

LITTLE THEATRE TO PRESENT REGIONAL PLAY HERE

Decade Ago Saw Beginning Of DDF

The Dominion Drama Festival was founded by His Excellency the Right Honourable the Earl of Bessborough in 1932 and since that time has been honoured in having each succeeding Governor-General of Canada as its patron. At the present time the Honorary President is our Incoming Vice Regal representative the Right Honourable Vincent Massey. Its aims and objects are "To encourage dramatic art in Canada by the holding of a Dominion Drama Festival and such regional or other subsidiary festivals as may be deemed advisable, and by the granting of prizes and awards for distinctive efforts in any of the arts relating to drama,

les. More recently the invitation to the finals has been extended to the eight entrants considered the best across Canada regardless of whether a Regional winner or not. The adjudicators must be bilingual to enable them to judge the French speaking with the other entries. Most of those qualified in Canada are too intimately connected with the work of the D.D.F. in one or other of the regions to be eligible to adjudicate and it is usually difficult to attain an American bi-lingual. Largely for these reasons the Board of Governors has each year with few exceptions selected Englishmen for their adjudicators—although last year Mr. Jose Ruben of New York was their selection as adjudicator for the finals.

Charlottetown through its Little Theatre Guild has had marked success in the five or six years it put entries in the Festivals. In its first competition against five New Brunswick entries in 1936 the Guild won second place with "Circumstantial Evidence" directed by Mrs. Ruby Houle, C.D.A. The following year at Saint John the Guild was the Regional winner with "Nocturne", an original play by Harry Foster Jr. of Charlottetown. In 1939 the Guild again as the Regional winner went on to the finals at London, Ontario with "It's Autumn Now", directed by Mr. J. A. Lawson.

During the war years the Festival competitions were suspended and on their resumption some changes were made. Prince Edward Island in 1950 was given the status of a separate region, one of twelve (now thirteen to include Newfoundland) across Canada, and competition was limited to full length plays.

However our Little Theatre Guild met the new situation and last year its "Papa is All" directed by Mrs. Vera Millar was one of the eight selected to play in the finals at London, Ontario, out of over sixty entries throughout the Dominion. When it is considered that our Guild members have never had professional directors nor, except for a few days in each of the last two years, any professional training, both Charlottetown and our Province have reason to be proud of the achievements of their entrants in the Dominion Drama Festivals.

This year's Regional Adjudicator is Mr. Pierre Lefevre of London, England, who has had a noted career not only in the dramatic field but also in serving with the French Army and later with the B.B.C. in the last war.



JUSTICE H. L. PALMER

including the writing of plays, their presentation, mounting, costuming and lighting."

The Dominion Drama Festival Board of Governors incorporated by Royal Charter in 1935 represents in its membership all the Provinces of Canada and includes from Prince Edward Island our Lieutenant-Governor His Honour T. W. L. Prowse, Mr. J. A. Lawson, and Mr. Justice Palmer.

The Board divided Canada into a number of regions each holding an annual Festival with some person outstanding in the dramatic field chosen to adjudicate in the various regions in turn. The respective regional winning groups were then invited to compete in an all-Canada Final Festival held annually in one of our larger cit-



Cast of "Ladies In Retirement", pictured above, are as follows: Left to right, Iphigenie Arsenault as Sister Theresa; Jean Giddings as Emily; Eric MacGregor as Albert; Elizabeth Willett as Louisa; Etta Bell as Lucy; Florine Evans as Ellen and Nellie Hughes as Leonora. Owing to the unfortunate illness of Mr. MacGregor the role of Albert is being played by H. Barry Bugden.

Director



H. BARRY BUGDEN

This Year's Presentation

"Ladies In Retirement", the thrilling comedy drama by Edward Percy and Reginald Denham which is the Little Theatre Guild's entry this year in the Regional Festival, is one of this enterprising organization's most ambitious undertakings to date.

Chosen for its intense dramatic moments, contrasted with the high comedy of the two rather pathetic and "potty" sisters, it is a story of England in the year 1885. Costuming for that era has been extremely well carried out, using authentic clothes of the period. The stage crew also have been most successful in copying the interior of an old English home, and have built it on the local stage during the past few weeks.

With a cast of six women and one man, the story is of the struggle in one woman's heart, and her own decision as to what is wrong or right in this world. Having spent her life caring for her two unfortunate sisters, she must de-

Adjudicator



PIERRE LEFEVRE

British Actor Is Adjudicator

Pierre Lefevre was born in the City of New York in 1914, of French parents. At the age of nine, he left the U. S. A. to make his home in England. He was educated at the Lycee Francais in London and subsequently graduated from the University of Lille with a degree in philosophy.

His first professional stage appearance was in Michel St. Denis' production of Cocteau's "Antigone" which was performed in French at the Institute Francais in London; it decided him to train for the stage under St. Denis at the London Theatre Studio.

On completion of his training, his first job was at the Old Vic under the artistic direction of Tyrone Guthrie. Small parts in various London West End shows followed and the organization of a company of young actors known as the London Village Players. This group toured the country in their own truck during summer months. As he had served in the French Army from 1932-4 he was recalled in September 1939. He was caught in the retreat of May 1940 but managed to join a Polish division, and, disguised as a Pole, escaped in the "Arandor Star" in a British convoy from St. Jean de Luz. Demobilized by the French Consulate, he joined a group of journalists organized under Michel St. Denis by the B.B.C. to make daily broadcasts to France. Then, he trained as B.B.C. war correspondent (with Gillard, Dimpleby MacPherson and Maxted), landed in Normandy on D. plus 12 and remained overseas until Christmas 1944.

Returning to the English stage in the summer of 1946, he played the role of Aloysius in Alec Guinness' version of "The Brothers Karamazov". He had already, while in France, discussed the formation of the Old Vic School and Theatre Centre with Michel St. Denis, Glen Byam Shaw and George Devine. He remained as Shaw's assistant for two years, planning the school, teaching and producing. He then joined the Young Vic Company as touring actor-manager, remaining with it for two seasons and being in charge of the company during tours to Holland, Belgium and Scandinavia. During 1950-1 he was a member of the Old Vic Company for its first season in the rebuilt theatre in Waterloo Road. He is married and has a daughter and son. For his services during the war, he was awarded "la Rosette de l'Ordre de la Liberation".

Provincial And Civic Leaders Commend Efforts

His Honour Lt.-Governor T. W. L. Prowse has commented on the coming presentation of "The Little Theatre Guild of Charlottetown" as follows:

"We are very pleased that Prince Edward Island is one of the Regions for competition in the Dominion Drama Festival and consider that Regional Festivals held in our Province merit the fullest support of our people so that we may continue to compete with other Provinces of Canada in the Art of Drama.

"The fact that a P.E.I. production was chosen as one of the best eight plays, produced across Canada last year, is very significant. "We are pleased to welcome to our Province this year the Adjudicator of Regional Festivals, Mr. Pierre Lefevre of London, England."

"I may say that the Government of Prince Edward Island is promoting and assisting in the maintenance of the P.E.I. Drama Festival," stated Hon. J. Walter Jones, Premier, in a communication to the local committee recently.

He further stated that "The P. E. I. Drama Festival is not to be confused with the P.E.I. Regional Festival of the Dominion Drama Festival. We assisted the latter last year when they competed in the finals in London, Ontario.

"We believe that the Regional Festival should receive the fullest support of the Prince Edward Island public. One dramatic group, as least, has been able to hold its own with others throughout Canada, and it is our hope that more and more dramatic groups, now competing in the Drama Festival, will be able to take part in the Dominion Drama competition.

"I wish you would extend the best wishes of the Government of Prince Edward Island to the P.E.I. Regional Festival for further successes this year."

Mavor J. D. Stewart has written the P. E. I. Committee of the Regional Drama Festival of the D.D. F. as follows:

"I am pleased that to date, our City has been chosen as the site for P. E. I. Regional Festivals of Dominion Drama Festival, and that the production of the Little Theatre Guild of Charlottetown was chosen as one of the best eight plays, produced across Canada, last year.

"May the Charlottetown entry, this year, meet with equal or greater achievement and the P.E.I. Regional Festival be a complete success."

P. E. I. REGIONAL FESTIVAL OF

DOMINION DRAMA FESTIVAL

EMPIRE THEATRE

February 12th, 1952

Curtain at 7:30 p. m.

The Little Theatre Guild of Charlottetown

Presents

"LADIES IN RETIREMENT"

Directed by H. Barry Bugden

Adjudicator—Pierre Lefevre of London, England

Admission 75c

Tickets on sale at Hughes Drug Co. and Abegweit Gift Court

Audience is requested to be seated before 7:30

SUPPORT P. E. I. ENTRY IN CANADA WIDE COMPETITION

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