

be work but I am down here to make money for the widow-lady and recover part, at least, of her previous losses.

Am having the Pav. painted, lavatories put in and the dressing rooms made habitable. Outside, I am having the ground levelled and turfed and with shrubs and green plants, flowers etc I am hoping to make it look very attractive. Everyone told me that soil and turf was absolutely unprocurable ; -I've over 100 loads of soil and the ground now and hope to start a man cutting turf & carting it to the Pav. by Tues. latest. Funny how these cockneys get what they want, look you. Some work though and little time and less money to do it with, but I think I shall squeeze through.

Opposition this year will be greater than ever, I hear, but I'm not daunted, I'm going to win through, if it is humanly possible and I am very keen to make a success here as I have an idea that Mr Devant thinks I shall fail in this town and if I DID fail I should feel - - well - nevermind, I'm not going to fail.

Letter dated 29 April 1922, extract 2 (part b)

The news of Owen Clark's impending visit to Aberystwyth is in Glenrose's letter of 12 May 1922 (extract 1, below). The letter gives further information about Glenrose's activities at the Quarryette (extract 2, below).

I hear Owen Clark comes to the Pier here for a 16 weeks season. Oh, my ! How many tons of stuff is he bringing I wonder ? When I last saw him in Town he told me he was going on a 20 weeks tour, after finishing at "The Hall" is this 16 weeks of it? Lovely tour !

Letter dated 12 May 1922, extract 1

Yours sincerely

Charles Glenrose
"Jim"

P.S. Am really up to my eyes in work. Have the painters and decorators in, also having water and gas mains run in, and lavatories and kitchens built. The grounds and beginning to look nice with turf and green plants etc , and what with looking after this, and having bill-boards built, and chairs battened together, and incidentally running dances you can judge I'm pretty busy.

Letter dated 12 May 1922, extract 2

In his letter of 21 June 1922, Glenrose wrote about competing attractions in Aberystwyth.

There is much opposition here. FOUR resident Parties, in addition to The Coliseum, Band, Chara-bances Motor & other Boating to say nothing of A huge Musical Festival which starts a series of 25 Concerts on Friday next, but despite this, we opened fairly well Whit week, and have gone up each week since, whilst the Coliseum has CLOSED DOWN, and the Company, a Revue "Hello Charlie" which opened there on Whit Monday, took £7 for their share and was STRANDED in the town, not being able to travel to Chatham their next date. I felt very sorry for them, but glad to feel that I am keeping our end up in spite of everything. Of course the Season does not start until July, but nevertheless I have broken records for the first three weeks of last season a month before the season opens, so that is not so bad. I really think my policy is the right one, and I have the confidence of the town and councillors, so am really expecting to come out on the right side. I sincerely hope so.

Letter dated 21 June 1922

In July 1922 David Devant visited Aberystwyth and saw Owen Clark's show. His opinion, as reported by Charles Glenrose in his letter of 20 July, was that it was "not of the best". Devant may have been biased by the fact that Claude Chandler's version of his show was in competition with Owen Clark.

I expect you know that Mr Devant and family are here. They are in their second week, and will, I think be staying for some little time. He seems very anxious that I write out for dates, but I am holding my hand until I hear from you - but perhaps I shall be doing no harm if I send a few feelers out, what do you say? I thought of writing to a few places round London - such as Richmond, Kingston Aldershot etc; the latter two would have to go through Adam's Agency, and I don't think they would pay more than £100, but that would keep us going, and might be worth your while, until things got settled a bit with the tours. Please let me hear from you as soon as possible.

Lloyd George has been here three days this week and played "heck" with the business, but we shall survive I guess.

Owen Clarke is here, and his show is NOT of the best, that is not my opinion, as I have not seen it, but it is "D.D's" and that is good enough for me to go on. Mr Devant says plainly that he thinks there is a fortune in your show and has great hopes of the future. A great pity the new illusion has failed to fructuate, and lucky that you did not forego your present contract for that, there is something in luck, after all.

Letter dated 20 July 1922

On 16 August 1922 Glenrose wrote to Chandler to say that "Mr Devant left here last Saturday after a stay of five weeks." He had bad news about his own season in Aberystwyth.

The season here has turned out badly, so far, but, even so I should be able to pay my way and make a profit but for the load of debt left from last season which I have had to shoulder. I shall be very glad when Sept 2nd arrives when I shall be able to throw off the responsibility. I am trying to sell the place for Mrs Graham in which case I may be able to pick up back salary - if not the chances are not favourable, but I usually stick to ~~what~~ I undertake.

Letter dated 16 August 1922- extract 1

He had been equally unsuccessful in his attempts to obtain bookings for Chandler's version of Devant's Revue of Magic. He offered the following explanation.

the whole fact of the matter is, Managements have been so badly "let down" by others attempting to follow big illusionists that they are 'shy of booking. The followers of Lafayette, Ching Ling Soo, and others all being failures, you cannot wonder that they will take a little time to realise that the seeming impossible has happened in your case.

Letter dated 16 August 1922- extract 2

Managements may also have been put off by the fact that Chandler wanted £150 per week for the act. This was a very high salary for a well-worn act presented by a young, relatively unknown performer.