

# DESPONDENT ACTOR A SUICIDE BY GAS

Wright Lorimer, Who Starred in  
"The Shepherd King," Laid His  
Troubles to W. A. Brady.

**\$48,400 SUIT WAS PENDING**

Mr. Brady, When Informed of Suicide,  
Released His Interest in Play  
to Lorimer's Widow.

Walter M. S. Lowell, an actor, who was well known under the stage name of Wright Lorimer and who for several seasons had starred in a play called "The Shepherd King," of which he was the author, committed suicide in the kitchen of a boarding house at 124 West Sixty-fifth Street some time between 10 o'clock Thursday night and early yesterday morning. Despondency due to his inability to get a stage place and worry over the canceling of a contract that he had with William A. Brady, the theatrical manager, are believed to have caused the actor to take his life.

Lowell committed suicide by placing his head in the baking oven of a gas stove. The suicide seems to have been carefully planned. He was seen by Lewis Shanley, who runs the house in which he boarded, about 10 o'clock on Thursday night. He appeared worried, but there was nothing in his conversation or bearing to indicate that he contemplated committing suicide. He had lived at the house about three weeks and his rent was paid in advance.

For four months Lowell had been out of work, and recently he made an unsuccessful effort to recoup his fortunes in vaudeville. Since then Lowell had had nothing to do.

On Wednesday night he had a talk with Charles A. Meacham, an actor, and at that time, Mr. Meacham said yesterday, he appeared to be in deep distress and was brooding over the troubles which he imagined were due to his breaking with Mr. Brady last Spring.

Near the body when found were three letters—one addressed "To My Friends,"

another to Charles S. Mackenzie, a lawyer, who represented Lowell in a suit he had brought against William A. Brady for \$48,400 for alleged breach of contract, and the third to Charles A. Meacham, "Ben Hur" company, New Amsterdam Theatre. The letter addressed to his friends and the one to Mr. Mackenzie were unsealed and were read by the Coroner. In the one to his friends Lowell bitterly complained of William A. Brady, saying he was driven to suicide because of the treatment he had received from the theatrical manager. He added that there was not left "one ray of hope" and that he was "full of suffering." He sent his love to all of his friends and "lots of love to Paul," the latter said to have been his valet, who remained with him until a few days ago.

The letter to Mr. Mackenzie was very brief. Lowell wrote that it was his will. He left to Mr. Mackenzie all of his effects and property, to dispose of as he saw fit. He made no mention of his wife, from whom he was said to have been separated for several years. His wife, who is not an actress, lives in a small New York village with her three children, two girls and a boy.

Walter M. S. Lowell, or Wright Lorimer, was born in Worcester, Mass., March 10, 1874. His first stage experience was in 1899, when he acted as a super in the Dearborn stock company of Chicago. Before the end of the season he played speaking parts, and then toured in "The Three Musketeers." For two seasons he played the leading part in "The Power Behind the Throne," and then decided to star in his own play, "The Shepherd King," which had its first production at the Knickerbocker Theatre on April 5, 1904, and continued in favor for three seasons. During that time Mr. Lorimer also appeared as Hjalmar Ekdal in Ibsen's "Wild Duck." The season of 1907-8 he starred in "The Quicksands," by Alicia Ramsay and Rudolph de Cordova. His last appearance was in vaudeville in a sketch called "The Crucifix."

Lowell's suit against Mr. Brady has been pending since March. Early yesterday Nathan Vidaver, counsel for Mr. Brady, called up Charles S. Mackenzie, counsel for Lowell, in regard to a motion in the suit which was to have come up yesterday in the Circuit Court. Meanwhile Mr. Mackenzie's office had been notified of the suicide, and Mr. Brady's attorney was told that the case was off on account of the death of the plaintiff. Mr. Brady was then notified of the suicide. The theatrical manager, through his counsel, informed Mr. Mackenzie that he much regretted the death of Lowell, and that, in view of the circumstances, he would at once surrender all his interests in the production of "The Shepherd King" to Lowell's widow.

## City Dockhand Stays Discharged.

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court refused a writ of certiorari yesterday to George Kimball, who was dismissed from the Department of Docks and Ferries by Commissioner Tomkins. Kimball, who was a volunteer fireman on Staten Island, was tried by the Dock Commissioner and found guilty of retaining 25 cents in fares collected from passengers on the deck of a municipal ferryboat. The Appellate Division considered the evidence before the Dock Commissioner, and found that he was warranted by it in dismissing Kimball.