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FINE ACTING

By Talented Limerick

Group

"THE JAILBIRD" AT THE
PLAYHOUSE

A visit to the Playhouse this week is apt to convince one that the School of Dramatic Art is a very capable adjunct of the College Players. A delightful interpretation of George Shiels' comedy, "The Jailbird," is given by the group, and once again it is interesting to see that the cast includes a few newcomers. With the introduction of "new faces" there is the aim to solidify the foundation on which the parent group stands, and the College Players, in turn, can look confidently to the future with the knowledge that there is an abundance of talent at their calling.

"The Jailbird," on Tuesday night, sufficed to reveal really sparkling acting by Messrs. Liam Colleton and Seamus Duggan, and to a lesser degree by Miss Mary Dillon, Miss Marie O'Driscoll, Mr. John Spillane and Mr. John O'Sullivan. Others in the cast have been before the footlights on previous occasions, and naturally fitted very ably into the production.

"The Jailbird" is a sort of favourite in Limerick, as it was also presented successfully in the Catholic Literary Institute some years ago. It is not the writer's intention to compare each production, but it may be said that the presentation at the "Institute" was given by an experienced cast. Now we find newcomers putting it over, and again it is observed that the humour contained in the dialogue is preserved in detail by good acting.

THE LEADING ROLE.

When the writer saw Liam Colleton filling the part of "Oliver O'Shaughnessy" in "The Far Off Hills," last June, his performance was thoroughly satisfying. His latest effort, however, enhances that bright opinion and consolidates his reputation. His characterisation of "Dan Farren"—"the Jailbird"—was full of merit. There was a natural understanding of the part, and the make-up was good. In every way, Mr. Colleton was impressive; and on this showing he was well deserving of the honour of being placed at the top of the cast, even though his name was first in the order of appearance on the stage.

The part of "the Jailbird" is really a role embracing comic as well as dramatic interludes. We see "Dan Farren" after spending seven years in jail for highway robbery, branded as a criminal by his neighbours. How he overcomes the castigations levelled at him and marries a dressmaker makes an interesting theme; while the topic of the hour—greyhounds—is a lively financial sideline, which invests the comedy with additional fun. The appearance of a "Yank" who has been away from the "old home-stead" for 40 years also creates enjoyable passages. His idea of settling down in the "old country" is fascinating to the "Jailbird," and his next of kin, and thoughts of bliss are instantly conjured in the Farren home. But, the "Yank," who had ideas of marrying the "Jailbird's" step-daughter, beats a stealthy departure from the locality after being "relieved" of much of his £ s. d. These incidents impart a clever touch of genius to the script, and interest in the comedy is maintained to the end.

FINE CHARACTERISATION.

As the "Yank" who came to the locality with many intentions, "Chesney," played by Mr. Seamus Duggan, demanded the appropriate accent. "Seamus" created a profound impression as the dignified visitor, and no fault could be found with his characterisation. In fact, he naturalised the part so well that the audience were in ecstasies—perhaps, a practical demonstration of appreciation. Indeed it was an excellent performance.

Mr. John Spillane was eminently successful as the breezy "James Kelsey." There was a lot to be admired about his playing, which was a happy augury for the future. He was also suitably made-up. As his wife, "Mrs. Kelsey," Miss Rosaleen O'Driscoll lacked something in the facial make-up, as she appeared to be somewhat young for the role, and some of her lines were not effective. Otherwise the performance was promising.

Miss Mary Dillon, as "Martha," gave every satisfaction. She was well cast, though a trifle young in make-up, in comparison to her "romantic lover"—"Chesney." She showed confidence, however, in giving a portrayal which was one of exceptional promise.

Una Ni Chealligh gave a nice character study of the dressmaker, "Mary Anne." Her impulse to speak before other conversationalists had finished was the one failing observant to the onlooker. It was, nevertheless, a grand interpretation of a heavy part.

Miss Marie O'Driscoll (as "Lily") and Mr. John O'Sullivan (as

A STRANGE CONTRAPTION

The "Ass And Panniers"
Railway

THE LARTIGUE AND ITS STORY

Humours Of The Balancing Problem

Only those about or beyond middle age can remember the Lartigue Railway, which ran between Listowel and Ballybunion, for it closed down for good twenty-four years ago. The invention of a French engineer whose name it bore, it was an exceedingly strange contraption. It was the only railway of its kind either in Ireland or Great Britain, and in several respects it was quite unique.

Although described officially as a Monorail, the Lartigue was not confined strictly to a single rail. It ran on one main rail elevated four or five feet from the ground, but below this rail, and a little farther out, were two side ones that helped to keep the train balanced. Both the passenger compartments and the goods waggons were divided down the middle into two sections, one hanging at each side of the central rail.

PROBLEM OF BALANCING.

This division often set a difficult problem in balancing, and quite frequently gave rise to amusing situations. The passengers were in two rows, back to back, those in each section sitting side by side and looking out into the countryside through which the train travelled.

The train swayed a great deal and it can readily be imagined that an exceptionally heavy passenger at one side could seriously militate against anything like smooth running.

The officials, accordingly, had to

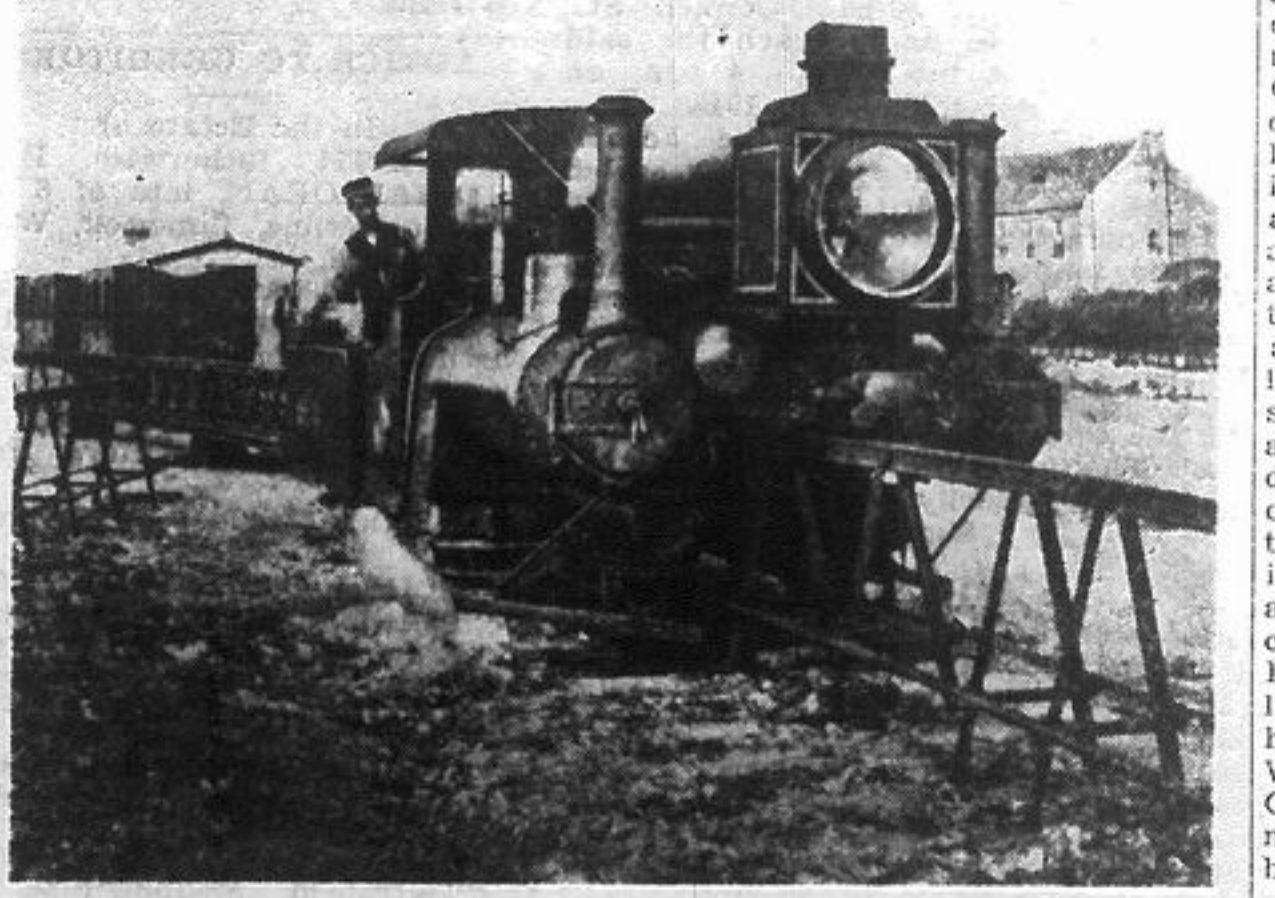
wheels—one on the main line on top and two smaller ones on the others lower down—was a peculiar spectacle. From its appearance it gave the impression of two hoppers of turf strung across a donkey's back, and for that reason it was often referred to as "the ass and panniers railway."

It made a great deal of noise when in full motion—much more, indeed, than its speed would warrant. Cyclists on the road near which it ran had no difficulty in passing it out, and when it carried an exceptionally heavy load a horse and trap would have no great difficulty in leaving it behind!

This unique railway was just an experiment but it did not prove a very happy and successful one. It was opened with an important ceremony in 1888, the distinguished gathering on the occasion including Ministers of the French Government. Known officially as the Listowel and Ballybunion Railway, it never paid and by an order of the Dublin High Court it was closed down in 1924.

MEMENTOES STILL TO BE SEEN.

Portions of some of the bridges serving the railway are still to be seen along where the rail lines ran. Some of the coaches, too, are to this day doing useful service as hen houses. These are interesting mementoes of an invention that had a rather unimpressive career. Mons. Lartigue has probably "joined the majority" long before



An engine of the old Lartigue shunting along its trestle-shaped line.

take all precautions to see that the human cargoes on both sides were as evenly balanced as was reasonably possible.

"Come back here, Missus," said a railway man on one occasion to a woman of huge avoirdupois who was stepping into a carriage. "There's a heavyweight there already," he added, "and we want you to balance her on the other side."

And "Missus," in the utmost good-humour, smilingly and obligingly made her way to the other side of the train as directed.

OLD CRONIES WOULD NOT BE SEPARATED.

On another occasion two men of great weight—old cronies, it appears—refused to get separated when one of them was asked to go to the other side to balance his friend.

"This seldom we meet to have a seanchus," said one of the two, "and now that we're here we'll keep together."

A passenger of a humorous bent suggested to a railway man to go into a nearby field and commandeer a cow for the purpose of balancing the train! This, however, was not done and balance was secured by leaving the two men in sole occupation of the side of the compartment in which they were seated and transferring all the others to the opposite side!

"ASS AND PANNIERS."

The train, which ran on three

this, but it does not seem that his novel invention, sometimes referred to as the "wonder railway," ever got beyond the experiment of it tried between Listowel and Ballybunion.

It was often said during the recent war, when bus accommodation and rail travel were very much restricted, that the Lartigue would be "a gift" if it were still running. It would, no doubt, be quite useful during that particular period, and as a curiosity it may be an interesting attraction at any time. For commercial success on a permanent basis, however, something more substantial than what these considerations suggest are indispensable.

SOMETHING SHOULD BE DONE.

Incidentally it is rather amazing that no genuine effort seems to have ever been made to adequately solve the problem of public travel facilities between Listowel and Ballybunion. Huge numbers of people going to the latter seaside every year find it very difficult to get there punctually and in anything like comfort. Surely it ought to be not merely possible but feasible to devise some scheme—either by the laying down of a light railway or the provision of an adequate bus service—to afford a full and satisfactory means of getting to and from Ballybunion during the holiday season.

DIED IN U.S.A.

Popular Limerick
Man Passes

LINK WITH LAND LEAGUE
DAYS

The sad news was received by cablegram this week (writes a correspondent that an old and respected citizen of Limerick in the person of Daniel (Dan) Doyle passed away on the 22nd inst., at his residence, 215th St., Bayside, Long Island, New York. The deceased, prior to emigrating to America, was employed in the firm of Messrs. Arthur Guinness Son and Co., for a long number of years, retiring on pension in 1929. Soon after his retirement, himself, wife and family left the city for America. Being the possessor of a friendly, warm-hearted and generous nature, he had hosts of friends and was held in high esteem by his colleagues and the public generally, especially by the business community, whom he served well and truly for close on 40 years.

The deceased was a sterling Nationalist. Joining the old Victuallers Brass and Reed Band in 1884, he often related to the writer some exciting and stirring incidents during the Plan of Campaign and Land League days when monster meetings were being held all over the country and addressed by C. S. Parnell, Michael Davitt, William O'Brien and other stalwarts of those days. The band never failed to turn up whether the meetings were proclaimed or not, and often returned to the city with heads and instruments broken by the Crown Forces. The sympathy of the public goes out to the family and relatives in their sorrow. May God have mercy on his soul.

OBITUARY

MRS. MARGARET WALSH

The death of Mrs. Margaret Walsh, "Lorna," O'Connell Avenue, Limerick, which took place at her residence on Saturday, 13th Nov., has occasioned widespread regret and sorrow. The deceased, widow of the late Mr. Wm. Walsh, a former director and secretary, Messrs. Cannock and Co., Ltd., was a lady of refinement and culture. Gentle, kind and unassuming, she was held in very high esteem and regard by an ever-widening circle of friends and acquaintances. Despite her advanced age she continued to take a practical interest in general affairs right up to the end. A lady of deep religious sentiments, she was, throughout her long and active life, a fervent Catholic. She died as she had lived—in the bosom of the church. Two of her daughters—Mother M. Rose, O.P., Dominican Convent, Muckross, Dublin, and Sister M. Angela O.P., Dominican Convent, Sion Hill, Blackrock, Dublin—embraced the religious life. Deep sympathy is tendered to her highly respected son, Mr. John Walsh, Director and Secretary, Cannock and Co. Ltd., and the other members of the family in their bereavement.

The funeral on Monday, 15th November, after Solemn Requiem High Mass in St. Michael's Church, to Mount St. Lawrence Cemetery was representative of the professional and commercial classes in the city and adjoining counties, testifying to the high esteem in which the deceased was held.

The officiating clergy were:—Rev. J. White, Adm., St. Michael's; Rev. Fr. O'Sullivan, C.C., do.; and Rev. M. Minihan C.C., do.; Rev. T. J. Lyons, C.C., do.; Rev. E. O'Dea, C.C., do.; Rev. M. O'Donnell, C.C., do.; Rev. Fr. Taheny, O.P.; Rev. J. C. Collins, O.P.; Rev. J. Barragry, S.J.; Rev. D. Roche S.J.; Rev. Fr. Cleary, C.S.S.R.; and Rev. Fr. Fitzsimons C.S.S.R.; Very Rev. Dr. Cowpar, P.P., St. Patrick's.

The chief mourners were:—Messrs. J. Walsh, M. A. Walsh, W. G. Walsh, C. Walsh (sons); Mrs. Gleeson, Mrs. Moran, Miss I. Walsh, Miss V. Walsh (daughters); Mrs. Dinan, Mrs. Hanley, Miss Gladys Walsh, Master Paul Walsh (grandchildren); Mrs. J. Walsh, Mrs. W. G. Walsh, Mrs. M. A. Walsh and Mrs. C. Walsh (daughters-in-law); Mr. G. H. Moran (son-in-law).

In addition to telegrams and letters of sympathy over 100 Mass Cards were received from relatives and friends.

COMING TREAT FOR LIMERICK

Patrick Lonergan, the Irish-American tenor, is at present on a visit to Ireland. Fresh from his triumphs with the Mascagni and Metropolitan Opera Companies, he will make his exclusive Irish appearance at the Savoy concert on Sunday night, November 28th. Josephine Scanlan will appear with him in operatic duets. The Committee in charge of the concert is to be congratulated on such enterprise.

Cork is sending George McSweeney, the genial host at so many Radio Eireann "At Homes"; also the Hayeses in comedy and musical acts. Kathleen O'Keefe,

CITY COURSING CLUB

THE ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Limerick City Coursing Club was held at Fox's Hotel on 18th instant, Mr. J. Wixted presiding.

The Secretary, Mr. M. Hanly, reviewed the year's working and paid tribute to the vast amount of voluntary help received from members and supporters, which enabled the Committee to carry out the fixture in spite of difficulties caused by very adverse weather conditions.

The members were unanimous in their appreciation of Mr. Hanly's efforts on behalf of the Club and regretted that he was obliged to relinquish his office owing to pressure of business.

The Treasurer (Mr. J. Morrison) was complimented on the splendid state of the Club's finances as disclosed by the Balance Sheet in spite of the heavy expenses necessarily incurred in carrying out the annual fixture.

A very sincere vote of thanks was passed to the City Manager and Mental Hospital Medical and Farm Staffs for the use of the grounds at Bawnmore; to Mr. W. Foley, for his generosity in providing free transport for hare drives; and to Mr. Prendergast, for the free use of his premises for meetings during the season.

The following officers were elected:—

President, Dr. M. Feely; Vice-President, Mr. J. Wixted; Joint Hon. Treasurers, Messrs. J. Morrison and R. Penny; Hon. Secretary, Mr. M. O'Neill.

The outgoing Committee were re-elected with the addition of Messrs. P. F. Quinlan and J. O'Connor.

The Club has now secured a splendid new stretch 450 yards long for their annual fixture on 20-1-49, and preparations are now in progress for that event.

MOTHER AND SON

DIE WITHIN FEW DAYS

Mrs. Margaret D. O'Connor, who was a resident of Church Street, Abbeyfeale, died while at her daughter's residence, at Listowel, at the age of 85 (writes our Abbeyfeale correspondent). Her funeral to Abbeyfeale was attended by a large number of sympathisers. Coincident with her demise was the death of her son, Michael, in New York a few days previously. Two of her sons, John and Joe, were members of the Old I.R.A. The interment took place in St. Mary's Cemetery, where the prayers at the graveside were read by the local clergy and Rev. R. Woulfe, C.S.Sp.

FINED £100 EACH

James Gildernew, Creevelough, Brantry, Dungannon, and John Burke, Carracastle, do., were each fined £100 at Clones when charged with attempting to export 3,000 cigarettes and a quantity of shirts and hair oil.

EXECUTION DELAYED FOR CHAPLAIN

The hanging of 15 Nazi war criminals was delayed for an hour on Friday in Bavaria until a chaplain could be found, says a United Press message.

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT

SHEEHY

(BALLYNO)

Having purchased the old Premises of McKNIGHT wish to announce to their general public that

Opening for

WEDNESDAY NEXT

CEAD MILE FAITE

ALL SET
for GOOD SHAVING!

Treat your face to an Ever-Ready shaving set. A flick—and the razor's ready. No unscrewing, no separate parts to lose. Can you wonder that men in their millions

