



Leaders of the repertory movement in New Zealand (reading from top to bottom): Professor James Shelley, of the Canterbury Repertory Society; Mr. Leo du Chateau, one of the Wellington Repertory Theatre's producers; Mr. Victor S. Lloyd, founder of and producer for the Wellington Thespians; Mr. W. S. Wauchop, another of the producers for the Wellington Repertory Theatre.



IN an article she wrote for the "Radio Record" some weeks ago, Ethel Morrison, the well-known actress at present in New Zealand with the "Fresh Fields" Company, commented on the tremendous growth of the repertory movement in the Dominion during the past few years. In Auckland, Wellington and Dunedin first-class productions are coming along at the rate of almost one a month, while in Christchurch the Canterbury Repertory Society has considerably extended its schedule.

Wellington is fortunate in the possession of three outstanding producers—Messrs. W. S. Wauchop, Victor S. Lloyd and Leo du Chateau. The Wellington Repertory Theatre produces six major shows a year, Mr. Wauchop and Mr. du Chateau producing three each. Mr. Lloyd, producer for the Thespians Society, stages four productions each year, the last one, "Laburnum Grove," being taken to Wanganui after a most successful Wellington season. The Thespians are now at work on "Lover's Leap," Philip Johnson's brilliant London success, the cast including T. V. Anson, Sinclair Breen, Marjorie Murray, Myles Wright and Selwyn Toogood. For the last production of the year the society will produce "Call It a Day," the clever new play by Dodie Smith—reviewed in the book page of the "Radio Record" recently. This play, which stars Owen Nares and Fay Compton, is still running to crowded houses in London.

The Wellington Repertory Theatre, which achieved something of a triumph with its production of "Richard of Bordeaux," is hard at work on rehearsals for "The Mask and the Face," an adaptation of an Italian comedy which was seen by the producer, Mr. W. S. Wauchop, when he was in Europe last year.

This play, which has been in rehearsal for the past fortnight in anticipation of presentation early in September, has the following cast:—Messrs. W. S. Wauchop, W. Shinn, Warren Toogood, Jasper Baldwin, J. H. Lindon, F. G. Hayes-Townes, C. Y. Bell, John Proudfoot, Mesdames Phyllis Murray, J. G. Young, "Catie" Mackenzie, Misses Yvonne Holmes and Evelyn O'Brien.

Mr. Leo du Chateau's next production for the Repertory Theatre in Wellington will be Ibsen's famous drama, "Hedda Gabler." At Christmas the Repertory Theatre, in conjunction with Messrs. J. C. Williamson, Ltd., intends to present "Peter Pan."

... And From A Little Acorn

Growth of Repertory And Progress During This Year

THE Auckland Little Theatre Society, the premier repertory society in Auckland, has recently concluded 12 years of progress. Mr. Herbert Bently, the founder of the society, had produced but two plays when he died. Just before he died he said to his wife that he wished his old friend "Brammie" could take the society on. When Mr. Kenneth Brampton heard of this he applied to Mr. L. P. Leary for the position, and was appointed producer and organiser by the committee in February of 1927. Mr. Joseph Clark produced two of the plays, Mr. Leary one, Mr. Gaston Mervale five, Mr. Frederick McCallum fourteen, and Mr. Brampton nineteen. This brings the total up to 43 productions. For four years Mr. Brampton was responsible for the society's activities, and during that time the success of the Little Theatre was remarkable.

The society's last production, "Easy Virtue," by Noel Coward, was an outstanding success. The 44th production is almost ready to go into rehearsal, but the name of the piece cannot yet be divulged, the producer at present, being engaged on a hunt to secure the right leading man for the play. So far, he has failed. If he does not succeed, the play the society has in mind will have to be dropped.

The Grafton Dramatic Society recently staged Eugene O'Neill's "Days Without End," probably the most controversial sex play ever put on in Auckland. Peter Bathurst, the producer, quite a young man, also took the leading role in this piece.

Miss Ysolinde McVeagh, the popular producer for the Auckland Catholic Repertory Society, last Saturday (July 25) staged

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