



ABBEY THEATRE
LOWER ABBEY STREET, DUBLIN 1
PEACOCK THEATRE

PER POST DATE

To

MINUTE BOOK
23rd JANUARY 1936
TO
1ST SEPTEMBER 1937

No.

26 Jan'y 1936. Meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on Friday, 26th January 1936 at 5.30 p.m.

Present Mr. Richard Hayes in the Chair, Mr. Lennox Robinson, Senator E. Mythe Mr. F.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 £1661-5-10.

Letter from Gray, Gardiner & Co. A letter was read from Messrs. Gray, Gardiner & Co. enclosing copies of the Statement of Accounts for the quarter ending 30th Nov. 1935 and suggesting that if the outstanding debt of £30 due by Mr. Colman Forbes was not paid before the 29th February it might be well to write it off.

Letter from Messrs. Whitley, Moore and Keller. The following letter was read from Messrs. Whitley, Moore and Keller.

K.R.
WHITNEY, MOORE & KELLER

SOLICITORS
PARLIAMENTARY AGENTS
R. NEBBITT KELLER,
WILLIAM T. MACKAY,
PERCIVAL H. BROWNE, LL.D.
E. GERALDINE KELLER, LL.D.

TELEPHONE:
62730
TELEGRAMS:
VALID, DUBLIN

46, Kildare Street,
Dublin, C. 17
23rd January 1936

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE:

1

Dear Mr Gorman,

In reply to your letter of the 20th inst. I note that I need not proceed further with the issue of shares to the new Directors as the Board has decided that all further legal business of the Society shall be conducted by another firm of solicitors.

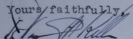
Please convey to the Directors my appreciation of their kind expressions in reference to my services during the many years I have been acting for the Society.

I am crossing to London tonight but I have left word for the Society's documents to be got together so that they may be sent to you as soon as possible and I have also put my firm's Account in hands.

May I add that the Society's solicitors may look to us if they should require any documents or information which we can give them?

I also wish to thank you personally for your courtesy and consideration at all times.

Yours faithfully,



Eric Gorman, Esq.,
Secretary,
The National Theatre Society Ltd.,
Abbey Theatre,
Dublin C.8.

Letter from
Messrs Arthur
Cox & Co.

A letter was read from Messrs Arthur Cox & Co. setting out the procedure to be adopted in connection with the business of allocating shares to Senator Blythe, Mr Hyffins and Mr O'Donovan and Mr O'Garra. Messrs Cox's letter also contained suggestions for the amendment of the Articles of Association but the Board decided that consideration of these suggestions be postponed until the allocation of the shares had been completed.

Allotment of
Shares to
Sen. Blythe

In the discussion of the following matter, Senator Blythe, Mr Hyffins and Mr O'Donovan took no part, declaring that they were personally interested.

Mr Hyffins
and Mr O'Donovan

The Directors had under consideration the desirability of allotting shares to Senator Blythe, Mr Hyffins and Mr O'Donovan, in consideration of their past services and of the future services that they would render to the Company; and it having been ascertained that

Mr. Yeats, Mr. Robinson and Dr. Stalkie had no objection to such allotments being made, the following resolution proposed by Dr. Richard Hayes and seconded by Mr. Leonard Robinson was passed:-

"That the seal of the Company be affixed to the Agreement already prepared between the Company and Senators Blythe, Mr. Higgins and Mr. O'Donovan respectively providing for the allotment to each of these three Gentlemen in consideration of past and future services of one hundred fully paid Ordinary Shares in the Capital of the Company, and applications for such allotments having been received from each of them, it is hereby resolved that one hundred fully paid shares in the Capital of the Company Numbers 391 to 490 inclusive, be and the same are hereby allotted to Senator Ernest Blythe in pursuance of the terms of the said agreement; and that one hundred fully paid shares in the Capital of the Company Numbers 491 to 590 inclusive, be and the same are hereby allotted to Frederick Robert Higgins in pursuance of the terms of the said agreement: and that one hundred fully paid shares in the Capital of the Company Numbers 591 to 690 inclusive, be and the same are hereby allotted to Michael O'Donovan in pursuance of the terms of the said agreement."

Mr. Hunt's report.

Mr. Hunt reported that Mr. J. Stephenson had broken his arm on Tuesday night and that as business with "Conchamus" had been very bad for the two nights the play was taken off and "Paul Twynning" substituted. Mr. Hunt expressed the hope that Mr. Jarman might be paid half-salary for the week and the Board agreed.

Mr. Hunt also reported that Miss Gower objected to the salary paid her for playing four nights in the week claiming that she should be

paid full salary as had been the custom. The salary she had received was £6-5-0 made up of 2 nights at £3-15-0 per week and 4 nights at £7-10-0 per week, and the Board decided that this was correct.

Mr Hunt said that Miss Mac Kay, from the School of Art who was assisting Miss Moiseiwitsch was ^{socially ex-} interested in costume and scene designing and scene painting and he suggested that if it were possible it would be advisable to procure another student who was interested in this work and who might eventually take Miss Moiseiwitsch's place as a permanent designer and painter.

The Board suggested that Mr Hunt get into touch with Mr George Atkinson with a view to obtaining a suitable person.

It was decided after some discussion that the bills to follow the Macnamara should be :-
Feb'y 10th Monahan Dew or Insurance Money
Feb'y 17th The Playh + the Stars
Feb'y 24th Boydie Shop (St. I. P. Ennis)

Theatre Free
List.

Mr O'Connor raised the question of the free list and complained that passes issued to exhibitors of Box Office Cards did not appear to reach the people entitled to them. After some discussion it was decided that the list of people receiving free seats should be circulated among the Directors and that in future applications from others who might consider themselves entitled to free seats must be made in writing with a stamped addressed envelope for a reply.

Directors to
meet Players

It was decided that as the losses during the last quarter had been heavy and ^{as} the financial position of the Theatre was not good, it would be well if the contract Players were made aware of the position, so that a frank discussion could take place and any complaints

which the Players might have could be heard. Senator Byrnes and Mr. Higgins were deputed to meet the Contract Players on Wednesday 29th Jan. at 1 pm.

Improving finances Mr Higgins referred to the suggested meeting of the Directors on Monday, 27th Jan. to enquire into ^{all} the items of expenditure and the question of future productions. The Secretary had reported that as he was playing in Paul Torgny he could not attend at the hour fixed 8 pm. and Mr Higgins considered that the discussion of future plays that had taken place during the present meeting, made the special meeting on Monday unnecessary. He said that whatever economies could be made would be very small and that the main consideration should be plays that would bring in a good return. Mr Higgins considered that three popular plays of a profit making type should be put on with the fourth week devoted to a new play. In this way it would be possible to produce one new play a month which might or might not be financially successful, without incurring any loss to the Theatre.

Layman 26/1/36
31/1/36

31st Jan'y 1936. Meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Theatre Society. Ltd.
held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30pm on Friday, 31st Jan'y. 1936.

Present Senator E. Blythe in the Chair, Mr. F.R. Higgins.
Minutes. The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

Finance. The Secretary reported that the Bank Overdraft was £1721-13-10.
Arising out of the question of finance Mr Higgins enquired if it would be advisable to approach the Government with a view to getting an increase in the subsidy. Senator Blythe was of the opinion that the matter might be discussed by the Board when Dr. Hayes was present as he would be the Director most suitable to sound the Government or the Minister of Finance on the subject.

Larchet Presentation Fund. A letter was read from Mr George Shields enclosing £1=1=0 which he wished should be accepted as a contribution from him to the Larchet Presentation Fund.

Mr Higgins stated he had learned that Mr Larchet had arranged with Mr. Sean O'Sullivan for the payment by him (Mr Larchet) to Mr O'Sullivan of the difference between the £60 payable by the Theatre and the charge made for the portrait. It was Mr Larchet's intention to write to the Directors stating that the difference was being made up by a private subscription.

Dr. St. J. Finnis. The Board accepted the amendments made by Dr. St. John Finnis to the Contract for his play "Boyd's Shop".

Meeting of Sub-Committee and Contract Players on the 29th Jan'y and had explained to them the financial position and the policy of the Board regarding

productions. The meeting had been very amicable and at its conclusion the Players had thanked the Directors for having met them in this way. The Board were of the opinion that this meeting had been very useful and that it would materially help in the smooth running of the Theatre.

Mr. Hunt.

Mr. Hunt reported he had received a letter from Miss Seery complaining about the postponement of his new play. Mr. Hunt explained that for financial reasons it was considered advisable to put on the new Irvine play as soon as possible and that he would write to Miss Seery explaining the position to her.

Mr. Hunt also reported that there was no script of "Insurance Money" in the Theatre and no record of what had become of it. As the author, Geo. Shields had not a script either, the play could not be done at present and it was proposed to put on "Mountain Dew" instead.

Mr. Hunt then mentioned a play "Pete Pedepogue" by G. Meredith which had been submitted for consideration. He said it was a very experimental play and he would not suggest that it be put on for a week but he did suggest that it might be possible to rehearse it in the evenings and give it a special performance on a Sunday night in order to try it out. The Directors decided that they would read it without delay.

Louise (H), 1
7/2/96

7th July, 1936. Minutes of a meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on Friday, 7th July, 1936, at 5.30 p.m.

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

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

Finance. The Secretary reported that the Bank Overdraft was £1647-10-0.

P.H. Selby & Co. A letter was read from P.H. Selby offering the following terms:-

Belfast 45% up to £700 Pwms: 50% if over £700

Cork 55% up to £600 Pwms: 60% if over £600

The Board reluctantly decided to accept these terms for the real visit of the Company to these cities.

Mr. McSwiggan. A letter was read from Mr. McSwiggan enquiring if it was permissible for an author to know the personnel of the Reading Committee before sending a play to the Theatre for consideration. The Board decided that it was not permissible.

Messrs. James O'Connor & Co. Solicitors enquiring if the Directors had any objection to raise to the granting of Letters Patent to the Lessees of the Torch Theatre, Capel Street, Dublin. The Board decided that they had no objection.

Sean O'Sullivan. A letter was read from Mr. Sean O'Sullivan stating he was proceeding with the portrait of Dr. Larchet, size 16" x 26". The price of the portrait would be £80, of which the Abbey Theatre would contribute £60, the balance being provided by private subscription. The Board decided that no action need be taken in the matter.

Mr. & Mrs. Whyte. A letter was read from Messrs. Con & Co. Solicitors enclosing a copy of a letter written by Messrs. Hayes & Sons, Solicitors stating that Messrs. Whyte

were not prepared to accept less than £8,000 for their premises in Marlborough St. and that they would be willing to allow £4000 to remain outstanding on a first mortgage of the property at 5%. The Secretary reported that at Mr. Cox's request he had interviewed Mr. Cox regarding this matter. Mr. Cox had pointed out that if the £8000 were borrowed from the Bank at 5% the yearly cost of the premises including rates, repairs, insurance and ground rent would be about £565. Against this sum there would be a saving of £100 rent at present paid to Whytes for the basement and whatever sum would be saved by having additional space that would allow work to be done in Theatre which is at present sent out, scene building etc. Mr. Cox considered that borrowing the £8000 from the Bank would place the Theatre entirely at the mercy of the Bank and that the position was very different as it would be very unwise to allow the property to be acquired by an outside party.

The Directors considered the matter and decided that Messrs Whyte be asked to give permission for an inspection of the premises on Friday 21st February at 4.30 pm and that Mr. Mr. Scott be asked to join the Directors in their inspection.

Mr. Robinson said he was aware that the Royal Albert Hall Academy were definitely endeavouring to get premises and that it might be possible for the Theatre and the Academy to co-operate regarding Whytes. He said he would see Mr. Donist Otten and enquire from him.

The Board decided that the matter be left over until Friday, 21st

Mr Hunt's
report.

Mr Hunt reported he had had a further letter from Miss Acrony asking if the date of the production of his new play could be changed, as the date fixed would not be suitable to her. Mr Hunt said to alter the date would upset the present scheme of productions and the Board agreed with this view.

Mr Hunt also reported that Mr Cyril Cursetti had been offered a part in a film in London. If Mr Cursetti accepted the offer the Theatre would have no actor to play Young man parts, and Mr Hunt enquired if the Board would think it worth while to offer Mr Cursetti a short contract at a small salary. After some discussion it was decided not to offer a contract.

Mr Hunt pointed out that the problem of ^{obtaining} young actors and actresses for the Theatre was a very serious one. The School of Acting did not appear to have any people who would be useful and it seemed that no benefit would accrue to the Theatre from the School as at present run.

After some discussion it was decided that Miss Mooney be asked to come to the next Board meeting so that the matter could be gone into fully with her.

Painting the
Balcony.

The Board directed that Mr W. L. Scott be asked what his views were regarding the painting of the new plaster work in the Balcony.

W. L. Scott
14/2/26

14th Feby 1936. Minutes of a meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on Friday, 14th February, 1936, at 5.30 p.m.

Present. Senator E. Blythe in the Chair, Dr Richard Hayes, Mr F. 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 £2025.3.10. He stated that on the 27th September 1934 the Board had passed a resolution sanctioning the application for an overdraft to the extent of £2,200/10. As the overdraft was now approaching this figure, the Manager of the O'Connell St. Branch of the Munster & Leinster Bank was applying to his Directors for a renewal of the overdraft of this amount and was also informing them that an application for a larger sum might be received at a later date.

The Secretary informed the Board that the Government Subsidy of £1,000 would be payable in March and would probably be received about the middle of that month.

Issue of Share Certificates. The following resolution was proposed by Dr Richard Hayes, seconded by Mr Frank O'Connor and passed:-

"That in accordance with the resolution passed at a meeting of the Board held on the 24th January 1936, the Seal of the Company be affixed to the following Share Certificates:-
Number 15. One hundred shares of £1 each numbered 391

to 490 inclusive, to Kenneth Ernest Blythe.

Number 16. One hundred shares of £1 each, numbered 491 to 590 inclusive, to Frederick Robert Higgins.

Number 17. One hundred shares of £1 each, numbered 591 to 690 inclusive, to Michael O'Donovan."

This resolution was passed after the Share Certificates had been submitted, examined and passed. They were then sealed, signed and agreed to be issued.

Mr. from
Mr. Shields.

A letter was read from Mr. Arthur Shields stating he had recovered from his run-down condition and that he was ready at any time to resume his position as Assistant Producer. The Board decided that no change be made at present and that the matter be considered at a later date.

Mr. Deery.

A letter was read from Mr. Terence Deery complaining that owing to the postponement of the production of his play "Katie Roche", the play would now be produced during Lent, the worst part of the year. Mr. Deery asked for a promise that the play would be revived before the end of the summer. The Board decided Mr. Deery should be informed that the play would be revived at a later date and that it was also proposed to revive his play "Temporal Powers".

Mr. Mc Scott's
Letter.

A letter was read from Mr. Hugh Scott, Architect, offering two suggestions for the decoration of the new plaque work on the Balcony (1) painting it a cream colour to match the walls of the auditorium (2) inviting students of the School of Art to compete by submitting designs for treating the Balcony with murals of a suitable nature.

Mr. Scott also stated he was still endeavouring to reach an agreement with the Corporation authorities as to a satisfactory

method of providing safe dressing-room accommodation in case of fire and also a safe exit from the dressing rooms.

The Board decided that with reference to the Balcony, Mr. Pratt should consult the Athlete regarding the proposed competition by School of Mr. Students, and that with reference to the dressing rooms and safe exit, further news from Mr. Pratt should be awaited.

Miss Grove's
appeal against
change of cast in
Play the Stars

The Board considered the appeal made by Miss Grove against her being taken out of the part of Nora Clithorne in "The Play the Stars". The Chairman said he was against interviewing the Players regarding the casting of plays as it would create difficulties if it were decided to re-cast old plays. On the basis of the information at their disposal the Board had selected Miss Richards for the part of Nora Clithorne, as she was considered better than Miss Grove.

Mr. Higgins said it appeared that Miss Richards used the Theatre when it suited her and that under circumstances such as that it was unfair to the established Players that work should be given to others. It also appeared that Miss Richards was anxious to play the part owing to the fact that a casting Director of a Film Company was likely to see the play during the week, and that she had canvassed with this in view.

After some discussion it was decided on the motion of Mr. Stanner seconded by Mr. Higgins that Miss Grove be restored to the part.

Miss Grove was then interviewed and was informed by the Chairman that she was to play Nora Clithorne, that Miss Richards had been selected for the part as she was considered

better mixed to it, but that as Miss Richards had canvassed for the part it would not be given to her, as the Board could not operate if canvassing by the Players were allowed.

The Board reserved the right, as a matter of principle, to change the cast of any play and any judgment they might give, would only be given in the best interests of the Theatre.

Miss Grove thanked the Board and withdrew.

It was decided that in future any complaints from the Players to the Board should be in writing.

School of
Acting.

Miss Miss Morney having been called before the Board, Mr Hunt submitted the outline of a scheme for the re-organisation of the School of Acting. He pointed out that the function of the School was to supply new talent to the Theatre, that there was a necessity for closer relationship between the School and the Theatre and that under the present system many of the pupils being trained would be of no use to the Theatre. Mr Hunt went on to explain his proposed scheme of training under the headings Theory of Acting, Practice of Acting and Special class for Tweenite leads.

After some discussion it was decided on the proposal of Mr O'Connor seconded by Mr Higgins that the general principal of the scheme be adopted. It was also decided that the scheme could not be put into operation until after the end of the present session of the school and that in the meantime Mr Hunt should consult Miss Sara Payne as to the possibility of her giving the pupils lessons in Rhythmical movement as part of the new scheme.

Mr Hunt's
report.

Mr Hunt suggested "The End of the Beginning" a one act play by Sean O'Casey for production. Decision on this was postponed until the

next meeting of the Board.

The Far-Off Hells was selected for ^{the week commencing} 2nd March, the bill for the week commencing 9th March to be decided at the next meeting, and "Katie Roche" to be produced on 16th March.

Play Competition. During the absence of Mr Starkie the plays sent to him had not been read and it was decided that these should be divided among the Directors available in Dublin.

Bar in the Pit Café. Mr Higgins referred to the possibility of using the Pit Café as a bar and a resolution proposed by Mr Higgins and seconded by Mr O'Connor was passed "That Messrs Con & Co Solicitors, be instructed to take whatever steps are necessary for having a Bar in the Pit Café."

Jenny Robinson.

21st February. 1936

21st Feby. 1936. 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 21st February, 1936.

Present: Florence Robinson in the Chair, Dr Richard Hayes, Senator E. Blythe, Mr L. 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 £1969-5-6.

£s from Cornelie Fathers In reply to a letter from the Cornelie Fathers the Board decided there was no objection to amateur performances of "Professor Tim" to be given in the hall attached to the Church in Whitefriar Street, Dublin.

£s from Quin Kelly In reply to a letter from Miss Quin Kelly, Abbey School of Ballet the Board decided that she should arrange with Mr. Bent for a Saturday afternoon in April for the performance by her pupils in the Theatre as on some Saturdays the Theatre would not be free owing to dress rehearsals.

£s from Jim Deery A letter was read from Jim Deery thanking the Directors for informing him that his play "Marie Roche" will be revived and also that it was proposed to revive "Temporal Powers".

£s from Miss Sheila Richards A letter was read from Miss Richards complaining about her being taken out of the cast of "The Plough and the Stars". It was decided that the letter be acknowledged and Miss Richards informed that it had been laid before the Directors.

£s from Mrs Grace Plunkett A letter was read from Mrs Grace Plunkett declining to do drawings for the Abbey as she had done similar work for the Gate Theatre and had not been paid for it altho' the drawing had been published in one of the daily papers.

Letter from Miss
Ria Mooney.

A letter was read from Miss Ria Mooney complaining that she was getting very few parts in the Theatre and that her remuneration from the School of Acting was not sufficient to justify her in continuing her work there, and suggesting that the Directors might consider some one else for the next season. Miss Mooney also complained that she had not been cast for the part of Rosie Redmond in the current production of "The Plough & the Stars" altho she had been in the original cast.

Mr. Hunt said he had cast Miss Mooney whenever possible and after some discussion it was decided that he should report to Mr. Dolan that Miss Mooney should be employed when possible.

Whytes
Premises.

Mr. W. C. Scott, Architect, was interviewed by the Board and said he had examined Whytes premises. The building was perfectly sound, walls and roof in good condition. The floors could be taken out without any difficulty. He suggested that the frontage on Abbey St and portion of the Marlborough St. frontage could be converted into shops. He considered that £2,000 was the price asked by Whytes was a fair price and that the value of the site would increase.

It was decided that Mr. Scott should see the Directors again on Friday, 28th Feb. and that he should submit a sketch of his proposals re shops. It was also decided that Messrs. Whyte be asked to endeavour to get Messrs. Whyte to reduce their price.

O'Grady play

It was decided that "The End of the Beginning" a one act play by Sean O'Grady be produced at some late date.

The following bills were arranged in

Bills.

9th March "Autumn Fire" - Murray
23rd March "On The Rocks" - Shaw.
30th March "Last of the Heffernans" - Macnamara.
11th April "The Paving Day" - Shields.

Neryn Wall's play.

The Board considered the question of producing "The Phoenix and the Cockatoo" by Neryn Wall. Mr Hunt reported that he had met Mr Wall who was not very anxious that this play should be produced.

The Chairman said that both Mr Yeats and ^{he} himself had liked the play and that if it was decided not to produce it the author should be encouraged and asked to try another play. It was agreed that the play be not produced and that Mr Hunt should see the author, and encourage him to write another play and submit it.

Play Competition

It was decided that Mr Rutheford Payne and Mr Sean O Faolain be invited to act as final adjudicators in the Play Competition, the proposal being that three plays be submitted to them for final consideration.

Articles of Association.

It was decided that the amendments to the Articles of Association suggested by Mr Arthur Cox should be circulated among the Directors with a view to further consideration at the next meeting.

Mr Hunt's report.

Mr Hunt reported that with reference to the decoration of the Balcony, Mr Atkinson was not in favour of a Students' Competition for mural designs. He considered that such a competition would not be good for the students.

He suggested that Miss McKay be invited to submit designs. No Hunt said he had asked Miss McKay to submit two designs which were not to cost more than £20 each to carry out.

No Hunt also reported that as Miss Richards could not play in "Boyd's Shop" he had given the part to Miss Fulham.

He enquired as to the possibility of producing a verse play in the Peacock doing it as cheaply as possible and using as many evening people as were available.

The Board approved of the idea and suggested that as an alternative an experimental play might be produced in the Abbey on a Sunday night. The matter would be considered further at the next meeting.

No Hunt submitted the cast of "Katie Roche" which was passed as amended by the Board.

At Wednesday.

The Board decided that the Players be paid for Ash Wednesday, the Theatre being closed on that night.

Walter Starker.

- 28th Feb 1936 Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society. Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on Friday 28th Feb 1936 at 5.30 p.m.
- Present Dr. Walter Stukie in the Chair, Mr. Lennon Robinson, Dr. ~~Walter Stukie~~, Senator E. Hythe, Mr. F.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 £1821-2-0.
- Correspondence. A letter was read from the Dublin Jewish Dramatic Society asking the Directors to reconsider their decision not to let the Abbey Theatre to them for a Sunday evening performance. After some discussion it was proposed by Mr. Frank O'Connor seconded by Mr. F.R. Higgins "that the Board adhere to their decision not to let the Abbey Theatre for Sunday performances." This was passed, Mr. Robinson dissenting.
- Non-empire Ltd. A letter was read from Mrs. Empires Ltd. London enquiring if the Directors would consider a tour in Scotland or in England, and enquiring what plays would be likely to be done. It was decided that Mr. Hunt should obtain further information from the writers with details as to terms etc.
- R.K.O. Film Corp. A letter was read from the London Agent of the R.K.O. Film Corporation stating she was coming to Dublin and was anxious to discuss with the Managers of the Theatre the possibility of obtaining the services of Mrs. Eileen Grove, Mr. Harry Fitzgerald, Mr. Fitz No. Cornick & Mr. Arthur Shields for a film production of "The Plough & the Stars" to be made in Hollywood. Mr. Hunt reported that he had interviewed Mrs. Reiss, the Agent, and that the main proposals were:- That the production of the film

should commence on the 1st July next and that it would take about six weeks - the Players would in consequence be away from Dublin about ten weeks. Mr Hunt had suggested that the date of commencement should be put back to 1st June and that the Players should be back in Dublin by 24th July. The salaries he suggested were Mr Barry 750 lbs., Mr Shields 500 lbs., all per week and all guaranteed six weeks with return passages paid. The Elm Corporation were anxious to get these Players chiefly as a means of using the name of the Abbey Theatre in their publicity, and a sum of 750 lbs was mentioned as payment for the use of the Theatre's name and as compensation for the loss to the Theatre owing to the absence of these players for a considerable period.

The Board discussed these terms and Mr O'Monroe protested against the figure of 750 lbs. for using the Abbey Theatre's name. He stated that the Corporation should be asked for 500 lbs.

On the proposal of Mr O'Monroe seconded by Mr Higgins it was decided that Mr Hunt be instructed to conclude the negotiations and to reach an agreement with the Corporation and that if the date of commencement of the production was not put back to 1st June, then a sum of £1000 should be asked instead of £150 for the use of the Theatre's name.

Mr O'Monroe dissented from this decision maintaining that £1000 should be demanded in any event.

Mr Hunt then interviewed the Players interested and reported

to the Board that these players were agreeable that ten per cent of the salaries paid to them by the Corporation should go to the Theatre as compensation for the loss of their services.

Whyte's
Premises.

The Board interviewed Mr H. L. Scott, Architect who submitted plans for the erection of three shops on portion of Whyte's premises. He estimated the cost of ~~erecting~~ ^{erecting} these shops at £2,500 and considered that a very conservative estimate of the rent obtainable would be £3-10-0 each per week.

The area utilised in this way would not interfere either with the provision of a proper scene dock nor would it interfere with any future scheme for improving the Theatre.

The Directors discussed the matter very fully with Mr Scott and decided to consider the matter further at a later date.

The Articles of
Association

Amendments to the Articles of Association as suggested by Mr Arthur Cox had been circulated among the Directors and it was decided that Mr Cox be asked to prepare drafts of the suggested new Articles in order that the Board might consider them.

Mr Hunt's Report

Mr Hunt submitted the casts of "Far-Off Hills" and "Autumn Rise" which were approved. He also submitted an estimate of the cost of the production of "Katie Roche" which would be about £80-10-0 including cost, scenery and props.

Mr Hunt raised the question of "On The Rocks" by Shaw and the Board decided that the play should go on.

Mr Hunt then referred to a complaint which had been made to him by Mr. Robinson who considered the present cost of production was too high. Mr Hunt said it would be unfair for him to continue production if the Board were of Mr. Robinson's opinion.

Mr. Robinson said that as the financial year of the Theatre ended on 29th Febry. the Auditors Report for the year would be available in a few weeks and he thought that discussion of the matter raised by Mr Hunt should be postponed until the Report had been received.

The Board decided that Mr Hunt should proceed with his productions as arranged as the Directors were of opinion that the productions were very good and should not be interfered with.

Sunday Broadcasts from 2 R.N.

The Secretary reported that Mr John Mc Donagh of the Broadcasting Station was anxious to have ^{short} comedies broadcasted from the Studio by the Abbey Company on Sunday nights. The payment would be £10 per half hour and he was anxious to have the principal Abbey Players. The dates suggested were April 17 + 26, May 3rd and 10th.

The Directors were not anxious to accept this proposal as no profit was likely to accrue to the Theatre, and they decided that if the Players wished to make arrangements for these broadcasts they were at liberty to do so.

The Board decided that they would see a rehearsal
of the School of Acting on Friday 6th March at 6 p.m.

Cyril A. Hall
6/3/56

- 6th March 1936. Minutes of a meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin on Friday, 6th March 1936 at 5.30 p.m.
- Present. Senator E. Blythe in the Chair, Dr Richard Stokes, Mr F. 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 £1974 = 12 = 9.
- Mr Hunt. As Mr Hunt had obtained leave of absence his written report was read by the Secretary.
- R.K.O. Mr Hunt reported that he had interviewed Miss Reissa of the R.K.O. Corporation that he had asked £1000 for the use of the name of the Theatre and that Miss Reissa on behalf of the Corporation refused to consider the figure. Eventually the figure of £200 was agreed upon subject to confirmation by R.K.O. this figure to stand at whatever time the film was being made. Miss Reissa promised to do all she could to have the work done in time. The Players interested saw Miss Reissa and agreed to the terms that had been arranged.
- Mass Empires and English Tour. Mr Hunt reported that he had written to Mass Empires for full particulars as to percentages, theatres and the type of plays they would suggest for an English and Scottish tour. He also reported that he intended when in London and if time permitted, to visit the Mass Empires Office & also Thomas Howard & Wyndham with a view to obtaining information re tour for consideration by the

Board.

Yeats Plays Mr Hunt submitted a scheme for the production of two Yeats plays in the Peacock Theatre. The plays suggested were the verse version of "The Horse Glass" and "The Countess Cathleen".

The Board decided that consideration of the scheme be postponed until the next meeting when Mr Hunt would be present.

Mr Henry Wall. Mr Hunt reported that as requested by the Board, he had written to Mr Henry Wall suggesting that he might withdraw his play "The Phoenix & the Cockatrice". Mr Wall's letter agreeing to do so was read to the Board.

Miss Sara Payne Mr Hunt reported that Miss Sara Payne was prepared to take one class per week in rhythmical movement at a fee of one guinea per lesson without a pianist and 25p per lesson with one.

Mr Hunt also stated that he had asked Miss Devlin and one juvenile man from the University to compete for the School of Acting Scholarship. Miss Devlin had promised to do so but no reply had been received from the man.

"The Passing Day" The cast of "The Passing Day" by George Shells was submitted. The Board decided to consider it at the next meeting.

"On the Rocks" Mr Hunt asked the Directors to reconsider their decision re producing "On the Rocks" for the week of March 23rd. It was decided that this matter would also be considered at the next meeting.

The Directors then adjourned to the Peacock Theatre for a rehearsal by the pupils of the School of Acting.

Valentin Stanbury

13th March 1936. Minutes of a meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Theatre Society, Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30 pm on Friday, 13th March 1936.

Present Dr Walter Sturges in the Chair, Dr Richard Hayes, Senator E. Blythe, Mr & R. Higgins and 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 £1914-9-10.

Letter from Denis O'Shea. A letter was read from Mr Denis O'Shea stating that he was leaving New York for Dublin on 14th March.

Letter from Arthur Cos re Whiskey. A letter was read from Mr Arthur Cos stating that it would be some days before Messrs Whyte would give their final instructions to their solicitors regarding the price they would be willing to accept for their premises.

Ar. Cos re Licence. A letter was read from Mr Arthur Cos stating that the Letters Patent of the Theatre contain a clause (No. 13) prohibiting the sale in the Theatre or in any part of the Theatre premises of wines, spirits, beer, or any intoxicating or spirituous liquors, and that he was asking the Attorney General of the Free State Council if he would be willing to delete this clause. Mr Cos was of opinion he would refuse to do so without a formal hearing.

Ar. Cos re Articles of Assocn. A letter was read from Mr Arthur Cos stating he would prepare draft alterations in the Articles of Association and submit them for consideration by the Board.

Bull for 23rd March. It was decided that "Bridgehead" should go on for the week commencing 23rd March instead of "On The Rocks" as originally arranged. Mr Hunt explained that some of the original

Cost were not now available and that he found the people whom he wanted were playing at the Gate. Also the cost was very big and expensive and he doubted if the play could be done without a heavy loss.

Mr Robinson
and Gate Theatre

Dr. Hayes raised the question of Mr. Leonard Robinson acting as Producer at the Gate Theatre.

Mr. Higgins said Mr. Robinson had informed him that he was only producing one play, but Mr. Higgins considered it was wrong in principle for Mr. Robinson to be working at the Gate.

Senator Rhythe was of opinion that if it were only for one week no question would arise but if Mr. Robinson intended to produce at the Gate for any period, Sen. Rhythe was of opinion that Mr. Robinson should absent himself from the Abbey Theatre Board meetings.

Miss Murney
leave of absence

Mr. Higgins then referred to Miss Alice Murney's desire to be allowed to go to London to play in Lord Longford's play "Amulet of Jade" which was to be produced for two weeks at the Watkinson Theatre. In connection with this Mr. Hunt said Miss Murney had asked him if the public performance by the students of the School of Acting could be postponed until he return from London. Mr. Higgins said he considered that this accommodation of players was going too far and after some discussion it was decided that the Board would not put any obstacle in Miss Murney's way.

Production by
School of Acting

It was further decided while she was away the

members of the School should themselves put on in the Peacock Theatre "Cradle Song" for three nights and "Rising of the Moon" & "Land of Heart's Desire" for three nights. It was also decided that when the School is reorganised under Mr. Hunt's Scheme Miss Mooney should be paid £3 per week instead of £2 as at present. Mr. Munroe was against this decision.

R. K. O.

Mr. Hunt reported he had seen the RKO agent in London and that the Corporation would agree to £150 as the figure for the Abbey Theatre and that the salaries to the players would be Mr. McCormick and Miss Crowe - jointly 900 Abs. Mr. Barry Fitzgerald 750 Abs. Mr. Arthur Shields 500 Abs.

It was decided that Mr. Hunt should make an other effort to obtain £200 if possible for the Theatre.

Mr. Empires
Tour.

Mr. Hunt reported he had seen Mr. Phelps of the Mr. Empires Tours who had repeated a tour - Glasgow 3 weeks, Edinburgh 1 week, Liverpool 1 week, Leeds 1 week and perhaps Birmingham 1 week. Mr. Hunt was awaiting further information as to capacity of the theatre, percentages etc.

Yeats plays
in Peacock.

Mr. Hunt reported that some of the Players he approached with a view to producing Yeats plays in the Peacock considered the salaries offered were too low. There was also the difficulty that as some were playing in the Gaiety they would not be available. It was decided that the project be ^{postponed} dropped for the present.

Miss Payne's
Fee.

It was agreed that Miss Sara Payne be paid a fee of 2/6
(with a pianist) and 2/6 without, for ~~teaching~~ ^{each} class of
School of Acting pupils ^{taken} in rhythmic movement.

"Melanie's
Day."

The cost of The Passing Day - Geo Shields - was
submitted by Mr Hunt and passed.

Mr Red Johnson

Mr Hunt submitted a request made by Mr Red Johnson for
an increase of salary - his present salary being £3 per
week. It was proposed by Mr Hyman seconded by Lenora
Wythe and passed, the motion descending "that an
increase of 5/- per week be given to Mr Johnson."

Expense x (Hyman)
20/3/16

20th March 1936. Minutes of a meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Theatre Society / Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30 pm. on Friday, 20th March, 1936.

Present Senator E. Blythe in the chair, Mr. Lennon Robinson, Mr. Richard Hayes, Mr. F.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 £1,881-9-3.

Letter from Sean O'Sullivan. A letter was read from Mr. Sean O'Sullivan enquiring as to what price the Directors were prepared to pay for a suitable frame for the Larchet portrait. The Board decided to go to £10 for the frame.

P.M. Selby. A letter was read from P.M. Selby pointing out that the contracts sent to the Theatre by him for bookings in Belfast and Cork for next November had not been returned to him signed. It was decided to inform Mr. Selby that the contracts could not be signed at present as the Board had not as yet completed their arrangements for the Autumn.

Mr. J. Linnane. A letter was read from Mr. Joseph Linnane asking that his salary be increased from £2-10-0 per week to £3-10-0, ~~and~~ stating that he was at present being paid £4 per week at the Gate and that he had been offered £4-10-0 if he remained with the Gate Company.

It was decided that Mr. Linnane be informed the Board regretted they could not increase his salary.

Whyte's premises. A letter was read from Mr. Arthur Con stating that Messrs Whyte would not accept less than £8,000 for their premises.

and that the Theatre must take the premises at this figure or Jones Whyte will declare the negotiations off.

The Secretary reported he had seen Mr Cox who did not like the idea of the Directors venturing everything on this deal and leaving themselves at the mercy of the Bank from whom they would have to borrow the money. Mr Cox considered there would be no certainty that the suggested shops would prove a success, it was taking a very big risk and in view of the present financial position of the Theatre Mr Cox would be against the deal.

The Board discussed the possibility of obtaining financial help from persons ^{who might be} interested in the Theatre and it was decided that Dr. Hayes be asked to approach Mr Joseph McGrath and that Mr Robinson be asked to approach Mr Bryan Guinness in the matter.

It was also decided that the President of the Executive Council be asked to receive the Directors as a ~~deputation with a view to obtaining financial help from the Government.~~ in order that they might place before him the financial position of the Theatre and their views as to a reconstruction scheme which would result in a worthy National Theatre, if financial help could be obtained from the Government.

Application
for Licence.

The Secretary reported that Mr Cox was of opinion that a Memorial should be sent to the Executive Council asking that the Patent of the Theatre be amended so as to allow for the sale of wine, spirits, beer or any intoxicating

or spirituous liquors, but Mr. Con considered that if a formal hearing of the matter was insisted on by the Attorney General it would be necessary for the Directors to give the matter grave consideration before proceeding further.

Mr Hunt's
Report.

Mr Hunt reported that the Moss Empires Tour Syndicate were offering the Theatre 50% gross after receipts in the Alhambra, Glasgow and 55% in other towns. These terms appeared to be quite good.

The Board decided that if it were possible to leave a good Company to play in Dublin, Mr Hunt should proceed with arrangements for a tour of about six weeks during the months October - November next.

Mr Hunt also reported that as Mrs. Thorne would be away he proposed to stage the plays for the School of Acting in the Peacock Theatre during the week commencing 27th April.

It was decided that the School should reopen in July when the Theatre would re-open.

Re-arrangement of
prices of admission

The Board considered the question of the prices of admission and decided that next season the following alterations be made:-

Back Pit 1/6 instead of 1/- as at present
Side Balcony 1/- instead of 1/6 as at present.

New play by
Mr. Robinson.

Mr. Robinson referred to a statement which had appeared in the Irish Times to the effect that a new play of his was to be produced by the Gate Theatre Co. He explained that this was not a new play of his, it was a farce

adaptation which he had done in January 1935, it was a play which would be quite unsuited to the Abbey and as the Gate was looking for plays Mr. Whiston offered it to Lord Houghton, who had accepted it.

Mr. Whiston then submitted to the Board a new play of his entitled "When a Lovely Woman"

Given 2 1/2
27/3/36

Minutes of a

- 27th March 1936 Meeting of the Directors ~~was~~ held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin at 5.30 pm on Friday, 27th March 1936.
- Present Senator E. Blaythe in the Chair, Mr. Lennox Robinson, Dr. Richard Hayes, Mr. F. A. Hyffins, Mr. Frank O'Connor.
- Minutes The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.
- Finance. The Secretary reported that a Grant-in-Aid of £1000 had been received from the Minister of Finance on the 28th March and that the overdraft was now £861=18-6.
- Correspondence A letter was read from Sean O'Sullivan asking if he could have the Lancelot portrait in the R. H. A. Exhibition opening on the 30th April. The Board granted him permission to do so.
- Orchestra. The Board sanctioned the expenditure by Mr. F. M. May of £5 for the purchase of new music detailed in a list submitted by him.
- Hauptmann visit to Dublin Mr. O'Connor referred to the reported coming visit of Gustav Hauptmann to Dublin and suggested that he should be entertained by the Theatre. It was decided that he should be entertained to dinner and that a public performance of some Abbey play be given in his honour either on a Saturday afternoon or a Sunday night. Mr. Hunt was deputed to get into touch with the German Minister and obtain particulars as to when Herr Hauptmann would be in Dublin with a view to making the necessary arrangements.

Whyte's
premises.

It was decided to inform Mr. Whyte that the Theatre could not afford to buy his premises & Messrs Hunt & Gorman have deputed to interview Mr. Whyte and enquire as to the possibility of purchasing his yard which is adjoining the Theatre scene dock.

It was also decided that the Directors should approach the Government with a comprehensive scheme for the reconstruction of the Theatre which would embrace the deepening of the Stage and the improvement and deepening of the Balcony and Pit by taking in the area at present covered by the Research Theatre and Pit Café. It was also proposed that six Gaelic productions should be done during the year and that in view of this scheme the Government be asked to grant the Board financial assistance either by a free grant or by an increase of the Grant - in Aid by £1000.

Articles of
Association

It was agreed that consideration of Mr Cox's suggested amendments to the Articles of Association be postponed and that Sen Blythe and Mr. F. A. Higgins be appointed as a Sub-committee to report to the Board on these amendments.

Mr Hunt's
report.

Mr Hunt reported that the R. I. C. O. Corporation had agreed to the sum of £200 as a payment to the Theatre for the use of its name also that Mr Denis O'Dea had been offered a part in the film at 400 dollars per week.

Mr. Hunt also reported that he had learned from Mr. O'Dea that Mr. Wickes of Boston was anxious to have the Company booked for another tour in the United States. Mr. O'Dea also stated that a New York Electrical Agent was also anxious to book the Company for a tour and that he would probably come to Dublin for an interview with the Directors in May.

It was agreed that Mr. Cecil Forde a pupil of the School of Acting be paid £1 for playing in 'Bridgehead' the part formerly paid by Mr. J. Linnane.

3/4/36.

Squire & Co. (J)
7/4/36

3rd April 1936 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, 3rd April 1936.

Present Senator E. Wylie in the Chair, Dr. Richard Hayes, Mr. F.R. Higgins.

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

Finance. The Secretary reported that the overdraft was £862 = 14 = 11. He also read a letter from the Ministry of Finance stating that a provision of £1000 had been made in the Estimates for 1936-37 for a grant-in-aid of the expenses of the National Theatre Society Ltd.

Whyte's premises. Copy of a letter addressed to Mr. Arthur Con by John North Esq. was read. John North stated that there was another enquirer for Whyte's premises, a competitor to whom a thousand pounds or two would make no difference. The Board directed that Mr. Con be informed that they did not intend to proceed any further with the negotiations as they did not consider that the expenditure would be justified.

Mr. Hunt reported that he and the Secretary had interviewed Mr. Whyte and informed him the Theatre could not afford to purchase the premises. Mr. Whyte stated in reply that his Directors would be prepared to consider the best offer the Theatre could make. Mr. Hunt also reported that it would not be possible to purchase Whyte's yard which adjoins

the Theatre scene doeth.

The Board decided that Mr. Whyte be informed they did not propose to proceed any further in the matter.

Craig Gardner & Co.

A letter was read from Craig Gardner & Co. Auditors, forwarding copies of the Annual Statement of Accounts and Auditors' Report which contains the following passage "The allotment of fully paid shares to members of the Governing Body, as consideration for past and future services does not appear to us, in the circumstances of the case, to be consistent with the provisions of Clause 4 of the Company's Memorandum of Association"

The Secretary was instructed to forward to the Minister for Finance a copy of the Statement of Accounts with a covering letter replying to the Auditors' Statement, the terms of the reply to be obtained from Mr Arthur Cox a letter from the Century Insurance Co was read asking if the Theatre would be prepared to pay to Mr J. Stephenson £5 medical fees as part of a settlement of his claim arising out of the accident which occurred in January last. The Board decided that Mr Cox should be consulted.

Century Insurance Co.

Notes.

The following bills were paid:-

13th April - "The Passing Day" - Geo Shields

20th April - "Maland House in the City" - B. Macnamara

27th April - "Koylo's Shop" - St. J. Enrine

The play for the 4th May was not definitely selected. A new play "Heritage" was mentioned, if when the Directors

had read it they considered it suitable for production. Other plays mentioned were "The Whiteheaded Boy"; "The Toy God" a new production of "The Playboy" along with "The End of the Beginning" by O'Casey.

Advertisements

Applications for Theatre advertisements having been received from "Irish Travel" and "The Leader" it was decided not to advertise in either of these publications.

Mr Hunt's
report.

Mr Hunt reported that a broadcast from the Dublin Studio of "The Workhouse Ward" under the direction of Mr. M. J. D. O'Leary had been arranged for Sunday 19th April.

Mr Hunt also reported that the German Legation had no knowledge of a visit to Dublin of Gerhart Hauptmann and that he was making further enquiries.

Mr Hunt said he was arranging for ^{three} performances in the Peacock of the School of Acting commencing on 28th April, the ~~two~~ bills being (1) The Gadfly Song (2) Land of Heart's Desire, Spreading the News & ~~Pound a Demand~~ some other play. Mr. Twomey had suggested "Pound a Demand" by O'Casey but Mr Hunt did not approve of this suggestion.

It was agreed that Miss Twomey be paid for two extra classes she had held.

Mr Hunt then stated he had in company with Mr. H. Scott and the Secretary, inspected No. 27 Lr. Abbey St in the occupation of Mr. Patrick Ellis. The premises were in a bad state of repair and Mr. Scott would be able to suggest a reconstruction scheme for

rebuilding the Theatre and taking in the space occupied by Ellis's premises. This scheme would leave the Theatre independent of ^{the} area covered by Whytes premises.

The Board appointed Senator Blythe, Mr F.A. Higgins and Mr Plummer a sub-committee to interview Mr Scott on Wednesday, 8th April and to discuss fully with him his suggestions for a scheme of reconstruction.

The question of the date of the Annual General Meeting was considered and it was decided to wait until it was known when Mr Robinson would be able to attend.

Agreed - 16/1/1
17/4/36

of the Directors

10th April 1936. Minutes of a meeting of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 12 noon on Good Friday, 10th April 1936.

Present.

Dr. Walter Stalker in the Chair, Seated E. Blythe, Mr. F.R. Higgins, Mr. Frank O'Connor.

Mr. Hunt.

Mr. Hunt explained that the meeting had been called for the purpose of deciding upon a new play to rehearse after the production of "The Passing Day". He further explained that he would be rehearsing "The Playboy" with a new cast during the week immediately following the Priels play & that this production would be in preparation for the time when some of the Players would be away in America.

Strong's play
"The Brothers".

Mr. O'Connor suggested that the Directors might reconsider their verdict on Strong's play "The Brothers". Senator Blythe was of opinion that this play would not be popular.

Mr. Higgins asked if Carroll's new play "The Old Irishness" would be suitable. After discussion the question of this play was left open until all the Directors had read it.

Mr. O'Connor regretted that no reply had been received from the Adjudicators re the Play Competition. He pointed out that Mr. Sean O'Faolain had not received the plays altho these were to have been sent first to him.

Mr. Higgins telephoned to Mr. Matherford Mayne who

promised that the plays sent him for adjudication
would be returned to the Theatre on Saturday 11th. Apl.
Mr. Hunt was requested to send the plays to Mr.
O'Farlain and it was hoped the final result
would be available on Monday 13th April.
Mr. O'Connor then proposed that the winning Com-
petition play should be produced as the
new play to follow the Shields play.
Mr. Hunt urged the production of a poetic
play but after some discussion Mr. O'Connor's
resolution was generally accepted.

Carin. & Th. j
17/4/36

17th April 1936. 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, 17th April 1936.

Present. Leslie E. Blythe, in the Chair, Mr Michael Hayes, Mr F.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 £899-4-3. Mr Pyman Irvine wrote stating that the B.B.C wished to broadcast "Boyds Shop" about the end of the year and enquiring if the Directors would agree to this proposal. The Board decided that Mr Hunt should inform Mr Irvine that as it was likely the play would be done in Belfast by the Company before the end of the year it would be advisable that the play be not broadcasted later than June.

Whyte's Premises. A letter was read from Mr Arthur Con stating it was thought Messrs Whyte might sell their premises at a figure lower than they had previously named. The Board decided that Mr Con be asked to find out the lowest figure Whyte would accept.

Ellis premises. A letter was read from Mr Arthur Con re No 27 St. Abbey Street occupied by Martin & Ellis, stating that possession of the premises could not be obtained until 1st August 1937 and that if the Increase of Rent Act applied possession could not be obtained but only an increased rent. Also if possession of the premises were obtained for development or rebuilding of the Abbey Theatre, the Tenant would be entitled to what is known as fair compensation.

The Board decided to ask Mr. Con if he could say roughly what compensation the Tenant was likely to be awarded.

Recent issue
of shares.

Arising out of the Auditors' reference to this issue, in the Annual Statement of Accounts, a letter was read from Mr. Arthur Con stating he did not think Article 4 of the Memorandum of Association of the Company was inconsistent with this allotment. He did not consider this allotment of shares could be regarded as being a salaried office or "any office of the Company paid by fees" or "remuneration". Mr. Higgins said he had consulted a very good authority on Company Law as to the whole position of the new Directors and he (Mr. Higgins) had grave doubts as to the legality of the three new Directors. The Board decided that Mr. Higgins should consult Mr. Con and put the matter before him.

Compensation
to J. Stephenson

The Secretary reported that the Insurance Co. were endeavouring to effect a settlement by paying £7 plus £2-2-0 legal expenses, the Theatre to pay £5 medical expenses claimed by Mr. Stephenson. The Board agreed to pay the £5.

Mr. M. Scott's
report.

A long report on the condition of the Theatre building and the requirements of the Corporation having been received from Mr. Michael Scott, Architect, it was decided that copies of the report be sent to the Directors.

Increasing number
of Contract Players

The question of increasing the number of Contract Players was raised with a view to having more players either for touring

or for playing in the Theatre where a Company would be away on tour. Mr Hunt said that at the moment there was no scope for enlarging the Company and that there were not sufficient actors of any merit available.

Production of One Act Plays.

Mr Higgins said that apart from Mr Hunt's experimental work, no experimental plays were being produced and while the production of full-length plays of this type might not be possible, he saw no reason why the Theatre could not put on an experimental one act play every three or four weeks.

Mr O'Connor said he would like to see poetic plays done and it was eventually decided that when the new play "The Silver Jubilee" was being produced "Shadowy Waters" by Yeats should go on with it. It was then decided that "Temporal Power" by

W. B. Yeats be produced on May 14th and "The Silver Jubilee" on May 18th with "Shadowy Waters".

Mr Hunt's report.

Mr Hunt reported that Mr Barry Fitzgerald could have interviewed him and expressed his dissatisfaction with the parts he had been given. He complained that he got no variety of work and had been given too few leading parts. He felt that unless he could get better parts and more variety it would be wise for him to leave the Abbey and take whatever good engagements he could get elsewhere. He was not anxious to leave the Abbey and would prefer to stay here if conditions made it possible. The Board suggested that

Mr. Hunt should see Mr. Fitzgerald and reply sympathetically to him.

Mr. Hunt reported that the R.C.O. Corporation would not be able to say earlier than the beginning of May at what date they would require the players arranged for.

It was decided that Mr. Cowlan should in future obtain receipts for all payments made by him for stage purposes.

It was decided that on first nights if Directors had not taken up their seats fifteen minutes before the commencement of the performance, the Box office Clerk be at liberty to sell the seats to the public if other seats were not available.

Carver & Co. 1)
24/4/36

22nd April
1936.

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Athey Theatre, Dublin at 5.30 pm on Friday 22nd April 1936.

Present

Senator E. Blythe in the Chair, Lennox Robinson, D. Walter Sturkie, Dr Richard Hayes, Mr F. 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 £1153 = 19 = 1

Play Competition.

The reports of the Adjudicators Mr Sean O Faolain and Mr Rutledge Mayne on the following plays were read viz "Ray Good-night", "Alarm Among the Clerks" "Russell and Son". The reports of both Adjudicators on "The Silver Jubilee" had already been typed and copies sent to the Directors.

As the Adjudicators agreed that no play submitted to them was worth the prize Senator Blythe suggested that the prize be divided between "The Silver Jubilee" and "Ray Good-night". Mr Higgins thought the Board should obtain a new judgment on the plays. Mr Robinson was of the opinion that the Board should either make the final decision themselves or appoint some one disinterested person to judge the two plays and accept his decision.

It was finally decided that as no play had been recommended by the Adjudicators for the prize, no prize be awarded. and it was agreed that the Board be informed that no play was of a sufficiently high standard

justify the awarding of the prize but that the Directors were considering the possibility of producing some of them. The question of producing "Silos Tublee" was then considered. Mr Hayes said he would insist on the elimination of certain passages in the play which he considered offensive and objectionable.

Mr Hunt said he objected to producing the play. He said the author treated the subject as a joke and made comedy out of illegitimacy.

The Board decided that the Directors would attend a rehearsal of the play on Saturday 15th April at 12 noon and that having heard the play they would decide the question of its production.

Bills

The following bills were arranged:-

May 4th *Progeny and the Ferret*

11th *The Moon in the Yellow River*

18th *Shadowy Waters & The Shadow of a Gunman*

Contracts for
Mr Denis O'Dea or
Mr Cyril Curack

It was decided that a contract at £4-10-0 per week be offered to Mr Denis O'Dea and that in the event of his not accepting it, a contract at £3-10-0 be offered to Mr Cyril Curack.

Miss Kelly's
Ballets.

Mr Hunt referred to some of the ballets done by Miss Kelly's pupils at their previous performance and suggested that they might be included in an May Theatre bill of a suitable occasion arise, Miss Kelly being paid a sum of £8 or £10 per the week. The Board agreed with this suggestion.

Chas. J. Kelly
11/2/16

25th April
1936.

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin on Saturday, 25th April 1936.

Present

Dr Richard Hayes, Mr M. Higgins.

It was proposed by Dr Hayes, seconded by Mr Higgins and passed that the play "Silver Tubbies" is not acceptable in its present form and that it should be returned to the author with a request that he reconstruct it and if he so wished resubmit it when he had done so.

It was decided that rehearsals of the play should cease and that Mr Hunt should interview the author in order to point out to him what was considered offensive or objectionable.

The above decision was arrived at after Dr Hayes and Mr Higgins had seen a rehearsal of the play and had been informed by the Secretary that Mr. Sturkie did not consider it necessary to attend the rehearsal as he had just read the play and was definitely opposed to its production.

Approved JH/1
1/5/36

27th April
p 36.

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre Dublin called to consider the report of Mr. H.L. Scott, Architect on the improvements to the Theatre premises demanded by the Dublin Corporation authorities.

Present

Dr. Walter Stalkie in the Chair. Dr. Richard Hayes, Mr. F.R. Higgins.

Copies of Mr. H.L. Scott's report had been sent to all the Directors.

Dr. Hayes said that he had had a conversation with the Minister of Finance who had suggested that the Directors should, after the lapse of at least a month, ask for an interview with the President of the Executive Council and the Minister of Finance with a view to seeking financial assistance from the Government towards a scheme for rebuilding the Theatre. The Minister also suggested to Dr. Hayes that the Directors should be very careful not to bind themselves in any way to Mr. Scott for the carrying out of any reconstruction scheme as the Government would insist that any design for a new theatre be thrown open to competition.

Having considered Mr. Scott's report & the Board having had no direct communication from the Corporation authorities it was decided that the Secretary should write to the Corporation stating

the paragraph in the Rothe's report which referred to the provision of an emergency exit into the yard at the rear of the Abbey Bar as a temporary expedient, and asking the Corporation if this would meet their immediate requirements as the Directors were exploring the possibilities of a scheme for the reconstruction of the Theatre.

Mr Barry
Fitzgerald
& Film Co.
offer.

as a matter of extreme urgency, Mr Hunt reported that a Film Agent from London had interviewed him with a view to obtaining the temporary release from the Theatre of Mr. Barry Fitzgerald. The proposal was that Mr Fitzgerald be released for three weeks commencing 18th May and that he would receive from the Im Twentieth Century Film Co. £200 per week for work to be done in London.

The Directors dismissed the general position developing in the Theatre owing to the increasing offers of Film Companies and decided that in future contracts with Players a special clause regarding film work would have to be inserted.

With reference to the offer made to Mr Barry Fitzgerald the Board decided that while strongly disapproving of Players being allowed to break their contracts they were willing to give Mr Fitzgerald the following permission, namely leave from the Theatre for three weeks commencing 18th May 1936, ten per cent of his salary during these three weeks to be paid.

to the Theatre and in the event of his being retained by the Film Co. longer than these three weeks, a payment of fifty per cent of any salary received by him for the extra period to be paid to the Theatre.

These terms were to be conveyed verbally to Mr. Fitzgibbon by Mr. Hunt and in writing by the Secretary.

(Agreed with)
1/5/96

- 1st May 1936. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society, Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin at 5.35pm on Friday, 1st May 1936.
- Present Senator E. Blythe in the Chair, Dr Walter Sturges, Dr Richard Mayne, Mr J. H. Higgins, Mr Frank O'Connor.
- Minutes ~~The minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.~~
The minutes of the meetings held on the 24th, 25th and 27th of April 1936 were read, confirmed and signed.
- Payment of Adjudicators It was decided that a fee of three guineas be paid to each of the adjudicators in the Play Competition, Messrs Ruthford Mayne and Sean O'Faolain.
- Finance. The Secretary reported that the overdraft at the Bank was £1,223 = 17 = 6.
- Bills for remainder of season. Mr Hunt suggested "Professor Tint" for 25th May and this was agreed to. Mr Lennox Robinson's play "When Love Voman" was suggested for week commencing 1st June but as all the Directors had not read it a decision as to its acceptance for production was postponed. After further discussion it was decided that "Hassan" by Flecker be produced on 1st June.
- Plays after holidays Mr Hunt submitted a list of plays which he suggested might be done after the holidays and during the period

covered by the absence in Hollywood of Tim Gove, James Mc Cormick, Fitzgerald & Shields.

Mrs. suggested that the Theatre be closed from Saturday 6th June to Saturday 4th July and that rehearsals start on Monday 6th July, the Theatre re-opening on 13th July with "Drama at Irish". This was agreed to.

The following bills were decided upon:-

July 20 The New Gossoon

" 27th The Whiteheaded Boy

Thurs. Showweek "The Player Queen" (three nights)

" "Summer's Day" (three nights)

Aug 10th "The King of Spain's Daughter" & "The Playboy".

Aug - 17th A play to be selected later

Aug - 20th. "Thomas MusKerry".

Mr Hunt & School
of Acting.

Mr Hunt submitted the outlines of a scheme for the next session of the School of Acting which he suggested should start early in August, and should consist of a senior and a junior section. He also suggested that a class in "production", stage lighting & sound should also be held. These suggestions as outlined in Mr Hunt's scheme were approved of by the Board.

Com re 27/1
Alley M.

A letter was read from Messrs. Com stating that in the event of Mr Ellis being compelled to surrender his

Sub-Committee
on Plays

premises the Tudge would fix compensation at at least two or three hundred pounds and might possibly fix the amount at something very much more.

Mr. Higgins suggested the appointment of a permanent sub-committee who would report to the Board on likely programmes. He said that the most important function of the Board was the selection of the plays to be performed and that sufficient time and care was not at present given to this part of the Board's work. A permanent sub-committee could give careful consideration to various plays and could report fully to the Board at its weekly meetings. It was decided that the matter be discussed at the next meeting of the Board.

J. R. Higgins,

May 8th 1936.

8th May 1936.

Present

Minutes.

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30 pm on Friday 8th May 1936. Mr F.H. Higgins in the Chair, Mr Lennox Robinson, Dr. Walter Stankie, Senator E. Blythe, Mr Frank Monahan.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed. Arising out of the Minutes Mr Robinson said he would like some play selected in place of "The Whiteheaded Boy" which he considered needed a long rest and was very unlikely to draw if put on as suggested in July.

It was decided that Mr Hunt should suggest some other play.

Finance.

Sub-committee on plays.

The Secretary reported that the Bank Draft was £1410 = 11 = 8. Mr Higgins referred to his suggestion, made at the last meeting of the Board, that a permanent sub-committee be appointed to consider plays for production and to furnish fortnightly or monthly reports to the Board. After some discussion it was proposed by Mr Higgins, seconded by Mr Stankie and passed "that a permanent sub-committee be appointed who will report fortnightly or monthly to the Board on plays suitable for production".

It was decided that the sub-committee consist of Mr Lennox Robinson, Senator E. Blythe, Mr F.H. Higgins & Mr Hugh Hunt.

Decoration of Balcony.

Mr Hunt submitted a design by Miss McRae for the decoration of the Balcony. The Board however decided that it would be preferable to have the work done in plain colours and that estimates be obtained for doing it in colours selected.

Mr Denis Eden

A letter was read from Mr Denis Eden stating it had been agreed that his salary should be automatically increased each year

by one pound per week and asking that the Directors arrange his new contract on that basis i.e. £5-10-0 per week.

The Board decided that Mr. O'Shea be offered a contract up to the end of August 1936 at £5 per week, but Mr Hunt was given permission to go to £5-10-0 if absolutely necessary.

Mr. Ted Johnson A letter from Mr. Ted Johnson was read asking if the Directors would give him a contract at £4 instead of £3-5-0 the amount offered. The Board decided they could not raise the salary above the amount offered.

Mr. Cyril Curack A letter was read from Mr. Cyril Curack declining a contract as it might interfere with other work such as producing farcic plays. Mr. Curack stated he would be available he thought, whenever required by the Abbey and he was agreeable as far as non-farcic productions were concerned, to play only at the Abbey.

The Board expressed their appreciation of Mr. Curack's attitude.

Mr. Sean O'Faolain A letter was read from Mr. Sean O'Faolain returning the cheque sent to him as adjudicator in the Play Competition and stating he could not think of allowing the Abbey to pay him for that slight service.

The Board instructed the Secretary to write to Mr. O'Faolain saying they considered it extremely generous of him to have given his services without any fee.

Mr. Muriel Padgugne A letter was read from Mr. Muriel Padgugne thanking the Directors for their cheque value £3-3-0 for acting as Adjudicator in the Play Competition.

Miss Nina Thomey Mr. Hunt suggested that Miss Nina Thomey be given a contract and stated she was willing to accept a salary of £7-10-0

a week, this salary to include payment for her work in the School of Acting - the proportion Acting - £4-10-0, School - £3.

On the motion of Mr. George Whinnier, seconded by Dr. Walter Starkie it was agreed that Miss Wynn be given a contract at £7-10-0 per week, £4 to be considered as acting and School £3.

Mr Hunt's report

Mr Hunt reported that the Players going to Hollywood had been notified that they would sail on 17th June. It was decided that they would be given two weeks full pay for holidays.

It was also decided that when new contracts are signed the Players signing be notified that full pay ~~for~~ will not be paid for more than four weeks during which the Theatre is closed in one year.

Mr Hunt declined to accept full salary for himself during ^{as he considered the Theatre ought not to afford such high pay} the four weeks holidays and it was decided to give him half-salary, which he was willing to accept.

Times & Independent publicity.

Mr Hunt complained that publicity sent to the Times & Independent was not published by these papers and asked could some understanding be come to that they would give the Theatre a definite amount of space each week.

Mr Higgins promised to raise the matter with the Daily Times and thought he might also be able to do so with the Independent.

Mr Hunt

It was decided that Messrs. Halton be asked to give an estimate for sailing off and membership the

Seats in the Back Pit.

Czerny & Co.
15/5/36

- 15th May 1936 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, 15th May 1936.
- Present. Senator E. Wycherley in the Chair, Mr. Lennon Robinson, Mr. Richard Hayes, Mr. F.R. Higgins, Mr. Frank O'Connor.
- Minute The minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.
- Treasure The Secretary reported that the Bank overdraft was £1380-1-5.
- Play-Subcommittee. A behalf of the Play Sub-committee Mr. Higgins reported that the committee had selected a list of plays for production from July 13 to Aug 24, and he submitted this list for the consideration of the Board.
- Mr. Hunt reported that Miss Jean Ryle-Robertson might, if invited as a guest Player, accept an invitation to play in "The Player Queen". The Board authorised Mr. Hunt to invite Miss Ryle-Robertson and then approved of the following programme:-
- | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| July 13 | Drama at Night |
| 20 | Playboy & King of Spain's Daughters |
| 27 | For Off Hills. |
| Aug. 3, 5, 7 | Antenna Fire |

August 4, 6, 8 - Gail Gail, Plays Queen, Ballet.

Aug 10 Same bill as Aug 4 or New Gossamer

17 New Gossamer or Summer's Day

20 Summer's Day or Family Tailors

If this Robt-Whitson would play and remain for week of Aug 10 The Plays Queen bill would be continued, if not, The New Gossamer would go on on August 10. In connection with the above programme Mr Hunt said it had been drawn up on the assumption that Mr Denis O'Dea would be available. Mr Hunt now learned that Mr O'Dea was endeavouring to get a part in the N.I.C.O. Film in Hollywood and was negotiating for it through his Agent.

The Board having considered this matter decided that the Secretary should inform Mr O'Dea in writing that they strongly disapproved of his attitude towards the Theatre and that he should have informed them of his intention to look for a part in this film.

They also wished him to know that no promise of future work in the Theatre could be given to him in the event of his returning to Dublin at a later date.

It was decided that if it were necessary to reconsider the above programme a further meeting of the Play Sub-committee be held as soon as possible.

Mr Red Johnson. A letter was read from Mr Red Johnson accepting the

Donald Arthur
and Russian
Ballet.

Short term Contract offered to him at £3-5-0 per week.
A letter was read from Mr Donald Arthur enquiring if the
Theatre would be available for a season of Russian Ballet. It
was decided that a reply be sent stating when the Theatre
would be vacant and giving the capacity of the house and
the size of the stage and Orchestra.

General Theatre
Co. n.

It was decided that an autumn tour of England and
Scotland could not be undertaken this year and that
Mr H. Shingby of the General Theatre Corporation, London,
be so informed.

Mr Scott's
report.

The Secretary informed the Board that Mr. Michael
Scott reported that plans for an emergency exit from
the dressing rooms would be lodged with the City
Architect on Monday 18th May, that the cost would
be approximately £40 and that if it was necessary
to sheet the ceiling of the scene dock with asbestos
sheeting another £15 approximately would cover the
cost.

24/5/36.

Agreed n 14/7/
22/5/36

22nd May 1936

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society. Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on Friday, 22nd May 1936 at 5.30 p.m.

Present

Senator E. Blythe in the Chair, Dr Walter Storkie, Dr. Richard Hayes, Mr. F.R. Higgins, Mr. Frank O'Connor. A letter was read from Mr Robinson apologising by his absence.

Minutes.

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

Financial.

The Secretary reported that the overdraft at the Bank was £1737-8-1.

Mr Robinson's play

"The Lonely Woman"

As a majority of the Directors present considered the play unsuited for the Abbey Theatre it was decided that it not be accepted. Dr Storkie and Mr Higgins were in favour of acceptance, Dr Hayes, Senator Blythe and Mr O'Connor against.

Play Sub-

Committee.

The Play sub-committee reported that they had again considered a programme for the beginning of next season, on the assumption that Mr Denis O'Dea would not be available and submitted the following list which was approved by the Board:-

July 13 Drama at Irish

" 20 Play boy & King of Spain's Daughters.

" 27 Far Off Hills

Aug. 3-5-7 Autumn Air

" 4, 6, 8, Saul Gabe, Playes Queen & Ballet.

" 10 Same bill as 4.6.8 or Professor Tim

" 17 Professor Tim or Summer's Day

" 24 Summer's Day or Aristotle's Helix and

The Ragnaninnion's Bones.

"The Silver
Tubilee"

Mr. Hanger reported that in his opinion this play as recently revised by the author was generally all right. It was decided that A. Starkie who was also against its production in its original form should read the revised version and report to the Board his opinion of it. It was also decided that if the play was being produced Mr. Dolan should play the part for which Mr. Cowlan had been originally cast.

Back Pit
Seats.

An estimate was submitted from Messrs. Hilton Bros for supplying and fitting 101 arm rests at a cost of £15 = 8 = 6 and for supplying and fitting number plates at a cost of £1 = 15 = 0. The Board accepted these estimates and decided that Messrs. Hilton be instructed to carry out the work.

Cable from
E. A. Wickes

The Secretary read a cable from E. A. Wickes, Boston, asking for schedule of players going to Hollywood for "The Blough & the Stars". The Secretary also read reply sent to J. Wickes stating that Jimmie Corrigan, McCormick, Fitzpatrick & Shields were going and that they would return at the end of August.

Mr. Hunt's
report.

Mr. Hunt reported that he understood Mr. Denis O'Dea had been offered the part of "The Young Currier" in "The Blough" film at a salary of 400 dollars ~~but~~^{and} that Mr. O'Dea wanted 500 dollars and would accept the part at that figure.

Mr. Hunt also reported that Mr. Curran had inserted in his London contract a clause which enabled him to retire from the cast whenever the M. H. Theatre needed him.

The Board considered that Mr. Curran was showing great

Consideration and loyalty to the Theatre and the Secretary was instructed to write to him ^{saying} how much the Directors appreciated his attitude.

Mr Hunt also stated that Mr Denis Carey had written asking for parts and would be available if needed when the Theatre re-opened.

Mr Hunt suggested the possibility of a short season in London in the autumn and the Board authorised him to interview London Theatre Managers and report the result to them at a later date.

The part of Septimus in "The Player Queen" was considered and Mr Hunt suggested that Mr Lennox Robinson be offered the part. The Board agreed.

Revision of
Players Contracts
re
Film & Broadcasting
Work

It was decided that in order to safeguard the Society in the event of contract Players being offered film or broadcasting engagements, Mr Arthur Cox be asked to draw up new clauses covering the following points suggested by Mr Hunt: -
thought of the Society to act as the Agent for the Player:
the submission to the Society by the Player of all offers of such work:

thought of the Society to arrange the terms on which the Player may accept the work.

It was also decided that clauses be inserted covering the granting of annual holidays, payment to the Player when the Theatre is closed for whole or part of a week, payment to the Player who is only playing part of a week.

Proposed interview with the President

The question of asking for an interview with the President of the Executive Council and the Minister of Finance was considered and it was decided that before doing so a memorandum outlining the Board's proposals for a scheme of reconstruction of the Theatre should be prepared. Mr Higgins was deputed to draw up in collaboration with Mr Hunt and the Secretary, a draft of this memorandum and to submit it to the Board for consideration.

Smoking in the Auditorium

The question of smoking in the Auditorium was considered and as complaints had been made by patrons and as smoke from the Auditorium to the stage was very uncomfortable for the Players, it was decided that smoking should not be permitted next season owing to the unsuitability of the auditorium and the lack of proper ventilation.

Rubus Hay
29 May 1936

29th May 1936. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30 pm on Friday, 29th May, 1936.

Present Mr. Richard Hayes in the Chair, Mr. James Robinson, Director E. Myths, Mr. Frank Stannon. Mr. F.R. Higgins came at the close of the meeting.

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

Finance. The Secretary reported the Bank overdraft was £1757-18-0.

Mr. Denis O'Dea It was decided that Mr. Denis O'Dea be given a contract at £5-10-0 per week from the 6th July 1936 to 29th August 1936.

Miss Craig A letter was read from Miss Craig complaining of the cut in her salary and complaining that she was the only Contract player whose salary had been cut.

The Directors decided that they could not accept the principle that all Contract Players should be paid the same salary, that the reduction in Miss Craig's salary had been made for reasons of economy, it being considered that in view of the work she was doing the scale of £7-10-0 was too high.

Whyte premises. Mr. Con forwarded a copy of a letter received from Messrs North & Co. stating that Messrs Whyte were not prepared to accept for their premises a lower figure than had been named in earlier correspondence. The Board decided that no further action be taken in the matter.

Russian Ballet. A proposal from Mr. Donald Arthur was submitted

that the Russian Ballet Co. might do matinees in the Theatre during the week June 8th. The Board decided that as the staff would be on holidays it would not be feasible.

Miss Sayers
for Mail.

In reply to a letter from Miss Sayers asking for seats for the first performance of "Hanson" the Board decided they would not alter the decision made on the 14 Nov. 1935 which was that Miss Sayers was not entitled to seats as two seats were issued for all first nights to the Evening Mail.

Miss Jean Forbes-
Robertson.

A letter was read from Miss Forbes-Robertson expressing her willingness to come and play in "The Player Queen" and stating her usual terms were 10% of the Gross with a guarantee of £15 per week. The Board decided that Miss Robertson be offered 7% with a guarantee of £18.

Horse show
week prices
Parnell play.

The following prices were fixed:- Stalls - 5/-, Centre Balcony - 3/-, Side Balcony - 1/6, Pit 2/-.

Mr. Ottemer mentioned the Parnell play which had run in New York and was now running in London. It was decided that a copy of it be obtained and circulated among the Directors.

"The Silver Jubilee" Mr. Hays referred to the revised version of "The Silver Jubilee" and proposed that the play be accepted and that the author be paid £25 plus royalties. This was unanimously agreed to.

It was agreed that at a later date the National University Dramatic Society be invited by Mr. Hunt to give a performance of "Baile's Strand" in order that he might see if any of the cast would be useful additions

to the Abbey Company. It was also decided that the members of the Society might be invited to join the Abbey School of Acting.

Sam Robinson

June 5th 1936

5th/36.

- 5th June 1936. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society, Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on Friday, 5th June, 1936, at 5.30 p.m.
- Present Mr. Lennon Robinson in the Chair, Dr. Richard Hayes, Senator E. Blythe, Mr. F.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 £1887-15-10.
- Musical Directorship. The Board decided that Mr. Frederick May should be informed that the confirmation of his appointment as Musical Director was being deferred.
- Viola player in Orchestra. It was also decided that consideration of Mr. Mayo's application for the addition of a Viola player to the Orchestra should also be deferred.
- Future Contracts. It was decided that new contracts for one year be given to the following Players:- Miss Gowe @ £7-10-0 per week, Miss Delany @ £7-10-0 per week, Miss Gray @ £6-10-0 per week, Mr F.J. McCormick @ £7-10-0 per

week, Mr H. J. Dolan @ £7-10-0 per week, Mr Arthur Shields @ £7-10-0 per week, Mr Barry Fitzgerald @ £7-10-0 per week.

Mr A. O'Connor

It was also agreed that Miss Aileen O'Connor be retained in her present position @ 30/- per week and that Miss Tanya Moiseiwitsch be retained @ £5 per week, but that an effort be made to get an art student willing to come to the Theatre and be trained as a scenic artist and designer with a view to eventually taking Miss Moiseiwitsch's place.

Assistant-
Producer.

The Board decided that as from the end of August the post of Assistant-Producer should be abolished and that Mr H. J. Dolan be notified of the fact.

Future policy
re Contract
Players.

The Board when considering the future salaries of the Contract Players decided against an all round cut in salaries and ruled that the future policy should be to systematically leave these Players out of the costs of plays in order to give training to younger players and so enlarge the number of useful and reliable players with a view to being able in the near future to send a Company to America or England while at the same time having a thoroughly competent Company playing in the Theatre.

Pay for
holidays.

The Board decided that Miss Gray, Miss Moiseiwitsch, Mr Dolan, Mr Carlan, Mr Wright be paid four weeks pay for holidays and that Mr Delany be also paid

for four weeks on condition that she sign a Contract on the expiration of her film Contract. Miss Aileen O'Connor to be paid for two weeks and Miss Crowe Messrs Mc Cormick, Shields + Fitzgerald to be also paid for two weeks as previously agreed upon.

Uniform
Trousers.

The Board agreed that uniform trousers be supplied to the three men attendants.

Painting the
Balcony.

Tenders were submitted for the painting of the new plaster work on the Balcony. The four estimates were Messrs Durtz $\pounds 4-10-6$, Messrs Dolan $\pounds 4-10-0$, Messrs Malcolm $\pounds 4-15-0$, Messrs Dockrell $\pounds 3-17-6$. It was decided that Messrs Dockrell be instructed to do the work.

The Green
Room.

The Board agreed that a new Rush Carpet be bought for the Green Room, costing $\pounds 2-10-0$, that the chairs and sofa be repaired by Mr. P. Harte at a cost of $\pounds 3$ and that new covers be made for them at a cost of $\pounds 7-10-0$.

Evening Mail

A letter was read from the Lady Correspondent of the Evening Mail complaining that she had been refused seats for first nights. The Board decided that no action be taken in the matter which had been fully dealt with on previous occasions.

R. K. O.

Mr Hunt submitted a Contract received from the R. K. O. Film Corporation for the use of the Abbey Theatre name in connection with the forthcoming

Coming production of "The Plough and the Stars".

It was decided that two clauses of the Contract be struck out (1) barring the Society from allowing the name of the Abbey Theatre and "The Abbey Players" ^{to be used by} any other film corporation for a period of 18 months, (2) imposing on the Society the obligation to obtain from the Irish Free State Government permission to publish the statement that the Abbey Players are appearing in the film through the courtesy of the I.F.S. Government. Mr. Hunt was authorised to sign and return the contract as amended.

Chas. H. J.
12/6/36

12th June 1936

Minutes of a Meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on Friday, 12th June, 1936.

Present.

Mr. Earnest Blyth (in the Chair), Mr. Walter Starkie, Mr. Richard Hayes, Mr. F.R. Higgins & Mr. Frank O'Connor.

Minutes.

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

Arising out of the Minutes Mr. Starkie asked that it should be placed on record that he entirely dissented from the criticisms of the Orchestra as conducted by Mr. Ray which had been made at the previous meeting.

Finance.

The Secretary reported that the Bank Overdraft was £2017/19/-.

Actors' Agreements.

The Solicitors Draft of the new Actors' Agreements was considered and approved subject to the omission of the subsections providing for payment in respect of a Flying Matinee to an actor not performing therein, and the insertion of words to cover the right of the Society to claim a percentage of an actor's salary from a film company and of clauses binding the actor to perform in the Peacock at a reduced salary for not more than five weeks, and setting forth the method of notifying instructions to members of the company. It was decided that the salary for playing in the Peacock should be £5 per week and that the fine for absence from rehearsal be one sixth of the week's salary for each such absence.

Mr. Hunt:
Cambridge Visit
Dramatic
Competition.

A letter from Mr. Hunt with reference to a suggested visit to Cambridge and a suggested Competition for Amateur Dramatic Societies was considered & the subjects were discussed with Mr. Hunt per phone. Mr. Hunt was authorised to investigate while in England the possibilities of a visit to Cambridge. The Directors were not favourably disposed towards the idea of a Dramatic Competition.

Inspector of
Taxes.

A letter from the Inspector of Taxes was read & noted and ordered to be dealt with by the Secretary.

Frank
D'Alton.

The Secretary reported the death of Frank D'Alton who had been Messenger at the Theatre for over twenty years. He was instructed to send a letter of sympathy from the Board to the relatives.

Season Tickets

D^r. Hayes raised the question of the possibility of the issue of Season Tickets, but, after discussion, no action was taken.

Shares.

It was decided that shares in the Society should be transferred to D^r. Starkie.

Walter Starkie

27th June 1936

Minutes of a Meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on Friday, 27th June, 1936.

Present.

D^r. Walter Starkie (in the Chair), D^r. Ernest Blythe, D^r. F. R. Higgins & D^r. Lennon Robinson.

Minutes.

The Minutes of the previous Meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

Finance.

The Secretary reported that the Bank Overdraft was £2,179/11/5. He reported the receipt of a cheque value £198/19/1 from R.K.O. Radio Pictures, being the

equivalent of \$1,000 at the rate of exchange on 12/6/36.

Actors'
Agreements.

The Secretary submitted ~~amended~~ Actors' Agreements amended by Messrs. Arthur Cox & Co in accordance with the decisions come to at the previous meeting. He stated that he had sent copies of the Agreement as amended to Miss Crowe and Messrs. F. J. McCormick, A. Shields and W. Shields for signature; but that they had not had time to consider the Agreements and sign them before leaving for Hollywood. The Directors took away copies of the Agreement for final consideration prior to having it printed.

Mr. Dolan's
Report.

Mr. Dolan reported that Mr. Denis O'Dea had accepted an offer from R. K. O. Pictures and had sailed for the U. S. A. This necessitated changes in the casts of forthcoming plays. The casts for "Drama at Smith" and "Far Off Hills" were discussed and certain alterations were decided upon. Mr. Higgins pointed out that much of this discussion would have been saved had there been in existence Minutes of the proceedings of the Play Sub-Committee. It was decided that such Minutes should be kept in future.

Whyte's
Premises.

A letter from Messrs. Arthur Cox & Co was submitted stating that Messrs. Whyte were prepared to sell for £7,000. It was decided that the price was not sufficiently tempting to make it worth while reopening the matter.

Gaelic
Players.

The Secretary was directed to inform the Gaelic Players that the Directors were not prepared to let the Peacock Theatre for a period of seven months but would be prepared to consider lettings for individual weeks during the autumn & winter.

F. D'Alton.

A letter was read from Miss D'Alton, thanking the Directors for their sympathy on the death of her brother.

Broadcasting.

The Secretary reported that the Director of Broadcasting was anxious to broadcast from the stage on the 13th July the first Act of "Drama at Irish". This was approved of.

R.N.L.I.

It was decided not to contribute to the funds of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

Box Office
Staff
Salaries.

It was decided that the members of the Box Office staff be paid half salaries for the two remaining weeks of the holidays.

Lovell n 84 1/
10/7/36

10th July 1936.

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, 10th July, 1936.

Present

Mr Ernest Blythe in the Chair, Dr. Richard Hayes, Mr F. R. Higgins and 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 $\pounds 2,260 = 9 = 4$.

Mrs Rita Moray.

A letter was read from Mrs Moray regretting that owing to illness she would not be able to play in "Drama at Rush".

Mrs Ann Clery.

A letter was read from Mrs Clery asking what were her prospects of regular work in the Theatre. The Directors decided that every effort would be made to fit her in to casts when possible, but that they could not offer her a contract nor could they guarantee her regular work.

Arthur Cox & Co
re Canopy.

A letter was read from Messrs Arthur Cox stating they had received an acknowledgment from the Tramway Co. of a claim for damage done to the Canopy in Marlborough St by a Tramway Co. Bus, but Messrs Cox did not yet know whether the Company would admit liability.

Mr Cyril Cusack

An application from Mr Cusack was read, asking for a salary of $\pounds 5$ per week when playing and half when rehearsing and not playing. The Directors decided to offer Mr Cusack a contract at $\pounds 4$ per week with the proviso that when he was engaged on the production of farcical plays and was not available in the Abbey he should not be entitled

to half salary from the Theatre.

Gaelic Players in
Peacock Theatre.

An application was read from the Gaelic Players for letting to them of the Peacock Theatre on Oct 5th + 19th, Nov. 2nd and 16th, Dec. 7th, 1936, Jan 11th + 18th, Feb 1st + 15th, March 1st, 15th and 29th, 1937.

The Directors decided to let the Theatre as requested, at a rent of £8 per week, payable in advance before each letting.

Miss Young.

The Board decided that Miss Young be paid £4-10-0 for playing "Drama at Irish" for week ending 18/7/36.

Appointment
of new
messengers.

Applications for the post of messenger in place of Frank Dalton deceased were considered and the Board decided to appoint Robert Shann at present employed at night as a ticket checker, and to pay him £1 per week for his work as messenger.

Broadcasting.

The Board considered a proposal to have comments broadcast from the Vestibule after Act I of "Drama at Irish" on Monday 13th July. It was decided that Mr. Kearney be asked to postpone this broadcast until some special occasion occurred, when proper arrangements could be made and approved of by the Board.

Mr Hunt's
report.

Mr Hunt reported that Mr. Yeats did not wish "The Playboy of the Western World" to be shown here and would not give permission for its production. Mr Hunt also reported that Mr. Ronald Adair of the Embassy Theatre was very anxious that the Abbey Co. should play "Katie Morike" in his theatre. He said it would probably pay its way but would not make any profit.

The Board discussed the possibility of reproducing

some other play instead of "The Play or Queen" and asked Mr Hunt to read Lady Gregory's "Grania" which had been suggested by Mr. Feets. The Board also asked Mr Hunt if he could evolve a scheme for a second Company with a view to enabling the Theatre to send a Company on tour.

Mr Hunt also reported a complaint from Mr. H. P. Dolan that he had been only paid half acting salary for weeks ending 11th July. The Board decided that Mr. Dolan had been correctly paid.

Estimated
Expenditure.

The Secretary reported that the Auditors were satisfied that £87 per week would be a correct estimate of expenditure, exclusive of acting salaries, staff salaries and promotional fees. This figure of £87 did not take cognisance of the Government subsidy of £1000.

It was decided that the Finance Sub Committee should meet on Thursday, 16th July, to examine the weekly expenditure, with a view to making any economies that were practicable.

"The Arrow".

The Secretary reported that an estimate furnished by Messrs Grogan & Wilson stated that 500 copies Cr. quarto, 8 pages and covers, body matter set in 10pt. type would cost approximately £6-8-8.

Mr Hyginis promised to go into the matter with the printers, with a view to having more pages, larger type and a certain quantity of advertising.

Quinn (K1)
14/4/36

12th July 1936.

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society, Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on Friday, 12th July, 1936, at 5.30 p.m.

Present

Mr. Ernest Blythe in the Chair, Mr. Richard Harpur, Mr. F.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 £22,56-0-1.

Archibald Paterson

A letter was read from Mr. Sean O'Sullivan asking if the Board would allow a coloured reproduction of the Larchet portrait to appear in the Capuchin Annual. The Board agreed.

Cyril Cusack

A letter was read from Mr. Cyril Cusack stating he regretted he could not accept a contract at £4 per week.

Mr. Hunt stated that he considered Mr. Cusack worth £5 a week to the Theatre and that he thought Mr. Cusack would accept £4-10-0. The Directors decided they would not increase the offer already made, viz. £4 per week.

Miss Craig.

A letter was read from Miss Craig asking the Directors to reconsider the reduction of £1 per week which had been made in her salary. The Board decided the matter could not be reconsidered.

Sydney Carroll.

A letter was read from Mr. Sydney Carroll, Ambassadors Theatre, London, saying he would not at the moment consider a visit of the Company - October or November, but that he was very much in favour of trying to arrange an Abbey Theatre season on mutually satisfactory terms. The Board decided that Mr. Hunt should make enquiries from other London managers as to the possibilities of a short Notey season.

Annual General Meeting.

It was decided that the Annual General Meeting of the Society

should be held in September, on a date to be fixed later, and that if necessary, the meeting be held in Mr Yeats's house in Rathfarnham.

Horse Show Week. It was decided that "Thomas Muskerry" by Padraic Colum and "Meadowsweet" by Seumas O'Kelly be the bill for three nights in Horse Show Week (Aug. 4th, 6th, 8th.).

Mr Hunt's report. Mr Hunt reported that "Drama at Irish" was being continued for a second week as the business so far had been extraordinarily good and it was almost certain that the second week would also show some profit.

Mr Higgins drew attention to the fact that the sanction of the Directors had not been obtained for this change of programme. He stated that they should have been consulted, if necessary by phone so as to obtain their formal approval. Mr Hunt explained that the decision had to be taken on the Wednesday morning and that at the moment it was not possible to get into touch with any of the Directors by phone.

Mr John Stephenson. Mr Hunt reported that on the previous Friday evening, after the Board meeting, Mr Stephenson had thrown up his part in "Drama at Irish" because he had not been left in the cast of "The King of Spain's Daughter." Mr Ned Johnson had taken up the part in "Irish" on Saturday morning and had given a very good performance on the following Monday night, being word perfect. The Board decided that Mr Stephenson be informed that his services would not be further required in the Theatre. They also agreed to the payment of 15/- extra, given to Mr Johnson for his work in getting up the part

at such short notice.

Mr Hunt stated that arrangements for the production of "The Doctor" were now completed. The play would be done during the week commencing Monday August 10th. with Miss Jean Forbes. Mr Weston and Mr Michael MacLennan in the cast. The Board decided that if "Thomas Mather" were suitable in length it could go on with "The Doctor"; if not, Mr Hunt could suggest some alternative.

14th 3. May. The confirmation of Mr Frederick May's appointment as Musical Director was considered and it was proposed by Mr F.N. Higgins seconded by Mr Frank O'Connor and passed "that Mr May's appointment be confirmed and that it be subject to termination at three months notice on either side."

Players ap-
proaching
Directors personally. Mr Higgins referred to the practice of certain Players approaching Directors personally with reference to their grievances in connection with their work in the Theatre.

He considered that this practice should be stopped. The Board agreed with this view and ordered that a notice be put on the notice board asking the Players not to approach Directors personally but to communicate with the Board through the Manager or the Secretary.

Edwin 28/11
24/11/36

24th July 1936. 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 July, 1936.

Present Mr Ernest Blythe in the Chair, Dr. Richard Hayes, Mr F.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 £2172.18.10 to 2017-18-3.

Mr. F. May. A letter was read from Mr. F. May thanking the Board for confirming his appointment as Musical Director. Mr. May also asked for a few days leave of absence at the end of September in order to attend a Musical Festival at Norwich. It was decided to grant Mr. May leave on condition that he supplied a suitable substitute as pianist in the Orchestra during his absence.

Mr. Thomas Albery. A letter was read from Mr. Albery stating he would be very pleased to arrange a short season of the Abbey Theatre in London, but that it would not be possible at present to arrange as far ahead as October or November, and promising to bear the suggestion in mind.

Play to go into Decade. It was decided that ~~if at all possible~~ Mr. Hunt should arrange for "Thomas Quaker" to go on with "Deirdre", and that as the bill would be longer than usual, the performances should commence at 8 p.m. sharp.

Broadcast of Thomas Quaker. The Board agreed with a proposal made by Dr. Keernan that the First & Second Acts of "Thomas Quaker" be relayed from the Theatre on Tuesday, August 14th and that a social commentary be relayed between the acts.

Actors Con-
tracts.

The Board approved of the new Agreements with Actors drafts of which had been submitted on 27th June and decided that they be given to the Players concerned, as soon as possible.

Mr Hunt's
report.

Mr Hunt a recent ~~broadcast~~ interview with Miss Gracie Fields broadcast from 2 R.N. in which the interviewee appeared to suggest that the Abbey Theatre was closed for a part of the year owing to the absence of the Company on tour. The Directors requested Mr Hunt to point out to Mr. Keenan that this was incorrect and to ask him to see that statements of that nature were not made by interviewers on any other occasion.

Mr MacLiammoir.

It was decided to pay Mr. MacLiammoir £10 for playing in "Leirdre" for week commencing 10th August.

Circularising
Playwrights.

It was decided that Mr. Hunt should write to the following playwrights stating that the plans for the autumn season in the Theatre were under consideration and enquiring if they were likely to have any new plays: Miss Deevy, George Shiel, Rutherford Mayne, J.C. Murray, Denis Johnston, Brasley Macnamara.

Copied by
31/8/56

31st July 1936. 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, 31st July, 1936.

Present Mr. Ernest Blythe in the Chair, Dr. Richard Hayes, Mr. F. 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 £2017-18-3.

Miss E. Sayers, A letter was read from the Hon. Secretary to the Dublin Branch of the National Union of Journalists asking the Directors to re-consider their decision regarding the free admission on first night of Miss Sayers, gossip writer to the "Evening Mail."

Even. Mail. The Board decided that the ruling made in November 1935 should stand.

Damage to Canopy. The Secretary reported that Messrs. Cox & Co. had signed a Civil Bill against the Tramway Co. for the amount claimed for damage done to the Canopy. Mr. Cox advised that the Board should await settlement by the Tramway Co. before proceeding with any reconstruction.

Petition re Licence. The Secretary reported that Messrs. Cox had drawn up a petition to the Executive Council asking for permission to sell intoxicants in the Café and that this petition should be signed by Mr. Yeats the sole surviving Director. Mr. Cox advised that in the event of the Executive Council referring the matter to the Attorney-General for a public hearing, the idea of having a bar should be dropped as the expense incurred would be altogether too great.

Future bills. The following bills were decided :-

17th Aug. "Professor Tom"

21st Aug. "Summer Day" and "Rising of the Moon" or "The Disciple".

For the 31st August "The Playboy" and "The Piper" were suggested, Sept. 7th was left blank and "The Silver Jubilee" was selected for 16th September.

Prices. It was decided that for the week commencing 10th August, the prices of admission should be the same as during Horse Show week.

Financial position. Mr O'Connor raised the question of the present financial position of the Theatre and a discussion followed as to the economies it would be necessary to make.

It was proposed by Mr F.R. Higgins, seconded by Mr Frank O'Connor and passed: "That Mr T. J. Robinson's services be dispensed with and that he be given a month's notice of the termination of his employment."

It was decided that the Finance sub-committee Messrs Higgins and O'Connor should meet and discuss with Mr Hunt the possible economies which could be effected in the running of the Theatre, and that the sub-committee should report to the Board at its next meeting the conclusions arrived at.

English tour. It was decided that as soon as possible Mr Hunt should go to London to investigate the possibility of a visit of the Company to London and also to explore the possibility of an English provincial tour.

Mannequin
display.

An application by J. J. Kelleher for the use of the Theatre for a week in October for a mannequin display considered and the Board decided to let the Theatre at a rent of £25 for the week.

J. Higgins Aug 7th 1936

7th August 1936. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society. Held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on Friday, 7th August 1936 at 5.30 pm.

Present. Mr. F. R. Higgins in the chair, Dr. Richard Hayes, Mr. E. Blythe, Mr. Frank O'Garra.

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

Finance. The Secretary reported that the Bank overdraft was £1802-7-10.

Music Library. A letter was read from Dr. Larchet offering to sell to the Theatre his library of music (at present being used in the Theatre) for £15. The Board agreed to buy the music at the price mentioned.

Letter from Dr. W. B. Yeats. A letter was read from Dr. Yeats saying he had had complaints from several quarters of Mr. Cusack's performance in the playboy and of one or two other things in the representation of the play. He did not know if these complaints were justified as he had not seen the play. He said that should any discussion be likely to come before the Board upon the nature of the tradition of acting founded under the influence of Synge, Lady Gregory and himself he would be very anxious to

be present.

In the discussion which followed Mr. Higgins stated that he wished to criticise not Mr. Curach's acting but his speech, his enunciation of accent. Mr. Higgins considered that Mr. Curach ranked his lines, and that in the production there was a clash of two methods as far as the actors were concerned, the old players playing in the old traditional method the new players not doing so.

Mr. O'Connor disagreed with Mr. Higgins as also did Mr. Whyte who considered all the old players bad and the young ones good.

It was eventually decided by a majority of the Board that Mr. Yeats be informed that the Directors saw no reason for discussing the matter, Mr. Higgins strongly dissenting from this view.

Mr. Higgins then proposed that the Playboys be not revived ~~until~~ on the date for which it was next arranged. There was no seconder and the proposal fell through.

The following resolution was then proposed by Mr. Higgins.

Proposed that all future productions of early Abbey plays, especially the plays of Lady Gregory, J.M. Synge, and W.B. Yeats be produced strictly in keeping with the Abbey tradition of acting - a tradition deliberately created and nurtured by the founders of the Theatre, through the magnificence of rhythm, dialect and natural gesture; that the future casts of such plays be composed only of players trained in that tradition; and further, that picked students in the Abbey School of Acting be given constant tuition in that method of naturalistic acting with its reverent attention to the cadence and rich tang of Anglo-Irish

This motion was withdrawn as there was no second.

Report of
Finance Sub-
Committee

The following report was presented to the Board by the Finance Sub-Committee who had been asked on 31st July to explore the possibility of effecting economies in the running of the Theatre.

Finance Sub Committee Report.

The Sub Committee appointed by the Board Meeting of July 31st 1936 to examine ways and means of effecting economies in the Theatre's expenditure, submits the following unanimous recommendations for reductions in the staff of the Theatre.

Back Pit: One Pit Attendant or the Cafe Attendant to go and that the work in that part of the House to be re-arranged to cope with the shortage. Saving of wage £1.0.9 or £1.4.6d per week.

Stalls

Box Office: To dispense with the services of Mrs. Harty and that Miss Ryan take her place from 7.30 to 8.30. Saving £1.9.2d weekly.

Stalls &

Balcony: Six persons are presently employed in these parts of the House. Proposed to dispense with two employees - i.e., Mr. Manweiler and Miss Broul. The work of the Cloak Room should be controlled by the Cafe attendant so as to release Sloane for Ticket collecting. Saving £1.7.6d and £1.0.9d weekly.

Orchestra: Two players to go. Saving £6.0.0 weekly.

Ward Robe: Miss Devoy to go on grounds of inefficiency.

Back Stage

Staff: Proposed to dispense with the services of Barney Murphy (Prompter) @ 12/6d weekly; Jim Murphy (Night Staff) £1.3.6d weekly, Ned Byrne (Night staff) £1.3.6d weekly and Frank Ellis £1.5.0. (Peacock sweeper) £1.5.0 weekly. Saving £4.4.0 weekly.

Reduction in Salaries

Players: It is suggested that Miss May Craigs contract be not renewed and that reduction of 10% in the salaries of all players be made; producing a saving of £300. approx annually.

These proposed economies will produce an annual saving of £1,100 approx. It is suggested that Mr. Higgins interview Mr. Robbins of the I.T.W.U. (Theatre Section) regarding the necessity of these Staff reductions and if necessary that the official be shown the balance sheet, so that he may be convinced of the necessities.

Increased Revenue.

It is proposed that the Drop Curtain be allotted for advertising matter and that the local Advertising Agents be invited to quote the best prices for the annual rental of the Curtain. It is also suggested that Programmes should be sold at 2d per copy in all parts of the House.

R. Higgins
Huch Norris.
Huch Norris.

after some discussion it was proposed by Mr. Rhythe seconded by Mr. Hayes and passed "that the report be adopted"

advertising. On the proposal of Mr. Higgins seconded by Mr. Rhythe it was decided that after the Monday in each week the advertising space in the newspapers be reduced from one inch to one half inch.

It was also decided that estimates for the Theatre printing be obtained from some of the smaller printers in Dublin.

English tour. It was decided that Mr. Hunt should go to London during the week commencing Aug 10th. and make enquiries as to the possibility of an English tour by the Company at a later date.

Mr. Hunt's report. Mr. Hunt reported that Miss Deery had written a new play which she would send later, that Mr. George Phelps had sent a new play to Mr. Robinson.

Mr. Hunt also reported that he had learnt from an outside source that Mr. Hughes of Boston was endeavouring to get Mrs. Crowe, P. J. McCormick, Arthur

Shields & Harry Fitzgerald at present in Hollywood, to remain in America with a view to forming an Irish Company to tour the States.

Mr Hunt reminded the Board that these Players had been given Contracts for signature at their present salaries before sailing for America and he enquired how these would be effected by the proposed reduction of 10%.

The Board decided that these Players might be written to offering them contracts subject to the 10% reduction and explaining that the reduction was temporary & due to the large overdraft at the Bank.

It was decided that "Mothers" by Mairead Kinsane be accepted and produced.

Alteration
of bills.

Mr Higgins drew attention to the sudden alteration of the bill for August 10th by the substitution of "The King of Spain's Daughter" and "Hedonessweet" for "Thomas Muskeroy". He complained that no notification of the proposed change had been given ~~to him~~ ^{to him} and he was of opinion that all business should be done in a regular manner at a meeting of the Board.

Mr Hunt explained that it was an oversight in his part not to have consulted Mr Higgins and Mr O'Connor said that he himself was to blame for not having told Mr Higgins of the change found necessary owing to the length of the two plays. Mr Higgins made a vigorous protest against such future irregularities.

Thomas O'Connor
14/8/36.

14th Aug. 1936.

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on Friday, 14th August 1936 at 5.30 pm.

Present

Mr Frank O'Connor in the Chair, Dr. Richard Harris, Mr Ernest Hylle, Mr H. Higgins.

Minutes.

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

Finance.

The Secretary reported that the Bank overdraft was £1555-9-9.

L. from Mr Denis Johnston.

A letter was read from Mr. Denis Johnston asking if the Board would permit "The Plow and the Yellow River" to be played in Irish provincial towns by a company Lord Longford was sending out in the autumn. The permission not to extend to either Dublin or Belfast. The Board agreed to grant the permission asked for.

Mr Ann Clery

A letter was read from Mrs Ann Clery asking that in future her salary be raised to £4 per week. The Board decided that Mrs Clery's salary be raised from £2-10-0 to £3.

Mr Hunt

The Secretary informed the Board that Mr Hunt was returning from London on Sunday and was anxious to report to the Board on Monday the results of his interviews re a visit of the Company to London. It was decided to hold a special meeting on Monday, 17th at 5.30 pm.

"Brothers" by In view of the criticisms written by the Directors who had read Miss Kessane 'Brothers' by Mrs Kessane it was decided that Mr. Higgins should give the authoress a detailed criticism of the play so as to enable her, if she so wished, to improve the play and make it possible to produce.

Play Sub-Committee

It was decided that the Play Sub-committee should meet on Tuesday, 18th August and draw up programmes for some

weeks ahead.

Mr Hunt's report

The Secretary read a report received from Mr. Hunt. He suggested that in view of the proposed cut in salary Mr Dolan might be continued in his position as Assistant Producer his total salary to be £7-10-0. The Board agreed to this suggestion.

Mr Hunt also suggested that contract players be asked to sign their contracts as soon as possible and that a clause be inserted to the effect that it would probably be found necessary to impose a 10% cut. He also suggested that no reduction be made until after 31st August. The Board decided that no new contracts be given until the players at present in America return.

Date of
reductions

Further consideration was given by the Board to the report of the Finance Sub-Committee and its recommendations.

It was decided that Monday 14th September 1936 be fixed as the date on which the reductions should come into force.

Closing of
the Pit Cafe

On the proposal of Mr. Higgins seconded by Mr. Whyte it was decided that the Pit Cafe should be closed and that Miss Bennett be given a month's notice.

Mr Dolan's
report.

Mr Dolan complained to the Board that Mr. Hunt was not giving him sufficient time to rehearse the plays he was given to produce, and that he could not continue to do the work on the time at present being given to him.

He also complained of the unpunctuality of rehearsals and mentioned a Sunday rehearsal called for 4 pm which did not begin until 4.55 pm, a Sunday dress rehearsal called for 12 noon which was changed to 12.45 pm, no

notification being given to him.

The Chairman pointed out to Mr. Stuen that he had not ~~been~~ presented any report for many weeks and that in future he should come regularly each week, when any complaints he might have, could be dealt with.

The position of the School of Acting was considered and it was decided that Miss Rooney should present a report at the next Board meeting. The Directors decided that encouragement should be given to the formation of a class in verse speaking and it was decided on the motion of Mr. Blythe seconded by Mr. Higgins that Mr. Frank O'Connor be approached to take a Verse class in the School of Acting. It was also decided that Mr. O'Connor should generally supervise the School.

The Board considered the position of Miss A. O'Connor in relation to the office work and decided that ~~she~~ her services be dispensed with and that the position of assistant to the Secretary be offered to Miss Ann Dwyer.

Press Seats. The Board decided that press seats should be given to the following A.E. Malone, N.Y. Times, Christian Science Monitor (J.G. Hayes) Sunday Dispatch, Dublin Opinion, Irish Freeman.

The following were struck off the list:- The Referee, Express, Sunday Graphic, Nat. University Magazine, T.C.B. Model Housekeeping, The Leader, The Sheehy & Kingston.
Copies x 10/1 2/6/56

School of
Acting.

Miss A. O'Connor.
~~Miss Rooney~~

17 Aug 36.

A special meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Theatre Society. [It was held on Monday, 17th August 1936 at the Abbey Theatre where Mr. Hunt's report on recent interviews with London managers and others.

Mr Hunt's
report.

Mr Hunt said that the Moss Empires Ltd were very anxious for the Company to visit Glasgow and suggested a stay of four weeks, doing two plays each week. If this were not possible they would be glad to arrange a shorter visit.

Mr Hunt then reported on an interview with Mr. Brostock who controls several London theatres & works in conjunction with C. B. Cochran. Mr. Brostock was very interested in a proposed visit of the Company to London but insisted that the visit should not be limited to a short period such as four weeks and also that the full Company including the Players at present in America should be sent.

Mr Hunt outlined two schemes proposed to him one by which the Theatre would receive 50% of the gross takings and another by which the Theatre would receive 30%, the Theatre being liable for less expense under the second scheme.

Mr Hunt also pointed out that the Theatre would need to employ an Agent and that he had been in touch with a very good Agency but were asking 10% commission which he considered too high. These Agents were, however, sending a detailed statement of their

proposed changes.

Mr Hunt also saw Mr. Abraham Alberg who was very interested and prepared to come to Dunthorn when "Katie Roche" was next being played here.

Mr Hunt also learned from the Agent Mr. Golding Knight, that Mr. Gilbert Miller was interested in "Katie Roche" and that there was some possibility that he might try to get the rights.

It was decided by the Board that Mr Hunt should write to the Agents & discuss terms with them.

It was also decided that a cable be sent to Mr. Arthur Shields asking him the name of the Agent in New York who was anxious to get the Company to go to the States.

Cyril & Alf

21/8/56

Minutes of a meeting of the Play Sub-Committee held on Tuesday 18th August.

Present

Mr C. Play the, Mr F. N. Higgins, Mr Hugh Hunt.

The following bills were selected

Aug 31st The Play boys & The Flattering Gate, Mr J. Nolan & P. J. Cowlen to play in The Flattering Gate.

Sept. 7th. The Far-Off Hills.

Sept. 14th. The Silver Jubilee and 'The Pipes'.

The cost of The Silver Jubilee to be P. J. Cowlen in the part read by Mary Fitz Gerald, Fred Johnson in Mr. Cowlen's part. Miss Craig as the mother, Mr J. Nolan the father, Mrs. Thomas the

Wool, Cyril Currah, the boy and Miss Dehly the servant.

The cost of "The Piper" was postponed until M. Hunt had read the play, and would be submitted on Friday 21st August.

The Committee considered the possibility of doing a second week with "The Silver Jubilee" and agreed that if business justified, it should be continued for a second week.

The Committee also considered the possibility of doing some of Lumsden's one act plays and also Murray's "Piper in the Fields".

Mr. Hippius insisted that Cyril Currah should be ~~asked~~ taken over the part of the Playboy that he should slow down his speech and that he should also cut down his accent.

Mr. Hunt promised to endeavour to get Mr. Currah to speak more slowly and to reduce his accent.

- 21st August 1936 Minutes of a meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Theatre Ltd. held in the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30 pm on Friday 21st Aug. 1936
- President Mr E. Blythe in the Chair, Dr Richard Hayes, Mr F.R. Higgins, Mr Frank O'Connor.
- Minutes. ~~The Minutes of the last meeting and of the~~
The Minutes of the meeting held on 14th August 1936 and of the special meeting held on 17th August 1936 were read, confirmed and signed.
- Finance. The Secretary reported that the Bank overdraft was £1678 = 17s 2.
- Mrs A. Clery A letter was read from Mrs Clery thanking the Board for their offer of a post in the office and stating that owing to the circumstances under which Mrs O'Connor had lost the position, she (Mrs Clery) felt she could not accept it.
- Mr F.R. Higgins. The Board considered a request from Mr Hay for an interview regarding the reduction of the orchestra by two players, and decided that Mr Hay should make his statement in writing.
- Emergency Exit. A letter was read from Mr M.L. Scott giving details of the plans for an emergency exit from the dressing rooms and other alterations required by the Corporation authorities as a precaution against fire. As the proposed new exit stairs would be built in the yard attached to the licensed premises "The Abbey Bar", it was decided that Mr F.R. Higgins and Mr Scott should interview the proprietor with a view to obtaining his consent.
- Play Sub-committee Report. The report of the Play-Sub-committee meeting held on 18th August 1936 was read and the following bills were filed
August 31 The Playboys and The Shuttering Gate
Sept. 7th The Far-off Hills

Sept 14th. The Silver Jubilee & The Piper

Arising out of the discussion which followed as to the costs of the plays Mr. Hunt stated he wished to resign the management of the Theatre. He said that the position of the players was being made difficult by the Board's casting of the plays. He imagined when he was appointed Manager that he was being given full control but that he had much less made a scapegoat. He did not think that this was intentionally done by the Board but in reality that was what happened.

It was decided that Mr. Hunt's resignation of the Managership be accepted, that the Board take over the duties of Manager and that Mr. Hunt continue as Producer.

Mr. Dolans.

Mr. Dolans mentioned the fact that Miss Nune had been brought from Sligo to play in "Professor Tim" at Short Wharf and that she was anxious to know what opinion the Board had formed of her work. The Board did not express any opinion.

Miss Thorneycroft.
The School of
Acting.

Miss Thorneycroft reported she had held 120 auditions for the School of Acting out of which she had selected 28. These together with 11 from the last session and in addition the Misses O'Connor, Bewley & Mulhern would make a total of 42. She said the new students were much better than any of the students who commenced last year. The majority of the new men pupils were very promising.

After some discussion it was decided that

Mr Higgins and Mr O'Connor should discuss the work of the School with Miss Toomey and that Mr O'Connor should take a class in verse speaking.

Miss Andeen
O'Connor.

Mr Higgins referred to Miss O'Connor's position as assistant to Mr Hunt and the Secretary. He pointed out that it would be necessary to have someone in the office to assist the Secretary and he did not consider Miss O'Connor sufficiently efficient.

Some discussion followed as to the circumstances under which Miss O'Connor went to London and Mr Hunt stated she had his permission to go.

Mr O'Connor said he would like a statement from Miss O'Connor as to her behaviour and that she should be asked to furnish in writing a full statement and that she be not re-employed until this statement has been received and considered. This was agreed to.

It was decided that the following plays be returned
The Brothers - by L.A.P. Story, Rachel Ryan by E.
Wylthe, Gay Good-night by Mark Furey, The Flaming
Sword by N. O'Grady, Patchwork by V.W. Farrington,
Philosopher's Doubt by Janus.

Signed x (H) 11
11/9/76

14th Sept. 1936. Minutes of a meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin at 5.30 pm on Tuesday, 13th Sept. 1936.

Present Mr E. Hythe in the Chair, Mr Lennon Robinson, Mr J.R. Higgins.

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

Financial The Secretary reported that the Bank overdraft was £1509-5-3.
Gen & Co re A letter was read from Messrs Ar. Cox stating that the proceedings instituted against the Tramway Co. were held up during the long vacation but that it was likely that before they actually come to a hearing, the Tramway Co. would make some offer of settlement.

Messrs Battersby & Whyte. A letter was read from Messrs Battersby stating that Messrs Whyte's premises were for sale at a price of £7500. The Board directed that Messrs Battersby be informed that the question of purchasing the premises had been dropped.

Miss Till Moore A letter was read from Miss Till Moore asking if the Board could give her further work on the Stage. It was decided that she be informed that a contract could not be offered to Miss Moore but that if she were living in Dublin it might be possible to offer her occasional work if suitable parts came along.

Miss Audrey O'Connor A letter was read from Miss O'Connor explaining that she went to London with Mr Hunt's permission and under the impression that she would not be required during the following week for "Professor Tom" as "Diedie" was

being continued for a second week. The Board accepted Jim O'Connor's explanation and decided she should resume her work in the office, that she be informed that this arrangement is temporary, as the question of assistance in the office is under consideration.

T. M. Keyser.

A letter from T. M. Keyser, Cambridge was read in which he stated that the Anti-Theatre would be very glad to have a visit from the May Theatre Co. and enquiring as to the minimum terms the Company would require. The Board decided that at the moment no arrangements could be made and that the matter should be considered at a later date.

Printing
Estimates.

Mr. Hyman reported that estimates had been received from various printing firms in Dublin for the poster and programme printing but that none were as low as the prices charged by Messrs Corrigan & Wilson who had now further reduced the charge for printing the programme. The Board decided that in the circumstances Messrs Corrigan & Wilson should continue as the Theatre printers.

Mr J. N. May

A letter was read from Mr. May, General Director, asking the Directors to reconsider their decision as to the reduction of the number of players in the Orchestra from five to three. The Board decided Mr. May should be informed that consideration of the matter was postponed until a later date. It was also decided Mr. May should be informed that his action in approaching individual Directors in this matter was contrary to the decision of the Board as set out in the notice posted on the notice board.

Dunport Union.

Mr. Higgins reported on his meeting with the Secretary to the Theatre Section of the Dunport Union who was accompanied by a representative from the Stage Staff & Port of House Staff. A frank discussion took place regarding the financial position of the Theatre and the necessity for reduction of expenditure. The Union official questioned the possibility of dispensing with the Flyman and also raised the question of the future payment to Frank Ellis for his work as boiler man.

Mr. Higgins said he thought an amicable arrangement would be come to with the Union and he was empowered by the Board to meet, in company with the Secretary, Mr. Higgins and come to some final arrangement which could be submitted to the Directors for approval.

Miss Carson

Mr. Higgins reported on an interview he had with Miss Carson a representative of Film Rights Ltd. Agents London.

Mr. Higgins said that Miss Carson advocated an arrangement with a London Theatre for a season on a 70-30% basis, the Abbey to receive 30% & to be responsible for transport, salaries and royalties. Film Rights Ltd. to be paid 10% commission on the Abbey gross receipts.

Mr. Robinson said he saw no reason for engaging an Agent as the Theatre could arrange a London season without any such help.

Mr. Hylthe said he understood that Mr. Yeats was

opposed to the suggested visit with only one play. Mr. Hythe added he would like to interview Mr. Jett and hear his views before deciding or going further with the matter. It was decided that the matter should be again considered at a later date.

Mr. Jett's
week in
Glasgow.

An offer of the week Nov. 9th. at the Alhambra, Glasgow was considered and it was decided that if suitable terms were offered the date could be accepted.

Mr. Hunt's
report.

Mr. Hunt reported that Mr. Mc Cormick & Miss Brown had returned from the States. It was decided that they be paid for one week's holidays due to them. Mr. Hunt also reported that Mr. Arthur Shields would be back very soon and it was decided that he also should get one week's holiday.

Mr. Dolan's
report.

Mr. Dolan asked to be relieved of his part in "The Silver Jubilee" as he considered the play would give much offence. He objected to references to the C.Y.M.S. and to the Locality.

It was decided that references to these two subjects should be cut and that the author be invited to meet Mr. Robinson & Mr. Dolan with a view to cutting anything in the play to which exception could be taken.

Miss Ann Jett.

The Secretary reported that Miss Ann Jett had been taken on as an assistant to Miss Moiravitch and that for a probationary period of three months she

would not receive any salary.

Play Ht. Com.

It was decided that the Play Ht. Committee should meet on Wednesday 2nd Sept. at 5 pm.

accounts.

The ~~accounts~~ for August were passed by Mr. Higgins acting for the Finance sub-committee.

applications
for pre seats.

It was proposed by Mr. Higgins, seconded by Mr. Morrison and passed "That future applications for seats by Players and Staff should be in writing stating the persons for whom they are intended".

Erin H.
11/9/36

11th Sept. 1936. 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, 11th September 1936.

Present

Mr. E. Blythe, in the Chair, Mr. Lennon Morrison, Mr. F. Higgins.

Minutes.

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

Finance.

The Secretary reported that the overdraft at the Bank was £1639.9/6

Letter from Mr. F. May.

A letter was read from Mr. Frederick May submitting that he had not infringed the ruling of the Board by approaching individual Directors with reference to the dismissal of two members of the Orchestra, as he understood the ruling to refer to finances and complaints of a purely personal

and private retires, while the subject matter of his appeal to the Directors went far beyond the purely personal.

The Board decided that no reply was necessary.

Miss Sheila
Richards.

A letter was read from Miss Sheila Richards asking the Directors if there was a possibility of her being offered a contract. After some discussion it was agreed in the motion of Mr. Hyman seconded by Mr. Whyte that no contract be given to Miss Richards. Mr. Robinson dissenting from this view. It was decided that Mr. Hunt should see Miss Richards and inform her that if suitable work was forthcoming it would be offered to her and Mr. Hunt was also asked to enquire what salary she would accept.

T. M. Keynes.
Cambridge.

A letter from Mr. T. M. Keynes, Cambridge, was read suggesting February 1937 as a suitable time for a visit of the Company to Cambridge. The Secretary was instructed to ask Mr. Keynes what terms he would be prepared to offer for a week's visit of the Company.

H. Stimpoly.

A letter was read from H. Stimpoly enquiring as to the plays proposed for the week in Glasgow and it was decided that "Cachleen ni Houlihan" and "The Shadow of a Gunman" be one bill and "The Fox-Off Hills" be the second bill.

T. C. Hedden.
Liverpool.

A letter was read from T. C. Hedden, Paramount Theatre, Liverpool asking if the Company could visit Liverpool. The Secretary was instructed to ask Mr. Hedden for particulars of his theatre, the prices etc. and the terms he would propose.

P. M. Selby

A letter was read from P. M. Selby asking would the Directors be willing to change the Cork date from Nov. 30th

to Nov. 16th. The Board decided that they could not agree to this change.

Report of Play Sub-committee. The report of the Play Sub-committee was read and the following trials agreed to:-

Sept 21st Plough & the Stars

19th Boyd's Shop

Oct. 5th The Tailbird if possible to produce by then, if not, Kathleen Mulihane and the Shadow of a Gunman, The Tailbird to be done on October 12th.

Changes of cast in the Plough and the Stars were approved of as follows:-

The Covey

Cyril Cusack

Brennan

Fred Johnson

Lanyon

W. O'Sorman

Noel Redmond

Mie Flanagan

Borman

M. J. Dolan.

Corporal }

It was agreed that Fred Johnson should play Barry Fitzgibbon's part in "Boyd's Shop".

The cost of The Tailbird was submitted by Noth and approved of by the Board.

Transport Union

Mr. Higgins reported to the Board on his meeting with Mr. Hobbs of the Transport Union who had agreed to the proposed reduction of ^{the} staff of the point of the house by two (one man ticket checker and one woman attendant) and the stage staff by one stage hand.

The Secretary reported on a further interview he had

with Mr. Robinson who suggested the possibility of Mr. Frank Ellis being engaged as a day man, all his duties being paid for under that heading. The Board decided to agree to this suggestion in view of the friendly way in which the proposals for reductions had been met by the Union.

Assistant in
the Office.

The Board considered the question of obtaining an assistant to the Secretary and it was decided that Miss Cherry be again asked if she would accept the position at a commencing salary of 30% per week.

Mr. Hunt.

Mr. Hunt reported he had a request from Mr. Dolan that "The Piper" should be played last instead of first. The Board agreed that this be done.

Mr. Higgins raised the question of the advisability of one Director should keep in contact with the Theatre each week. The Board agreed with this suggestion and Mr. Robinson was appointed for the coming week, to be followed by Mr. Whyte.

The Board decided that when the Secretary was not acting an arrangement should be made to permit him to have one night in the week away from the Theatre.

Annual
meeting

It was decided that the Annual General meeting be held in about three weeks time and that if Mr. Yeats wished, it be held at his home in Rathfarnham.

U.S.A. tour. The Secretary reported that Mr Arthur Shields who in New York had approached the Manager of the Theatre Guild and Martin Beck regarding an American tour of the Abbey Company.

Mr. Shields strongly advocated approaching the Theatre Guild and also said a guarantee of 3000 dollars per week should be asked for as well as the passages of the Company or all scenery to be supplied by the American management. Mr Shields said the Co. could not again tour the States with the scenery at present in use.

The Board decided that letters ~~of~~ be written to the Theatre Guild Manager and to Martin Beck enquiring if they would enter into negotiations for a tour in 1937.

Agreed by 11
18/9/36

18th Sept 1936 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, 19th September 1936.

Present Mr Ernest Blythe in the Chair, Mr James Robinson, Dr. Walter Frankie, Dr. Michael Hayes, Mr Frank O'Connor.

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

Finance The Secretary reported that the Bank overdraft was £1559 = 4 = 5.

Income Tax
due by N. Colman.

The Board gave directions for the payment of the Income
Commissioners of £8-16-3 being one instalment of the amount
of Income Tax due by N. Colman; deductions to be made from the
Colman's salary weekly for the repayment of the amount.

Glasgow town.

A letter was read from Mr Shipy agreeing to the plays
suggested for the week in Glasgow viz Macbeth, The Hunchback
The Shadow of a Gunman, The Fox Off Hills, The Shipy
forwarded a contract for signature.

Mr J.C. Hedden
Liverpool.

A letter was read from Mr Hedden suggesting a repertory of
three plays to be played in conjunction with pictures at
the Paramount Picture Theatre, Liverpool, three performances
being given each day. The Board decided that at present
the offer could not be accepted.

Contracts for
Players.

The Board decided that the following Players be offered
contracts on the basis of a 10% reduction of their present
salaries viz: - Mrs Crowe, Miss Selwyn, Mr Mc Cormick
Mr Shields, Mr Fitzgerald. It was decided that Mr

Mr Dolan

Dolan be offered a contract on the same basis, that
is a contract at £6-15-0 for acting & that he be
offered an additional 15% for work as Assistant
Producer.

Miss Gray

It was decided not to give Miss Gray a contract but
to offer her a salary of £5 per week when playing
and £2-10-0 per week when rehearsing but not
playing.

Miss Cusack

It was decided that Mr Cusack be paid his present
salary less 10% when playing and half this amount

when not playing.

Mr. Johnson

It was decided that Mr. Fred Johnson be paid £3-5-0 less 10% when playing and half this amount when rehearsing but not playing.

10% reduction

It was decided that all other acting salaries should be reduced by 10%.

New emergency

exit from

drawing-rooms.

Mr. Robinson reported that in company with Mr. G. E. Scott he had interviewed the Proprietor of the Abbey Bar, Le Abbey St. and had obtained from him permission for the new iron stairway to be put in the yard at the back of the Abbey Bar. Mr. Robinson mentioned that the Proprietor of the Bar spoke of the notice board on the Pitt railings which he had on a former occasion asked should be removed. The Board decided that in view of the friendly way in which they had been met regarding the stairway, the notice board should be cut down to a size which would take a double-crown bill.

Mr. Hunt

report.

Mr. Hunt reported that the Range of the Belfast Openthorne was very strongly against The Far-Off Hills as one of the plays for the coming visit of the Company, and that he urged for "Tune + the Playwells" or "The Plough + the Stars". The Board decided that the bills be The Passing Day - Kathleen in Houlahan + The Punisher - Tune + the Playwells. It was decided that it should be reported to Glasgow that Tune be substituted for the Far-Off Hills.

Mr. Hunt also reported in an interview he had with Mr. Mullock of the B. B. C., Belfast. Mr. Mullock was very

announced to have a series of plays broadcast by the H.B. Co. during the winter, from Belfast Studios, the time to be from 1 hour to 1 1/2 hours. It was decided that Mr Hunt should draw up a scheme for consideration by the Board.

Miss Deery's new play was selected for Novr. 2nd but no decision was come to as to the play for Novr. 9th, there being the Belfast Glasgow week.

Mr Richards It was decided that Mr Richards be paid £4 a week for playing in 'The Tailbird'.

Reduction of the Orchestra. For the consideration was given to the reduction of the Orchestra from five to three players and after some discussion it was decided by a majority that the reduction should stand, Mr Robinson and Dr. Starkie dissenting.

Chairman of Board meetings. On the suggestion of Mr Robinson it was decided that in future the Directors should in turn take the Chair at the meetings of the Board and that the order be by surnames alphabetically.

Chairman of the
25/9/56

25th Sept. 1936. 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, 25th September, 1936.

Present Mr E. Blythe in the Chair, Mr Leonard Morrison, Mr Walter Starkie, 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 £1383.12.2. A letter was read from Mr J. N. Keynes asking for an estimate of the minimum guarantee needed for a visit of the Company to Cambridge for a week and for a fortnight.

The Board decided that an estimate of the least figure be sent to Mr Keynes and that also a letter should be sent to the theatre in Oxford with a view to ascertaining the possibility of obtaining a date there to be worked in conjunction with Cambridge.

Car Co. A letter was read from Messrs Car stating that the Tramway Co. were prepared to have the verandah replaced by Messrs Smith & Pearson or alternatively to pay to the Theatre the sum of £32.

The Board considered the possibility taking away the present verandah and replacing it by a more suitable one and it was decided before replying to the Tramway Co. to obtain estimates for a new verandah.

Mr Craig. A letter was read from Mr Craig pointing out that his salary which had recently been reduced from £7.10.0 to £6.10.0 was now further reduced by ^{one} 20% while the reduction in

the case of other Players was 10%. Mrs Craig asked the Board to reconsider their decision and to accept a 10% reduction on her present salary. The Board decided they could not reconsider the matter.

Mrs Joan Garland

A letter was read from Mrs Joan Garland, 55 Canville Avenue, Rathgar who was being considered for the position of assistant in the office. Mrs Garland enclosed copies of testimonials from Brookhirst Switchgear Ltd, Australia House, London & from Messrs Vincent & Beatty, Solicitors, Dame St. Dublin. Mrs Garland stated in her letter that she had also been employed by the Astor Union Insurance Co, Suffolk St. Dublin and was at present temporarily employed with the National Employers Mutual General Insurance Assn. College Green.

The Board decided to offer Mrs Garland the post of assistant in the office at a salary of £1-10-0 per week and that she would be needed to look after the front of the house when Mr Gorman was playing & unable to do so. She would also be required to attend to the front of the house one or two nights when Mr Gorman was not playing.

Mr Hunt's
report.

Mr Hunt submitted a list of plays which might be suggested to Mr Bullock of the Belfast B.B.C. as suitable for broadcasts by the Company. After some discussion the Board decided that if these broadcasts were arranged the Contract Players could be sent to Belfast and advantage taken of this opportunity of producing plays in the Theatre with the younger Players in the casts. The payment received by the Contract Players for broadcasting

would compensate them for the loss of their week's work in the Theatre. It was also decided that Mr Hunt's list of plays be sent to Mr Bullock for his consideration. It was decided to offer Cork the following bills for the week Nov. 30th:-

The Silver Tumbler and Meadowsweet as one bill
Professors Tim as the second bill.

Mr Hunt pointed out that this would leave Miss Grove Mr Mc Cormick & Mr Shields available for a new production in the Theatre.

The cast of "Parts Set" by Miss Alley was considered and it was decided that Mr Hunt should try Miss Belle Johnston in one of the parts.

The Cast of "Fanny's First Play" was also considered & it was suggested that Mr Hunt should endeavour to get Mr Denis Johnston for the part of Duvallet.

It was also decided that with this play the students of the School should do a one act play "The Imaginary Conversation" being suggested as a possible selection.

Salaries of
Miss McManus
Miss Richards
Miss O'Connor

It was decided that Miss Thorne's salary be reduced by 10% from £7-10-0 to £6-15-0 and that when she was teaching in the School and not acting her salary be £3-15-0.

Miss Richards' salary was fixed at £4 per week when playing and Miss Andrea O'Connor's at £2 per week when playing.

JR Higgins
Oct 2nd 1936

2nd Oct. 1936. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society
[Ed. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30 pm on Friday,
2nd October, 1936.

Present Mr. F. R. Higgins in the chair, Mr. Walter Starkie, Mr. Richard
Hayes, Mr. Ernest Blythe, 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 £1268 = 5 = 8.

Belfast Bills. The Board decided that the bills for Belfast should be
Monday & Thursday - Turis; Tuesday, Friday Mat. & Night -
The Passing Day; Wednesday and Saturday - Kathleen
in Keshidan and The Shadow of a Gunman.

Mr Barry Fitzgerald. A cable from Mr Barry Fitzgerald was read in which he stated
he could not yet give a definite date for his return to Dublin.
It was decided that a cable be sent to him saying he must
send by return a definite reply and that if no definite
answer was received from him by Tuesday 6th October
his parts in the plays down for production in Belfast and
Glasgow should be given to other players.

Larchet portrait. The question of the presentation of Dr Larchet's portrait
was considered and it was decided that Mr Robinson,
Mr Starkie, Mr Hayes and Mr Blythe should make the
necessary arrangements.

Temporary Stage manager. In the weeks commencing Nov. 2nd 9th and 30th during
which Mr Cowley would be away on tour with the Company
it was decided that Mr Fred Whiston should act as Stage
Manager in the Theatre at an extra salary of 30/- per week.

Report of
Play Sub-committee.

The Board considered the report of the Play Sub-committee who had met before the Board meeting and it was decided that 'The Passing Day' should go on on 19th October and that in the event of Mr. Barry Fitzgerald not being available 'Tune + the Paycock' should go on on 26th October, Mr. P. J. Conlan to play Captain Boyle and Cyril Turack to play Terry Durkin.

It was also decided that if Mr. Austin Nelson of the School of Acting were available he could play Black in 'The Passing Day' Gallogher in 'The Gunner' and the irregular in 'Tune'. Others suggested were Messrs Leventhal, Mackey + Redmond. Mr. Nelson's salary for the work in Belfast + Glasgow was fixed at £5 per week, the figure for Mr. Leventhal being £6-10-0 and Messrs Mackey + Redmond £5.

It was decided that if it was not necessary to do 'Tune' on 26th October, the bill for that week should be 'Autumn Fire'.

Provincial
Tour.

Mr. Hayes raised the question of an Irish provincial tour. He said that in view of the fact that Lord Longford had sent out a Company to tour the Irish towns it looked badly for the National Theatre not to do so. The possibility of sending a Company to Galway, Limerick, Tralee, and Waterford was considered and it was decided that the matter should be further gone into at the next meeting of the Board. The Secretary was instructed to write to Waterford and obtain particulars with a view of the Company playing ^{there} if possible, in conjunction with the coming visit to Cork.

Mr. Hunt.

The Chairman raised the question of the relations between

the Board and Mr Hunt and said he felt there was a definite opposition developing between the two sides which would have to be met as Mr Hunt appeared to be more and more unwilling to fall in with the views of the Board.

Mr O'Connor agreed with this view and pointed out that Mr Hunt had been asked to get in to touch with some of the University Students who might be of great use to the Theatre, but that he had not done so.

It was decided that Mr Hunt be questioned as to his casting of Miss Seery's new play which was going into rehearsal.

Mr Hunt's
report.

Mr Hunt then attended and stated that Miss Seery had taken the third act of her new play away for some revision. He gave details of the cast and a discussion followed on the question of Miss Sheila Richards being included in the cast. It was proposed by Mr O'Connor seconded by Mr Higgins that Miss Richards should not play in this play. This proposal was carried, Mr Markie dissenting.

Mr Hunt said that in view of this decision he wanted to know if it was to be the general policy of the Board to force casts on him with which he disagreed. He said he was not willing to give way to the Board on artistic lines but he was quite willing to give way on financial grounds.

The Board asked Mr Hunt to retire while they discussed this matter & Mr Hunt did so.

Mr Higgins said he felt very strongly against Mr Hunt's views regarding casting and that he was not willing to give way on the matter. Mr O'Connor agreed with this view.

Mr Maythe said he was all for letting the Producer have his own way and Dr. Starke agreed with this view.

Mr Hunt then returned to the meeting and was informed by the Chairman that in general the Board had no intention of interfering and would consult Mr Hunt's views but that when a question of policy was involved the Board must interfere and would insist on doing so.

Mr O'Connor pointed out that the Board were really helping Mr Hunt, as Miss Richards would be quite unsuited, owing to her accent, to the part she had been cast for in this pleasant play of the penal days.

Mr Dolan's
duties.

Mr Hunt stated that Mr Conolan as Stage manager and actor had too much work and he suggested that some of this work should be delegated to Mr Dolan who was assistant producer but at present did no work on the stage, merely holding whatever rehearsals were necessary for revivals of old plays.

It was decided that Mr Dolan should in future take charge of the scripts and that he should also take over some of the stage manager's work from Mr Conolan when Mr Conolan was playing big parts. It was also decided that in the tour to Belfast, Glasgow and Cork Mr Dolan should act as manager and that his future duties should be detailed for him.

by Mr. Hunt and that the Secretary should notify him of them. Mr. Dolan who then came before the Board was notified of these arrangements by the Chairman.

New Contracts

It was decided that the Contracts drawn up earlier in the year by Messrs Cox should be amended where necessary and that they should then be given to the Players concerned, the period to be up to 30th June, 1937.

New play by
P.V. Carroll

It was decided that 'Shadow & Substance' by Paul-V. Carroll be accepted subject to slight alterations and cutting.

Lennox Robinson
Oct 9th 1936-

9th October 1936.

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin at 5 pm. on Friday, 9th October, 1936.
Mr. Lennox Robinson in the Chair, Dr. Walter Staehle, Dr. Richard Hayes, Mr. E. Hythe, Mr. F.R. Higgins, Mr. Frank O'Connor.

Present

Minutes.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.
The Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st Feb. 1936 and the Directors Report to be submitted to the Annual General Meeting were considered and passed.

The Board then adjourned until the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting convened for 5-15 pm. and the meeting of the Board was resumed after the Annual General Meeting.

- Finance. The Secretary reported that the Bank overdraft was £1495-9-6.
- McHarry Fitzgerald. The Secretary reported the receipt of a cable from Mr Harry Fitzgerald in which he requested he could not give any definite date for his return to Dublin.
- Open House, Cork. A letter was read from the Manager of the Open House, Cork asking if "The New Gossworn" could be sent instead of "Profession Time" and also querying "The Silver Jubilee". The Board decided that if Mr Hunt + Mr Dolan could arrange for the New Gossworn taps, it should be sent, the other bill be as previously arranged viz. "The Silver Jubilee" + "Hedon Sweet".
- U.S.A. Tour. A letter was read from Mr Denis O'Dea stating he had learned that The Theatre Guild were not interested in sponsoring a tour of the Company in the U.S.A., but suggested Martin Beck, Max Gordon + Lee Shubert as people who might be interested. It was decided that as soon as a reply from Martin Beck had been received contact should be made with Lee Shubert + Max Gordon.
- Irish Provincial Tour. The question of an Irish provincial tour was considered and after some discussion it was decided that the matter should be postponed as the number of Players available was not sufficient to justify the consideration of the project at present.
- Mr Hunt's report. Mr Hunt reported that it was very difficult to rehearse Tony's 2nd Play + Parts Set as Miss Clay was not free in the morning, and Miss Norrey had the School in the afternoon. It was decided that Mr Arthur Shields be asked to take ~~some~~ ^{three} of the School of Acting classes in the afternoon so as to allow Miss Norrey to rehearse up to the end of October. The Board agreed to pay Mr Shields up to £1-10-0 per week for this work.
- "A Summer Storm". It was decided to accept "A Summer Storm" by Raine O'Callaghan but that the title of the play should be changed. Mr Robinson was asked to

wrote to Miss O'Callaghan on the matter.

It was decided that Miss Dolan should play in Cork the part in "The Blue Tinted" played by Miss Cherry.

Miss M. Flanagan.

Mr. Higgins referred to the fact that Miss M. Flanagan had been criticising the Board in public and making personal references to some of the Directors. He said that this should not be permitted when Miss Flanagan was an employee of the Theatre. It was decided that a letter be sent by the Secretary to Miss Flanagan stating that she should desist as the Board expected loyalty from those who were engaged working in the Theatre. It was agreed that Mr. Higgins should see the letter before it was sent to Miss Flanagan.

Script prices.

Salaries for

Miss

Miss Dolan was authorised to have new locks put on the script passbook.

The following salaries for Belfast & Glasgow were fixed:-

Miss Mulhern (Glasgow) £5, Miss Sean (Belfast) £4-10-0,

Miss Gorman (Belfast) £5.

Pat Carroll's

play.

Mr. McBrien read his opinion on "Substance & Shadow" by Paul & Carroll and urged that the play was so nearly a first play, it should be sent back to the authors with suggestions for alterations and cutting. After some discussion it was decided that as the play had been accepted, Mr. McBrien could if he wished, write personally to Mr. Carroll suggesting the alterations which he considered necessary.

BBC, Belfast.

The Secretary reported a phone conversation he had had with Mr. Bullough of the BBC, Belfast. The programme to the end of December 1936 was fixed and there was a possibility that the programme to the end of March 1937 was also fixed but on this point Mr. Bullough was not definite. He was coming to Dublin & would call to the Abbey.

The Secretary was instructed to see Mr. Bullock and report on what proposals he had to make.

R. Higgins

Oct 16th 1936.

16/10/1936

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin on Friday 16th October 1936, at 5.30 pm.

Present
Minutes.

Mr. R. Higgins in the Chair, Mr. Frank Clonnon.
The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

Finance.

The Secretary reported that the Bank overdraft was £12 86-1-4.

Dublin Broadcasting
Station.

A letter was read from the Director of the Dublin Broadcasting Station asking permission to engage Tim Gove, Mr. Mc Cormick and Mr. Grolan for a five minutes broadcast on Saturday night 31st October 1936, being part of an interchange of programmes between Dublin and the B.B.C., Belfast. The Board agreed to grant the permission asked on payment to the Theatre of a fee of two guineas.

Theatre Royal,
Waterford.

A letter was read from the manager, Theatre Royal, Waterford, suggesting the possibility of a visit of the Abbey Company early next year. The Board decided that a visit to Waterford would be too costly unless worked in conjunction with a visit to Cork and it was agreed that the Waterford manager be so informed.

Miss L. Yeats.

A letter was read from Mr. Lennox Robinson stating that Miss Yeats had sketches done by John B. Yeats of Mrs. Horniman & help from

which she would be very pleased to give to the Theatre. The directors decided to accept the sketches and to thank Mrs Yeats for her gift.

Mr. M. J. Dolan A letter was read from Mr. Michael J. Dolan stating he wished to be relieved of the duties of Assistant-Producer, Training Manager, Scripts etc. as the salary of 15/- per week was ridiculous. He had no option but to resign.

The Board decided that Mr. Dolan be informed his notice would be accepted as from Saturday 21st October 1936. It was also decided that Mr. Arthur Shields be asked to take over the Assist. Producing, the salary at present to 15/- per week but this not to be the permanent salary, as it was hoped to increase the amount at a later date.

New Canopy. A design for a new canopy was submitted from Messrs. The Glasgow Press & Book Street, the quotation being £82.

The Board decided that the design was not suitable and that Mr. H. Beall be asked to design a canopy to be made of concrete and to give an estimate of the cost.

Articles of Association It was decided that the amendments to the Articles of Association suggested by Messrs. Arthur Cox should be circulated amongst the Directors and that the matter should be considered at the Board meeting to be held on 30th. October 1936.

Mr. Hunt's report The Board consulted Mr. Hunt about the necessity of regular supervision of the performances so as to prevent the acting from deteriorating. Mr. Hunt said that as far as possible he did supervise the performances of new productions. It was agreed that such supervision was necessary.

and the Board decided that if Mr Arthur Shields accepted the position of Assist. Producer he could supervise the performances of the old plays

Bills for Nov. 16.

23 + 30.

It was decided that "Grogan & the Ferret" should run on Nov. 16th, "Kate Roche" on Nov. 23rd, "A Hummer Bone" on Nov. 30th.

The of Miss

Deerys play.

It was agreed that the title of Miss Deerys play be changed from "Parks Set" to "The Wild Goose".

Ann O'Connor

A request was considered from Miss O'Connor for half pay when rehearsing but not playing. The Board decided that this request could not be granted. It was also decided that Miss O'Connor's salary for acting and wardrobe should be £6-10-0 in Belfast, Glasgow & Cork.

Ed Byrne
flyman.

The Secretary reported that Mr Edw. Byrne, flyman, was not willing to resume work unless employed every week the theatre was open and also was given a rise in pay.

The Board decided that the Stage Manager be instructed to get another man.

Miss Crowe

The Secretary reported that Miss Crowe had informed him she was only in one cast for Cork "The New Gossoon" and that she would not play in Cork unless she was paid her full weeks acting salary plus travelling allowance.

It was decided that Mr Hart should find some one to fill the part in "The New Gossoon" and the Secretary was instructed to inform Miss Crowe that the Board resented very strongly her threat not to play in Cork and that serious notice would in future be taken of any Player who adopted this attitude.

An application by M. Cyril Conach for permission to join the voice production class a Friday was granted.

Jim Mooney applied for permission to produce a play for the Holy Faith Pest Pupils Union after Christmas and also for permission to adjudicate at the Father Mathew Feis next April. The Board decided to grant permission in both cases provided these engagements did not interfere with Jim Mooney's work in the Theatre.

Decision by Pp. 1
23/10/76

23rd Oct. 1936 Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on Friday, 23rd October 1936, at 5.30 p.m.

Present Mr. E. Blythe in the Chair, Mr. Walter Starkie, Mr. F. H. 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 £1111 = 10 = 6.

Correspondence. A letter was read from Mr. Lennox Robinson, apologising for his absence. A letter was read from Miss Maevie O'Callaghan, author of "A Summer Storm" suggesting that the title be altered to "Wind from the West". The Board agreed to the alteration.

M. F. May. An application was read from Mr. F. May asking for the Peacock for Sunday 29th Nov. for a musical recital and requesting the Directors to give the letting at the lowest charge possible as no profit would come from the recital. The Board

agreed that the letting be made at whatever it would cost for light and staff.

Permission was granted to Mr. Denis Johnston for the production in Belfast of "The Moon in the Yellow River" by the Longford Production Co.

A letter was read from the Director, Dublin Broadcasting Station, expressing disappointment that the Board had decided to charge a fee of two guineas for the exchange broadcast arranged with Belfast and stating that the fee would be paid. Mr. Arthur Shields was interviewed by the Board and the position of his taking over the Assistant Producership was discussed. It was decided that Mr. Dolan should be invited by Mr. Hunt to continue in the position until after the return of the Company from Glasgow and that Mr. Shields should then take over the duties at a salary of £1-10-0 per week.

The Board discussed the question of the production of plays and it was felt that certain types of Irish plays would be more effectively produced by Mr. Arthur Shields than by Mr. Hunt. The Board felt that this matter could be arranged in an amicable way and Dr. Sturges was deputed to see Mr. Hunt and ask him if he would object to certain productions being given to Mr. Shields.

The Secretary reported that none of the Players who had been offered contracts had signed them, all the Players stating they were unable to sign the contracts presented to them. The Secretary was instructed to ask the Players to state the clauses in the contract to which they objected and also their reasons for

objecting.

Mr Hunt reported he found Miss Belle Johnston very unsuited to the part she was rehearsing in the new Deceit play and he suggested that the part be given to Miss Hayden. The Board decided that Mr Hunt should consult Mr Robinson as to the likelihood of Miss Johnston improving and that he was then at liberty, if necessary, to give the part to Miss Hayden. If Miss Johnston was taken out of the part she should be paid a fee of three guineas for her work at rehearsals.

A letter was read from Mr F.R. O'Connor, Auditor, pointing out that as Messrs Cairns Gordon & Co. had not been notified of the intention to propose at the Annual General Meeting a new Auditor in their stead, certain legal formalities would have to be gone through, and suggesting that the Company should endeavour to settle the matter in an amicable way. He (Mr O'Connor) in the meantime would take no further action.

Walter Sturges.

30/10/36

22nd October 1936 Minutes of a special meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin at 6.30 pm on Wednesday, 28th October 1936.

Present Mr Lawrence Robinson in the Chair, Mr E. Blythe, Mr F.A. Higgins. Mr Higgins reported that owing to the difficulty of rehearsing Bryan and the Ferret and Katie Roche, Mr Hunt & Mr Shields suggested that the bills for Nov. 16 and 23 be "Tina & the Paycock" & the

New Grosvenor". The latter play would be required for Cork on Nov 30th.
The Board having discussed the matter fully, agreed to these bills.
The Secretary read a letter from Mr. Dolan stating that his salary
had been drastically cut and that if the Directors required his
services on tour they should increase his travelling allowance
which was totally inadequate.

The Secretary was instructed to inform Mr. Dolan that for the
three weeks away from Dublin they would give him an increase
of £1 per week.

The Secretary reported that there was a possibility of Miss O'Connor
getting a London engagement after Glasgow week. It was agreed that
Mrs. Richards be asked to play in Tientsin and that Miss Tulkern
be given the part in "The Silver Jubilee" vacated by Miss O'Connor
and Miss Phyllis Byrne be given the girls part in "The New Grosvenor".

The Higgins raised the question of the present relation between
the Players and the Board and said he felt there was a
tendency on the part of the Board to adopt an attitude which
was too remote and impersonal. He felt there was a lack of contact
and that the Directors should keep more in touch with the Players
as at present the two sides appeared to be drifting apart. Mr.
Higgins felt that the Directors and Players should meet at
stated times in the Green Room for an interchange of views &
discussion of the work of the Theatre. He was of opinion that
the appointment of Mr. Shields as Assistant Producer would
bring the two sides more closely together and make for more good will.

Mr Hyman also thought that as Mr Shield had much good working knowledge of the Theatre & its personnel he should attend the Board meetings at the same time as Mr Hunt. Mr Hyman also considered that the question of contracts should be met and that a deputation of the Board should meet the Players in the Green Room and discuss the matter. The Board agreed that there should be more contact with the Players and also decided that if no replies as to the Contracts were received by the next meeting the matter of seeking the Players for a friendly discussion should be considered.

Mr Robinson pointed out that in former days there was a custom of having tea in the Green Room each night during the performance for the Players and Directors. The Board decided that this practice should be revived as soon as the Company returned from Glasgow and that the Directors should when possible come to the Green Room for tea if they were at the performance.

Walter Stacker.

307x/36.

30th Oct. 1936.

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society
1st held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin at 5 pm on Friday 30th October 1936.

Present.

Dr. Walker Smith in the chair, Mr. Ernest Mythe, Mr. F. Higgins, Mr. Frank O'Connor.

Minutes.

The Minutes of the meetings held on 23rd October 1936 and the 28th October 1936 were read, confirmed and signed.

Finance.

The Secretary reported that the Bankers draft was £1096.20.8.

Correspondence.

A letter was read from Miss Ann Clery stating she had been offered a teaching post at £20 per month, which if she accepted it, would necessitate her leaving the Theatre, and enquiring if the Directors could offer her any prospects as she would prefer to remain in the Theatre if possible.

The Secretary was instructed to see Miss Clery and tell her that the Board regretted they could neither offer her a contract nor could they give her any promise of regular work.

Emergency exit

A letter was read from Mr. H. Scott giving details of estimates received by him for building the proposed emergency exit from the dressing rooms. The Board decided to accept the estimate of Messrs John J. Dolan £130.5.6 and as advised by Mr. Scott, to await the Corporation's approval of the plans submitted before commencing operations.

Proposed new Canopy.

A letter was read from Mr. Scott in which he doubted if a reinforced concrete canopy or a simple wrought iron canopy could be made for less than £50 and stating he was preparing a sketch design for which he would obtain estimates.

Miss Andrea O'Connor

A wire was read from Miss O'Connor asking if she could be released from playing in Glasgow as she wished to commence rehearsals of a new play in London during that week. The Board agreed that Miss O'Connor should be released and decided that Miss Richards be asked to play her original part in "The

the small parts to be played by students.

Lynne R. J.
6/11/36

- 6th Nov. 1936 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, 6th November, 1936.
- Present Mr E Hylth, in the Chair, Mr Leonard Robinson, Mr Richard Hayes, Mr F. N. Hyffman, 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 £1248.5=3.
- Dr Lachet's Portrait. It was decided that Mr Robinson, Mr Hyffman and the Secretary should select a place for hanging Dr Lachet's portrait which he had offered on loan to the Theatre.
- Letter from Mr Yeats. A letter was read from Mr Yeats asking for the production of the unexpurgated version of "Parnell" by Elsie T. Schauffler. It was proposed by Mr O'Connor seconded by Mr Robinson and passed that the Secretary be instructed to write for a copy of the play and also for rights of production.
- Yeats re Parnell play. It was proposed by Mr Hylth seconded by Mr Hayes and passed that ten shillings each be paid to the pupils of the School of Acting who were playing in "Hyacinth Halcyon" for the week ending 7th Nov. 1936.
- Payment of Pupils of School of Acting. It was agreed that the Abbey Theatre be let to the Trust Society for a dramatic performance to be given on Monday 21st Dec. 1936.
- Trust Society.

In - Off Hills" in Glasgow

Mr G. H. Tulloch

A letter was read from Mr G. H. Tulloch acknowledging the Society's letter of the 15th October in which he was informed that Messrs Gair and Gair had not been re-elected Auditors. Mr Tulloch ascribed out that certain formalities have to be gone through before a change of Auditors (not resulting from resignation) can be made and suggesting that the Society's Minutes should be consulted as to the position. It was decided by the Board that as the necessary formalities had not been gone through Mr Arthur Cox should be consulted.

Articles of Association

The Board decided not to proceed with the amendments to the Articles of Association suggested by Messrs Arthur Cox.

It was also decided that further copies of the Articles as at present should be printed.

Mr Hunt's report.

Mr Hunt suggested that for the week in Cork, Mr. F. J. McCormick should play his original part in "The New Gossoon" and that Mr. Ted Johnson should play Mr. Arthur Shields' part as Mr. Shields would be needed for the new play "Wind from the West" in the Abbey and Mr. McCormick would not be required for that cast. The Board agreed to this proposal.

The cast of "Wind from the West" was agreed to as follows:-

Stephen Joyce	-	Arthur Shields
Sand	-	W. O'Horman
Mr Kelleher	-	Christine Hayden
Mr Joyce	-	Shelagh Richards
Kate Keenan	-	Mia Mooney
Tom Dillon	-	Eric Gorman
Nellie	-	Ana Clery
Rebecca	-	Lolie Mulhann

that week only.

The following bills were paid:-

Decr. 7th. Kate Roche or Tins & the Paycock.

Decr. 14th. The Tailor.

School of
Acting

It was agreed that the Directors should see the School of Acting
rehearsing on Saturday Novr. 14th at 5.30 pm.

Laura J. J.
13/11/36

13 Nov. 1936

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society.
Held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin on Friday 13th Novr 1936
at 5.30 pm.

Present

J. E. Hynes, in the Chair, Dr Richard Hayes, Mr. Frank O'Connor.

Minutes.

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

Finance.

The Secretary reported that the draft was £1136-2-7.

Miss Ann Clery

A letter was read from Miss Clery hoping the Directors would give her as
much work as possible and asking if her salary could be raised to $\frac{1}{2}$ of
the amount she received before the general reduction. The Board decided
that Miss Clery's salary could not be raised as requested but that she
be informed that she would be given as much work as possible.

School of Acting

A letter was read from Miss Tierney asking the Board if they would see
two acts of "The Plough & the Stars" done by the School on Saturday 21st
November, at 5.30 pm. The Board agreed.

Mr. Hynes P.O.

The following letter re the appointment of an Auditor was
read:-

no
Auditors

P.T.O.

ARTHUR COX & CO.

SOLICITORS

ARTHUR COX

N. McLAUGHLIN

D. J. O'CONNOR

C.

42 and 43 St. Stephen's Green
Dublin, C.2.

9th November 1936.

Eric Gorman Esq.
Abbey Theatre,
DUBLIN.

Dear Mr Gorman:

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

I am in receipt of your letter of the 5th November.

Under your Articles of Association the appointment of Auditors is to be governed by Sections 112 and 133 of the Companies Acts of 1908

Sec. 112 prescribed that a person, other than the retiring Auditor shall not be appointed Auditor at an Annual General Meeting, unless notice of an intention to nominate that person has been given by a shareholder to the Company not less than 14 days before the annual general meeting, and the Company must send a copy of such notice to the retiring Auditor, and give notice thereof to the shareholders, either by notice or by advertisement, not less than 7 days before the Annual General Meeting.

These formalities were not carried out, and therefore the appointment of Mr. O'Connor was not correctly made. I am afraid therefore that the present position is a rather difficult one. The Auditor should have been appointed at the annual general meeting, but the appointment which was made was invalid, and therefore, no Auditor has been validly appointed.

Sub-sec (2) of 112 of the Act, provides that if an appointment

Continuation No. 1 of Letter dated 9.11.36 from Arthur Cox & Co. to Eric Gorman Esq.

of Auditors is not made at an annual general meeting, the Department of Industry & Commerce may, on the application of any member of the Company, appoint an Auditor of the Company for the current year, and fix the remuneration to be paid to him by the Company for his services.

The simplest way of dealing with the matter might be that we should get into touch with the Secretary of the Department of Industry & Commerce, and arrange for the Department to make the appointment. Having regard to the fact that the difficulty has arisen only through a mistake in procedure, and that there was a substantial majority who voted in favor of Mr. O'Connor, I would imagine that the Department would then appoint Mr. O'Connor, but it would be open to them to appoint somebody else if they so desired.

If you agree with this course, and instruct me, I shall write to the Department, but it would assist me in doing so if you would be good enough to let me have a copy of the Notice convening the Annual General meeting, as this will have to be submitted to the Department when we are writing to them.

Yours sincerely,

Arthur Co re
Auditors.

The Board decided that Mr Cox be requested to ask the Department of Industry & Commerce to appoint an Auditor.

It was decided that Mr F.T. Mc Cormick should play the part of Luke Tierney in "Hardswacket" for the week in Cork.

An enquiry having been received from Mr F.T. Ray as to the charge for the Abbey Theatre for a Chamber Music recital on a Sunday night it was decided that the charge be £15.

Verse Class

It was decided that Mr Frank O'Connor should meet pupils from the School of Irish who were anxious to join the verse speaking class and that he should select whatever number he thought would be worth taking. The meeting to be held in the Pit Cafe on Wednesday, 18th at 8.15 pm.

New play by
Denis Johnston

It was decided that at the next meeting of the Board a decision should be taken as to the acceptance of Denis Johnston's new play, not a view to its being produced on Decr. 26th if accepted.

Walter Sturges.

20/11/36.

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin at 5.30pm on Friday 20th November 1936.

Present

Dr Walter Fetherie in the Chair, Dr Richard Hayes, Mr Ernest Rhythe, Mr F.R. Higgins, Mr Frank Connor.

Minutes

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

Finance.

The Secretary reported that the overdraft was £ 1112 = 7 = 8.

Dr R. de Paul.

It was decided that a subscription of £ 5 be sent to the R. Vincent de Paul Society.

Broadcast by

B.B.C. of

"Paul Turpin" &

"The Tailbird"

Permission was given to Mr George Chiefs for broadcast performances by the B.B.C. of "Paul Turpin" and "The Tailbird" the Board waiving their claim to any percentage in the fee for "The Tailbird" altho entitled to it under the terms of their Agreement with the Author.

"Mountain Dew"

Remission was also given for two performances of "Mountain Dew" in Dublin by the Irish Youth Hostel Association.

Dr Cyril Cusack.

An application was received from Dr Cyril Cusack for permission to play in Manchester for the week commencing 14th December and to rehearse there for the week commencing 7th December. The Board decided that they could not grant permission for a fortnight as "Katie Rocks" might go on in the Theatre for the week 7th December.

New Canopy

A letter from Mr R.E. Scott, Architect stated that a new canopy to the design submitted could be erected

at a cost of $\frac{1}{2} 33 = 10 = 7$ or with better materials at a cost of $\frac{1}{2} 48 = 3 = 4$. The Board decided to instruct Mr Scott to proceed with the work with the better materials. Mr Scott also reported that the Corporation authorities had approved of the plans for the new emergency stairs etc but only for the period up to 1st October 1937. The Board decided to proceed with the work and to reconsider the matter when the Theatre closed in the summer of 1937.

It was agreed that a subscription of one guinea be paid to the Irish Tourist Association for their Irish Tourist Directory.

In accordance with the decision to erect a new canopy the Board decided to accept the Tramway Company's offer of payment of £32 for damage done to old wretched & to ask Mr Cwa to endeavour to also get his costs in the matter from the Company.

It was decided to accept "Blind Man's Buff" by Denis Johnston and to produce it at Christmas.

Mr Hyman referred to the question of advertising on the Safety Curtain and it was decided that he and the Secretary should interview Messrs Kevin Keary on the matter.

Mr Hunt reports

Mr Hunt reported that pupils from the School were undertaking some of the parts in "Wind from the West". He also reported on the possibility of getting the loan of furniture free if the firm lending the stuff were given an advertisement

in the programme for the week. The Board agreed that this should be done.

Mr. Hunt raised the question of doing 'The Tailbird' during such a bad week as the week before Christmas but the Board decided to keep to this arrangement.

Mr. Herbert Hooney

Mr. O'Connor referred to the voice production classes being taken by Mr. Hooney and said that those who had been under Mr. Hooney's tuition were 100% better than those who had not. It was decided to ask Mr. Hooney to take two classes per week at an inclusive fee of £1-10-0, one class for seniors and one for juniors and also to inform Mr. Hooney that the Directors greatly appreciated his services.

Mr. Shields' report

Mr. Arthur Shields reported that the advertising in Glasgow was bad and that when going to a strange town it would be advisable to send an advance publicity agent so as to make personal contact where it would be valuable. Mr. Shields also said that a stage staff of one was insufficient when going on tour and that two men should be sent from the Theatre. The Board agreed that two men be sent to work.

Ireland Today

Mr. O'Connor referred to advance proofs of contributions to the December issue of Ireland Today which had been sent to the Theatre and suggested that the Society's Solicitor should be consulted as to whether ~~the~~ position of one of the articles was libellous.

Mr. Hythe opposed the use of the Theatre's funds for the payment of the solicitor in such a matter and after some discussion it was decided that the paper be retained in the office and that the Secretary should write to the Editor of Ireland Today asking him if he was prepared to accept responsibility for Paragraphs one and two in Mr. Norrigan Wall's article.

Given & Co.
27/11/36

27/11/36. 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 27th November 1936.

Present Mr. E. Hythe in the Chair, Mr. Richard Hayes, Mr. F.R. Higgins, Mr. Frank O'Connor, Mr. Lennox Robinson.

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

Minutes of Finance Mr. Hayes mentioned a telephone conversation he had had with the Minister of Finance in which the Minister had made enquiries regarding the Theatre and its financial position. Mr. Hayes formed the opinion that the Minister was favourably disposed towards the Theatre and suggested it might be possible to approach the Minister with a view to obtaining increased financial help. The Board decided that Mr. Hayes be asked to arrange a

date with the Minister for the reception of a deputation from the Board and that Mr Higgins, Mr Blythe and the Secretary prepare a statement on the needs of the Theatre for consideration by the Board and subsequent presentation to the Minister.

Use of Vestibule
Cafe.

It was decided that notices be put on the walls of the Auditorium and also be printed in the programmes inviting all the patrons of the Theatre to use the Vestibule Cafe during the intervals.

Mr Denis Johnston

It was agreed that amendments made by Mr Denis Johnston in the Agreement for his play 'Blind Man's Buff' be accepted and that the £15 payable on acceptance of the play be treated as advance royalties.

Cambridge Arts
Theatre.

A telegram from the Manager of the Cambridge Arts Theatre was read asking if he could definitely fix a booking of the Abbey Company for the fortnight commencing February 22nd 1937.

The Board decided that Mr Higgins the Manager be informed they agreed in principle to the proposed visit if suitable terms could be arranged.

It was also decided that in the event of the booking being arranged some one Director should go in advance to Cambridge in order to contact with people who would be interested in the plays. The Board decided that the Producer should not be sent on this work.

Miss Ann Jeffs

As Miss Yeats' term of probation was now finished it was decided that she be paid £1 per week as assistant to Mr Norserwotch this arrangement to continue for six months when the matter would be reconsidered.

Mr Hunt reports

Mr Hunt reported it would not be possible to put on "Katie Noche"

for the week commencing 7th Dec. and it was decided that if "Wind from the West" was not continued for that week "The Silver Jubilee" and "Words upon the Window Pane" should be the bill. The Board directed that Mr Robinson should be recompensed for whatever expense he had been put to entertaining Miss Irene O'Callaghan and Mr. Abbotts Lunch when arranging interviews for publicity in connection with Miss O'Callaghan's play "Wind from the West".

Peacock

It was agreed that the Peacock be let for a concert on Sunday, 24th January 1937 at a fee of £2-10-0.

JR Higgins

Dec 4th 1936.

4th Dec. 1936

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 4th Dec. 1936.

Present

Mr J.R. Higgins in the Chair, Dr. Richard Hayes, Mr E. Blythe, Mr Frank O'Connor.

Minutes.

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

Finance

The Secretary reported the Bank overdraft was £1130-16-5

Visit to Cambridge

A telegram from J.M. Keynes of the Arts Theatre, Cambridge was read asking if the Directors would accept a booking for the fortnight commencing Feb. 15th 1937. A letter from Mr. Keynes was also read offering 60% of the net takings to the Abbey Co. and guaranteeing a minimum sum of £450 for the fortnight. Mr. Keynes also asked that the

suggested programmes be sent to him as soon as possible.

On the proposal of Mr. Blythe seconded by Mr. Connor it was decided to accept the booking for the fortnight commencing Feb'y 15th 1937 and it was also decided that the programmes be considered as soon as possible.

A letter was read from Arthur Cox & Co. ~~stating~~ as follows -

Appointment of
Auditors

TELEPHONE: 62351 DUBLIN 13 LINES
TELEGRAMS: "LITIGATION, DUBLIN"

ARTHUR COX & CO.

SOLICITORS

ARTHUR COX

N. McLAUGHLIN

D. J. O'CONNOR

C.

42 and 43 St. Stephen's Green
Dublin, C.2.

27th Novr. 1936.

Eric Gorman Esq.
Abbey Theatre.
Dublin.

Dear Mr. Gorman:

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

The Department of Industry & Commerce has written to me stating that the Minister wishes an extraordinary general meeting of the Company to be called for the purpose of nominating the Auditor and of suggesting the fee which should be paid to him for his services. When the Company has nominated the Auditor, the Minister will then consider making the formal appointment.

The Minister desires that notice of the meeting should be given to the retiring Auditors, Messrs Craig Gardner & Co. Such notice should be not less than 14 clear days before the meeting.

The retiring Auditors, Messrs Craig Gardner & Co. should be permitted to attend the meeting if they so desire.

When the resolution has been passed, nominating whichever Auditor is to be selected, and fixing his remuneration, you should let me know, and I shall then place the matter again before the Minister for his further consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Alton

The Board decided that the extraordinary general meeting be called for a Friday at 5 pm early in January 1937.

It was decided that a cheque for two guineas be sent to Mr. T. T. Mahon for his trouble in driving Mr. Cyril Casack to Cork on Monday 30th Nov. 1936.

It was decided that two new ballads by W.B. Yeats be sung at one of the internals during the week of "The Tailbird", Mr. Hyffins and Mr. O'Connor to arrange with Mr. Hunt who is to be the singer.

It was agreed that Miss Sheila Richards be paid £3-15-0 per week for her work with the School of Acting which she had undertaken owing to the illness of Miss Mooney.

It was also agreed that Miss Mooney be paid £3-7-6 per week up to the end of Christmas week but the Board decided that this action in this matter was not to be regarded as a precedent.

Players' Contracts. The question of contracts was discussed and as only one Player had stated his objections to the Contracts issued for signature it was decided on the suggestion of Mr. Hyffins that two of the Directors should interview the Players concerned and have a friendly discussion of the matter. Mr. Hyffins and Mr. Rhythe were appointed to meet the Players.

New York
play.

The Board considered "The Berna's Egg" by L.B. Yeats. Mr. Hayes was altogether opposed to it and considered it unfit for production. After some discussion it was decided to postpone further consideration of the matter until the next meeting of the Board. The cast for "Black Man's Buff" by Annis Johnston was submitted on behalf of Mr. Hunt who was in Cork. The Board approved of the suggested cast.

Frank J. J. J.
11/12/36.

11th December 1936.

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, 11th December, 1936.

Present

Mr. Frank O'Connor, in the Chair. Mr. Richard Hayes, Mr. F. R. Higgins.

Minutes.

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

Finance.

The Secretary reported that the Bank overdraft was £831 = 13 = 10.

Players' Contracts

Mr. Higgins reported on an interview he had had with Mr. Gorce, Mr. Selany, Mr. Shields, Mr. Gormick and Mr. Dolan regarding the new contracts which had been given to these Players for signature but which they had refused to sign. Mr. Blythe who was to have been with Mr. Higgins at this interview was prevented by illness from attending. The Players above mentioned and Mr. Higgins had met and had discussed in detail the clauses of the contract. Many of the amendments suggested by the Players, Mr. Higgins considered quite fair and reasonable and he put them before the Board with a recommendation that they be accepted.

Mr Higgins further reported that at the conclusion of the discussion all the players with the exception of Jim Dolan refused to sign the amended contract but Mr Crowe, Messrs Mc Cormick and Dolan to give Mr Higgins a final reply on Friday 11th Dec. 1936. Mr Higgins stated he had these replies; Jim Crowe and Mr McCormick being willing to sign if some definite arrangement was made regarding afternoon rehearsals; Mr Dolan asked for higher salary and Mr Arthur Shields wrote stating that as he hoped at some time to have an opportunity of returning to Hollywood to work under John Ford he would prefer not to tie himself to the Theatre at the moment. The Board considered the amendments recommended by Mr Higgins in the various clauses of the Contract and having revised the Contract directed that copies of this revised version be offered to Jim Crowe Mr McCormick. It was also decided that an attempt should be made to bring Mr Dolan to a reasonable point of view.

As Mr Shields would not accept a contract it was decided that in future he be paid £6-15-0 as Assistant Producer and £1-10-0 as an actor. Mr Shields was informed of this when he came before the Board.

Plans for
reconstructing
the Theatre.

The Secretary reported on an interview he had had with Mr H. Scott, Architect, re the drawing up of a scheme of reconstruction of the Theatre which it might be possible to carry through in sections spread over a number of years. Mr Scott in the first instance required as a basis, the information as to the seating capacity of the proposed theatre and suggested box seats. The Board decided that Mr Scott should as quickly as possible draw up the

main parts of a scheme on this basis.

Mrs M. J. Morney

A letter was read from Mrs M. J. Morney thanking the Directors for paying her half salary up to Decr. 31st.

M. J. Robinson

A letter was read from M. J. Robinson thanking the Board for the fee of £2-2-0 sent to him in connection with his trip to Cork.

M. Cyril Cusack

A letter was read from M. Cyril Cusack stating he was severing his connection with the Theatre as he had been refused permission to go to Manchester to play for a week when it was known he would not be required in the Theatre.

M. J. Hunt reported on this matter and stated he had tried to reason with M. Cusack and discuss the matter with him but that he had not been successful.

Big Little Theatre.

A letter was read from the Secretary, Little Theatre, Brix asking if the Board would release Mrs M. J. Morney for the period 21st March 1937 to possibly 10th April 1937 to play in a new play by David Sears.

The Board decided that as Mrs Morney was in charge of the School of Acting as well as acting in the Theatre, she could not be released for that period.

Ireland Today

A letter was read from the Editors of Ireland Today enclosing an advance copy of a revised article by M. Henry Wall which it was proposed to publish in the January 1937 issue of the magazine. M. O'Connor took the article away with him.

M. J. Hunt

M. J. Hunt reported that business in Cork had been very poor and expressed that the Board might at another time consider doing a fortnight there instead of a week if they could send plays which would appeal to the Cork audiences.

He also stated he found the scale of tipping for the local shiffers high & that in cooperation with the local Manager he had reduced it. The Board decided that this scale should apply in future.

Mr. Hunt also reported he had sent a friendly note to Mr. John Stephenson suggesting they should meet but that he had received in reply a very formal letter stating that if Mr. Hunt wished to discuss any business with Mr. Stephenson he (Mr. Stephenson) would meet him in the office at some time to be fixed. The Board decided that the matter need not be pursued further.

It was decided that Mr. Denis O'Dea be paid £4-10-0 per week when playing and £2-5-0 when rehearsing but not playing. He had been court for the past relinquished by Mr. Curack in "Blind Man's Buff".

Walter Stark 12.

- 18th Decr. 1936. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society.
1st. held at the Abbey Theatre Dublin at 8.30 pm on
Friday 18th December, 1936.
- Present Dr Walter Sturkie in the chair, Dr Richard Harpur,
Mr J. H. Hyginis, Mr Frank O'Connor.
- Minutes The minutes of the last meeting were read confirmed and
signed.
- Minutes continuing out of the minutes Mr Hyginis informed the Board
that Mr Fanning of the Little Theatre, Birm & Mr David
Scars had interviewed him regarding the possibility of
Miss Ma Rooney being allowed to play in Birm at the
end of the Abbey season. The Board decided to allow
Miss Rooney to play at the end of the Abbey & School of
Acting seasons.
- Finance The Secretary reported that the Bank overdraft was £1088-5-7.
Mr Cyril Cusack A letter was read from Mr Cyril Cusack asking permission
to withdraw his resignation which had been received
at the meeting held on 11th December. The Board agreed
to Mr Cusack's request.
- Cambridge The following bills were selected for the two weeks visit to
Cambridge: - (1) Play boy & Rising of the Moon, (2) Jumbo & the
Paycock, (3) Katie Roche & The Birds Upon the Window Pane,
(4) The Town in the Yellow River or The New Goswore
the choice to be left to the Cambridge management.
- Dublin Bills The bills for coming weeks in the Abbey were selected
viz Jany 4 (possibly) Blind Man's Buff.
" Paul Turgain, with F. J. Mc Cormick as Paul Turgain

Jan 18. Shadow + Substance

" 25 Look at the Heffernans.

Feb. 1 Katie Roche

" 8 Moon in the Yellow Shoes or The Silver Jubilee
and The End of the Beginning by O'Casey

Mr Kent was asked by the Board to write to Mr George
Shiels and ask him if he could let us have a play
for production ^{in the Abbey} on Feb. 15, the date at which the
Cambridge engagement begins.

Covering up the 1
1/1/37

1st Jan'y 1937. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre
Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin at 5.30
p.m. on Friday, 1st January 1937.

Present Mr E. Blythe in the Chair, Mr. Walter Staskie, Mr.
Richard Hayes, Mr. F.R. Higgins.

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

Finance. The Secretary reported that the Bank draft was £1048-13-5.
Mr R. Scott. A report from Mr R. Scott, Architect, on the condition of
the theatre building and suggestions for reconstruction
was read. It was decided that R. Scott be asked to
prepare a rough sketch scheme of reconstruction
together with suggestions as to how this reconstruction

Could be carried out in sections, an estimate of the cost of each section to be given. It was also decided that Miss Hayes, Blythe and Hyman should meet Mr Scott and discuss this sketch scheme with him.

"As You Were" by Mr Hunt should read "As You Were" by Harpt. Henry and advise the Board as to the probable cost of producing the play.

Future meetings of the Board. It was decided that in future the Board should meet fortnightly instead of weekly, unless some special business arose, in which case a special meeting could be called, the next meeting to be on the 15th January.

School of Acting.

It was decided that the School of Acting should re-open on Tuesday 12th January and that the Secretary should arrange with Miss Richards to take some of the classes until Miss Murray would be well enough to resume complete control.

Ernest Robinson
Jan. 8th 1937-

Re Jan'y 1937. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 6 pm on Friday, 8th Jan'y 1937.

Present Mr Leanne Robinson in the Chair, Dr. Walter Sturges, Mr Hayes, Mr Ernest Glythe, Mr F.R. Higgins, Mr Frank O'Connell.

Minutes. The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed. Arising out of the Minutes Mr Higgins referred to the decision to hold fortnightly meetings of the Board and said he thought that weekly meetings should be held. Mr Robinson was also of opinion that weekly meetings should be held unless the Directors were willing to arrange for one member of the Board to be on duty during each fortnight so as to be available for dealing with any matter of urgency which might arise. After some discussion the Board decided to adhere to the arrangement made at their meeting on the 10th January 1937.

Finance. The Secretary reported that the Bank overdraft was £866-9-0.

Lease Society. An application was considered from the Lease Society for reduction in the charge for the Theatre for the performance given on 21st December 1936. The Board agreed to reduce the charge for that night from £15 to £12.

Re James Bourke. A letter was read from Mr James Bourke re a balance due to him in respect of a letting of the Pearse Theatre made to him in August 1936, and offering £2 in final settlement of his debt of £4-9-0. The Board decided that in view of Mr Bourke's statement that it would be a very considerable time before he could clear off the debt, they would accept his offer of an immediate payment of £2 in settlement.

and songs
Ballads by
W.B. Yeats and
Others. A letter was read from Mr Yeats proposing (1) a short programme of songs including ballads by Mr Yeats in Casement and Parnell's history before some play which gave sufficient time for this and (2) a programme of "songs for dancers". Mr Higgins explained to the Board that the question of having

ballads, song had been decided in a casual way but as there was now a definite proposal from Mr Yeats in the subject. Mr Stakie added that he had been called in by Mr Yeats in an experimental manner & that he understood Mr Yeats wanted the second programme accompanied by violin and pipes.

He had decided that the first programme should be given as early as the earliest date and that Mr Yeats be asked to give more particulars of the second programme how long it would run, what singers and instrumentalists would be required.

Mr Hunt.

The Board considered an application from Mr Hunt for permission to go to Oxford to produce Tachell for the O.U.D.S. the period of Mr Hunt's absence to be three weeks from 26th January. The Directors decided to grant Mr Hunt's application and to engage Mr Wm Redmond to produce ^{play} for the fortnight during which the company would be in Cambridge 15th Feb. 27th Feb. Mr Redmond's salary to be £3 per week.

Bills.

The following bills were arranged

Jan 11. Blind Man's Buff

18 Look at the Steppernans

25 Shadow and Substance

Feb 1. Katie Rocks

8. "Silver Tubicle" and "Ashes of the Beginning".

Play by Mayhew
Henry

Mr Hunt advised against the acceptance of "As You Were" by Mayhew Henry and it was decided that the play be returned.

JH Higgins

Jan 15th 1937.

15th Jan'y. 1937 Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 6 p.m. on Friday, 15th. January 1937.

Present

Minutes

Finance

"Ireland Today"

M. F. R. Higgins in the Chair, Dr Richard Hayles, M. Frank O'Connor
The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.
The Secretary reported that the Bank overdraft was £ 694-17-7.

A letter was read from the Editors of "Ireland To-day" suggesting that the Directors might wish to reply to articles which appeared in the January issue of the magazine under the title "Attack on the Abbey".
The Board decided that the Editors be informed that the Directors did not wish to reply.

M. F. R. Carlow

Permission to broadcast on Sunday 17th. inst. was granted to Mr Carlow in reply to his request to the Directors for that grant to his doing so.

Ballads by
W. B. Yeats.

The Board discussed the inclusion of Mr. Yeats' first programme in a forthcoming bill. It was decided that the ballads & poems could not be done with "Madness & Substance" by Paul V. Carroll as the play was too long. It was decided that they could be included in the bill with "Katie Roche". Mr. Higgins informed the Board that arrangements were under consideration for relaying the ballads & poems from the stage by the Dublin Broadcasting Station.
Mr. O'Connor questioned the suitability of Mr. J. W. Stephenson for the work if broadcasted as Mr. O'Connor did not think Mr. Stephenson's voice would be good for broadcasting songs. It was decided that before making final arrangements, the Secretary should ask Mr. Kiernan if he considered Mr. Stephenson suitable for this broadcast.

Cambridge
Tour.

It was decided that the recent changes in costs of plays for Cambridge made by Mr. Hunt should not be adhered to and that the costs as originally passed should stand.

Mr. Hunt said that as he would be at Oxford before the Company went to Cambridge he would be able to forward three or four hints to Cambridge in advance and interview press people and others who would be likely to support the plays during the visit.

Future Bills.

The Board discussed the programme for the Abbey during the fortnight ~~that~~ of the Cambridge tour. It was decided that "Margaret Gellow" produced by Mr. W. Redmond should go on for the week 15th Feb.

The play or plays for the week 22nd Feb. was not decided upon. "The Simpleton of the Sheepfold Isles" by Shaw was suggested and it was decided that a copy be forwarded at once for circulation. "The Canavans" and "The Countess Cathleen" was also suggested as a possible bill and it was decided that whatever bill was selected the plays for that week should be produced by H. G. Cusack.

Director's interview
with Minister for
Finance.

It was decided that Mr. Hays, Mr. Blythe and Mr. Hyffins should meet at some suitable time and draw up a report for presentation at the next meeting of the Board, on their recent interviews with the Minister for Finance.

Mr. Hyffins referred to the decision which had been taken to continue "Blind Hair Buff" for a fourth week and the manner in which this decision was taken. He held that the matter should have come before the Board in the ordinary way and that most decisions should not be taken. He said he also objected to Directors being canvassed for

their opinion.

Mr. Higgins also referred to the letter issued by Mr. Hunt re changes of casts in Cambridge productions and said that he considered this letter should not have been issued.

Mr. Hunt stated he issued the letter as the quickest means of having the casts finally fixed and of obtaining the views of the Board on his suggested changes. He did not intend that any changes should be made without the Board discussing them.

He also said that regarding the continuance of *Blind Hans Buff* for a further week, this was only suggested because the play showed signs of continuing to draw a great deal of money, which the Theatre badly needed.

W. J. G. T.

22/1/37.

22nd Jan'y. 1937. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin at 5.30 pm on Friday, 22nd January 1937.

Present

Mr. W. B. Yeats in the Chair, Mr. Walter Stankie, Mr. E. Blythe, Mr. L. Higgins.

Minutes.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed. Arising out of the Minutes the Chairman said he wished to raise the question of the running of plays for several weeks as had been done in the case of *"Blind Hans Buff"*. He was totally opposed to

this policy which would destroy the Theatre's regular weekly audience and would tend to create an audience which would only support plays which were having an extended run. The Theatre would in the end make less money.

Financial.

Interview with
Minister of Finance.

The Secretary reported that the Bank Overdraft was £558 = 3 = 11.

Mr Blythe reported on the interview which he in company with Dr Hayes and Mr Higgins had had with the Minister of Finance who received them very cordially. The Minister was informed of the financial position of the Theatre and of the structural alterations which were being put in hand as an immediate necessity in order to comply with the demands of the Corporation authorities. The deputation informed the Minister that the Board did not seek any additional subsidy for the actual running of the Theatre but asked him to help financially some work of reconstruction which would be of a permanent nature and would fall in with a scheme for a future improvement of the entire premises. He also suggested to the Minister that it might be possible for the Board of Works to purchase Blythe's premises with a view to the Theatre obtaining patron or all of them if needed at a later date.

The Minister in replying enquired if the Board would not go further and plan for the reconstruction of a proper theatre with a theatre or hall which could be used by the Gaelic Players. He also suggested a building which would also have a theatre which would be a home for international drama as distinct from the type of work done in the Abbey.

Mr Blythe said his impression of the interview was that the Minister was speaking very personally and that the Minister's views might not find favour with the members of the Executive Council.

The Board decided that a written appeal be sent to the Minister stressing the immediate needs of the theatre and pointing out the necessity for a better National Theatre. Mr Hayes, Mr Blythe and Mr Higgins were deputed to draw up this letter.

Statement by
Mr W.B. Yeats

The Chairman said he was anxious to develop an old art, the speaking of poetry to a musical accompaniment. He wished to have certain poems spoken and sung from the Abbey stage. He brought forward two resolutions as follows:-

No I. Proposed by Mr F.H. Higgins and seconded by Dr. Sturkie
"That Mr Yeats arrange for the singing and speaking of certain poems from the Abbey stage, the performance to last about fifteen minutes; the poems to be chosen by Mr Yeats and his authority to be that of a producer. That Mr Yeats may arrange two programmes." This resolution was passed.

No II. Proposed by Mr E. Blythe and seconded by Dr. Sturkie:-
"That Mr Yeats be empowered to arrange if possible for the broadcasting of these performances." This resolution was also passed. It was proposed by Mr F.H. Higgins, seconded by Dr Sturkie and passed "That Mr Yeats be empowered to arrange for a programme to be broadcast by the B.B.C."

It was decided that one programme should go on with "Léile Noche" which would be the bill for either the week commencing Feb 1st or Feb 8th, the poems to be by Mr Yeats, Mr Higgins and James Stephens and it was agreed that a minimum fee of three guineas be paid to James Stephens as royalty.

Mr Higgins reported that he had taken a list of the poems.

Stephenson broadcasting some of the songs in the Studio of the Broadcasting Station and that the results had been exceedingly successful. Dr. O'Brien had also heard the tests and was very pleased with Mr Stephenson's work.

Dates of Board Meetings

It was decided that for the carrying on of the business of the Theatre, Wednesday would be a more suitable day than Friday for holding Board meetings, and Wednesday was accordingly fixed on the motion of Mr. Blythe seconded by Dr. Starkie.

Houseletting

The Board agreed to let the Peacock to Mr. J. W. H. H. for a fortnight at the end of April at the usual charge of £8 per week.

Signing of Contracts by Players.

A letter from Miss Greve was read regarding the signing of the new contracts which she stated she could not accept, as the amendments she desired had not been made.

Mr. Hygin's informed the Chairman of the discussion he had had with the Players lately in December regarding these new contracts. Mr. Yeats said that in view of the reductions in salary the Players should be met as far as possible and after some discussion it was agreed on the motion of Dr. Starkie seconded by Mr. Blythe that Mr. Hygin's be given plenary powers to negotiate with the Players concerned and that they be offered the old contracts that is contracts similar to those they had heretofore signed, and that these contracts be signed before 15th February 1937.

Mr Hunt's
report.

Mr Hunt raised the question of the Salary payable to Mr Cyril Cusack who would not be in the cast of Katie Rocks. He would be working on the production for 22nd Feby. It was agreed to pay Mr Cusack £3.

It was also agreed that Mr Hunt should be paid whatever expenses he would incur to and fro between Oxford and Cambridge while doing publicity work in Cambridge for the Company.

It was agreed that the bill for the week commencing 1st March should be "The Playhouse & the Stars".

Mr Arthur Shields.

Mr Shields informed the Board that he had received an invitation from Mr John Ford to go to Hollywood for the production of a picture about the middle of March and that as soon as he had final particulars he would let the Directors know the date of his departure and how long he anticipated he would be away.

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27/1/36

27th Jan'y 1937

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin at 5.30 pm on Wednesday, 27th January, 1937.

Present

Minutes.

Mr E. Blythe in the Chair, Mr Richard Hayes, Mr F. H. Higgins.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed. At the end of the Minutes Mr Higgins reported that he had interviewed the Players to whom contracts were being offered and that

Miss Delany and Miss Grove had agreed to sign. Mr. Mc Cormick complained about excessive rehearsals and about being called for evening rehearsals unnecessarily by Mr. Hunt. Mr. Mc Cormick intended to put in a statement regarding rehearsals before signing his contract. Mr. Arthur Shields did not wish to sign any contract owing to the possibility of his going to Hollywood in the near future but he promised to return to Dublin with the Company from Cambridge and to give the fullest possible notice as to when he would be leaving the Theatre for America.

Mr. Higgins then read a letter he had just received from Mr. Dolan in which he stated that his financial position was at the moment very bad, that he was badly in debt through no fault of his own and that he did not know what his position would be by the time the Company was due to leave for Cambridge.

After some discussion the Board authorised Mr. Higgins to interview Mr. Dolan and obtain from him a detailed account of his financial difficulties, Mr. Higgins to report on the matter at the next Board Meeting.

Mr. Higgins also reported that the Players were unanimous in complaining of the manner in which they were treated by Mr. Hunt. They also complained that at their previous meeting with Mr. Higgins Mr. Hunt had been present and that the Players had no opportunity of putting their complaints before the Directors or pleading their case. They suggested that a way out of this difficulty might be the appointment of one Director to whom they could write if they had any complaints to make, the Director to then interview the Player or Players concerned and if he thought it

necessary, to bring the matter before the Board.

Finance.

The Directors agreed that if Mr. Higgins, who had been asked by the Players to undertake this duty, had no objection to doing so it would be a useful means of contact between the Board and the Players. Mr. Higgins agreed to act as requested. The Secretary reported that the Bank overdraft was £736-6-5.

A letter was read from Mr. Hunt suggesting Mr. Delany for the part - "Katie Roche" formerly played by Miss Craig. The Directors consulted Mr. Shields who agreed that Miss Delany was well suited to the part and it was decided that the change be made.

Bill for 1st Feby.

It was decided that as "Shadow and Substance" did not appear likely to draw very well for the week, "Katie Roche" provided by Songs & Poems be the bill for 1st February.

Cambridge.

On Mr. Shields' request it was agreed that two stagehands be sent to Cambridge as had been done in Cork.

Bill for 22 Feby.

It was agreed that "The Millionaires" be produced by P. Cyril Gaskell for the week 22nd Feby. and that the casting of the play be decided upon at a meeting on Saturday, 30th January at 3pm.

Letter to Minister of Finance.

The Board then discussed the question of sending a statement to the Minister of Finance regarding the need of the Theatre and in view of the Minister's very friendly attitude when interviewed by some of the Directors. An outline of the statement was drawn up and approved and the Secretary was instructed to embody this statement in a letter to the Minister on behalf of the Board.

Agreed in 16/2/28

10th Feb. 1937. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society, Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30 pm on Wednesday, 10th February, 1937.
Present Mr. E. Blythe in the chair, Mr. F. Higgins.

Minutes The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.
Arising out of the Minutes the Board decided that Mr. Hunt should return to Dublin after the production of "Katie Noche" in Cambridge.
Mr. Higgins reported that he had received from Mr. W. J. Dolan a detailed account of his liabilities which amounted to £170:1:4. Of which £134 represented pressing debts. The Board discussed the matter and decided to grant Mr. Dolan a loan of £50 to be repaid by instalment of 10/- a week.

Finance. The Secretary reported that the Bank overdraft was £670:16:4.

Broadcasting. A letter was read from Mr. Keenan suggesting a scheme of five minutes broadcasts from plays, which would be recorded on gramophone records and later used for broadcasts from the Radio. The Directors considered the suggestion and decided that such a scheme would not be suitable to the Theatre.

School of Acting. A letter was read from Mrs. Mooney enquiring if the Board would sanction the production by the Students of "The Bores & the Cockatoos" in "Alarm Among the Clocks" both plays being by George Wall. The Board approved of "Alarm Among the Clocks".

Mr. John Stephenson. A letter was read from Mr. John Stephenson hoping that the Directors would consider him for future casts. The Secretary was instructed to reply that Mr. Stephenson would be considered for future productions.

By Mrs. M. Needham on behalf of the School of the King. A letter addressed to Mrs. Mooney by Mr. Austin Telford on behalf of the pupils of the School of the King was read in which disappointment was expressed owing to the casting of a forthcoming production with some parts given to outside

amateurs instead of to pupils of the school.

The Board decided that Mr. Helder be informed that in the special circumstances of "Napaul Jellar" the Producer was allowed to have some of his previous cast who were in the productions of the play in the Peace Hall, but that there was no intention to involve the School as it was the wish of the Directors that as far as possible pupils should be used in all productions.

Let of 27/10
Abbey St.

A letter was read from Messrs Arthur Goss enclosing Notices to Quit for service of Mr. Ellis tenant of 27/10 Abbey St., this being the first step in the process of obtaining if possible a higher rent for the premises.

In view of the consideration being given to a scheme of reconstruction of the Theatre premises the Directors decided that it would be inadvisable to take any action in the matter at the moment & that it be postponed until the next half year viz August 1947.

"Arrow in the Air"

It was decided that "Arrow in the Air" be returned to the author Mr. Seanamh MacCall.

Bills.

The following bills were tentatively arranged

March 8th Look at the Steppernans

15th Drama at Irish

It was decided that the Secretary write to Mr. Kenneth Brinley Brown asking him if he has a new play and also if he would agree to a new production of "The White-headed Boy". It was also agreed that Mr. Brinley Brown be asked if he had a new play.

Layton 21/11
17/2/54

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

Present Mr E. Blythe in the Chair, Mr F. H. Higgins, Mr Frank O'Connor.

Minutes. The Minutes of the last meeting were read, Confirmed and Signed. Arising out of the Minutes, it was agreed on Mr Higgins' suggestion that it should be recorded in the Minutes, that at the meeting of the 10th February, Mr Shields had read a letter he had received from Mr Hunt giving certain directions and suggestions and that the Board had agreed that some of these suggestions should be carried out and that others should not.

Finance. The Secretary reported that the overdraft was £750 = 5 = 7.

Mr. Experimental Theatre. A letter was read from Mr Potter asking if the Board would sanction the production of one of the following one act plays "Sound or Sense" by O'Casey, "The Anniversary" by Paula Holly. The Board decided that they would prefer "The Anniversary" and that possibly "The Phoenix" by Hans Bacholomew would be more suitable than either of the above mentioned plays. It was also decided that the Experimental Theatre Group must make their own arrangement with authors regarding fees to be paid to them and that the Abbey Theatre should be in no way involved in any arrangement made for the production of plays.

Mr. J. Dolan. A letter was read from Mr. J. J. Dolan thanking the Board sincerely for the loan of £50 which they had made to him.

Mr. MacCall. A letter from Mr. MacCall was read asking for some explanation as to why his play "Arrow in the Air" was considered unsuitable for production and whether the decision against acceptance was unanimous or not. The Board decided that it could not establish a precedent by giving the information asked for and the Directors hoped that

the rejection of this play would not deter Mr. MacCall from submitting other work for consideration.

Suggested change in cast of "Katie Roche". A telegram from Mr. Hunt was read stating he was dissatisfied with reports of Mr. Carlson's performance in "Katie Roche" and that Mr. Johnson should be told to learn the part.

After some discussion it was decided (Mr. Hythe & Mr. Hyfin being in favour and Mr. O'Connor against) that Mr. Hunt be informed that in the absence of any official report on the performance they prefer to leave Carlson in the part.

It was decided that a letter be sent to Mr. Rutherford Mayne asking him if he had a new play.

Walter Starkie

3/3/37.

- 3rd March 1937. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society. Held at the Abbey Theatre at 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday 3rd March 1937.
- Present Mr. Walter Starkie in the Chair, Mr. E. Hythe, Mr. F. Hyfin, Mr. Frank O'Connor.
- Minutes. The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.
- Letter from Mr. Lennox Robinson saying he was working on a new Irish play and that he would prefer that "The Whiteheaded Boy" should not be revived until the summer months.

he would ask to be allowed to agree to the cost.

Duncan McLaren
re masks

A letter was read from J. Gelvin of Rice Productions Ltd asking for the loan of the masks made for the Theatre by Mr Angus McBean. The Board agreed provided all expenses of carriage insurance & customs were paid by the applicants.

H. Fine

Longford Productions

A letter was read from H. Fine, Manager of the Longford Productions enquiring if in the event of the Abbey Co. going in an American tour in the autumn would the Directors lease the Abbey Theatre to Lord Longford. The Secretary was instructed to reply that the Theatre would not be available.

Finance.

The Secretary reported that the overdraft would be £1098-5-2 when the accounts were paid.

It was decided that "The Silencers" by Jack B. Yeats be returned to the author.

A. Hunt's report.

A. Hunt reported that he had just received a new play from George Shields. It was decided that the play be read as quickly as possible and that if a majority of the Board was in favour of it, it should be produced at Easter.

The Board decided that one week's salary be paid to Mr Hunt in connection with his work in Cambridge.

Walter Stucklin

10.3.37.

10th March 1937 Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30 pm on Wednesday, 10th March 1937.

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

Minutes. The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.
"Paul Irgay" Permission was given by the Board for the amateur performance of "Paul Irgay" at the Dome Hall on 26th April 1937.

Experimental Theatre. An application was received from the Abbey Experimental Theatre for permission to erect an advertisement board outside the Peacock Theatre entrance. Consideration of the matter was postponed until a later date.

J. & G. W. U. An application was considered from the Secretary to the Musical Branch of the Irish Transport General Workers Union asking that the staff be paid for Christmas week and Easter week in stead of two weeks holiday pay at the end of the season. The Board decided that if there was no illegality involved, the request should be acceded to.

Frank Whinnery A letter was read from Mr. Whinnery complaining about his not being cast in Dana at dusk for week 15/3/37. The Secretary said he considered that Mr. Whinnery had a genuine grievance and that he (Mr. Gorman) was willing to relinquish the part which Mr. Whinnery had formerly played. The Board agreed with this arrangement.

Finance. The Secretary reported that the Government subsidy of £1000 had been received and that there was a credit balance in

the bank of £128 = 6

It was decided that 'Quin's Secret' by George Shields, which is being produced on Easter Monday should be continued for a second week if the business justified it, and that the play to follow should be 'Bapt's Shop'.

Cambridge town.

The Secretary reported on the Cambridge tour and stated there would be a profit of roughly £30. an accurate return could not be completed until a refund had been received from the English Customs of the deposit of £30 made in Liverpool by the Company.

The Board decided that as no loss had been incurred on the visit the cheque for £7-13-3 received from Mr. Keyes should be returned to him. This cheque had been sent by Mr. Keyes to make up the deficit in the amount guaranteed to the theatre by the Cambridge management.

Mr. May Lang.

Permission was given for the purchase of one Mr. May Lang's Lamp at a cost of one guinea.

Mr. Hunt's report.

Mr. Hunt submitted various names for parts in 'Quin's Secret' and the cast was made up and approved. He then also submitted details of estimated expenses which were also approved.

Mr. Hunt suggested the putting on of special plays on Sunday nights in the Abbey. The matter was considered and the Board decided that the venture would not be successful. It was however decided that Mr. Hunt should do a special production for a week in the Peacock 'Masthead' and 'Interlude' being suggested as the plays.

Mr Higgins and
Players

Mr Higgins reported that he had met some of the Players who considered they had a grievance arising to their being left out of the cast of "Drama at Night". He had reported these complaints to the other Directors available and as a result it was decided that Miss Gane be restored to the cast in place of Miss Hayden, this to be the only change. Mr Higgins then informed the Board that he had had a message from Miss Gane stating she did not wish Miss Hayden to be taken out of the cast and that she would prefer not to play. The Board decided that if Miss Hayden was willing to return to the part, she should play it but if not, Miss Gane should drop.

Caroline R. 11
18/3/37

18th March 1937

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society, Ltd.
held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30 pm on Thursday, 18th
March 1937.

Present

Mr E. Blythe in the Chair, Mr F.R. Higgins, Mr Frank O'Connor.

Minutes

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

Finance.

The Secretary reported that there was a credit balance of £90-8-6.

Stage Society.

Dublin.

A letter was read from the Stage Society, Dublin, asking if they could have the theatre for the week commencing May 3rd and also for the three weeks May 10 to May 29. The Society had already booked the theatre for the two weeks April 19 to May 12th.

The Board decided that the week commencing May 30th should be given to the Abbey Experimental Theatre as previously arranged and that the Stage Society be given the three weeks May 10 to May 29th.

Abbey Experimental
Theatre.

Players who have
not signed their
Contracts.

The Hon. Secretary to the Abbey Experimental Theatre submitted two designs for a Crest and the Board approved of the design marked A. The Board decided that any Player who had not signed his or her Contract by Saturday 20th March 1937 should no longer receive half pay when not playing. The two Players affected by this decision were Miss Grove and Mr McCornick and the Secretary was instructed to inform Mr McCornick that in the matter of evening rehearsals the Board were always prepared to meet him as reasonably as the proper production of the plays would allow.

Mr Higgins with-
draws from position
of intermediary.

Mr Higgins informed the Board that in consequence of the attitude taken up by certain of the Players in the recent dispute regarding the cost of "Drama as Business" he wished to withdraw from the position of intermediary Director as between the Players and the Board. The Board agreed with Mr Higgins in his decision and the Secretary was instructed to notify Mr Shields for the information of the Players of Mr Higgins' decision.

Miss Gair

An application from Miss Gair for half-pay when not playing or rehearsing was postponed - to be considered at the next meeting.

Mr Hunt.

Mr Hunt enquired if the Board had any desire to obtain a new Producer at the end of the present season. He personally had no desire to leave but before making further arrangements for residing in Dublin he would want to know the Board's decision in the matter. He then withdrew and the Directors having discussed the matter decided to offer Mr Hunt a new contract to commence at the beginning of

the next season, to run for twelve months subject to three months
whichever on either side and to be at the same salary as his former
contract viz £10 per week.

U-E A
Tour.

The Board considered the possibility of an American tour
in the autumn and having heard Mr Hunt's and Mr Shields'
views on the subject, decided that Messrs Hunt & Shields
should work out a suitable scheme and Cable managers
and agents in New York likely to be interested.

Vacuum
cleaning.

An estimate submitted by Messrs Anderson Stanford and
Nidgerway for vacuum cleaning the Vestibule walls, seats
and carpets and also carpet runners in Auditorium
at a charge of £3-10-0 was accepted.

The Board authorized the purchase from Messrs Tiller and
Beatty of a length of crimson matting for the back row
of the stalls at a cost of 2/9 per yard.

Agreed on 31/3/37

31st March 1937. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society
Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30 pm. on Wednesday.
31st March, 1937.

Present Mr E. Blythe in the Chair, Mr F. R. Styracis, Mr Frank O'Connor.
Minutes. The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.
Finance. The Secretary reported that there was a credit balance of £109-8-1.
Paul V. Carroll. A letter was read from Mr Paul V. Carroll stating he had accepted a
re contract. cablegram offer for a production in New York of his play "Shadow

and Substance" and that in accordance with Clauses 10 & 11 of his Agreement with the Abbey Theatre he would forward a copy of the American Contract as soon as he received it. The Board decided to await receipt of this Contract before proceeding further in the matter.

Mr. J. N. Hayes,
Cambridge

A letter was read from Mr. Keynes, thanking the Directors for returning him the cheque which he had sent to cover his guarantee on the Cambridge visit and hoping that the Company would again visit Cambridge next year.

Mr. J. Stephenson.

A letter was read from Mr. Stephenson thanking the Directors for their offer of a part in Mr. Osborne's new play and regretting that he was unable to accept it owing to his engagements at the Gate Theatre.

"Who Are Your Gods?"

The Board considered a play submitted by Hugh Montgomery entitled "Who Are Your Gods?" and decided that the author should be asked to meet Mr. Higgins and Mr. O'Connor who would discuss with him the rewriting of the play.

Mr. Hunt's report.

Mr. Hunt reported that Mr. Wm. O'Hara the property manager of late been very irregular in his attendance and had frequently absented himself from the theatre without any notice & explanation his work for some time back being very unsatisfactory.

The Board decided that Mr. O'Hara's services be dispensed with as from Saturday, 10th April and the Secretary was instructed to notify the Secretary, Transport Workers Union (Theatrical Section) of the Board's decision.

Mr. Hunt also reported that on the previous night two male members of the cast had appeared to be under the influence of drink during

the performance. One denied it & the other admitted it. The Board decided that Mr. Hunt should inform the men of the Company that a complaint in the matter had been laid by the Directors and that in the event of any further complaint the offending party would be immediately suspended.

The Board ordered that in future no account over one shilling should be paid by the Stage Manager but that an invoice should be sent by the firm for payment from the office in the ordinary way.

Mr. Shields The Board were informed by Mr. Shields of the letters sent to various agents and managers in the United States re an American Tour and Mr. Shields was asked to write to Dr. P. MacLellan asking him if he could suggest any people who would be interested.

Francis J. Connor
7/4/37.

14 April 1937. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin on Wednesday, 7th April 1937 at 5.30 pm.

Present Mr. Frank O'Connor in the Chair, Mr. Laurence Wharion, Dr. Michael Hayes, Mr. J. R. Higgins.

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

Finance. The Secretary reported that there was a credit balance of £308.14.8.

Mr. Jaisiwitch. A letter was read from Mr. Jaisiwitch thanking the Directors for their letter of sympathy on the death of Mr. John Donohoe.

Mr. Wm. O'Hara.

A letter was read from Mr. Wm. O'Hara, property man, who had been given notice of dismissal, asking the Directors to reconsider their decision and promising to give satisfactory service in the future.

An appeal from Mr. Jack Robbins, J. T. & G. W. W. on Mr. O'Hara's behalf was also read.

The Board decided to withhold their notice and give Mr. O'Hara another chance.

"Quinn's Secret"

It was decided that the run of "Quinn's Secret" should be continued for a third week.

"Sawyer's" was selected as the one act play to go on with the first production of "Killycrepps in Twilight".

Mr. Hunt
~~Mr. Hunt~~
~~Mr. Hunt~~

Mr. Hunt reported that Miss Aileen O'Connor who had been at of work for a considerable time had written to him asking if she could be given any part. The Board decided to give Miss O'Connor the vacant part in Mr. Robinson's new play.

Atty Experimental
Theatre

The work of the Experimental Theatre Group in the Peacock was discussed by the Board and the Directors decided that it would be bad policy to permit a revival of "Alarm Among the Clerks" on 31st May as had been suggested by the pupils.

It was decided that a new production should be done on 30th May and two plays were suggested viz "Philosophy's Double" by J. P. Carey and "Gay Good-night" by Cecil Falkland.

Theatre Guild,
New York.

The Board considered the following letter from the Theatre Guild, New York; a copy of this letter having been previously sent to each Director:—

COPY LETTER RECEIVED FROM WARREN P. MUNSELL, BUSINESS MANAGER, THE THEATRE GUILD, INC. 245 WEST 52nd STREET, NEW YORK CITY. dated March 23, 1937.

Dear Mr Gorman,

Since our correspondence of last fall a proposition has come up which might make possible an Abbey Theatre tour in the United States and Canada under the Theatre Guild management. We have purchased a play by Edward J. Eustace called THE KING OF THE MOUNTAINS. The locale is in the coal fields of Pennsylvania in 1876 and the principal characters are the Irish who formed the Mollie Maguire Society and lived in that section at the time. The general scheme of the play depicts the early struggle between the first coal barons and the miners.

As the play stands we are not quite satisfied with it and have arranged with Mr. Sidney Howard, one of our foremost dramatists, to revise the play. He expects to do this work next summer or in the early fall so that the play will be available sometime during next season. If you are interested in the proposition which follows, it probably will be more convenient for us to have the plays produced in the spring of 1938 than any other time. This is the proposition we wish to make:

1. The Abbey Theatre Company will produce the play in Dublin with their own actors and personnel. This production will be announced as having been made in association with the Theatre Guild and the general scheme of the production is to be subject to our approval and the physical production is to be built so that it can be shipped to the United States and handled in American theatres. To facilitate our cooperation doubtless one or more of our directors will arrange to be in Dublin the last few weeks of rehearsal. The physical production can be approved by arranging for blue prints to be sent to us in advance.
2. The Theatre Guild is to have an option to bring the entire company and production to the United States and Canada on terms to be agreed upon in advance for the individual actors and the Abbey Theatre. The option is to be exercised within one week of the time the play opens in the Abbey Theatre. We should like the right to replace members of the company if in our opinion we do not consider them suitable for an American audience, but we would not of course change the general character of the performance. The American tour is to be presented by us and to be billed the Theatre Guild presents the Abbey Players, etc.
3. The financial responsibility for the American tour, if undertaken by us, shall be entirely ours. The Dublin engagement shall be your financial responsibility, except that in consideration for your preparing the play for our eventual use we will pay for half the cost of making the production in Dublin and if we exercise our option to bring the play to America, we will pay the other half of the production cost. In that case the production will then be our property, though I rather imagine that after the tour is finished we would give you back the production without cost in case it is of any value to you in Ireland. In this connection, we consider the cost of

production ask including fees to directors, scenic designers and all others in connection with the presentation of the play. Naturally we would expect you to use your best efforts to keep these fees as small as possible and in no event larger than you customarily pay for such services.

If your directors are in sympathy with this general scheme and would like to be associated with us somewhat along the lines outlined above in a production of THE KING OF THE MOUNTAINS, will you please advise me as soon as possible. I will then send you a manuscript of the play in its present form and you can then make up a tentative budget to send us on the cost of the production. We realise, of course, that this schedule will have to be quite flexible since in his revisions Mr. Howard will probably radically rewrite the play. I imagine the last act will be eliminated and that probably it will not be necessary to use as many people as are indicated in the dance hall scene. Your budget, therefore, would not be final until we send you Mr. Howard's version nor for that matter would your commitment be final until then because we do not propose to have the play produced in its present form and of course if Mr. Howard's version should not interest us, we might decide not to produce it. The purpose of this letter is merely to find out whether or not you are interested in the general scheme. At the time you reply, you might indicate what compensation the Abbey Theatre would expect for itself on account of the American tour.

If the play is produced in the spring of 1938, we probably would not want to present it in the United States until the fall of 1938 and would of course want the option to keep the company in the United States for the entire season if the play should prove successful. We would guarantee that it would play in the United States not less than five weeks.

During the next few months some of our directors will undoubtedly be in England and provided you are interested in our proposition iron out any details which we are not able to settle by letter.

With very best wishes, I am,

Cordially yours,

(sgd) Warren P. Munsell,

Business Manager.

It was decided to inform the Theatre Guild that the Directors were interested in the project and to ask the Guild to send a copy of the play in its present form so that the matter could be further considered.

Henry Robinson. April 14. 1937

14th April 1937 Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30 pm on Wednesday 14th April, 1937.

Present Mr. Lennor Robinson in the Chair, Mr. Richard Hayes, Mr. J. R. Higgins, Mr. E. Blythe, Mr. Frank O'Connor.

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

Finance. The Secretary reported that the Bank overdraft was £61-10-7 and explained that this overdraft was accounted for by reason of two items of exceptional expenditure viz (a) £16-3-4 for cost of new canopy the balance £32 having been received from the D.U. Tramways Co. (b) £108-10-1 the cost of the emergency exit from the dressing rooms.

An Gormha. The Board decided to postpone until July consideration of an application from An Gormha, Dráimiochta for bookings in the Peacock Theatre during the coming autumn. It was also decided that An Gormha should in future pay any extra expense incurred in cleaning the Peacock Theatre after letting it to them.

Future bills. It was decided that in the event of "Kelly Crepp in Twilight" not running for two weeks, the bill for the week 26th April be "The Fairbird" and that for the week 3rd May (Spring Show week) the bills should be Monday & Wednesday inclusive "Boyd's Play" Thursday to Saturday inclusive "Shadow and Substance".

It was decided that a special meeting of the Board be held on Monday night, 17th April, after the first performance of "Kelly Crepp in Twilight", to consider the production of "Who will Remember" a new play by Mrs. Maureen Mallory.

Agreed. H. J. 1
21/4/37

19th April 1937

A special meeting of the Directors was held at the Abbey Theatre at 11 p.m. on Monday 19th April 1937.

Present

Mr E. Blythe in the Chair, Mr Lennox Robinson, Dr Michael Hayes, Mr F.A. Hyginis, Mr Frank O'Connor.

The meeting was held to consider the production of "Who Will Remember" a new play by Mr Taura Molloy.

After some discussion it was agreed that Mr O'Connor and Mr Hunt should jointly consider what cuts and alterations were necessary in the play and then see the Author with a view to having these changes made by her.

Agreed 21/4/37

21st April 1937.

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 21st April 1937.

Present

Mr E. Blythe in the Chair, Mr Lennox Robinson, Mr F.A. Hyginis, Mr Frank O'Connor.

Minutes.

The Minutes of the meetings held on April 14th and 19th. were read, confirmed and signed.

Finance

The Secretary reported that the Bank balance was £130 = 15 = 10.

Death of Mr

The Secretary was instructed to send on behalf of the Board, a letter of sympathy to Mrs Peter Nolan, on the death of her husband.

Peter Nolan

Appointment of

A letter was read from Messrs Arthur Cox & Co. stating that the Minister for Industry and Commerce had appointed Messrs Gair Fardes & Co. as Auditors for the year ending on the date of the annual General Meeting of the Company next following 13th April 1937.

Auditors.

H. S. A. Tans.

A letter was read from Dr P. McCarter, New York promising to discuss the prospects of an American tour by the Abbey Co. with Mr Dudley Digges.

and also with Mr. Eddie Dawling and Mr. George H. Colman.

The Board considered the question of continuing "Killycreggan" in "Twilight" for a second week and it was agreed that a decision be postponed until ^{the afternoon of} Thursday (22nd) when the Secretary would report to Mr. Blythe on Wednesday's receipts and the advance working for the remainder of the week, the decision to be made by Mr. Blythe and the Secretary with this information as a guide. "Tina and the Paycock" was selected as the bill for the week commencing Monday May 16th, Mr. Blythe's new play to be produced on Monday May 17th. The cost for this play was considered and approved.

G. Quinn 62, 1
28/4/37

28th April 1937. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30 pm on Wednesday, 28th April, 1937.

Present Mr. E. Blythe in the Chair, Mr. Walter Staskie, Mr. Richard Hayes, Mr. F. 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 balance was £187-12-4.

Members of the Executive Council - Mr. Hayes raised the question of the invitation of Ministers of the Executive Council to the performances and it was agreed that the Secretary should write to the Ministers saying that seats would be reserved for them any time they cared to come if they would write to the Box Office of the night for which they wished to have seats.

American Tour

A cable from Liebling, New York, was read stating that Schubert & the producers were interested and asking for the lowest terms the Directors would accept. It was decided to cable Liebling asking what he considered would be the highest figure procurable, transport included if possible.

Stalls floor.

The Secretary reported on the bad condition of the floor in the stalls portion of the auditorium which resulted in the seats constantly becoming loose and dangerous. The Board directed that Mr Scott be asked if it was practicable to have a new floor laid over the existing one.

Thrust's report.

Mr Thrust reported on the difficulty of rehearsing portions of the new play "Who Will Remember" owing to the fact that Mr Thompson was only free in the mornings & Mr W. O'Gorman was not available until 5.30 pm. In the circumstances it was agreed that Mr O'Gorman's part should be headed over to Mr Ted Johnson.

Mr Thrust also reported that he had had a letter from ^{the} Directors Playgo, B.B.C., Belfast offering a date in the week of August 29th for two performances of "The Playboys" one in the National programme & one in the Regional, the fee to be twelve guineas per performer plus 15% subsistence allowance for each day the company were in Belfast.

The Board agreed that the proposal be accepted in principle and that the B.B.C. be so informed.

Date of opening & re-opening.

It was decided that the Theatre should close for one month from its performance on the 5th June and that the next performance be in mid-July.

Thrust
May 1937

5th May 1937.

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30 pm on Wednesday, 5th May, 1937.

Present

Mr T. H. Higgins in the Chair, Mr James Robinson, Mr Walter Sturges, Mr E. Lytton, Mr Frank O'Connor.

Minutes.

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

Finance.

The Secretary reported that the Bank balance was £287.

J. F. S. Doyle Comm.

A letter was read from the Secretary to Mr Dulanty High Commissioner, informing that the English Board of Customs & Excise had decided to remit the duty on toys charged on properties brought by the Company to Cambridge in February last.

Duncan McLennan

A letter was read from Mr Duncan McLennan asking for an extension of the loan of the Dr Faustus Masks until 10th May. The Board agreed to this extension.

Reflooring the Auditorium

The Secretary reported that Mr J. C. Scott, Architect was of opinion that to refloor the old floor would not be satisfactory & that the old floor should be taken up. The complete work would take about a fortnight. It was agreed that estimates should be procured from various contractors.

Bills for 22nd

13th May.

It was decided tentatively that the bills should be 22nd May "Blind Hans' Buff"

31st May "Church Street" and a new play "In the Train", if accepted by the Board.

"Who Will Remember"

Mr O'Connor who had seen a rehearsal of "Who Will Remember" suggested that Mr Hunt be asked to play the part of Hugh Pommeroy. After some discussion it was agreed on the proposal of Mr O'Connor seconded by Mr Sturges that Mr Hunt be asked to play the part. This decision was

conveyed to Mr Hunt by the Chairman. Mr Hunt said he would not like the proposal to be taken as establishing a precedent but that if the Board wished, he would play the part.

The Board gave full approval to any cuts or alterations in the play which would be made by Mr Hunt on Mr O'Connor's responsibility.

Salaries for week

The Board decided that Contract Players who were only playing three nights in the current week should be paid three fourths of their acting salary for the week.

W.B. Yeats

12/5/37.

12th May, 1937.

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society. Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30pm on Wednesday, 12th May, 1937.

Present.

Mr W.B. Yeats in the Chair, Dr Walter Storkie, Dr Richard Hayes, Mr E. Blythe, Mr F.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 balance was £260-17-0.

Abbey Experimental

Theatre.

A letter was read from the Secretary to the Abbey Experimental Theatre asking for permission to revive "Alarm Among the Clerks" in the Parnoch Theatre during Horse Show Week. The Directors decided they would not be in favour of revivals by the Abbey Experimental Theatre but agreed to give permission for the revival of "Alarm Among the Clerks" for Horse Show Week.

J.T.A. Film Unit.

A letter was read from Mr Norris Davidson, Director of the Irish Tourist

Association Film Unit asking for permission to film some scenes in the Abbey Theatre including a shot of action on the stage with dialogue which could be taken at a dress rehearsal. The Directors agreed to give Mr Davidson the permission asked for.

Sara Payne
School of Dance

A letter was read from Miss Sara Payne asking if she could hire the Abbey Theatre for a matinee performance on June 26th. The Board decided that in view of the possible repair work to be done to the floor of the auditorium it would not be possible to let the theatre until after the re-opening in July.

Michael Cusack

A letter was read from Mr Cusack thanking the Directors for having restored him to the part of Jerry Devine in "Tune" but regretting that he had not been given an opportunity of reading the part of Hugh Romney in "Who Will Remember" in order to discover if he could play the part. The Board decided this letter did not need a reply.

Release of Miss
Mooney for Biers.

The Board decided that unless Mr Hunt required Miss Mooney for the week commencing 31st May she should be allowed to go to Biers anytime after May 29th.

New play by Dr.
Gogarty.

Mr Feats informed the Board that he had received a new one-act play from Dr. Gogarty. Mr Feats then obtained permission from Dr. Gogarty by phone to circulate the play and it was agreed that if it was accepted it should be produced as soon as possible after the re-opening of the theatre in July.

Mr Feats complained of the inaudibility of some of the young players and suggested to Mr Hunt that at rehearsals he should listen to them from the back of the pit as as to secure complete audibility.

Bill for last
week of the season

It was agreed that in the event of "Who Will Remember" running for one week only the bill for May 28th should be "Grogan + the Forest"

This was an alteration of a previous arrangement as Mr. Hunt said he would not be able to adequately rehearse "Blind Man's Buff" for that week.

The bill selected for May 31st was "Church Street" and "In the Train" a new play in One Act.

It was agreed that the casts of these two plays be fixed on Monday night 17th May, after the first performance of "Who Will Remember."

F.R. Higgins
19.5.37

Monday, 17th
May 1937.

As agreed at the last meeting the Directors met after the performance of "Who Will Remember" and agreed on the casts of "Church Street" and "In the Train", the Directors present being Mr. Lennox Robinson, Mr. Michael Hayes, Mr. E. Blythe, Mr. F.R. Higgins, Mr. Jack O'Connell.

F.R. Higgins
19.5.1937

19th May 1937.

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 19th May, 1937.

Present.

Mr. F.R. Higgins in the Chair, Mr. Lennox Robinson, Mr. Jack O'Connell.

Minutes.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed. With reference to the bill selected for May 31st viz "Church Street" and "In the Train" Mr. Robinson said that he had

discussed the matter with Mr O'Connor and was of opinion that these two plays would not make a good bill. Mr O'Connor said he agreed with Mr Robinson's point of view.

The Board then decided that the bill for May 31st should be "In the Train" and "The Shadow of a Gunman".

The Secretary reported that the Bank balance was £299-6-3.

Finance.

Paul V. Carroll.

A letter was read from Mr Paul V. Carroll enclosing an amount of £5-18-7 as the amount due to the Theatre @ 5% on advance royalties paid to him for the coming New York production of his play "Shadow & Substance". Mr Carroll had calculated this sum on the net amount received by him after the deduction of tax and expenses incurred by him. The Board decided that as the sum involved was not great, they would not raise the question with Mr Carroll.

American Tour.

A letter was read from Mr Sean O'Casey giving particulars of the rates at which royalties payable to him were fixed for the last American tour.

A cable from Lieble, New York, was also read stating Schuler was offering a ten weeks minimum on certain terms.

As the wording of this cable was ambiguous the Board decided on the wording of a further cable in reply and it was agreed that the matter should be further considered at the next meeting.

Appointment of Trustee.

The Board considered the appointment of a Trustee in the room of Lady Gregory deceased. They felt that they should recommend to Mr Yeats the name of the new Trustee, but as only three members of the Board were present it was decided to postpone further consideration of the matter until the next

meeting.

M. Hunt's report. Mr. Hunt reported alterations - the cost of "In the Grain" which he had found it necessary to make.

Mr. Dudley Digges. Mr. O'Connor informed the Board he had heard that Mr. Dudley Digges would be in Dublin during August and suggested that the Digges be invited to play in the Abbey during his stay. The Board agreed and instructed the Secretary to invite Mr. Digges and to ask him what part or parts he would like to play.

Dramatising of Sheehan novel. Mr. O'Connor suggested that some of Canon Sheehan's novels might be dramatised and that Mr. Brinsley Macnamara or Mr. J.C. Murray might be commissioned to do the work. After some discussion it was decided to ask Mr. Macnamara if he would accept a commission to do the work for a payment of £25. This proposal to be contingent to (1) Mr. Macnamara's obtaining the consent of Canon Sheehan's representatives and (2) arranging with them as to the distribution of the royalties payable by the Theatre.

Telephone play - Ben Office. The Board agreed to the installation of telephone plays in the office and Ben Office so that in the afternoons the office telephone could be worked from the Ben Office.

Cost of wigs. The Secretary gave particulars of the expenditure on wigs for the three years 1934 to 1937 under the following headings: wigs bought, ladies wigs hired, mens wigs hired, ladies plaits to hire, cleaning & dressing of wigs. The Board decided that as it would be impossible to purchase the wigs required for the various plays the present hiring system should be continued.

Next meeting of Board. The Board decided that the next meeting should be on Tuesday 25th

May, as the meeting of the Irish Academy of Letters was being held on Wednesday, 26th.

Lenny Robinson
May 25, 1937

- 25th May 1937. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30 pm on Tuesday 25th May, 1937.
- Present Mr. Lenny Robinson in the Chair, Mr. Richard Hayes, Mr. F.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 balance was £306 = 19 = 0.
- The Annals of Macnamara. a letter was read from Mr. Macnamara accepting the commission to dramatise one of Canon Sheehan's novels on the terms decided upon by the Board on the 19th May.
- Abbey Experimental Theatre The Board agreed to let the Peacock Theatre to the Abbey Experimental Theatre for two weeks commencing 23rd August 1937.
- Death of Mr. James McLean. The Secretary was instructed to send on behalf of the Board a letter of sympathy to the Directors of the Opera House, Belfast, on the death of Mr. James McLean for many years Manager of the Opera House.
- an American Tour. The Board considered a cable received from Liebling, New York offering ten weeks guarantee at five thousand dollars and first class passage round trip, the Abbey to pay royalties.
- a letter from Liebling was also read asking if he was authorised to represent the Abbey.

The Board decided to send a cable to Liebling authorising him to act as their representative, informing him that the cabled terms were satisfactory and asking him to send a contract with covering letter stating full terms and his fee:

School of Acting Mr Higgins referred to the accounts for the School of Acting. He said he had obtained some information and figures from Miss Mooney but was unable to obtain from the memorial any idea as to the financial position regarding the School. It was decided that Mr Higgins should go into the matter in detail with Miss Mooney and see how the matter stands.

Play in Irish by Dr Douglas Hyde. The Board considered the question of producing a play in Irish by Dr Douglas Hyde and it was decided that as soon as possible after the re-opening of the theatre in July one of Dr Hyde's plays should be produced.

Bill for 19th July. The Board considered The Playbill of the Western World as the bill for July 19th and a discussion followed as to whether it should be done by the old cast or by the cast & production of Mr Hunt. It was decided to ask Mr. Feats, Mr. Stahie & Mr. Blaythe to attend the next meeting of the Board in order that the matter could be settled.

Mr. Gair. It was agreed that Miss Gair be paid £1-10-0 per week for the four weeks holidays and it was also decided that no pay during the holidays be given to Mr. Cyril Cusack or Mr. Fred Thomson.

Mr. Hunt. Mr. Hunt asked the Board if there was any new play which could be selected for production after the holidays. It was decided that Miss Maev O'Sullivan be asked when her company would be

ready.

Mr Shields.

His salary lists for "In the Rain" + "Guamán" were agreed upon. Mr Shields suggested to the Board that in connection with the American tour some one Director might be appointed to look after the arrangements being made and to deal with points that would arise from day to day. On the invitation of the Board, Mr Higgins agreed to act.

Secretary on holidays.

It was agreed that while the Secretary was away on holidays Miss Garland could keep in touch with the Directors by phone and also with Mr Shields by phone. In the event of any matters dealing with the American tour coming on for consideration, Mr Higgins and Mr Shields would both be available.

Peacock letting to Mr Lodwick.

It was agreed to let the Peacock Theatre to Mr Lodwick at a rent of £8 for the week commencing May 30th.

Mr O'Connor.

The Board agreed to pay Miss O'Connor £1 for prompting rehearsals of "Who Will Remember" while Mr Hunt was rehearsing the play.

Salary to Mr Hunt for acting.

It was agreed that Mr Hunt be paid £2-10-0 for acting in "Who Will Remember".

Letting of Abbey to Miss Kelly.

It was agreed that the Abbey be let to Miss Kelly at a rent of £12 for a matinee performance on Saturday June 5th.

Francis O'Connor
2/6/37.

2nd June 1937. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society. [td. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30 pm on Wednesday, 2nd June 1937.

Present. Mr Frank O'Connor in the Chair, Mr W.B. Yeats, Mr Lennon Robinson & Walter Starkie, Dr Richard Hayes, Mr E. Blythe, Mr F.R. Higgins.

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

Finance. The Secretary reported that the Bank balance was £420.17.10.

New Sign. An estimate was submitted by Irish Neonlight Ltd for the erection of a sign on the Abbey Street front of the Theatre at a cost of £54. The Board decided to defer consideration of the matter until a later date.

M. Selby re Cork & Belfast. A letter was read from Mr P.M. Selby asking if the Company could visit Cork and Belfast during the coming autumn -

It was decided that no definite reply would be given until a later date owing to the possibility of an American tour by the Company.

A.E.T. A letter was read from the Secretary, Abbey Experimental Theatre stating that one of their rules was that any member of the Abbey School of Acting from the date of the incorporation of the A.E.T. can become a member of the Theatre provided they pay the weekly subscription of 7/6. If the Directors wished, the rules could be amended in order to deal with those who had not paid their fees to the Abbey School of Acting.

Production of "The Playboy". The Board considered the production of "The Playboy" asked for 19th July and discussed whether it should be the old production and old cast or the cost and production as done by Mr Hunt.

Mr Higgins was against Mr Hunt's production which proved the

Traditional treatment of the play.

Mr O'Connor was not satisfied with the old Players and liked Mr Hunt's production.

Mr Kelly liked Mr Hunt's production but would like a complete cast of new Players.

Mr Starkie said he was disappointed with Mr Hunt's production and Mr Hayes said he also was disappointed. He did not think that Cyril Cusack suited the part of Mr Playboy.

Mr Robinson said he preferred the old production to Mr Hunt's.

The Board agreed to the motion of Mr Robinson seconded by Mr Higgins that Arthur Shields be asked to produce the play with a new cast.

Reflooring of
the Auditorium

A specification was submitted of the work to be done in connection with the proposed reflooring of the stalls portion of the auditorium. The Board agreed that tenders be obtained for doing the work as set out in the specification which had been made out by J. H. Scott.

American
Tour.

Mr Higgins submitted a report on the proposed American tour and a list of possible plays. The Board selected the following for offer to the American management:-
Mr Playboy, The Plough & the Stars, Juno & the Paycock, The New Rosses, The Far-off Hills, The Passing Day, Kate Locke, Drama at Irish, The Silver Jubilee, Temporal Powers, They that are Caesars, Riders to the Sea, The Raising of the Moon, In the Train.

As it was intended to travel eight men and six women

it was decided to ask George Shields if he could adapt the Passing Day to suit eight men.

New York
Theatre Guild

A cable was read from the Theatre Guild asking for a decision regarding the play "Making of the Mountains". It was decided that if a majority of the Board herein favor of the play the Guild be informed that the Directors agree to its production subject to the play being re-written.

Appointment of
Trustee.

The Board decided to propose to Mr. Yeats that he should nominate Mr. Rhythe ~~to~~ as Trustee in the room of Lady Gregory dead.

School of Acting

Mr. Hygin reported that as arranged at the last meeting of the Board, he had gone in to the School of Acting accounts. He gave details of the number of pupils, fees received, expenses incurred and fees outstanding which if paid would leave the School showing a profit. He added that Miss Mooney stated that most of the debts were good, and would be paid.

After some discussion the Board asked Mr. Hygin before the next term of the School commenced, to draw up a set of books which would give an accurate account of the School finances. It was also decided that an Attendance Book should be kept by whoever has in charge of the School.

Douglas Hyde play.

In connection with the proposed production of a play by Dr. Douglas Hyde Mr. Robinson had earlier in the meeting suggested that the setting & costumes might be designed by John Keating, if his charge were not too high.

The Chairman informed Mr. Hunt of this proposal, who suggested as a possible alternative Jack B Yeats. It was then agreed that Mr. Yeats be invited by Mr. Hunt to do the designs.

Holiday pay. The Board agreed that pay for the holidays be given to Arthur Shields & P. J. Carolan as well as to the Players on Contracts that the two Box Office clerks be given two weeks pay for holidays and half pay for the two following weeks.

Mr. Hunt's holiday pay The Secretary informed the Board that Mr. Hunt was willing to accept half pay for the four weeks holiday period & this was agreed to.

Walter Sturges

June 10th

A Special meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd, was held in the Abbey Theatre on June 10th 1937 at 9. PM

Present

Dr Walter Sturges, in the chair, Lennox Robinson, Ernest Blythe, Dr Hayes and F. R. Higgins. Mr A. Shields.

Business of meeting

~~Mr~~ was in attendance.

Mr Higgins explained that he convened the meeting for the purpose of considering a cable received from Liebling confirming terms for the America tour and asking for a London meeting between Mr Liebling and the Directors.

Mr Lennox Robinson questioned Mr Higgins title of 'Manager of Tour' as stated on the notice convening meeting. Mr Higgins explained his position, supported by Mr Shields. Mr L. Robinson's opinion, that the position existed only during the holidays, was rectified on the understanding that the position continued during the period preparatory to the Company leaving for America.

Mr Blythe questioned the possible details in a likely contract from Mr Lee Liebling, particularly in relation to the date of tour, plays for production on the tour, transportation of scenery & the provision of profits and especially regarding royalties. A discussion ensued, from which it was decided that the deputation to London should negotiate on the question of royalties & that the National Theatre Society should

not be responsible for the payment of unlimited royalties; 10% on 4000 dollars was considered the maximum. Mr Higgins suggested the ~~the~~ company's responsibility for 5% on 5000 dollars only; this suggestion was considered unacceptable to Shubert.

~~And~~ Starkie, thought that a typed list of questions on such matters should be presented to Shubert by the deputation.

It was finally felt that the deputation must depend on ~~their~~^{its} own judgment on such details & if necessary to set into telephonic communication with the Director in Dublin should any crisis arise.

Members of Deputation
Mr R. Hayes proposed that Mr J. R. Higgins and Mr A. Shields go to London for the interview on behalf of the Board. Mr Blythe seconded the proposal; after a discussion as to the necessity of a third person on the deputation, the proposal was passed. Mr Robinson & Mr Higgins not voting. Mr Higgins read a cable from Elbert Wickes asking for the rights in arranging the American tour. The matter was left over until after the deputation's meeting with Lee Shubert.

The meeting then terminated.

Walter Starkie,

Chairman

1937

June 17th.

minutes of a Special meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd held in the Abbey Theatre on June 17th 1937.

Present.

Dr Walter Clarkie in the chair; Dr Richard Hayes, Mr Ernest Blythe & Mr J.R. Higgins. Mr Arthur Shields was in attendance.

American
Tour

Mr J. R. Higgins gave the meeting a detailed report of the interview which Mr Shields himself had with Mr Lee Shubert in London on the previous Saturday in the course of which Mr Lee Shubert expressed complete ignorance of any proposed deal with Mr Lebling on behalf of the Abbey Theatre. In the course of the discussion with Mr Higgins, Mr Lee Shubert proposed to offer the Abbey Theatre a contract for a ten weeks tour in the USA & Canada at 50% gross receipts, with a guaranteed minimum of 3000 dollars per week. Mr Higgins communicated this offer by telephone to Mr Blythe in Dublin & later received a telegram from Mr Blythe stating that Hayes, Robinson & himself were agreeable to that offer. In a subsequent interview with Mr Shubert Mr Higgins provisionally accepted the offer on behalf of the Board & asked for a written contract to be sent to Dublin at an early date.

On the following Wednesday the contract was received by Mr Higgins but as the financial terms were not in agreement with those offered ^{verbally}.

by Mr Shubert, Mr Higgins wired ^{the} corrections and afterwards on the telephone & by telegram. These corrections were confirmed. On the basis of the letters, wires & phone talks between Mr Shubert & Mr J.R. Higgins, the Board asked Mr Higgins to send the following contract to Mr Shubert for signature.

To:
Select Theatres Corporation,
225, West 44th. Street,
New York City,
U.S.A.

Gentlemen,

We represent and warrant that we are the exclusive Owners of the productions listed below, and have the sole and exclusive right, license and privilege from the Authors to produce and present them in England, Ireland, United States of America and Canada.

We represent and warrant that we hold these rights free and clear, and that we have made no default in the observance of any of the terms and conditions in the contracts with the Authors, under which we have obtained and enjoy these rights, and have made payments of all royalties as in the contracts provided.

We further represent and warrant that all of the FOURTEEN important artists who have been performing in the said plays and in the respective important parts thereof, will be the fourteen artists whom we will bring to the United States of America and will, subject to illness, appear and perform in the said plays in the intended visit to the United States of America and Canada.

The following is the list of the plays, with the names of the Authors; and from this list the Repertoire for the United States of America and Canada will be selected:-

- "The Playboy of the Western World" by J.M. Synge.
- "The Plough and the Stars" by Sean O'Casey.
- "Juno and the Paycock" by Sean O'Casey.
- "The New Gossoon" by George Shiels.
- "The Far-Off Hills" by Lennox Robinson.
- "Drama at Inish" by Lennox Robinson.
- "Katie Roche" by Teresa Deevy.
- "Temporal Powers" by Teresa Deevy.
- "Silver Jubilee" by Cormac O'Daly.
- "Things that are Caesar's" by Paul V. Carroll.

and if necessary other plays from the Company's Repertoire to be chosen

by mutual agreement.

The Company we shall send to America shall include, except in cases of illness, the following players:- O'Dea, McCormick, Delany, Crows, Craig, Dolan, Shields, O'Connor and Carolan.

We undertake to pay the salaries of our players, Stage Manager and Company Manager; and all Royalties due to the Authors of plays produced by us during the tour.

It is understood that the Tour will begin in the United States of America sometime during the month of October, 1937, and shall play in such Cities as you shall determine. The tour shall be no longer and no less than TEN WEEKS unless by mutual consent.

You agree to pay transportation and cabin fares from Dublin to port of arrival in the United States of America; and to pay all railroad transportation of Company and effects from City to City during the tour in America and at the conclusion of the tour to pay transportation and cabin fares from the City in which the Company finishes this tour to Dublin, Ireland. This arrangement is for not more than sixteen persons and for such stage scenery and properties as are necessary for the production of any or all of the foregoing mentioned plays.

You agree to book the Company in such Theatre or Theatres in the tour of the United States of America and Canada and to furnish such Theatres, as in your judgement, shall be the proper ones in the various cities in which this Company shall present its plays.

The choice of the play or plays in each City shall be mutually agreed upon.

The terms under which the Company shall appear in the different Cities shall be as follows: viz.,

50% to the Theatre.

50% to the Company.

You agree that we shall receive 50% (Fifty per cent) of the gross weekly Box Office and other receipts of monies taken during the run of our Company in their tour of the United States of America and Canada; and that such 50% will amount to no less than 3000 dollars (Three thousand dollars) in any one week; and if the said 50% gross weekly receipts amount to less than 3000 dollars in any week, you agree, nevertheless, to pay us 3000 dollars (Three thousand dollars) in such week. Payment to be made weekly to the Company Manager.

You agree to supply us with copies of all customary Box Office statements for our performances in each Theatre during the Company's tour in the United States of America and in Canada.

You agree to comply with such Rules of the Actors' Equity Association as our Company may be required to comply with.

18.6.37.

We are to have the option to cancel and terminate the engagement at the end of six weeks, provided the same shall show returns to us of less than 4000 dollars per week.

Of course, we are to bring over the productions intact and deliver same to you in the United States of America at such port as you shall designate, and we shall obtain all rights of entry as well as assurances that might be required by the United States Government.

If this will confirm your understanding of our talks, then with your signature at the bottom hereof, under the word "ACCEPTED", this will become a contract between us.

Legal opinion Mr Blythe suggested that Mr Higgins should ask Mr Arthur Cox, Solicitor, to read over the Contract, and if necessary to make whatever alterations as may be required to safeguard the Theatres interests. This suggestion was accepted.

Signature to Contract It was agreed on Mr Blythes proposal that Mr I R Higgins be authorised to sign the contract on behalf of the National Theatre Coy, Ltd & that Mr Shubert be informed to that effect. Mr Higgins was also authorised by the Board to conduct whatever business was necessary by phone or wire with Mr Shubert arising out of the Contract for signature.

Management of Bus while discussing ^{a question as to,} the number of persons necessary to go on the tour, for inclusion in the Contract, Mr. Arthur Shields explained that under the present gross receipt sharing basis it was very necessary that some person, such as a Director, should accompany the Players to America for the dealing with all financial matters,

appear together with general management, lecturing, interviewing etc as required for the theatre. This work Mr Shields stated could not be undertaken by a player. Mr Blythe agreed with the necessity of such a person.

Dr Richard Hays enquired if Mr Higgins could travel to America & undertake such work for the Com.

In reply Mr Higgins expressed his willingness to go & to undertake the work. In reply to a question by Mr A. Shields Mr Blythe suggested that the Director accompanying the players should be styled the Company Manager.

Dr Hays expressed an opinion that another person such as Mr Robinson might go to America, as assistant to Mr Higgins. Mr Higgins was not favourable to the suggestion and after a discussion it was decided to leave over the matter until a fuller meeting of the Board took place. In the meanwhile Mr Higgins was to inform Mr Shields that 14 players & two other persons would travel.

Ministry of
Finance

A letter was read from the Secretary of the Ministry of Finance offering to pay 80% of the cost of allocations & not more than £2800. Mr Higgins was asked to acknowledge the letter.

Walter Starkie.

July 2nd 1937.

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held in the Abbey Theatre on July 2nd 1937.

Present.

Dr Waller Storkie, in the chair; Dr Richard Hayes and Mr J R Higgins; were also present.

Minutes.

The minutes of the two previous meetings of the Board were read, found correct and duly signed.

American Contract.

Mr Higgins explained to the meeting that having drafted the Contract on the basis of the terms negotiated, he submitted the draft to Mr Arthur Cox, Esq.; and having had the Contract approved, Mr Higgins submitted it to Mr Lee Shubert for signature. Mr Higgins spoke to Mr Lee Shubert on the 'phone as suggested; and with the contract before him Mr Shubert questioned certain details as follows (1) That the Abbey's option to cancel the tour after six weeks ~~after~~ should equally apply to the Shubert Corporation. Higgins deleted that clause from the contract. (2) That the Abbey Theatre be responsible for the payment of Equity dues. (3) That the 3000 dollars weekly be paid weekly and additional weekly amounts be paid at the end of the season. (4) That we try to arrange the tour earlier than Oct 1st if so desired by Shubert, they giving us notice to that effect no later than August 15th. Mr Higgins explained to the Board his reasons for accepting these details ~~when acceptance~~ ^{when} was approved by the Board. The signed contract with these foregoing

amendments incorporated was duly received by Mr Higgins on June 28th 1937.

Cables to
Lebling,
Wickes, Madden

Mr Higgins read copies of the various replies he had cabled to Wickes, & Madden who asked for interests in an American tour; he also gave details of his cable to Lebling giving particulars of the Agreement & stating that Shubert repudiated Lebling's supposed deal.

Letter from
P. Burton

A letter was read from Mr Percy Burton of London claiming to represent Shubert & asking for matters suitable for an extensive publicity campaign in connection with the Tour. Mr Higgins read the letter he had sent in reply assuming that Mr Burton was acting under the direct instructions of Mr Shubert. No reply was received to that letter. The Board felt that caution should be ^{shown} ~~shown~~ ~~shown~~ towards such vague approaches.

Management
of the Tour

Arising out of the minutes, Dr Hayes suggested the possibility of Mr Fernox Robinson travelling to America in some capacity in connection with the Tour. Dr Starkie supported the suggestion, particularly as the Shubert corporation was to pay certain travelling expenses over and above those of players. A lengthy discussion followed the suggestion, & as a result it was felt that Mr Higgins' position & duties in America should be clearly defined, for the purpose of avoiding any confusion in the event of Mr Robinson travelling with the company.

Notice of
Motion.

Dr B. Starkie submitted a notice of motion on the matter for discussion & decision at the next meeting.

Walter Starkie, Chairman

July 7th 1937

July 7th 1937.

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin at 6 pm on Wednesday, 7th July 1937.

Present

Dr Walter Stalkie - the Chair, Dr Richard Hayes, Mr S. Helyar, Mr F.R. Higgins, Mr Frank O'Connor.

Minutes.

Motion by
Dr Stalkie re
Mr F.R. Higgins &
Mr Lennox Robinson
on American tour.

The minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed. The following motion which had been introduced by Dr. Stalkie was then considered: "That Mr. F.R. Higgins be appointed to take sole charge of the Company's tour in America; to be held solely responsible for all matters relating to the tour, particularly in regard to further negotiations with Schubert, all financial transactions, publicity &c and the general management of the plays and Players; and further that Mr. Lennox Robinson be appointed Assistant Producer in association with Mr. Arthur Shields, the Producer in America".

After some discussion a resolution in the terms of the motion was proposed by Mr. Frank O'Connor, seconded by Dr. Hayes and passed, the Board deciding to pay Mr. Robinson a nominal salary of £1 per week for his services as Assistant Producer.

It was agreed that Mr. Higgins be paid one hundred and seventy five dollars (175 dollars) ~~per week~~ per week while in charge of the tour in America.

The following Players were selected for the tour: Arthur Shields, E. Mc Cormick, M. J. Dolan, P. Cowan, Miss O'Brien, A. Wright, J. Phinister, W. O'Horman, Ellen Gower, Laureen Delany, May Tray

Mr. Downey, Andrew O'Connor, John Tulkham (or Nora O'Leary).

The Board authorized T. Higgins to have contracts signed by these Players.

The Board agreed at the end of the tour to divide one third of the net profits of the tour above £2500 between the Players in proportion to their salaries, and it was decided that this clause be in the Players' Contracts.

The Board decided that in Mr. Corlan's Contract it should be set out that he would receive 85 dollars as an actor and 50 dollars as stage manager. As that in the event of his proving unsatisfactory as stage manager, he could be removed from the position and his salary reduced accordingly.

Mr. Higgins reported that some new sets of scenery would be required for the tour and the Board agreed that they should be made.

Theatre Guild
Contract.

The Board decided that copies of the Theatre Guild Contract for the production of "The King of the Mountains" should be sent to all the Directors to enable them to consider it before reaching a decision as to its acceptance.

Mr. Yeats.

Mr. O'Connor suggested that in view of the future need of an Irish scene designer Mr. John Yeats might be sent Paris for six months to enable him to learn stage design. It was decided that the matter be put to Mr. W.B. Yeats on his return to Dublin.

Some Players.

It was decided that ^{short} contracts be given to four women and four men in the group of Players who would be playing in the Abbey during the American tour.

It was also decided that the principal Players should be given an increase of £1 per week on their present salaries and that those from the School of Acting who would be used regularly should be paid £2-10-0.

Bills.

It was decided that "The Far-Off Hills" should be the bill for July 19th.

The Board decided to accept Miss O'Callaghan's new play and to produce it for the whole of Horse Show Week with a cast composed of home players.

Liebling, N. York

Mr Hyppis raised the question of the Theatre's liability as regards the agent Liebling of New York who had been authorised by cable to represent the Theatre and carry out transactions for the Theatre.

Mr Hyppis said that as Mr Chebest had denied all knowledge of Liebling he (Mr Hyppis) did not consider that Liebling was entitled to the usual Agent's fee of 10%.

After some discussion the Board decided that Mr Hyppis should write to Liebling putting the facts before him and suggesting a fee of 5% as his commission in the transactions.

Layman 26611
14/7/37

14th July 1937. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 14th July, 1937.

Present Mr. E. By the in the Chair, Dr Richard Hayes, Mr. F. H. Higgins, Mr. Frank O'Connor.

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

The Home Company. The question of the plays to be produced by the Home Company was raised by Mr. Higgins who said that Mr. Hunt was of opinion that it would not be possible for this Company to start playing immediately as had been proposed and suggested that the American Co. should carry on until they left Dublin but that all new plays be done by the Home Company who would also be engaged in working up a repertory so that they would be able to go ahead when the American Co. left Dublin. The Board agreed to this plan.

The Board also decided that "In the Chain" followed by "The Silver Jubilee" be played on the first three nights of those three weeks and that the O'Callaghan play be done for the remainder of the week.

Mr. Robinson. The Board further considered the question of Mr. Robinson accompanying the Company to America as Assistant Producer and decided that instead of this proposal it should be suggested to Mr. Robinson that the Theatre would give him a sum of £50 to enable him to travel to Hollywood as he was anxious to go there, on the understanding that if his services were needed during the American tour he would be available.

Civil Service Guild. An application from the Civil Service Guild for special terms of admission for their members now being over 10,000, was considered.

The Board decided they could not accede to the request. Special terms had only been granted to students.

Revenue Commrs. A letter was read from the Revenue Commrs. requiring the Theatre to make certain payments to them in respect of an amount of Income Tax due by Mr J. G. Goslan. The Board decided that the payments be made and the amounts be deducted from Mr Goslan's salary in weekly instalments.

Cork Opera House In reply to a letter from the Manager of the Cork Opera House it was decided to tell him that no visit of the Company to Cork could be arranged before Christmas as the Company would be in America.

Arts Theatre, Cambridge. A letter from the Arts Theatre, Cambridge was read enquiring if the Company could visit Cambridge for a fortnight in February 1938. The Board decided that at present no arrangement could be made but that they would be glad to send the Company on their return from America.

Mr Dudley Dwyer A letter from Mr Dudley Dwyer was read in which he said he was sorry he would not be able to play in the Abbey if he were in Dublin.

Miss Sam Payne An application was considered from Miss Sam Payne for the booking of the Abbey Theatre for a notice performance on Sat. 20th Sept. The Board decided that a provisional arrangement could be made with Miss Payne for the date named.

Peacock Theatre. Applications were considered from the Stage Society & the Cornish Dramatic Society for booking of the Peacock Theatre. The Secretary was authorised to arrange the bookings so as to facilitate both parties as far as possible.

American Tour Mr Higgins reported that the following players had signed American contracts. Jim Crowe 121 dls. Jim Delany 121 dls. Jim Gray 121 dls. Jim Horney 100 dls. Jim O'Connor 70 dls. J. McEneaney 121 dls. Mr Shields 150 dls. H. Dolan 121 dls. E. Carlen 88 dls for acting + 50 dls for S. Managing. U. Wright 88 dls. A. Nelson 70 dls. Jim O'Flaherty was out of town but would sign on his return at 70 dls. Mr Higgins stated that Mr O'Brien who was holding back, had not yet signed.

and the Board authorized Mr. Higgins to engage Mr. Lincoln if necessary in place of Mr. O'Shea.

Mr. Higgins reported that various members of the Company had asked for a bigger allowance than £10-0-0 per trip on the boat. It was decided by the Board that the granting of an increase should be left to Mr. Higgins who would be able to judge on board what was a fair amount.

Mr. Higgins also mentioned correspondence he had received from Liebling of New York showing that the Schuberts had been in contact with Liebling and that they had advised him of Mr. Lee Schubert's visit to London instructing him to ask the Abbey to get into touch with Schubert there. Mr. Higgins said he considered that Liebling had just picked his pocket and the Board agreed.

Mr. Higgins was authorised to sign contracts with the authors of the plays to be done in America, 35 dollars for each performance for a three act play and 10 dollars for a one act play.

Mr. Higgins was also authorised to obtain estimates from firms in England for the construction and painting of new sets required and to have the work carried out as well and as quickly as possible.

The Board considered the Guild contract and decided that as it stood it was unacceptable. He decided that a letter be sent to the Guild so stating and saying that the Abbey Theatre would require a guaranteed weekly sum during the run of the play in America as compensation for the loss of the Theatre's principal players for an indefinite period and that the Board would be prepared to consider a contract on these lines.

"The New London" was selected for the week commencing 26th July.

Metropolitan
Contract.

Call for 26 July

Annual General Meeting.

In considering the date of the Annual General Meeting of the Society, the question of a new auditor was raised and it was proposed by Mr. F. H. Higgins seconded by Mr. Frank O'Connor and passed that Mr. F. H. O'Connor 10 Westmoreland St. be put before the General Meeting as the new Auditor in place of Messrs. Craig Gardner & Co. Mr. Whyte agreed to draw up the motion to appear on the notice of the General Meeting to be issued to the members of the Society.

Professor Landis's Holidays

It was agreed that Mrs. Garland be given two weeks holidays and that Mr. Higgins arrange with her as to when she would suitably take them.

Government grant for reconstruction

The Board discussed the question of reconstruction of portions of the theatre premises in view of the Government's offer to defray 80% of the cost up to a sum of £2500. The Board were agreed that an effort should be made to acquire Whyte's premises if they could be bought at a reasonable figure and Mr. Higgins was authorised to enquire if Whyte would give the theatre an option for two years to purchase at £6000. The Board also decided to make enquiries as to a suitable architect to carry out any work of reconstruction undertaken.

Mr. Hunt's report

Mr. Hunt submitted the cost of Miss O'Callaghan's new play which it was decided should be called "Homesick Knees". The cost was approved of. Mr. Hunt suggested Boyd's Shop and "The Plough & the Stars" as plays for production by the House Company and the Board agreed.

House Show week prices.

It was agreed that the usual House Show week prices be charged viz. Balls of £. Bal. 3/6. Side Bal. 1/6. Pot 1/6.

Auditors.

It was agreed that James Gray Gagne, who he asked to audit the accounts for the quarter ending 31st May 1937.

Jarvis x 2 (Hj)
21/7/37

21st July 1937.

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30 pm on Wednesday, 21st July, 1937.

Present

Mr E. Blythe, in the Chair, Mr Michael Hayes, Mr E. H. Hyman and Mr Frank O'Connor.

Minutes

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

Arising out of the Minutes Mr Hyman reported that Mr. Ciesack had refused to sign a contract at £5 per week. Mr Hyman also reported that he had arranged for Jim Garland to have a fortnight's holiday commencing on Monday, August 9th.

Finance

The Secretary reported that the overdraft was £33 = 14 = 10.

Mr Hyman re

Statements to the Press

A letter was read from Mr Hyman regarding a report on the American tour which had appeared in the Irish Press.

Mr Hyman then informed the Board that he had made enquiries regarding the origin of this report & had been told that it had come from Mrs Leah Clarke who stated she received it from another programme. Mr Hyman said the ^{report} ~~statement~~ was obviously a prepared one and that he intended to see Mrs Clarke with a view to discovering if possible where it came from.

Mr Paul S. Carroll.

A letter was read from Mr Carroll asking would the Directors waive their rights to play 'Shadow Substance' in Great Britain if the fee payable

Let the Theatre under Clause 10 of his agreement were raised from 5% to 10% or alternatively to such a percentage as the Directors would think justified in imposing.

The Board decided to inform Mr. Correll that it would be against their policy to forego their rights in Great Britain and that while they had no desire to compete with any production of the play in Great Britain they felt they should retain the right to do the play in England if they so desired, in the event of a visit by the Company being arranged.

Mr. Frank Cawley

A letter was read from Mr. Frank Cawley stating he considered he was entitled to more than 10% for playing parts as he had completed a two year course in the School of Acting. The Board decided that a future his salary when playing should be £1-10-0 per week.

Mr. Cecil Wood.

The Board decided that they could not consider a request made by Mr. Wood for a salary of £5 per week as stage manager of the Home Company playing during the autumn.

Miss Deakin

In reply to an enquiry from Miss Deakin the Board decided they could not make any promise as to what work they would give her during the autumn but would be glad to have her when suitable parts were forthcoming.

Mr. Cyril Cusack

In reply to a request from Mr. Cusack for a salary of £6 a week the Board decided that £5 was the highest amount they could at the moment offer him and they hoped he would accept this offer.

Miss Dan Payne.

The Board agreed that a provisional booking of the Abbey be given to Miss Payne for a Saturday matinee on 25th September 1937.

Gray Gardner

A letter was read from Messrs Gray Gardner stating they would make the usual charge of £10 per month for whatever auditors they carried out

B.B.C.

The Secretary reported that a Contract had been received from the B.B.C. Belfast for the broadcast of "The Playboy of the Western World" on Tuesday 31st August & Wednesday 1st Sept. the total fee of £176-6-5.

American Tour

Mr Hyppis reported that since the last meeting Mr O'Dea had signed his contract at 121 dollars & Miss Mulhern had signed at 70 dollars. Mr Stephenson was not yet definite and Mr Hyppis was awaiting the decision of the Minister of Finance as to whether Mr Stephenson could get leave of absence.

The Board authorized Mr Hyppis to have the scenery made & painted by Messrs Robinson of Liverpool.

It was agreed that Miss Murney should play the Sergeant's wife and Miss Crowe the Woman in "In the Chair".

The Board considered Miss Murney for the part of Pigeon Mike in the Playboy instead of Miss Crowe and left it to Mr Hyppis to decide if he would make the change.

Mr. A. Gelden

It was decided that Mr. Gelden be paid £2-10-0 when acting and £1-5-0 when not acting for the remainder of the period before the tour as Mr. Gelden has several new parts to put up.

Miss O'Connor

It was also agreed that as Miss O'Connor would have a lot of preparatory work for the tour she should be paid £2-10-0 if playing and £1-10-0 if not playing.

Whykes premises.

Mr Hyppis reported that in the course of an interview with the Minister of Finance he (Mr Hyppis) had mentioned the Board's proposal to obtain if possible an option at £300 to purchase Whykes premises for £6000, and that the Minister

was of opinion that if the Board carried out this project it was likely the Government would give the Theatre some financial assistance in the matter.

The Secretary then reported on an interview he had had with Mr Joseph Garland, Estate Agent, in which Garland advised the Board if possible to surrender the basement of Wythe premises as the rent of £100 per annum paid by the Theatre for these premises encouraged Wythe to put a higher price on the building on the assumption that the Theatre could not do without them.

The Board considered the advisability of giving up the basement and decided that this should be done. The Secretary was instructed to consult Mr Garland as to the possibility of obtaining alternative accommodation elsewhere.

Mr Hunt's
report

Mr Hunt enquired if the Board would consider giving Miss Ann Clegg a contract at £4-10-0 per week and also giving her extra pay for working in the School of Acting. The Board decided they would not make any offer regarding the School and asked Mr Hunt to see Miss Clegg again.

Mr Hunt stated that Miss O'Callaghan wished to secure play to be called "The Patriot" and not Stone Buckners as had been suggested. The Board agreed to Miss O'Callaghan's title.

It was agreed that Miss Penhallow's salary for playing in "The Patriot" should be £5 per week.

Richard Hay
28/7/1937

28th July 1937. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30 pm on Wednesday, 28th July 1937.

Present Mr Richard Hayes in the Chair, Mr E. Hylle, Mr F.R. Hyppis, Mr Frank O'Connor.

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

Finance. The Secretary reported that the overdraft was £14 = 19 = 4.

Miss Ann Yeats With reference to the Board's proposal to send Miss Ann Yeats to Paris for training in stage design a letter from Mr W.B. Yeats was read stating that as the Board had selected Miss Yeats on her merits he and Mrs Yeats would be very glad if Miss Yeats were sent abroad as proposed, the Theatre to pay her expenses there.

The Board decided that Mr Frank O'Connor should deal with the matter and make enquiries as to a suitable Theatre in Paris.

Mr Cyril Cusack A letter was read from Mr Cyril Cusack suggesting that two additions be made to his contract viz one clause giving him permission to produce for the Comhairle Dramachta & a second clause which would enable either side to terminate the contract at two weeks notice.

The Board agreed to the insertion of the clause re producing for the Comhairle but he refused to accept the clause regarding the termination of the contract.

American Tour Mr Hyppis reported that George Shuels, Paul Carroll & Conroe O'Daly had signed Authors Agreements for the tour and that Mr Joseph Linnane had signed his actors agreement.

at 75 dollars.

Mr Hyman also reported that the Liverpool firm of Messrs. Robinson had been commissioned to make the scenery required at a price of £183.

The Board considered the question of altering the cast of "The Playboy" by substituting Denis O'Dea for Arthur Shields in the part of Christy and it was decided to leave the matter to Mr Hyman for his final decision.

Mr Hyman reported that the bills arranged for the coming weeks were:-

Aug 9 The Patriot

Aug 16 Imperial Powers

Aug 23 The Playboy and The Rising of the Thron

Aug 30 American Co. broadcasting in Belfast

Sept 6 The Passing Day.

Whytes
Premises

Mr Hyman reported to the Board in his interview with Mr Garland who said he believed that a firm offer of £6250 should be made to Whytes. Mr Garland also stated he would be able to get a firm to rent the premises from the Theatre for a period of from three to five years at a rent of £450 or £500 per annum and taxes.

The Board decided that negotiations be immediately opened for the purchase of the premises and that Mr Garland be authorised to go to £6,500 if necessary.

Mr Hyman was also authorised to interview the Minister for Finance and suggest to him that the Government might put up £2500 of the purchase money, the Theatre to

borrow the balance.

School of Acting

The Board considered the reopening of the School of Acting and decided that Miss Richards be asked if she would take charge of it a new contract being given to her and her salary for the School to be £5 per week with £1-15-0 per week extra when she was acting.

Mr Hunt Report

Mr Hunt reported that Mr Wm O'Gorman had asked if the 10% cut in his salary could be terminated bringing his new salary to £3-10-0 per week. The Board agreed to give Mr O'Gorman £3-10-0 and also to terminate the cut in Mr Redfurn's salary which would now be £4-5-0 per week.

Mr Hunt suggested Mr Wm Devlin of London for the part of Lucius Penahan in The Lost Leader.

The Directors decided they were not anxious to have great actors engaged for any lengthy period but authorised Mr Hunt to enquire if Mr Devlin would be free and if it could be arranged for him to play this part.

It was decided that "The Lost Leader" should be produced on 30th August by the Home Company.

Wm. R. R. 7
4/8/37

4th August 1937.

Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin at 5.30 pm. on Wednesday 4th August 1937.

Present

Mr. E. Blythe in the Chair, Mr. Richard Hayes, Mr. F. R. Higgins, Mr. Frank O'Connor.

Minutes.

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

Coming out of the Minutes Mr Higgins reported that Mr Garland had informed him he was of opinion from information secured that Messrs Whyte would consider an offer of £6,000 for their premises and that Mr Garland had an appointment with Mr Whyte for Thursday 5th August when he would make the offer. Mr Higgins also stated that in the event of the Theatre buying Whyte's premises it would be two or three months before the premises would be handed over. Mr Higgins further stated that Mr Garland had suggested a payment of £50 to ^{him} ~~Mr Garland~~ ~~for the use of the premises~~ ~~for the use of the premises~~.

Finance.

Mr A. Choy. The Secretary reported that the balance at the bank was £151-13-7. Permission was granted by the Board to Mr Choy for a broadcast from Dublin on Aug 20th.

The Theatre Guild. A cable was read from The Theatre Guild, New York suggesting that the Board write their wishes fully with reference to the proposed production of "The King of the Mountains".

The Directors decided that they would prefer to have the Guild's offer of terms on the basis of the letter sent to them on 17th July.

Columbia Broad-
casting Corp. The Secretary reported he had had an enquiry through Mr Gallagher, Dublin Broadcasting Station from the Columbia Broadcasting Corp.

of America who wished to know if the Abbey Company would do a broadcast of "Riders to the Sea" on September 19th from 12 midnight to 12.30 am. This would be a non-commercial broadcast, one of a series from various parts of Europe. The Corporation wished in the first place to know if the broadcast would be done and its approximate cost.

The Board agreed it could be done and instructed the Secretary to enquire as to the proper fee to ask, £75 being suggested as a likely figure.

American Tour

Mr Higgins reported that contracts had now been signed with all the authors concerned except O'Casey, Joyce and that he was in communication with these authors' agents.

Mr Higgins suggested that a Souvenir programme might be compiled in America with articles by dramatists such as Yeats, Shaw, O'Connor, Robinson O'Casey, details of the Players & history of the Directors and Players. Mr Higgins also suggested that an article should be included dealing with the scheme for improving and expanding the Theatre as such an article might be instrumental in obtaining financial aid from Americans interested in the Theatre. The profit from the sale of the Souvenir could also go to the expansion scheme.

The Board agreed that in principle Mr Higgins' suggestion be approved of.

Mr Hunt's request

Mr Hunt reported that the A. B. C. Belfast had enquired if Jim Cherry could be sent for by the Corporation in the forthcoming broadcasts of the Playboys. The Board decided that Jim Cherry would be needed in the Abbey and could not be sent to

Belfast.

The Board gave permission for the use by the B.B.C. in their publicity of the Abbey Theatre blocks.

Mr Hunt submitted the cast of 'The Lost Leader' including Mr Devlin as Lucius Lancham, and said that Mr Devlin would probably be free. The Board approved of the cast.

Mr Hunt referred to an article which had appeared in 'Cavalcade' and which purported to be the result of an interview with him. He denied giving any such interview and declared his intention of writing to the paper repudiating it.

Mr Hunt mentioned that a lady named Miss Leamy was in Dublin for a few weeks from U.S.A. and was anxious to watch rehearsals. It was agreed to permit her to attend rehearsals and to assist Mr Hunt by prompting, and doing any other odd jobs as he required.

Pictures in Vestibule. Mr O'Connor raised the question of removing from the Vestibule some of the old pictures and replacing them by some of the good modern photos of the present Players which are lying in the Theatre notably pictures by Harry Phibbs. The Board agreed that Mr O'Connor and the Secretary should arrange for the removal of some of the pictures and their replacement by some of the photos by Mr Phibbs.

Mr Lennon
Mr Winson.

Mr Higgins reported that Mr Robinson was unwilling to accept the Board's proposal regarding the payment to him of £50 to enable him to go to Hollywood.

After some discussion Mr Hayes asked the Directors to

allow him to interview Mr Robinson before any further decision was taken in the matter and this was agreed to.

LWS:Ts.

11th Aug. 1937. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre Dublin on Wednesday, 11th August 1937, at 5.30 p.m.

Present

Mr W.B. Yeats in the Chair, Mr. Richard Hayes, Mr F.N. Higgins, Mr Frank O'Connor, Mr E. Blythe.

Coming out of the Minutes Mr Yeats said he did not want the portraits of Miss Horniman, Miss O'Neill and the Fays removed from the Vestibule as they were pictures of great merit - also the Fays were founders of the Abbey Theatre. Mr Yeats also suggested that the portrait of Miss Walker might be loaned to the Municipal Art Gallery.

Mr F. Robinson

The following resolution proposed by Mr F.N. Higgins and seconded by Mr Frank O'Connor was passed: - "That Mr Fennor Robinson be approached to take charge of the School of Acting at a salary of £6 per week at present with a possible further £1 per week to meet special expenses."

It was agreed that Mr Higgins and Mr O'Connor should draft a programme for the School.

It was proposed by Mr Richard Hayes, seconded by Mr W. R. Keats and passed "That Mr Frank O'Connor be appointed Managing Director of the Theatre, for a period of six months, subject to the authority of the Board".

Finance. The Secretary reported that the Bank balance was £331-6-0.

Columbia
Broadcasting Corp. The Secretary reported that he had been informed by Mr Gallagher, Dublin Broadcasting Station, that the Columbia Broadcasting Inc. had accepted the terms of £100 for a broadcast of "Riders to the Sea" to be done by the Abbey Theatre Co. on Sunday Sept. 19th from 12 midnight to 12:30 am.

In response to an application from the St James' Dramatic Society, Dublin for permission to give three performances of "The New Gossworn" by Geo. Shiels on Sept. 26, 27, 28 the Board agreed to grant the permission.

American
Tour The Hygiene reported on the progress made with the preparations for the tour and informed the Board that the Company were if the present arrangements stood, to sail from Cobh on Saturday 18th September.

Whytes
promises The Secretary read a letter written by Messrs Whyte to Mr J. G. A. who was acting on behalf of the Theatre, stating they were prepared to accept the sum of £6100 (six thousand one hundred pounds) for their interest in the

premises 3/4 Marlborough St.

The Board agreed to purchase the premises at the price mentioned.

Mr Hunt's report.

Mr Hunt reported that Mr J. Stephenson had given up his part in "The Lost Leader" and had not given any reason for so doing.

It was decided that Mr W. Swelin be paid £10 for playing in "The Lost Leader" for the week commencing 30th August.

On account of the great amount of preparation needed for the American tour and the number of plays it was necessary to rehearse it was decided that the Home Company should take over as from Monday 30th August and that the American Company should devote all their remaining time to rehearsing.

The bills arranged were

Sept 6 Quinn's Secret

13 Boyds Shop or Drama at Irish

20 a new play.

New Auditors.

Mr Hyppis reported he had interviewed Mr F. R. O'Connor, Incorporated Accountant of 10, Westmoreland St and that Mr O'Connor had agreed if elected to take up the duties of Auditor at a fee of £40 per annum.

Walter St John.

18 Aug. 1937. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of the National Theatre Society.
[Ed. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin on Wednesday, 18th August 1937. at 5.30 p.m.

Present Dr Walter Sturkie in the Chair, Mr E. Blythe, Mr F. D. Higgins
Mr Frank O'Connor.

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

Rebuilding Scheme Mr Blythe reported that he had had an interview with the Minister for Finance who stated there would be a sum of £50,000 or £60,000 available for the building of a theatre block and that he was anxious this block should accommodate the Abbey the Gate and the Gaelic Players. Mr Blythe stated he had urged that the Gaelic Players could be most suitably served by being merged in the Abbey and that possibly two theatres would meet all the Minister's requirements.

Afterward having discussed the matter, it was decided that as the Minister had now gone away for three weeks Mr Blythe should draft a scheme for consideration at a future meeting, such scheme to follow the Minister's suggestions as far as possible, while leaving to the Directors of the Abbey a controlling interest in the matter.

School of
Acting.

Mr O'Connor reported that he and Mr Higgins had seen Mr Robinson who had accepted the Directorship of the School of Acting. Plans for the improvement of the working of the School had been drawn up and it had been arranged that Miss Wiseiwitsh should give a series of lectures on stage decoration. It had also been decided that rather than Miss Lane Payne or Mr Huber Rooney be re-engaged.

Mr O'Connor suggested that in order to improve the standard of the pupils the Directors should have the right to nominate two pupils each.

It was decided that a school of dialect was very necessary and that an endeavour should be made to have this started.

Finance

The Secretary reported that the Bank balance was £445-13-2

Theatre Guild
New York

It was decided that if Mrs Theresa Helburn one of the Directors of the Guild who was at present in London, cared to come to Dublin the Directors would discuss with her the proposed production of "The King of the Mountains".

Columbia Broad-
casting Inc.

A letter was read from Mr Gallagher, Dublin Broadcasting Station confirming the acceptance by the Columbia Broadcasting System of the terms of £100 for a broadcast by the Abbey Theatre of "Riders to the Sea" from Dublin on Sunday September 19th

at 12 midnight.

American Tour Mr. Higgins reported that the booking of the Company had been transferred from The President Roosevelt to the Grand Steamer Sonoma which would call at Belfast on Saturday 18th September. The scenery he would be loaded at Liverpool. The Company were to open during the week commencing Sept. 27th and he had asked Schuber to say with what play, where and at what theatre.

Mr. O'Connor criticised the lighting of "The Rising of the Moon" and "The Playboy" and Mr. Higgins promised to have the points raised attended to.

Atter Festival Mr. O'Connor suggested the holding of a Festival of plays lasting two or three weeks during the summer period with a new play each night. He said it would be a great attraction. The Board agreed that matter should be further considered.

Mr. Hunt's report Last reference to an application received from Mr. Kegan for the position of Stage Manager to the Home Company. Mr. Hunt suggested that Mr. Kegan be immediately employed as Assistant Stage Manager at £1 per week and that Mr. Fred Johnson continue for the present as Stage Manager at £1-10-0 per week.

Gaelic play.

The Board decided that the proposal to put on a one act play should be proceeded with as soon as possible, either a play by Dr Douglas Hyde or a new play written by P. Frank O'Connor. It was also decided that as far as possible the cast be from Abbey Players with possibly one or two Players from the Gaelic Players.

Comm. m. 1/2
25/8/37

25th August 1937. Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of The National Theatre Socy. Ltd. held at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at 5.30 pm on Wednesday, 25th August, 1937.

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

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

School of Acting. Arising out of the Minutes Mr. Robinson reported that he had so far interviewed 51 applicants for admission, he had had 13 auditions and had arranged for 31 more. He hoped to have in all 40 pupils.

Peacock Theatre Lettings. The letting of the Peacock Theatre during the coming season has considered and it was decided that ^{the} Lettings asked for by An Gormhar Dramuiochta be given to them viz. the weeks commencing 11th Oct., 1st Nov., 22nd Nov. 6th Dec. 1937, 26th Jan., 11th Feb., 7th March, 4th April 1938.

As the Peacock would be also required for the School of

Acting and for rehearsals it was decided that the letters asked for by the Stage Society could not be granted.

Finance. The Secretary reported that the Bank balance was £280-1-5.

General Director. The Board granted Mr F.H. Hyppis leave of absence on Monday, 30th August and also from 4th Sept. to 11th September.

The Board granted permission to the Omaha Players to produce "Fardlow and Substance" by Paul V. Carroll.

Theatre Guild. A letter was read from Mrs Theresa Melbourne regretting she could not cross from London to interview the Directors regarding the production of "The King of the Mountains" as she was returning to New York immediately. She suggested writing to Mr Russell in New York or waiting until Mr F.H. Hyppis reached New York when arrangements could be concluded.

American Tour. Mr Hyppis reported that he had had a cable stating that the Company were to open at the Ambassador's Theatre New York on September 30th with "Katie Roche", and that he had replied suggesting The Playboys, Tunes or The Plough as better opening bills.

Mr Hyppis then referred to a matter in connection with Mr Davis's idea. He stated that after he (Mr Hyppis) and Mr Shields had interviewed Schubert in London, the idea ^{of} the ^{English} investigation ^{of} some of the players had travelled to London by plane, interviewed

Shubert and suggested to him that certain Players should be asked for in connection with the proposed American tour with the result that Shubert inserted in his Contract with the Theatre a clause stating that nine named Players should be included in the Company. The Board had no knowledge of this action of Mr Odeon until after the Contract had been signed and had the Directors known, they could have dealt with the matter at the time.

The Board considered the advisability of interviewing Mr Odeon & other Players on the matter but Mr Hyppis considered this action might lead to bad feeling as all Contracts were now signed and no action could be taken. At the same time Mr Hyppis considered that any interference by the Players with the arrangements as between the Theatre and Shubert might lead to difficulty in New York.

After some discussion the Board decided that Mr Hyppis should interview the Players, tell them that the Board was aware of what had occurred and warn them that any member of the Company guilty of such conduct in the future would be instantly dismissed.

Whytes
Premises.

A letter was read from Messrs Cox & Co. stating they had been sent by Messrs Hayes, Solicitors acting for Messrs Whytes, the draft Agreement for the purchase of the premises. Messrs Cox propose going into the draft with Counsel before it is executed and they ^{mentioned} ~~raised~~ some points in connection with the lease which they state will not give rise to any great difficulty.

Heating
boilers

The Secretary reported that two sections of the boiler were cracked that the water was in consequence leaking from the boiler and that these sections would have to be replaced. He submitted an estimate from Messrs Baird who installed the boiler seven years ago, giving details of the cost of replacing the damaged sections and also an estimate for a new boiler.

The Board instructed the Secretary to obtain an estimate from Messrs Hadley and to write to Messrs Baird pointing out the bad service given by the boiler and stating that their estimate for replacing the faulty sections was excessive.

Mr. Hunt's
report.

Mr. Hunt submitted a cash of some of the profits of "The Man in the Cloak" which was agreed to. It was arranged that Mr. Hunt would circulate the complete cost as soon as possible.

Belfast
Broadcast

The Board decided that the Players taking part in the Belfast Broadcast of The Playboys on 31st Aug + 1st Sept. should be paid each £5-5-0 salary plus £2-5-0 subsistence, total £7-10-0.

Donegan 20/11
1/9/37

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Abbey Theatre

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