house during weeks when Mr Eric Gorman was playing. He stated that his contract with the Theatre was for attendance from 10 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. daily and suggested that for weeks that he had to attend at night his extra remuneration should be 30/= per week. The Board discussed the matte and it was eventually decided that for such extra work Mr Robinson be paid £1 per week by the Theatre and 15/= per week by Mr Gorman.

Mr U. Wright.

It was decided that in Cork and Belfast Mr U. Wright should look after the front of the house.

Dr Larchet.

Mr Yeats mentioned that Dr Larchet had spoken to him about the possibility of retiring from the directorship of the Orchestra and had enquired of the Directors would

would consider the granting to him of a small pension.
The Board decided that a pension could not be given
and the Secretary was instructed to ask Dr Larchet what
his intentions were regarding retiring.

Date of next meeting

It was decided that as Mr Yeats would be leaving
town on Friday the 18th, the next meeting of the Board
should be held on Thursday 17th inst.

Mrs Blunkett to be given £2. 2. for sketches
Copyright to belong to the Theatre. Payment
only to made on publication

Seumas Blake
17/10/35

17th Oct. 1935. Minutes of a Meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Soc. Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin on Thursday, 17th October 1935 at 5.30 p.m.

Present Senator E. Blythe (in the Chair), Dr Richard Hayes, Mr T.F. Higgins, Mr Frank O'Connor.

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

Mr F. O'Connor. On behalf of the Board, the Chairman welcomed Mr Frank O'Connor, the newly elected Director.

Dr Lachet. Arising out of the Minutes the Secretary reported that he had interviewed Dr Lachet and informed him it would not be possible for the Directors to grant him any pension and that Dr. Lachet who contemplated retiring about Christmas would give ample notice of the actual date, so as to enable the Board to obtain someone to replace him.

Mr Higgins said he thought that a Pension Fund should be established so that some small pension could be given to an employee whose services the Board considered should be dispensed with.

The Chairman said he did not think it could be done as so many of the people engaged in the Theatre had been working for a great number of years but that enquiries might

be made from some Irish Insurance Company as to what could be done.

Mr Richd. Hayward

A letter was read from Mr Richard Hayward of Belfast complaining that altho' he had been promised the first week in which the Theatre would be vacant by reason of the Company playing in Cork or Belfast, he now learned that the Theatre had been let to the Ulster Players. The Secretary stated he had no recollection of giving such a promise to Mr Hayward but that he may have done so when Mr. Hayward was playing in the Theatre last February. The offer to the Ulster Players had been suggested as they had done very good business on their last visit and their bills for the week would appeal to the Abbey audiences during the week the Company were in Belfast.

The Secretary was instructed to reply to Mr Hayward as tactfully as possible and explain that the Theatre was now definitely booked for the week Nov. 11th.

Mr Hunt's Memo

Copies of a Memorandum on future productions, drawn up by Mr Hunt ~~Were sent to the Directors at~~ in collaboration with R. J. O. Higgins were circulated amongst the Directors and Mr Higgins explained the suggestions made in the Memo.

In the general discussion which followed at which Mr Hunt was present, the question of the cost of productions was raised and it was decided that details of the cost of each production should be kept.

It was proposed by Mr Frank O'Connor, seconded by Sen E.

Blythe and passed "That all Orders for supplies for the Stage should go through an Order Book and that all orders for Scenery & properties should be initialled by the Producer."

The question of reviving old plays was discussed and Mr Higgins gave a list of such plays, some of which, he suggested, should be given new productions. Mr O'Connor was of opinion that new plays were what was needed and considered that new plays by established authors should be accepted when submitted.

After some further discussion the Board agreed to adopt the scheme as outlined in Mr Hunt's Memo but to await Mr Robinson's return before deciding on the plays & the order of production.

The Chairman raised the question as to the suitability of Thursday as the day for meetings of the Board, instead of Friday, and it was decided to consult Dr. Starkie before making any alteration.

Chairman
25/10/35

25th Oct. 1935. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Limited, held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin. on Friday 25th October 1935, at 5.30 p.m.

Present Senator E. Blythe (in the Chair) Mr Lennox Robinson, M. J. A. Higgins, Mr Frank O'Connor.

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

Mrs L. Carroll. A letter was read from Mrs Lelia Carroll asking for the loan of costumes for a Charity performance and it was decided that if Mrs Carroll deposited three guineas she could borrow such costumes as were available, the deposit to be returned to her when the costumes were received back in the Theatre and provided they had not been damaged in any way.

Mr Colm O'Lochlainn A letter was read from Mr Colm O'Lochlainn asking for the use on Saturdays from 5 to 6 o.c. of the Peacock Theatre for practise meetings of the Irish Singing Society. These meeting would be held from November to the end of March.

The Board decided that as the Peacock would probably be required for rehearsals by Mr Robinson or Mr Hunt under the new scheme of productions it would not be possible to grant Mr O'Lochlainn's request as the dates on which it would be available for his use would be too uncertain.

Drama League.

A letter from Mr Lennox Robinson was read asking the Directors if they would let the Abbey Theatre for four Sunday performances by the Drama League.

In the discussion which followed, Mr Higgins and Mr. O'Connor were not in favour of the letting to the Drama League, firstly, as the plays likely to be produced would be competing with regular Abbey productions of Continental plays as outlined in the scheme adopted for future productions, and secondly, as it was proposed in the scheme that the Stage Staff should have three free Sundays per month.

The Board decided that they could not accede to Mr Robinson's request.

Play Competition

The question of judging the plays entered for the Competition was considered and it was decided that the Directors should each take their share of the plays in the first instance and that the five or six considered by them the best should be sent to one or two outside judges for final adjudication, their opinions to be submitted to the Board for approval.

Reading of plays

It was decided that plays sent to the Theatre by established authors should be circulated as quickly as possible and that from 1st Nov. onward plays received in the Theatre should not be sent to one Director in the first instance but should be distributed among all the available Directors each one getting a new play in turn.

Millar and Beatty. — An estimate of £ 8-5-0 submitted by Millar & Beatty for a Curtain on the Orchestra Rail was accepted.

Mr Hunt's Memo. — Further consideration was given to Mr Hunts Memo on future productions and it was decided that 'Summers Day' should be produced on Dec. 9th by Mr Hunt, that "The Words Upon the Window Pane" should go on with "The Shadow of a Gunman" instead of "The King of Spains Daughter" and that if possible "The Piper" should go on at Christmas with "The Critic".

Mr O'Connor was against the production of "Coriolanus" and Mr Higgins was in favour of it. It was decided that the matter could come up again at a later date.

Mr. Hunt. — Mr Hunt reported that with two companies working under different producers and on different productions it would be necessary to increase the stage designing and scene painting staff and after some discussion it was proposed by Mr Frank O'Connor, seconded by Mr F.R. Higgins and passed — "That Mr George Atkinson be asked to suggest two or three competent students from the School of Art with a view to selecting two who would work under Miss Norsewitsch at a salary of £2 per week and who would be employed as whole time workers designing and painting scenery".

It was decided that one such assistant was required at once, if obtainable.

Mr Nelson-Jones' designs of "The Silver Tassie".

Mr Nelson-Jones having enquired of his designs for "The Silver Tassie" were being kept by the Theatre or returned to him, the Board decided that if Mr Nelson-Jones wished at any time to exhibit them, the Board would send them to him on loan.

Duncan & Bell
1/11/33

1st Nov. 1935

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Socty. Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin at 5.30 pm on Friday 1st November 1935.

Present.

Senator E Blythe in the Chair
Mr Lennox Robinson, Dr. Richard Hayes, Mr T.M. Higgins
Mr Frank O'Connor.

Minutes.

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

Birmingham Rep. Theatre.

A letter was read from the General Manager of the Birmingham Repertory Theatre stating that as the capacity of the theatre was very small he did not think that the suggested visit of the Abbey Theatre Co. could be financially satisfactory.
The Board instructed the Secretary to thank him for his letter.

Publicity Agent.

The Secretary was instructed to inform Mr Dermot Brennan who had applied for work as a publicity agent that there was no vacancy for such work in the Theatre.

Evening Mail

The Secretary was instructed to inform the Chief Reporter of the Evening Mail that two seats were reserved for his paper for first nights and that he might be able to arrange that one of these be taken up by the Lady Correspondent, as the Board was not willing to reserve a third seat for her.

Peacock Theatre.

It was decided it would not be possible to arrange outside bookings of the Peacock Theatre for the New Year, until at a later date it was known how far the Theatre would be needed for rehearsals of productions by Mr Robinson and Mr Hunt.

Neon Signs. An estimate was submitted by the Gaelite Signs Ltd. for the erection on the Abbey Street side of the Theatre of a Neon sign at a cost of £54.
The Board decided that the matter could not be considered until next April or May.

Finance. Mr Higgins raised the question of finance and suggested that all accounts for payment should be submitted weekly to the Board, initialled by the Chairman and recorded in the Minutes. He also suggested that the item finance should appear on the Agenda each week so that the Producers weekly estimate of expenses for the following week could be considered and also the salary list & other incidentals. The Directors would then know what expenses were being incurred.
After some discussion it was decided that as early as possible, the Producers should furnish to the Board their estimated expenses for coming productions.
With reference to the payment of accounts it was proposed by Mr Robinson, seconded by Dr Hayes and passed "That Mr O'Connor and Mr Higgins be appointed to form a Finance Committee who would examine the accounts to be paid monthly and report to the Board, a list of such accounts passed for payment to be kept in a suitable book."

School of Acting. Miss Mc Mooney having reported that Mr James Stack, a pupil of the School had caused her a lot of trouble, it was decided that Mr Stack be informed that he could not continue as a pupil.
The Board decided that when pupils of the School appeared in Abbey

productions. a note should be put in the Programme stating that they were pupils of the School.

Mr Hunt. Mr Hunt reported that on several occasions Mr Carolan had been drunk, both at rehearsal and during performances.
The Board decided that the Secretary should send Mr Carolan a letter of reprimand informing him that if again reported he would be suspended indefinitely.

Mr Hunt mentioned the question of a suitable workshop for the Stage Carpenter and stated that owing to lack of proper accommodation it was necessary to have scenery built by an outside firm at a much greater cost than would be incurred if the work could be done in the Theatre. There were two alternative solutions, the finding of a workshop away from the Theatre or the conversion of the Scene dock into a workshop and the finding outside of a large store big enough to take the stock of scenery and the stuff at present stored in Whyte's basement.
It was decided that in the first instance Messrs Whyte be approached with an enquiry if they could let the Theatre have more space in their premises as the present accommodation was too expensive and insufficient.

The question of producing Coriolanus was discussed and as the Board were equally divided on the matter it was decided to postpone the matter until a later date.

Reservation of seats for Directors. It was decided that each Director be entitled to three seats for any week and that any in excess of that number be paid for.

Walter Starkie

Date: 8/11/35.

8th Nov. 1935. 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, 8th November 1935.

Present — Dr Walter Starkie in the Chair, Mr Lennox Robinson, Senator E. Blythe, Mr J.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 a/c was at the moment overdrawn to the extent of £313=7=4.

Conversion Loan 1950/1970. — It was proposed by Senator Blythe seconded by M.J.R. Higgins and passed:- "That in accordance with the terms of the prospectus dated 31st October 1935, the Society's holding of stock of the 5% National Loan 1935-1945 be exchanged for an equal nominal amount of 4% Conversion Loan 1950/1970 and that the Seal of the Society be affixed to the form of Request to be sent to the Chief Transfer Officer, Bank of Ireland, Dublin."

Signing of Cheques. — It was proposed by Mr Lennox Robinson, seconded by Senator E. Blythe and passed:- "That, owing to the resignation of Mr Brinsley Macnamara and the appointment of M. Frank O'Connor as a Director, cheques in future shall be signed by one of the following Directors:- Mr W.B. Yeats, Dr. Walter

Starkie, Mr Lennox Robinson, Dr. Richard Hayes, Senator E. Blythe, Mr F.R. Higgins, Mr Frank O'Connor, and countersigned by Mr Eric Gorman, Secretary.

Whyte's premises

Mr U. Wright reported to the Board that in consequence of a rumour that Messrs Whyte contemplated giving up their premises in Marlborough St he had interviewed Mr Whyte who stated there was a likelihood of the premises being disposed of at the end of the year but that no decision would be come to by Mr Whyte's Board until the end of November. Mr Wright reminded Mr Whyte of a promise given some years ago that in the event of it being decided to dispose of these premises the Directors of the Abbey Theatre would be given the first refusal. Mr Whyte said that that promise would be kept.

The Board decided that the Secretary should write to Messrs Whyte saying that if they were thinking of disposing of their premises the Board would like to hear from them and that it was hoped the premises would not be disposed of without giving the Directors an opportunity of considering the possibility of buying them. Mr Wright to take no further action

Arising out of Mr Wright's report Mr O'Connor said that as at a previous meeting of the Board it had been decided that Mr Hunt & Mr Gorman should interview Mr Whyte regarding increased accommodation in his premises, he (Mr O'Connor) considered that Mr Whyte should have been interviewed as directed by the Board and not by Mr Wright.

Mr Higgins said that he agreed with Mr O'Connor.

29th Nov. 1935.

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Soty. Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on Friday 29th Nov. 1935 at 5.30 p.m.

Present.

Senator E. Blythe in the Chair, M. Lennox Robinson, Dr. Walter Starkie, Dr. Richard Hayes, 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 Bank Overdraft was £719-9-1.

Future Contracts with Players.

Mr Higgins stated that he and Mr Hunt had been appointed at the last meeting of the Board to draw up a scheme which might form the basis for discussion of future contracts, but Mr Hunt felt he would be in an awkward position in helping to draw up such a scheme, owing to the fact that he was a Producer in the Theatre and must work with the Players. With this view Mr Higgins said he agreed. Mr O'Connor said he also agreed and considered that a bad mistake had been made at the last meeting in asking Mr Hunt to assist in drawing up any such scheme.

After a discussion as to the future policy regarding Contracts it was proposed by Mr Frank O'Connor, seconded by Dr. Starkie and passed "That the Contract System be continued".

Mr Robinson raised the question of the possibility of

Some reduction in the salaries of Contract Players, on condition that full salary would be paid to these Players whether they were playing or not. He said that such an arrangement would make it much easier for a Producer to cast a play without any consideration for the Players on Contract.
After some discussion it was decided that such a scheme would not be practicable and that the system of half-salary when not playing should be retained.
It was proposed by Mr Frank Normoyle, seconded by Mr F.R. Stiggins and passed "That seven contracts be given for the coming year". The seven contract players selected were Miss Crowe at £7-10-0 per week Miss Craig at £6 per week, Mr T.J. McCormick at £7-10-0 Mr M.J. Dolan at £7-10-0, Mr Barry Fitzgerald at £7-10-0, Mr Arthur Shields £6 and Mr P.J. Carlan £6 per week. Miss Delany who will not be on contract is to be paid £6 per week.

De Larchet Performance

Mr Robinson reported that as Dr Larchet did not wish to have a benefit performance from which he would receive a sum of money it had been suggested that the proceeds should go towards the price of a portrait of Dr Larchet to be painted by some noted Irish artist. It had also been suggested that M. J.M. Montgomery who was interested in the portrait project should join the committee consisting of Mr Robinson and Dr Stakie
The Directors decided that if possible it would be

preferable if the Theatre were solely responsible for the portrait without any support from outsiders and Mr O'Connor was deputed to enquire from Mr Sean O'Sullivan his charge for the proposed portrait.

New Musical Director.

The sub-committee consisting of Dr Starkie & Dr. Larchet appointed to submit names of persons suitable for the Musical Directorship of the Theatre on the retirement of Dr Larchet reported that they had considered three names:- Miss Alice McCarthy, Mr Arthur Duff and Mr Frederick May. They recommended Mr Frederick May as being in their opinion the most suitable and suggested that he should be paid 13/= per performance during a probationary period of six months. If then considered suitable his fee should be raised to 15/= per performance. It was also recommended that the Theatre should pay the other performers the union rate of 10/= per performance each through the Musical Director, &c. and that any new music required be purchased by the Theatre, with a view to building up a library.

Mr Hunt's Report.

Mr Hunt reported that Miss Moiseiwitsch was very ill, that she needed a month's rest by order of her doctor and that it would be necessary to engage Miss McKay temporarily on a whole time basis. It was proposed by Mr O'Connor, seconded by Dr Starkie and passed "That Miss Moiseiwitsch be given a month's leave of absence without pay"

Mr Thurtle estimated the cost of Coriolanus at £174-5-0 the cast consisting of 34 players, 13 of them being students of the Abbey School of Acting.

Boy Attendant. It was agreed that the Boy Attendant who is not paid a weekly wage should receive not less than 5/= Commission per week.

Play with The Critic It was agreed that at the next weekly meeting a decision would be made as to the play to go on with The Critic at Christmas.

School of Acting. Mrs Mooney's suggestion that the School of Acting should be given holidays from Dec 19th to January 2nd was agreed to. This would only apply to those not selected for small parts in "Coriolanus".

Cost of production During the discussion of future contracts Mr Robinson had raised the question of the present costs of production. This question was again referred to by Mr Higgins but as Mr Robinson had been obliged to leave the meeting in the meantime it was decided that if he so wished, Mr Robinson could raise the matter at the next meeting although the other Directors present were of the opinion that as the matter had been fully dealt with on a previous occasion, it should not again be brought forward after such a short interval.

The report re new Musical Director was received and adopted by the Board.

6/12/15

3rd Dec. 1935.

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society. Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on Tuesday 3rd Dec. 1935 at 5 p.m.

Present

Mr Lennox Robinson in the Chair, Dr Richard Hayes, Mr F.R. Higgins, Mr Frank O'Connor.

The Chairman informed the Board that this meeting had been called to consider what should be done in view of the fact that Mr F.J. McCormick had told Mr Robinson and Mr Hunt that he felt himself unable to play the part of Coriolanus in the production down for the 16th of January 1936.

After some discussion it was decided to hear Mr Hunt's report and views on the Matter.

Mr. Hunt.

Mr Hunt informed the Board that some weeks previously he had told Mr McCormick that he intended to cast him for the part of Coriolanus and had given him a copy of the play to read but that it was only on the preceding night (Monday 2nd Dec.) that Mr McCormick had told him he felt unable to play the part as he felt himself mentally and physically unfitted for it.

Mr Hunt stated that he and Mr Robinson had discussed the matter very fully with Mr McCormick on the afternoon of the meeting and that Mr McCormick had apologised for not having informed Mr Hunt earlier of his feelings in the matter, but that owing to his concentration on his part in "A Saint in a Hurry" and his preoccupation

with that part he had not had time to read Coriolanus at an earlier date. He felt himself quite unsuited to the part and both mentally and physically unfit to play it.
Mr Hunt said he considered Mr McCormick quite sincere in his statement and with this view Mr Morrison concurred adding that Mr McCormick had never on any previous occasion raised any objection to any part for which he had been cast.
The Board discussed the matter and decided that the play should go on as arranged, if Mr Hunt could get some outside actor to play the part. He was authorised to approach Mr Andrew McMaster and failing him, to try for an actor from England, the terms to be :- travelling expenses to Dublin to be paid by the Theatre, £3-10-0 or a sum not more than £5 per week to be paid for rehearsal and £10-10-0 for the weeks performance.
In the event of Mr Hunt's being unable to secure the services of a suitable actor on these terms, the play to be postponed and Mr Deering's play, "Katie Roche" to go on instead.

Chairman 2nd Bd/1)
6/12/35

6th Decr. 1935. Minutes of a Meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin on Friday, 6th December, 1935, at 5.30 p.m.

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

Minutes. The Minutes of the meeting held on 29th Nov. 1935 were read, Confirmed as amended and signed.

The Minutes of the Special meeting held on 3rd Decr. 1935 were also read, Confirmed and signed.

Finance. The Secretary reported that the Bank Overdraft was £977-13-9.

Correspondence Mr Frederick May. A letter was read from Mr Frederick May thanking the Directors for their offer of the Musical Directorship which it gave him much pleasure to accept.

Tailteann Games Souvenir. It was agreed that if the Games were held next year a 1/4 page advertisement be inserted in the Tailteann Games Souvenir at a cost of £3-3-0.

Marks by Geo. Atkinson It was agreed that the sum of £1-1 be paid to Mr Geo. Atkinson for six marks made for "Noah" and a Globe made for "A Saint in a Hurry".

Resolution re Signing Cheques. It was proposed by Mr T.R. Higgins, seconded by Dr Starkie and passed:- "That in future cheques shall be signed by any two of the following Directors, Mr W.B. Yeats, Dr. Walter Starkie, Mr Lennox Robinson, Dr. Richard Hayes, Senator E. Blythe, Mr T.R. Higgins, Mr Frank O'Connor, or alternatively,

that they be signed by one of the above-mentioned Directors and countersigned by Mr. Ernie Gorman, Secretary".

Cost of productions.

Mr Robinson raised the question of the present high cost on the producing side of the Theatre. He said he did not think the Theatre could afford the amount being spent on two Producers an assistant Producer a designer and an assistant. He also doubted if the scheme of rapid production would prove profitable. He was of opinion that better results could be obtained from one major production with three old plays, and that Mr Hunt could do the work with possibly Mr Dolan and Mr Shields as assistants.

After some discussion it was decided that Mr Robinson should continue as Producer until after the Critic and it was proposed by Mr Robinson, seconded by Mr O'Connor and passed "That, all previous resolutions notwithstanding, Mr Hunt be given entire charge of productions from the beginning of January 1936 up to the end of his agreed term and that he be given such assistants as he considers necessary".

Mr Hunt's Report

Mr Hunt reported that Mr McMaster had refused the offer the part of Coriolanus and it was agreed that the filling of the part should be left to Mr Hunt.

The Chairman informed Mr Hunt of the Board's decision to place him in full control of productions in the new year and asked him to report to the next meeting as to whether he would continue rapid production or would find

if necessary to slow down production.

Having been informed by the Chairman of the names of the seven Players to be given Contracts at the end of the year Mr Hunt referred to the dissatisfaction which had been expressed by Contract Players who had been at of recent casts.

It was decided that where possible normally, Contract Players should be used but that the Producer was not bound to use them if he considered them unsuited to the parts he was casting.

Play Competition

It was decided that each Director should take his share of the 107 plays entered for the Competition and that the plays be issued as soon as possible.

Songs with The Critic

It was decided to have songs sung before "The Critic" instead of having a one act play and it was proposed by Mr Robinson, seconded by Dr Starkie and passed "That a Committee consisting of Mr Higgins, Mr Power and Mr Fred Ray be appointed to select suitable songs and obtain a singer".

Notifying Players re new contracts

It was decided that the question of notifying Players as to the proposed new Contracts should be left over until after the Board had heard Mr Hunt's report re future productions

Larchet Personnel.

Mr O'Connor informed the Board that Mr Sean O'Sullivan's charge for the proposed portrait of Dr Larchet would be £60 and the Board decided that the Theatre should bear all

this expense, the proceeds of the special performance going towards the fund. The arrangement of the programme was left to Mr Robinson and Mr Gorman.

Loan to Mrs Martin.

An application by Mrs Catherine Martin for a loan of £8 to be repaid at 5/= per week, was granted.

School of Acting Rehearsal.

It was decided that the Directors should see the School of Acting rehearsal on Tuesday, 17th Dec. at 6 p.m.

Finance Sub-Committee.

Mr Higgins on behalf of the Finance Sub-committee reported that he had passed accounts amounting to £236-6-4.

Chairman

13/12/35

13th Dec. 1935. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin on Friday 13th December, 1935 at 5.30 p.m.

Present Senator E. Blythe in the Chair, Mr Richard Hayes. ~~A. J. A. Higgins~~ M. Frank O'Connor.

Mr Lennox Robinson was engaged rehearsing in the Theatre, but was available if needed by the Board.

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

Arising out of the Minutes Mr O'Connor reported that the Sub-Committee appointed to arrange for songs to be sung before "The Critic" Suggested that Mr Michael O'Higgins be engaged to sing six or seven Irish Songs five traditional unaccompanied and two with Orchestral accompaniment. They also reported that Mr May would require a viola as an extra instrumentalist for these performances. The Board agreed to these suggestions.

Finance. The Secretary reported that the Bank Overdraft was £1060-3-4.

Letter from Mr P.J. Carolan. A letter was read from Mr P.J. Carolan appealing against being put on half-salary for the current week by reason of his not being in the cast of the play and stating that owing to the amount of extra work in connection with the production of 'Summers Day' he put in seven hours work for the Dress Rehearsal as well as a full days work on the opening day. Mr Carolan also

pointed out that his allowance of 25/- a week as Assistant Stage Manager worked out at 4/1 per show, 6d a show more than a Stagehand.

The Board decided that as Mr Carolan had had a lot of extra work during the week in question he should be given another £1-5-0 for that week.

Covering of Balcony Railing.

Estimates were submitted by Messrs Scott & Ford for filling in the Balcony railing as follows:-

Messrs Malcolm £40 expanded metal & plaster
Messrs Creedon £45 do do.
Messrs McGloughlin £50 lead coated sheets.

It was decided to accept the estimate of Messrs Malcolm and to have the work done by them

North Rd re Whyte's premises.

A letter from Messrs North & Co was read stating that Messrs Whyte were not disposed to sell for less than £8,000 pounds. It was decided that the Secretary should consult Mr M.L. Scott as to how far these premises could be used without incurring great expence.

Mr Robinsons report.

The Secretary reported that Mr Robinsons estimate of the cost of "The Critic" was:- Scenery - nil, and costume to be hired about £1 including carriage, acting salaries £110. Mr Robinson had also arranged with Mr Scott that the portrait of Mr Yeats should be hung over the Box Office.

Mr Hunts report.

Mr Hunt suggested that owing to the alteration in the scheme of productions due to Mr Robinson ceasing to produce after

only
Christmas, it would be possible to produce two new plays in five weeks, a large cast play taking three weeks rehearsal and a small cast play taking two weeks.
After some discussion it was decided that this system be tried and that the following plays be produced

Jany	13th 1936	Coriolanus
	27th	The Grand House in the City
Feb	8th	Katie Roche
March	1st	Fanatics

It was proposed by Mr Frank O'Connor seconded by Dr. Hayes and passed that the new play by George Shiels "His Last Day in Business" be accepted.
Mr. O'Connor said he would like Mr Shiels to be asked to consider re-writing the last two scenes.
It was decided that the Shiels play should go on on 16th March 1936.
Mr Hunt also reported that he had obtained Reginald Jarmin, a very competent English actor who had played in many Shakespearian plays, for the part of Coriolanus.

Abbey Chocolates by Jacob & Co.

The Secretary submitted a sample box with the Abbey Theatre's registered design on the cover which had been sent by Messrs Jacob and Co, Bishop Street, Dublin.
The Secretary reported that Messrs Jacob were anxious to obtain permission to use the design for a brand of Chocolates to be called Abbey Chocolates and that they would put them up in lbs and ½ lbs.

After some discussion the Board decided that permission be given to Messrs Jacob to use the design on the understanding that this permission could be withdrawn at any time, after reasonable notice had been given to Messrs Jacob.

Miss Devlin's Salary. It was decided that Miss Devlin be paid £3 for playing in "Summer's Day".

Secretary
20/12/35

20th Dec. 1935. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on Friday 20th Dec. 1935, at 5.30 p.m.

Present Senator E. Blythe in the Chair, Mr Lennox Robinson, Dr. Richard Hayes, Mr T.J. Higgins, 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 £1107-9-11.

Letter from The French Society. A letter from the French Society was read enquiring if they could hire the Abbey for a dress rehearsal and one performance at the end of March. The Board decided that this could not be done.

Neon Sign. An estimated was submitted by Messrs Taylor for the erection of a Neon Sign at a cost of £63-13-0. It was decided that consideration of this matter be postponed until the Autumn.

Play for week Jan. 6. It was decided that "Professor Tim" should go on for the week commencing January 6th.

Mr Dolan's Report Mr Dolan complained that costumes hired for the Parnell play had not been returned for a considerable time after the week of the play and that he had not been informed of the fact. He also stated that he had arranged with the small part players in "The Dance O Jack" to play for £1 each and had supplied the Secretary with a list of these players, but that the Secretary had paid these Players their ordinary salaries notwithstanding the arrangement which had been made. Mr Dolan suggested that the Board might arrange a Casting department

so that there could be no misunderstanding regarding casting or salaries.

The Board decided that in future the Producer should submit a fortnight before production, the list of salaries for non-contract players and the cast of the play.

Mr Hunt's Report. Mr Hunt informed the Board that he considered there was room for two people to assist the Producer, and that Mr Carolan was being asked to do too much work.

The question of appointing Mr Dolan and Mr Arthur Shields as assistants was discussed and it was decided that the arrangement at present existing should stand. ~~Mr Hoyton, Mr Dolan as Assistant Producer.~~ Mr Hyland proposed that Mr P.J. Dolan be appointed Assistant Producer and the Board agreed to this proposal.

Contract for Mr Hunt. The Board considered the question of offering a Contract to Mr Hunt and it was proposed by Mr Frank O'Connor, seconded by Mr Lennox Robinson and passed " That Mr Hugh Hunt be appointed Producer and Manager at his present salary for a period of twelve months with the power to terminate at three months notice on either side, Mr Hunt to be entirely subject to the orders of the Board of Directors"

New Contracts for Players. The resolution passed at the meeting held on the 29th Nov. 1935 regarding new contracts with Players was altered and it was decided that the salary to be paid to Mr Arthur Shields should be £7-10-0 per week and that no contract be given to Mr P.J. Carolan but that he be

offered a salary of £6 per week as Stage Manager with an extra payment of £1-10-0 per week when acting.

It was decided that these arrangements should run as from Monday 6th January 1936.

Whyte's Premises.

The Secretary informed the Board that Mr McDevitt had suggested if the Whyte's premises were in possession of the Theatre, portion of these premises could be converted into a Cafe and Cloak room and the remainder used as a scene dock. Any other alterations would entail very heavy expense.

The Board decided that the Secretary should see Mr Archer Cox Architect, give him all details regarding the Boards' views and suggest to him that Whyte be offered £ 5000 for the premises.

Visit to Cork

The Secretary reported that the Manager of the Cork Opera House was anxious for a return visit of the Company and suggested March 2nd or 9th.

The Board decided it would be better to defer the next visit until the Autumn.

Chairman 3/1/36

3/1/36

3rd Jany. 1936.

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society. Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on Friday, 3rd January, 1936, at 5.30 p.m.

Present — Senator E. Blythe in the Chair: Mr Lennox Robinson, 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 Bank overdraft was £1186-8-5.

Mr D. O'Dea. — A letter was read from Mr Denis O'Dea who is in New York stating that he was opening in a play in New York in the third week of January and that consequently he would not be back in Dublin on the date he had stated when interviewing the Directors on 27th Sept. 1935.

Arthur Cox & Co. — A letter was read from Messrs Arthur Cox & Co. Solicitors, stating that Mr Hayes, representing Messrs Whyte, would not be in Dublin until next week and that Mr Cox hoped to hear from him then.

Horan & Devine re Olympia — A letter was read from Messrs Horan & Devine enquiring if the Directors had any objection to raise to the Letters Patent being sought for the Olympia Theatre. The Board decided that they had no objection to raise.

Revenue Comrs. re Income Tax by Mr Carolan — A letter was read from the Revenue Commissioners stating that as Mr Carolan was in arrears with Income Tax to the amount of £55-8-6, the amount should be deducted from Mr Carolans remuneration, £12 on 1st Jan, 1st Feby,

1st March, 1st April, and £7-8-6 on 1st May. Mr Carlan who was interviewed by the Directors stated that he had been to see the Income Tax authorities and hoped to have a purcha letter issued putting a stay on this demand.

Mrs Delany. The Directors interviewed Mrs Delany who asked why her salary was being reduced from £7-10-0 to £6 per week. She stated she could have, had she wished, stayed in Holly wood in July 1935, but preferred to come back to the Theatre. She also stated that the production of the new film for which she had been engaged would not take place until next March or April. Mrs Delany further said she felt very deeply that she as one of eldest of the present Contract Players, should hawve had her salary reduced.

The Board explained to Mrs Delany that the Theatre had been loosing money heavily for some considerable time but that if busniss improved, the Company would have first claim on whatever money was available.

Mrs Delany then withdrew.

Miss Craig The Directors interviewed Miss Craig who asked why her salary had been cut and enquired if he work was not satisfactory. She stated she had been playing in the Theatre for nineteen years and had been on Contract at £7-10-0 for two and a half years.

It was explained to Miss Craig that the Board were trying to economise as the Theatre had lost a large sum of

money recently.
Mrs Craig then withdrew.

Mr P.J. Carolan

The Board interviewed Mr Carolan who asked that his allowance of £1-10-0 per acting might be increased. He said he appreciated the arrangement whereby he would be paid £6 per week as Stage Manager but pointed out that as he was very seldom out of a cast he felt he would lose considerably if he were only allowed £1-10-0 per acting.
It was explained to Mr Carolan that the intention of the new arrangement was to stabilise his position by paying him an adequate salary for Stage managing and the Board decided to consider the matter further.

Mr Hunt's Report.

Mr Hunt raised the question of paying Miss Aideen O'Connor a salary as a Stage assistant to him and as a typist when he required costume lists and various stage typing done. The Board had on a former occasion agreed that such an assistant should be obtained and it was now decided that Miss O'Connor be paid £1-10-0 per week as assistant with an extra £1-10-0 per week when acting.

Mr Dolan

Mr Dolan had no report to make.

Future Bills

It was decided that 'Church Street' followed by 'Village Wooing' should go on on January 20th and that if another bill were required before the

production of the new Macnamara play, it should be tentatively arranged that "The Land of Heart's Desire" + "Arms and the Man" should follow.

Allocation of Shares to New Directors

Mr F.R. Higgins stated he had received from Dr. Walter Starkie a letter in which he pointed out that he considered the three new Directors, Miss Blythe, Higgins and O'Connor not being shareholders, had no standing, and that he hoped by the time he returned to Dublin the position would have been regularised.

Mr Higgins said the new Directors should have the necessary qualifying shares as at present they held no position among the shareholders. Any business done by the Board could be quashed by the shareholders and their position was not sound as the new Directors had no standing in the Company. After some discussion it was proposed by Mr. Lennox Robinson, seconded by Senator E. Blythe and passed "That Senator E. Blythe, Mr F.R. Higgins and Mr Mc O'Donovan be allocated shares to the value of £100 each for services rendered".

It was also decided that an agreement should be entered into by these Directors that on retirement from the Board or on death. the shares be returned to the Society.

The Secretary was instructed to request Messrs Whitney Moore + Keller to have this resolution put into effect

as soon as possible.

Queen's Hall,
10th/1/36

10th Jany. 1936. Meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Soc'ty. Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre on Friday, 10th Jany 1936 at 5.30 p.m.

Present — Senator E. Blythe (in the Chair). Dr Richard Hayes, Mr. F. A. Higgins, Mr Frank O'Connor.
Mr Hugh Hunt was in attendance.
A letter was read from Mr Lennox Robinson apologising for not being able to attend.

Minutes. — The Minutes of the last meeting were read, Confirmed as amended and passed.

Finance. — The Secretary reported that the Bank Overdraft was £1103-13-5.

Salaries of Miss Delany Miss Craig & Mr P.J. Carolan — Further consideration was given to the salaries of Miss Delany, Miss Craig & Mr P.J. Carolan and it was decided that Miss Delany be paid £7-10-0 per week when acting no contract being signed with her, Miss Craig to be given a contract for six months at £6-10-0 per week and Mr Carolan's salary to be £6 per week as Stage Manager with £2 extra per week when acting, no contract to be given to him.

Mr Shiels report — Mr Shiels reported that in consequence of representations made by the Theatrical Section of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union through their Secretary, it would be necessary to dispense with the services of Mr Frank Ellis Jr. who had recently been employed as a general help and

messenger for the Stage. Mr Hunt suggested that in view of this, Mr Eugene Judge be put on the day Stage staff and that Mr Frank Ellis Sr. be given the duties now performed by Mr Judge. The Directors agreed that this be done.

Mr Hunt also reported that he had not been acquainted with the fact that the Peacock had been let to the Drama League for rehearsals, and the Board decided that no future lettings be made without formal application submitted to Mr Hunt.

Correspondence re from Mr Sean O'Sullivan

a letter was read from Mr Sean O'Sullivan stating that when he had agreed to paint a portrait of D. Larchet for £60 he was not aware that it was proposed to hang the portrait in the vestibule of the Theatre. He said that the portrait he had in mind would only be a canvas 25 x 30 and that he would do one for £80 which would be something in size approaching the portrait of Mr Yeats.

The Secretary was instructed to inform Mr O'Sullivan they regretted that £60 was all the many available and that if he found himself unable to do a suitable portrait for this figure the Directors would have to consider what other arrangements could be made.

Cork + Belfast dates.

A letter was read from P. A Selby asking if dates could be pencilled in for the Company in the autumn for Cork and Belfast.

The Directors decided that Mr Selby be asked to suggest

dates and that he be informed the Company would go to the two cities on a basis of 65% to the Company.

Whitney Moore & Keller re allocation of Shares to new Directors.

Two letters from Messrs Whitney Moore & Keller, Solicitors, as follows were read :-

K.R

WHITNEY, MOORE & KELLER

SOLICITORS
PARLIAMENTARY AGENTS

R. NESBITT KELLER.
WILLIAM T. MACKAY
COMM. FOR OATHS
PERCIVAL H. BROWNE, LL.D.
E. GERALDINE KELLER, LL.D.

TELEPHONE:
62730
TELEGRAMS:
VALID, DUBLIN

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE:
1

46, Kildare Street,
Dublin, C.1
9th January 1936

Dear Mr Gorman,

In reply to your letter of the 6th inst. I note the terms of the resolution passed by the Directors on the 3rd inst. and I fully appreciate the excellence of the motive which led the Directors to pass a resolution that Senator Blythe, Mr Higgins and Mr Frank O'Connor should be allocated 100 shares each for services rendered.

I am afraid however the Directors passed this resolution under a misapprehension as to their powers to give effect to it.

No doubt under a clause 4 of the Articles the shares of the Company are under the control of the Directors to issue as they consider expedient. The general rule is that shares must be subscribed for in cash. If shares were allotted for any other consideration then the Registrar would require on receipt of the return of allotments to be furnished with an agreement between the Company and the shareholders stating the consideration in respect of which the shares were issued. A consideration of "services rendered" would not be regarded as sufficient for the purpose.

You will remember that in my letter to you of the 18th June last I dealt with the question of the legal position of the new Directors raised by Mr Higgins. I pointed out that the total issued capital of the Company was only 390 shares of £1 each. The total capital of the Company is £1000 divided into 1000 shares of £1 each so that 610 shares remain unissued, without increasing the present capital of the Company.

I have not got the Company's accounts before me but if the position of the Company financially would justify it then I can see no reason why out of the unissued capital a further 585 shares should not be issued to the existing shareholders in the proportion of 1½ shares for each share held by the present shareholders.

If this course were decided on it would be necessary to alter the Articles of Association by special resolution giving the Company power to issue bonus shares and I hesitate to suggest that the Company should go to this expense unless for a very good reason the Directors considered that it was necessary or desirable to do so, and of course the matter would have to be done under our advice with the assistance of the Company's auditors.

The importance of the share capital lies in the fact that the ultimate control of the Company lies in the hands of those who own the shares and as I pointed out in my letter to you of the 18th June last the control in this sense is vested in Dr. Yeats and Mr Lennox Robinson. A bonus issue of shares such as I have suggested would not affect that position but it would enable them to loan 100 shares each to the three Directors in question out of the shares under their control in the same way as they did in the case of Dr. Starkie.

The position of the Directors in question is perfectly regular as matters stand, as the Articles were amended to meet their case, but the transfer of shares to them would enable them to attend and vote at meetings of the shareholders of the Company.

Yours faithfully,

W. A. Kelly

Eric Gorman, Esq.,
Secretary
Abbey Theatre
Dublin C.8

K.R

WHITNEY, MOORE & KELLER
SOLICITORS
PARLIAMENTARY AGENTS
R. NESBITT KELLER.
WILLIAM T. MACKAY
COMM. FOR OATHS
PERCIVAL H. BROWNE, LL.D.
E. GERALDINE KELLER, LL.D.
TELEPHONE:
62730
TELEGRAMS:
VALID, DUBLIN

Enc.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

1

46, Kildare Street,
Dublin, C.

10th January 1936

Dear Mr Gorman,

Referring to my letter to you of yesterday I had a talk this afternoon with Mr Higgins following an interview with the Registrar of Companies with regard to the question raised in your letter of the 6th inst.

As a result of my interview with the Registrar I am satisfied that the shares may be issued for"services rendered" and if the allotment be made I shall furnish you with the form required by the Registrar in the case of shares issued for a consideration other than cash and I would suggest that the approval of the Company's auditors should be obtained to this being done.

It is not however possible to draw up any legally effective document to provide that in the event of the death of any of the parties named or in the event of any of them ceasing to be a Director the shares issued to him shall be returned to the Society. The best suggestion I can make is that as soon as the shares shall have been issued and the certificates forwarded to the new shareholders each of them should write you a letter on the lines of the enclosed draft undertaking that in either of the events mentioned the shares will be placed at the disposal of the Directors.

As the whole circumstances of this case are so unusual every care should be taken to avoid the possibility of any misunderstanding if it be decided to give effect to the resolution passed on the 3rd inst. This is particularly necessary so far as Dr.Yeats and Mr Lennox Robinson are concerned for the reason that 382 shares out of an issued capital of 390 shares are either legally or equitably owned by them. This of course includes the 100 shares standing in the name of Dr.Starkie. It should be clearly understood by Dr.Yeats and Mr Lennox Robinson that if the new shares be issued their

ultimate destination will not be in their control but in the control of the Directors for the time being.
The difference so far as Dr. Yeats and Mr Robinson are concerned is that in such event they will control only 382 shares out of a total of 690 shares instead of 382 shares out of 390 shares. By control I mean ultimate control because of course so long as Dr.Starkie and the three new shareholders remain Directors the exercise of their powers as shareholders is uncontrolled.

Subject to there being no misunderstanding as to the position so far as Dr. Yeats and Mr Lennox Robinson are concerned I think the arrangement if carried out on the lines which I have suggested is quite a workable one.
If it be carried out Senator Blythe, Mr Higgins and Mr Frank O'Connor will have an effective voice in the policy and control of the Abbey Theatre.

Yours faithfully,

W. B. Yeats

Eric Gorman, Esq.,
Secretary
Abbey Theatre
Dublin C.8

P.S. Although the Directors have power to issue shares for "services rendered" perhaps I might suggest that in order to avoid all possibility of misunderstanding the matter might be referred to Dr.Yeats for an expression of his views before the resolution is actually given effect to.

Draft.

Dear Sir,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of certificate for 100 shares in the National Theatre Society Ltd.,(Nos. to inclusive) which have been issued to me for services rendered.

As it is essential that the control of the National Theatre Society Ltd., should be in proper hands I undertake and agree that in the event of my ceasing for any reason to be a Director, or in the event of my death, I, or my personal representatives, as the case may be, will transfer such shares to any person or persons nominated by the Directors for the time by resolution passed at a meeting of such Directors; and in pursuance of this undertaking and agreement I have attached to this letter the certificate for the shares in question for safe keeping with signed transfer in blank.

Yours faithfully,

After some discussion the Secretary was instructed to write to Messrs Whitney Moore & Keller instructing them to proceed with the issue of the shares in accordance with the resolution passed on 6th January 1936

Railway advertising

It was decided that advertising on hoardings at railway stations be discontinued.

Finance Sub-committee.

The Finance Sub-committee reported that they had passed the account for December 1935.

Mr Robinson in his letter to the Board asked if permission could be given to Mr A de Blacam for a production of "A Saint in a Hurry" by the Belfast Art Theatre. The Board granted the required permission.

Seamus Kelly
17/1/36

17th January 1936.

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Soc'y. Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on Friday, 17th January 1936, at 5.30 p.m.

Present

Senator 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.

The Secretary reported that the Bank overdraft stood at £1517-9-2.

Lr. from Miss Delany.

A letter was read from Miss Delany complaining she had not received any salary for the week ending 18th Jany. and stating that she had always received half-salary when out for a week. The Board decided that during a week that Miss Delany is not playing, if she is rehearsing a part in a new play, she should receive half-salary but that if she was brought in to a rehearsal of an old play she should not be paid any salary for that week.

Lr from Eason & Sons Ltd.

A letter was read from Messrs Eason and Son Ltd. offering to do railway station advertising at half the former rate. The Board decided to take no action.

Lr. from Sean O'Sullivan re Larchet Portrait.

A letter was read from Mr Sean O'Sullivan stating he could do a suitable portrait of Dr Larchet for £60 but could not do one of the size 40 × 50, the size of the Yeats portrait in the foyer of the Theatre.

The Secretary was instructed to reply that a portrait 25 × 30 the size previously suggested by Mr O'Sullivan would not be suitable and to ask Mr O'Sullivan the largest size he could do for £60. It was also decided that in the event of Mr O'Sullivan's

reply not being considered satisfactory M. Maurice Mc Gonigal be asked what he would do for the same figure, viz £60.

L^r from P. M. Selby re Belfast and Cork.

A letter was read from Mr P. M. Selby offering dates in October, November and December for a visit of the Company to Belfast and Cork, and stating that the terms suggested by the Directors viz 65% to the Abbey Theatre would be out of the question: also suggesting the same terms as last time up to the business done during those weeks with an additional 5% for any business above the last figures.

The Board decided that Th Hunt conside the dates most suitable provided that a Company be maintained in the Abbey during these weeks and that the Theatre be neither closed or let to any outside Company the question of terms to be the subject of further correspondence.

L^r from the Dublin Corporation

A letter was read from the Medical Officer of Health, Dublin Corporation stating that the dressing rooms in the Theatre and means of exit from them were not in accordance with the Bye Laws and requesting that the Theatre's Architect be instructed to submit proposals for compliance with the Bye Laws. The Board directed that Mr Scott be asked to see the Corpn. Officials and report on what they required to be done.

Issue of Shares to new Directors

The following letter was read from Messrs Whitney Moore and Keller with reference to instructions sent to them regarding the issue of shares to the three Directors, Senator E. Blythe, Mr. T. M. Higgins and M. Frank O'Connor:-

K.R

By hand

WHITNEY, MOORE & KELLER
SOLICITORS
PARLIAMENTARY AGENTS
R. NESBITT KELLER.
WILLIAM T. MACKAY
COMM. FOR OATHS
PERCIVAL H. BROWNE, LL.D.
E. GERALDINE KELLER, LL.D.
TELEPHONE:
62730
TELEGRAMS:
VALID, DUBLIN

Enc.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE
1

46, Kildare Street,
Dublin, C.17.
16th January 1936

Dear Mr Gorman,

In reply to your letter received on the 13th inst. containing request to proceed with the allotment of the shares in accordance with the terms of the Resolution passed at the meeting of the Directors held on the 3rd inst. (a copy of which was furnished to me in your letter of the 6th inst.) I beg to say that the procedure would be as follows:-

(1) Formal application should be made for the allotment of the shares by Senator Blythe, Mr Higgins and Mr O'Donovan in the terms of the forms of application enclosed.

(2) On receipt of these applications duly signed they should be brought before a meeting of the Directors at which a Resolution in the form enclosed should be passed.

(3) At the meeting Forms No.45 and 52 enclosed herewith (the latter in duplicate) should be completed and signed by you as Secretary.

(4) Certificates should then be issued under the seal of the Company and signed by two Directors.

The forms enclosed should be returned to me for filing with the Registrar of Companies and in the case of Form No.52 for adjudication for the purpose of assessment of stamp duty.

I think it well to point out however that I have not been informed as to how many of the Directors were present at the meeting on the 3rd inst. at which the Resolution was passed. I notice that the Resolution was seconded by Senator E. Blythe who is one of the Directors to whom shares were voted for servides rendered. I gather that the services were rendered by the Directors named in the Resolution as Directors. There is no clause in the Articles providing for remuneration of the Directors

and no remuneration has so far as I know ever been previously received by Directors for services rendered as Directors. Clause 4 of the Memo. of Association provides for remuneration of officers and servants of the Company or other person in return for any services actually rendered to the Company, and that no remuneration shall be given to any member of the governing body of the Company except repayments of out-of-pocket expenses and interest for money lent or rent for premises demised to the Company.

Having regard to the foregoing and without questioning in any way the merits of the proposal Mr Tulloch as representing the Company's auditors, and I as the Company's solicitor are of opinion that the proposed allotment of shares should not be put through without the sanction of the Company in General Meeting and you will please take us as so advising.

While we fully understand that the management of the business and the control of the Company is entrusted to the Directors and that the shares of the Company are placed under their control it should not be forgotten that the Company is owned by the shareholders in terms of the Memorandum of Association and it would in our view be unwise for the Directors to take the responsibility of the step contemplated without the approval of the shareholders.

Yours faithfully,

K. Vard A Keller

Eric Gorman, Esq.,
Secretary,
National Theatre Society Ltd.,
Abbey Theatre,
DUBLIN.

after consideration of this letter it was decided to take the business of the Society out of the hands of Messrs Whitney, Moore and Kelly and it proposed by Senator Blythe, seconded by Mr Frank O'Connor and passed "That the legal business of the Society be transferred to Messrs Cox and Co. Solicitors, St Stephen's Green, Dublin".

Mr Hunt's Report. Mr Hunt reported that the salary list for the Grand House in the City would be £61-10-0 and it was agreed that if the play could be done in time it should go on on 3rd February, the final decision to rest with Mr Hunt. If the Plasnamana play was not ready, 'Paul Twyning' was selected for 3rd Feby. The bill for 10th February was left over until the next Board meeting.

Policy of Theatre. In order to consider the problem of the continued loss on productions, the financial position and the position of future productions it was decided to hold a special meeting of the Board at 8 p.m. on Monday 27th January.

Richard Hayes
20 January 1936