

THEATRICAL MUST BE CUT OUT

\$50,000,000 Concern Back of Project to Cut Out Middlemen.

OPEN-DOOR POLICY IS DUE

Co-operative Scheme Works Out With Hundreds of Theaters in Move—Portland and Coast Benefit Greatly by Deal.

NEW YORK, May 8.—Seventy-five theater owners, representing 200 theaters in the United States and Canada, concluded a week of consultations tonight with a view to organizing the National Theater-Owners' Association, representing property interests valued at \$50,000,000.

President, John Cort; vice-president, Mose Reiss; secretary, J. J. Coleman; treasurer, Albert W. Cook; T. H. Haskins, secretary of the association.

The Northwestern Theatrical Association, covering British Columbia, the Northwest and the Pacific Coast as far south as New Mexico and Arizona; Walker's Winnipeg circuit, covering Manitoba and South Dakota; Marshall's copper and iron circuit, in the middle Northwest; the Chamberlin-Harrington and Kindt circuit, covering the entire Middle West between Chicago and the Mississippi River; the Crawford, Philleo and Zehring circuit, operating from Nebraska into Texas; J. J. Coleman's circuit and the Albert Wells, Jake Wells and Henry L. Dogie circuit in Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and New York; T. H. Haskins' circuit, in New York, and the Julius Kahn circuit throughout New England.

Speaking of his new venture in the theatrical world tonight, Mr. Cort said emphatically that the theater syndicate power is broken and that the Klaw & Erlanger booking agencies are a thing of the past.

While many events have taken place in the past week in the theatrical world, the details of which have not been made public, Cort says that Erlanger no longer dictates the theater policy of the country, and that the "hit-the-entertainment" policy of opening his houses to whomsoever had good shows. Concerning this point he said:

"However, I am perfectly frank in saying that the principal reason I have taken the bookings out of the hands of Klaw & Erlanger and adopted the open-door policy is because Erlanger's circuit and the Albert Wells, Jake Wells and Henry L. Dogie circuit, in New York, and the Julius Kahn circuit throughout New England.

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"Yes, I expected to hear from Mr. Cort, who is in New York, relative to this matter, as the formation of this association was very much remained in the East. It is even a larger move than the Associated Press has announced. First the new organization, which is to be co-operative in its nature, will include from \$50 to 1,000 theaters, and will be valued in property interests far over the \$50,000,000 mark.

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