

Little Theatre Movement Aims to Encourage Talent Of Every Kind and Sort

Mrs. Winnifred Reeve Gives Interesting Talk on Movement
Started in Calgary—Speaker Points Out Success
That Has Been Attained in Other Large Cities
In United States and Canada

"What does the little theatre movement mean?" This question was answered very clearly and fully by Mrs. Winnifred Reeve in an address given at the Gladys Attree studio on Thursday evening to a large audience. Summing up her answer to the question, Mrs. Reeves explained that the movement is simply "drama of the people, by the people and for the people."

Mrs. Reeve commenced her talk by expressing some little surprise that the question should be put by so many in a city the size and importance of Calgary, for, said she, nearly every city and town of any consequence in the United States and in Canada, to say nothing of Europe, today possesses its little theatre, or groups who make up community players.

The objects of the little theatre, the speaker set forth as the promotion of the study of the drama, the production of high-class plays—both foreign and Canadian, to develop and encourage the talent of the city—not merely dramatic talent—but talent of every kind and sort.

Must Be Wide Open

Proceeding, Mrs. Reeve said in part:

"Indeed, I may say at the outset, that the closed shop idea would be fatal to such a movement. By that, I mean, small groups, who might gather together, and run things for the benefit of their own limited circle. We should not specialize on the talent of the west side, the north side, the east side, or the south side of the city. The little theatre should have no pets—no special man or woman to thrust repeatedly forward into the limelight, unless he or she is of prime importance to the special play being put on. Pull and money should avail nothing. Talent alone should be the touchstone.

Field Is Limited

"The difference between the little theatre and amateur dramatic club, is that the amateur club confines itself to the work of its members. It is, therefore, narrowed down to a limited field. Furthermore its intentions and ideals are widely different from that of the little theatre.

"The difference between the little theatre and the professional theatre lies in the fact that the one is a commercial proposition. Plays are put on with the main idea of making money. On the other hand the little theatre is purely community work, done for love of that work, without pay.

"It would draw under its wing all of the dramatic clubs or community players of the city, and it would open its doors wide to the talent of the city. Here are some of the assignments that would be given:

"Designing costumes or scenery, painting scenery, calculating, writing, dancing, electrical work, play reading, secretarial work, publicity, dyeing, stencilling, typewriting, decorating, play producing, composing, play writing, acting, music, vocal or instrumental, carpentering work, clerical and executive work, orchestra, shopping, reading of MSS.

"In some of the little theatres, science and millionaires have worked

wielded the broom that has cleaned the stage, while the daughter of a scrub woman has played the star part.

Success Everywhere

Mrs. Reeve then went on to tell of the success the little theatre idea has met with in a large number of cities of the United States and Canada, and how it has succeeded in developing talent that would otherwise have lain dormant. Speaking of the effort in Toronto, the speaker said:

"You probably have all heard of Hart house, the mecca of the talent of Toronto. And you know, no doubt, also of the splendid work done by the universities. It is good to record how the movement caught on at the universities. You see it was something that appealed to the young. You can scarcely find a university today that has not allied itself in some way with the little theatre movement."

Coming to the movement in Calgary, Mrs. Reeve said:

"There is no question of the fact that we possess all kinds of talent in this city. Besides talent we have beauty—hundreds of unusually pretty girls and some raving beauties.

"Beauty is not an essential for an actress, but it is a mighty fine asset and will carry a girl a long way. Talent will take her farther.

Much Musical Talent

"We have musical talent, and a movement such as this will discover composers of ability. We have literary talent and a movement such as this will bring out playwrights and dramatists. We might have a contest in the schools. Put the young people to dramatizing a short story of some kind, and see what will result; for it is the aim of the little theatre to put on as well as tried plays original ones done by residents of the city. Take Mrs. McClung's "Bringing Up Danny." Someone could make a corking little play out of that, and give opportunity for some comic and emotional acting of a high order. Sergeant Kendall has material for a play.

Essentially of Stage

"Then there is dancing. Dancing has always been closely allied with the theatre. Its proper setting is the stage.

"All this you see would come with the little theatre. We would study these things not for use in professional life, but because of love of them; because of the culture to mind and body that they would impart."

\$200 Fire Damage

Damage amounting to about \$200 resulted from a fire which broke out in an apartment in the Fraser block, 1227-A Ninth avenue east, Wednesday afternoon. The fire department was able to extinguish the blaze after it had burnt along the wall from the second to the third floor.

Coarse Grains Inquiries

Inquiries in connection with samples of coarse grains are still being received by George Hill, Dominion government grain inspector, from Vancouver. These are being promptly supplied. One of the firms mentioned that the people they were acting for were large exporters of