

# Portland Labor Press

Volume XV. Number 19

Portland, Oregon, Saturday, August 21, 1915

Whole Number 811

## ORGANIZED LABOR STANDS SOLIDLY BEHIND MUSICIANS IN THEIR STRUGGLE

There has been a lot of newspaper talk and considerable glorification in the camp of the Employers' Association during the past week over the fact that the proprietors of several theatres have locked out their Union Musicians and have filled their places with scabs. The newspapers have been particularly careful to spread the statement that there was a disagreement between the unions as to the stand of the Musicians' Union.

The trouble has been brewing for some time and came to a head last Sunday when the managers of the Empress, Lyric and Pantages broke an agreement with the union and attempted to introduce changed working conditions. Non-union musicians are now employed in the Heilig Theatre, Broadway and Taylor; Pantages Theatre, Broadway and Alder; Empress Theatre, Broadway and Stark; Lyric Theatre, Fourth and Stark.

Moving Picture Theatres—Gay Theatre, 805 Mississippi Avenue; Globe Theatre, Eleventh and Washington Sts.; American Theatre, First and Main Sts.; Casino Theatre, 285 Burnside Sts.; Sunnyside Theatre, 145 1/2 Belmont St.; Nob Hill Theatre, Twenty-third and Kearney Sts.; Clinton Theatre, East Twenty-sixth and Clinton Sts.; The Isis Theatre, 1613 East Thirteenth St.; The Home Theatre, 122 Grand Ave., near Morrison; Columbia Theatre, 108 Sixth St.; Crystal Theatre, 125 Killingsworth St.; Peoples Theatre, 129 West Park St.; Star Theatre, Park and Washington Sts.; National Theatre, Park and Stark Sts.; Circle Theatre, 128 Fourth St.; Crystal Theatre, 46 Third St.; Union Avenue Theatre, Union Ave. and Russell St.; Sunset Theatre, 328 Washington St.; New Grand Theatre, 105 Sixth St.; Acme Theatre, 265 Russell St.; Tivoli Theatre, Williams and Russell; Alhambra Theatre, 1371 1/2 Hawthorne Ave., cor. Forty-ninth; Majestic Theatre, Washington and Park Sts.; Richmond Theatre, East Thirty-seventh and Carruthers.

If in doubt about a picture theatre demand to see the

Union House Card or Union Music card of the Musicians' Mutual Association.

The Burnside Theatre, Mr. G. M. Harris, manager, Fifth and Burnside, and the Ideal Theatre, Mr. T. C. Leblanc, manager, Twenty-fourth and Thurman, have both assured our members that they intend to stand by the Unions and not put in scab musicians.

In order that the public may be fully advised as to the stand of the Central Labor Council and as to the exact status of the case to date the Executive Board of the Central Council last night submitted the following statement which was adopted by the Council in executive session:

### Report of Executive Board Relative to Musicians' Lock-out

On Sunday, August 15, members of Musicians' Local Union No. 99, of the A. F. of M. were locked out by the managers of the Lyric, Empress and Pantages Theatres because said members refused to work in violation of a trade rule of their local union, to-wit: that the minimum number of union musicians to be employed at the Lyric is three, at the Pantages and Empress Theatres six, respectively. Said locked out musicians have been replaced by non-union musicians, now acting in the capacity of strike-breakers at the three before-named theatres.

Believing an emergency existed, the Executive Board was called into special meeting Monday evening, August 16. There were cited before this meeting, representatives of the Musicians and the Theatrical Federation. After discussion with these representatives, the board went into executive session and communications from the Musicians' Local Union president and from the Theatrical Federation were acted upon as follows:

That from President Jefferies filed.

That from the Theatrical Federation, requesting action by the Central Labor Council, was disposed of as follows:

1st. That the Board request the Theatrical Federation to call a special meeting at 12, noon, Tuesday, August 17, for the purpose of considering the adoption or rejection of the Musicians' Minimum Number of Men Law of May 4, 1915.

2d. That the Board request Local 99 of the A. F. of M. to present such law of May 4 to the Theatrical Federation for their rejection or approval at said Federation's special meeting of Tuesday.

3d. That the Board refuse to ask Local 99 of the A. F. of M. to put their men back to work under the conditions imposed and required by the employers.

Following the action of the Board, the Musicians' Board of Directors and the Theatrical Federation concurred in the recommendations of the Board, and the Minimum Number of Men Law of Local 99 of the A. F. of M. was presented to the Theatrical Federation at its special meeting of Tuesday, and said law was approved and adopted by said Federation and the

employment of non-union musicians by the theatres was turned over to the Executive Board of the C. L. C. and the Executive Board of the Theatrical Federation, for such action as may be necessary to adjust the matter.

On Tuesday afternoon the managers of the Lyric, Empress and Pantages theatres were served with a notice to the effect that the matter had been turned over to the Central Labor Council, and that we requested an early conference between them and our representatives. In reply to this request by us, we have been informed by Mr. Johnson, acting president of the Managers' Organization, that they are holding a meeting next Tuesday and we will be given an audience at that time. As we had personally interviewed Mr. Johnson and had urged a special meeting of his organization for Thursday, and had been denied this request, we have accepted his notice as to Tuesday's meeting as final. In addition to the foregoing, a night letter, approved by the Board, was sent to Mr. Considine, owner of the Empress Theatre, asserting that his agreement with organized labor in this city is being violated, to which he has replied, denying he has broken his agreement, and further showing an extreme prejudice against the president of the Central Labor Council, and accusing the latter of unfairness towards him, Mr. Considine. To this charge the Board answers that Pres. Smith sent the telegram by direction of the Board and it was an expression by the Board and not of Pres. Smith, except in so far as he is in accord with the Board, and the Board has so notified Mr. Considine.

In addition to the foregoing your Board desires to call attention to the fact that moving picture houses employing union musicians locked these out Thursday and replaced them with non-union players, evidently in support of the three vaudeville houses, regardless of the fact that the Musicians have made no demand on the picture houses; hence this is purely a sympathetic lock-out.

It has been reported in the press that the Theatrical Federation and the Central Labor Council were not behind nor in sympathy with the Musicians. This should be dissipated and branded as false.

The Theatrical Federation has adopted as law the Musicians' Minimum Number of Men Law, and same has the full support of the Central Council Executive Board.

In view of the foregoing the Board hereby recommends:

1st. That the Central Labor Council endorse the demands of the Theatrical Federation and those of Local No. 99, A. F. of M.

2d. That representatives of the Council be instructed to attend the meeting next Tuesday of the Theatrical Managers' Organization and use every honorable effort to adjust the differences now existing in the theatres.

3d. That the Council urge all union men, women and families and friends to refrain from attending any and all theatres until a fair list of theatres can be compiled and published.

Your Board deprecates the fact that business men in the amusement field have played so blindly into the hands of those who hypocritically shout for industrial freedom and clandestinely attempt to further enslave the workers.

Particularly do we deplore the action, as these same theatrical interests have for years enjoyed the benefits and patronage of labor, who have been enabled to enjoy the amusement afforded by theatres because of bettered wages gained through the activities of organized labor.

Members of organized labor and their friends should remember that the LaGrande Creamery is still on the unfair list and should refrain from using the products of this company. There is no banner in front of the place at the present time owing to the fact that the engineers have granted the banner man a leave of absence for two weeks to enjoy his vacation. At the end of that time the fight will be renewed and will continue without abatement until this firm is brought to realize that the workers have some rights and that the working people will not spend their money with a firm that does not recognize that fact.

### ORGANIZATION URGED

The Carpenters' union has appointed a committee to act with the Central Labor Union and the Building Trades Council in starting an organizing campaign in Canton, Ohio.

## SAVING \$1000.00 PER DAY

A Portland financier claims he can save the city \$1000 per day by the manager system of government. He does not state just how this enormous sum is to be saved annually, but he probably could save this much, or more. So could our present commissioners should they so desire.

They could reduce the number of street lights, or stop the service entirely; the police force might be greatly reduced, indeed, a town marshal might do the work; then, too, there is the fire-fighting department

### LOW WAGE WORKERS STRIKE

Grave diggers and caretakers at a cemetery in Sandusky, Ohio, struck because their wages were to suffer a proportionate reduction with the installation of the state eight-hour law. Officials agreed to maintain the 20-cent-an-hour rate paid under the ten-hour system.

—costs a lot of money. Why not sell the present costly, high-grade equipment and organize hose-cart volunteer companies? Think of the saving to the city in salaries.

The much-talked of bookkeeping force could be greatly reduced by working a small number of men say 18 or 20 hours a day. The city owns considerable park property which could be sold for a neat sum and the park employees discharged. With this money the \$1,000,000 road improvement bonds could be bought up and the interest on these would amount to something less than \$100,000 annually. Then we might vote some more road improvement bonds, just to get the interest. We just must have some bonds hanging over us or it would seem we were living in another and an unknown world.

We have two fireboats. Why two? Why one? Sell them. Plenty of water in the river. Let dockowners

install their own fire protection systems. More money saved.

Stop laying water mains. Costs lots of money. Have sufficient mains to supply water for house consumption. What good is grass if you have no stock and not enough lawn to pay to make hay?

If people want to irrigate their land let them dig wells to get water supply, or charge more for water for lawns, flowers and vegetable gardens, anything, so the city saves money.

Then the street car company, the gas company and the Pacific Telephone company (Home telephone company don't count for much, almost down and out anyway) should give half their profits for franchises. That would help some.

Put the electric lighting company out of business. Candles are cheaper and no danger of being electrocuted.

Run the city in a business-like manner, stop all the enumerated ex-

travagances. By looking around a little we could probably get a good manager for about \$1 a day. Big saving in salaries. Of course, he might graft and be a rich man in a few months, but if he did, we could recall him and get another.

Is it the rich or the poor class who favor the City Manager scheme? We shall see.

Another thought. If the City Manager system is a good one, why is not the same system applicable to county, state and even Nation? I pause for a reply.

### FIGHTING THE WHITE PLAGUE.

Both branches of the Wisconsin legislature have approved a bill providing state aid of \$100,000 the first year and \$125,000 each year thereafter for county tuberculosis sanatoria and directing that each institution admit cases of incipient tuberculosis.

### CORNELIUS LEHANE, IRISH LABOR LEADER, COMING

Cornelius Lenane, of Cork, Ireland, the famous labor orator whose addresses on Ireland, England and the European war have created a profound sensation in the eastern cities, is to visit Portland this week. On Friday night he will speak on "Labor and the European War," at Arion Hall, Second and Oak Streets.

Since his arrival in America from the European war zone, Lehane has been received enthusiastically by labor unions and the Irish societies. He has been received by the Boston Central Labor Union, the Boston Gaelic League, and the Irish Volunteers of Boston, also by the Chicago Federation of Labor, the Chicago Teachers' Federation (which gave Lehane a public banquet), the Associated Gaelic Clubs of Chicago, the Clanna-Gael Guards of Providence and Chicago, and dozens of labor unions of all descriptions. Wherever he has spoken he has created the greatest enthusiasm, and his services are proven to be of real value in bringing Irish Catholics and labor unionists to a better understanding

## Central Labor Council Picnic Complete Success

The picnic given by the Labor Temple Association under the auspices of the Central Labor Council at Crystal Lake Park last Sunday was a complete success from every standpoint.

About 3500 people were in attendance during the day and every one of them thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

There was something doing all the time and while a portion of the crowd listened to the addresses of the day which were delivered by Judge Kavanaugh and Judge Cleeton, the remainder were enjoying the sporting events which were being pulled off on the athletic field, or dancing, or otherwise amusing themselves.

Much interest was displayed in the rolling contest, most of the contestants being well known to the picnicers. P. W. McDonald, 55 years of age, who was at one time champion of the world at this sport, suc-

cumbed to the superior dexterity of a younger man, although Mr. McDonald gave a remarkable exhibition of the art. W. H. Fitzgerald acted as referee, Jim Cassidy as time-keeper, and the judges were A. C. Moffatt, C. H. Kelly and A. J. Burns.

Jack Lewis was chairman of the athletic committee and was ably assisted by Al Raymond, S. Wortman and G. McNamara. That they did their work well was evidenced by the fact that all events were pulled off on schedule time and there was very little bickering over results of any of the events.

Wm. Cooper, of the Plasterer's Union, acted as the official announcer during the day.

There was a great deal of interest displayed over the ball game between the Bricklayers and the Labor Press. Of this feature Mr. C. B. Taylor, who has furnished the

(Continued on Page 5.)

## Success

By JOHN BUMP

"Success"—that's the name that's painted on her stern.

She is the old Australian prison ship, and she lies down in Portland harbor, for the multitude to see at two bits per look.

Thousands have visited the old hulk since she's been in Portland.

They have shuddered at the tales told by the spicers on board of the inhumanities practiced on board the Success, when she was in her heyday as a floating hell.

It seems incredible that within the last century, only 50 or 60 years ago, men treated their brother men with such cruelty.

And as they leave the ship, they congratulate each other that we live in a better day.

However, let's take a look at things about us after we look at the convict ship.

There's a roar from New York, for instance, because Warden Osborne, of

Sing Sing, is trying to treat the prisoners like human beings.

He has abolished the rule of silence.

Men are permitted to talk to each other, and to their keepers.

He is trying to conserve whatever manhood may be left in the men who come to Sing Sing.

He argues that it will be economy to turn men back into society better than they were when society shut them up.

Our own Governor West, of Oregon, had ideas like Osborne's.

And he put them in practice.

And was criticised cruelly by the capitalist press.

But he plugged along, and made things better at the Salem penitentiary.

And it got results.

Men didn't try to break into prison,

(Continued on Page 8.)

## Scab Musicians Are Now In Their Glory

George H. Parsons and His Band and Orchestra

At present there are non-union musicians in several theatres in the City of Portland. Some of these men have been playing for several years past with the GEORGE H. PARSONS ORCHESTRA, which has been on the unfair list of the Central Labor Council since 1910. Two of them were originally members of the Musicians' Mutual Association, Local 99, A. F. of M., but resigned to go scabbing.

Following is the record of George H. Parsons, the manager of the George H. Parsons orchestra:

Previous to 1910, George H. Parsons was a member of Local No. 99, A. F. of M., but was suspended for non-payment of moneys due members and later reinstated. He was in good standing in Local No. 99 until February 16, 1910, when the following

action was taken by the Board of Directors of Local No. 99:

"Board of Directors meeting, February 16, 1910: Case of George H. Parsons, violation of Article V, paragraph 10, Misdemeanors, Constitution and by-laws, Local No. 99, A. F. of M.

"Par. 10. Failure to pay all sums due members employed, within 48 hours after amount has been collected for an engagement."

"Testimony was offered showing that the money had been paid. Member Parsons failed to answer summons and case is decided by default, and a fine of \$20.00 is imposed for violation of law.

"On motion G. H. Parsons is considered in default to members of this Local in the sum of \$239.00, is given until February 19th to pay same, is also suspended until that date, and

(Continued on page 4.)