

Musicians Mutual Association

Local No. 99.
American Federation of Musicians.
Headquarters and Secretary's Office, 128 1/2
Fourth street—H. C. Bannister, Secretary.
BY BURNS POWELL, CORRESPONDENT.

The general meeting has levied a special assessment of 25c per month on all members for the remainder of the year, beginning with the present month. There was but one dissenting vote. The treasurer's report shows that the expenditures for the past seven months have exceeded the income by \$726.10, or about \$106.00 per month. \$1100.00 has been drawn from the savings account since January 1, 1915. The present cash balance, all told is \$1606.10. The total cash on hand January 1, 1915 was \$2527.68. The following appropriations, ordered by the General Meeting, explained the deficit:

Pictures purchased of C. L. Brown, \$75.00; donation to Central Labor Council for benefit of the Unemployed, \$200.00; donation to Rose Festival, \$100.00; sending three delegates to National Convention at San Francisco, \$325.00; agitation against non-union dances per banner, etc., \$95.86; boycott on Alhambra theatre (still being maintained), \$192.70; election tellers, \$20.00; measuring dance halls, \$35.00; multi-graphing, printing, etc., in connection with Minimum Number of Men Law and other matters of agitation, \$60.15; telegrams to national office, etc., \$48.63. Total unusual expenditure authorized by the General Meeting, \$1092.34. In addition we have had the usual expenses of hall maintenance, officers' salaries, per capita taxes to five bodies with which we are affiliated, stationary, stamps, etc.

It was thought better to make up this deficiency by the small monthly assessment than to wait until the end of the fiscal year and assess it in a lump sum as provided for in Art. VII, Sec. 3, Par. 1, By-laws.

During the past year and a half there has been a demand on the part of the membership for agitation to be carried on against the inroad of non-union competition. This demand has been met, as is shown above, and substantial results have been obtained, but it's execution has cost some money—more, in fact, than the usual quarter's dues will cover—and the membership is therefore called upon to make up the deficiency. It is hoped, by the office, that the expenditure during the remainder of the year will be light, however, if we are called upon to go to war it will cost money, and, a war chest must

be maintained. Your attention is called to the minutes of the last General Meeting which follow. That meeting instructed the President to employ two members to put into operation the contract with managers of public halls and pay each man the sum of \$2.00 for each hall signed up. This will cost several hundred dollars.

The Union Ave. Theatre, Union Ave. and Russell Sts. is employing non-union music. It's near competitor employs union music and demands that we unionize the Union Ave. Theatre. Keep this theatre in mind. We understand one-half interest in same is owned by Joe Rieg, who has offices in the Gerlinger Bldg., and who has heretofore employed only union music in the various enterprises he has managed.

Remember the date August 25th. We are told that it will be "The Best of All."

General Meeting August 3, 1915.

Report of Committee to investigate matter of A. A. Buck, suspended member of this Assn., playing with Firemen's Band read and committee discharged.

Report of L. & L. Com. recommending change in Art. 5, Sec. 1, Par. 1, Misdemeanors is tabled.

Report of L. & L. Com. recommending change in Dancing School Class prices is not concurred in, except that clause reading "or fraction thereof," which is added to price for overtime.

On motion meeting votes that if the Theatrical Federation cannot collect account of \$16.00 due members of this Local from the Heilig Theatre by Friday noon, August 6, 1915, said Theatre shall be placed on the unfair list of this Local, and our International shall be requested to place the house on its unfair list, and our delegates to the Central Labor Council shall be instructed to ask that body to place the house on its unfair list, is carried.

On motion meeting ratifies new Constitution and By-Laws of the Theatrical Federation as per copy submitted.

On motion the President is given instructions to engage 2 men to line up the dance halls of the city and secure signatures to contracts to engage union music in same. Salary to be \$2.00 and car fare for each man for each hall signed up.

Picnic Committee reports progress and ask the co-operation of each individual member of the Local in its success.

Recommendation of the Board of

Directors, that an assessment of 25 cents be levied against each member of this Local for months of August, September, October, November, December of 1915, is carried.

On motion meeting is adjourned.

Board Meeting August 4, 1915.

Resignation of T. H. Burchard as delegate to Central Labor Council, read and accepted.

Case against McCosh-Allen-Marque and Mountford for playing with A. A. Buck in the Firemen's Band is dismissed because of lack of intent to transgress any of our laws and because of favorable agreement reached with Fire Chief Stevens since that time.

Case against W. Kolkosky for vilifying the character of F. W. Hoesley is dismissed and Mr. Kolkosky is warned not to make such charges against any of our members again without proof on penalty of being fined for committing a misdemeanor.

E. W. Sorber appears and pays money due R. C. Russell and investigation of the matter is dismissed. Mr. Sorber says he has had no chance to see Mr. Russell or would have paid the money before.

G. T. Holtzclaw, manager of the Circle Theatre appears and states that on account of hard times and summer season he would like to use one of his ushers to put in drum effects on the Photo-player. The office is instructed to write Mr. Holtzclaw informing him that according to our International Constitution and B-Laws it will be impossible for any member of this Local to play in the pit with any other than a member of the A. F. M.

Bills for \$51.37 read and ordered paid.

On motion Board adjourned.

A FLAT CONTRADICTION.

President Weber Comments on the "Examiner" Article in San Francisco Labor Clarion.

The widest publicity is desired for a letter to this department of the "Labor Clarion" from Joseph N. Weber, president of the American Federation of Musicians. It refers to an article written sometime since by Mr. Redfern Mason, musical critic of the "Examiner," in which he, but partially informed of the reasons behind the action of Local No. 6 of the A. F. of M., declined to permit certain of its members to appear with the Boston Symphony Orchestra in Festival Hall.

More indeed than this lucid letter from President Weber contains could

be said relative to the visit of the Higginson organization to the Coast, but our union, more eager to preserve industrial peace than some exposition officials, chooses to keep its own council until a more fitting time. Meanwhile this letter from President Weber will be found illuminating:

"Noticing an article in the San Francisco 'Examiner,' holding as unjustifiable and damaging to the musical progress of San Francisco the order of the American Federation of Musicians, through its local union in San Francisco, which prevented its members, Wallace Sabin, organist, and Gyula Ormay, pianist, from playing with the Boston Symphony Orchestra at its recent engagement in your city, I beg to offer the following explanation, which I hope will convince the musical circles and critics in your city of the fairness and correctness of the attitude of the Federation.

"About ten years ago almost all vacancies in the symphony orchestras of this country were filled by importations from Europe. American musicians received but scant recognition, and instead of having unhindered opportunities to develop their talents the fact that they were Americans seemed to militate against them. At least, developments since then force such a conclusion.

"The Federation, in the furtherance of the principle to correct this unjust situation, issued an order to its members to desist from playing with imported musicians, and this, in the course of time, had the effect of Americanizing all the symphony orchestras of this country save one—the Boston Orchestra. Many musicians of the latter orchestra at that time had joined the Federation, but were forced to withdraw on account of the Federation failing to agree that they should be permitted in future as in the past to play with all musicians that the owner of the orchestra may choose to import. The Federation could not agree to such a proposition, as by doing so it would have practically agreed that American talent was unworthy of positions in symphony orchestras and that this country, by reason of the lack of proper talent, was in such cases forced to forever remain dependent upon Europe.

The Federation's policy to properly safeguard the development of the art of music in this direction in this country has borne fruit, as many symphony orchestras now exist in America composed entirely of American citizens, and are all maintained without taking recourse to importa-

tions. Among the American symphony orchestras so maintained we find some which in many respects—as is freely conceded by competent critics the country over—are of the same standard as the Boston Orchestra. Indeed, in some of the sections of such orchestras, such as wood wind, etc., they even surpass same. The Boston Orchestra no longer stands in a class by itself except in so far as it practically represents the only foreign musical organization in this country.

That American talent is available, the Boston Orchestra itself has often agreed, for when it fails to find foreign talent, members of the Federation, with due condescension, are induced by promises of long employment to resign from the Federation for the purpose of joining this orchestra. Thus only forced recognition is shown American musicians.

"For all the aforesaid reasons, the Federation cannot permit its members to play with the Boston Orchestra under any circumstances whatsoever as long as this orchestra practically remains a foreign institution, as, were it to give such permission, it would thereby forego further opportunities to enhance the independence of this country from Europe in the field of the art of music.

"The question of wages and conditions was not the reason for the disagreement between the owner of the Boston Orchestra and the American Federation of Musicians. However, the opinion seems to prevail that the members of this orchestra are the highest paid musicians in this country. This impression is erroneous, as, perhaps aside from the salary which a few first instrumentalists receive, the majority of the membership of the orchestra does not receive any higher recompense, if indeed as high, as the members of some of the other truly American symphony orchestras receive. I remain,

"Respectfully yours,

"JOE. N. WEBER,
"President A. F. of M."

TRACK MEN MAKE GAINS

Officers of the International Brotherhood of Maintenance-of-Way Employees announce that the first maintenance-of-way schedule ever obtained on the Northern Pacific railway is now in effect. Among the more important gains are time and one-half for overtime; expenses paid when away from headquarters, and provision for adjustment of grievances.

TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION

(By D. O. Gallup, Secretary).

J. I. Huston deposited a San Francisco card last Monday. Mr. Huston is well known to many Portland printers, having been initiated here June 2, 1901, and has been in and out of this local with a traveling card seven or eight times since.

Spokane Allied Printing Trades Council held its seventh annual picnic or waygoose festival August 2, and had an attendance of considerably over a thousand, two special trains in addition to the regular trains being required to move the crowd at the picnic, which was held at Loon Lake. Comparisons are odious, and it must be remembered that our picnic given the week before was the first. We intend to have that many next time. There will be less difficulty in arousing enthusiasm, judging from expressions that have been heard from members of the various crafts.

Seattle Allied Printing Trades Council will give a big excursion and picnic at Redondo Beach, between Tacoma and Seattle, Sunday, August 8. No doubt this will be a very successful affair. Seattle is ideally situated for excursions of this nature by boat, and excursions of this sort are easier to work up than one by rail, because boat trips are always attractive. Maybe we can do something of that kind next time.

The secretary has just received a letter from John C. Brooks, formerly of Portland, dated Medicine Hat, Alberta, in which he says, in part: "For awhile I got pretty good pickin', but now it is rather scarce owing to the war. I hear of some talk of putting on a censor in Canada, and that will finish scaring them to death. . . . Quite a number of the fellows are in the trenches or buried in Europe as a result of this war. We hear from them once in awhile—the men who are living, I mean. I have set up some of the letters, and the stories they tell are awful. I saw one of the fellows a few days ago, and he looks like he had gone through a hell. There will be a big harvest here and I think fair wages, because there is a scarcity of help of a certain kind."

Advancing civilization demands greater expenditure for public purposes and the revenue levy must be a burden on production or must come from the rental of land. Which?

Those who go into Wall street for a "clean-up" almost invariably get it.

HERE IS A CHANCE FOR UNION MEN to do something worth while for the cause of unionism

WE ARE anxious to secure for the *Labor Press* a wider circulation among those not members of a labor union. ☐ There are thousands of people who, while not members of a union, are in sympathy with their principles and would like to keep in touch with them. ☐ It will require but little effort on your part to get your neighbor to subscribe for the paper, and every subscriber added makes the paper that much more valuable as an advertising medium and will help to educate those of the public who do not come in direct contact with union affairs. ☐ *For this special circulation campaign we will reduce the regular subscription price just one-half.*

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