

# Portland Labor Press

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## CIVIL SERVICE.

Mayor Albee is quoted in a daily paper as favoring the "manager" plan of government for the City of Portland, if a number of difficulties could be overcome. The Mayor says that the people of Portland will not stand for any form of government which would destroy civil service.

This is true if civil service is made to serve the purpose it is intended to serve.

But if the present conditions continue and the employes are discriminated against by those in authority; if, after a citizen has passed examination and is given a rating, he finds that the rating means nothing and that others on the list are passed over his head arbitrarily, his confidence in civil service is destroyed. It requires just enough of such cases; then suddenly civil service will be wiped out.

Civil service must be made to do the thing it is intended to do, namely, to protect the employe and not to allow those in power to play favoritism, and use civil service for political purposes.

Another man has been killed by a careless auto driver. Wherein is the difference between a person intoxicated by liquor, and one intoxicated by the speed bug?

## SCAB MUSICIANS

(Continued from Page 1.)

if the matter is not fully adjusted by that time he shall be expelled. Carried."

Parsons is a leader and contracts for engagements for bands and orchestras and this money was due to the men who played for him. He collected the money for the engagement and failed to pay the wages of the men who worked for him.

The records of the Musician's union

show that Mr. Parsons is indebted to the members of the organization as follows:

Hotel Portland Engagement, January 26, 1910

E. J. Carr, \$5; A. P. Owens, \$5; F. A. Englis, \$5; D. C. Burton, \$5; P. J. Keizer, \$5; Chas. Hase, \$5; F. Cain, \$5; A. W. Larsons, \$5; John Straub, \$5.

Assembly Ball Engagement, February 4, 1910.

E. Thielhorn, \$7; S. J. Story, \$2; P. J. Keizer, \$6; A. W. Larson, \$6;

J. H. Ludwig, \$6; F. Cain, \$6; D. C. Burton, \$6; J. W. Oberender, \$6; E. J. Carr, \$6; H. Loeffler, \$6; John Straub, \$6; C. Walrath, \$6; C. L. Brown, \$6; Chas. Hase, \$6; A. P. Owens, \$6; F. A. English, \$6.

Gay Lombard Engagement, January 26, 1910.

E. Thielhorn, \$7; H. Loeffler, \$6; H. Gardner, \$6; W. M. Simpson, \$6; W. L. Bently, \$6; A. Nelson, \$6; W. J. McCurdy, \$6.

(Note: W. J. McCurdy at present suspended from the A. F. of M.)

Masonic Ball Engagement, Scottish Rite Hall, February 4th, 1910.

S. J. Story (at present suspended from the A. F. of M.) \$6; H. S. Rudd, \$4; J. H. Kryer, \$4; J. W. Taylor, \$4; W. T. Thomas, \$4; A. J. Doyle, \$4; W. L. Bently, \$4; A. Nelson, \$4; E. Frankhauser, \$4; E. E. Pettingill, \$4; E. C. Test (at present suspended from the A. F. of M.) \$4. Total \$227.

Note: The difference between the \$239 mentioned in the minutes of the Board Meeting of February 16, 1910 and the \$227, the total of the individual amounts due members is accounted for on the supposition that certain member later failed to file their claims for official defaulters list.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Musician's union held on January 14, 1914, President Jeffrey and Secretary Banzer were appointed by the chair to wait upon non-union musicians with a view of inducing them to join the union.

There were several meetings with non-union musicians after January 14, and about this time one of the non-union musicians who was interested in getting a sufficient number together to avail themselves of a proposed reduced initiation fee of the Musicians union wrote a letter to George H. Parsons with a view to getting him to square up with the union, and so make it easier for the rest of the men who were outside of the union. The following reply from Mr. Parsons is very interesting, if compared with the minutes of the meetings of the Musicians union, and the names of members of the Musicians union to whom he had defaulted and the amounts opposite their names.

Portland, Ore., Feb. 10th, 1914.

Mr. Al Clifford,  
Musicians Union Committee.

Dear Sir:

Your undated letter was received by me on the 4th inst. and I should have answered your communication

before this, but I have been so busy with other matters that I could not get around to do so before.

"I have read with a great deal of interest parts of your letter, and in commenting thereon might say that the first part of your letter wherein you ask me to "sink any differences I may have had and let bygones be bygones, etc." is couched in very nice and considerate language. I notice in the closing up of your letter sentiment that does not at all please me which reads as follows:

"As soon as a large number join now, a campaign will be started all over the city against non-union players and a warm time is assured all who stay outside."

"This would indicate that the union paw, which is velvet just now, might become unshathed and I may be made the goat later on an attack of my former misdeeds, that is as the union looks at it, and therefore on account of the language, to put myself in the power of some of the leaders of the Musician's union, judging by their past records, for fear that reprisals may be made against me and my associates who have stood so loyally by me for some years.

"Any criticism I am making is not said in a captious spirit, Mr. Clifford, but I have had the experience and others with me, some of which are very bitter, and I cannot overlook the attacks and acts which have been made against me in the past by some of your union leaders in trying to deprive me of a means of making a living.

"You say that there are different men at the helm now, but human nature is much the same the world over, and any student of affairs knows that power once acquired becomes intoxicated with its own success, and feeds upon that which it possesses.

"I have not been able to make up my mind to join with you, as I cannot see any benefit to be derived therefrom. I am making a good living and am obtaining quite a little employment from people who believe in the open shop principle and will employ only open shop musicians.

"The sentiment of open shop seems to be growing in the city of Portland and I am firmly of the opinion, from what I can learn, that in the very near future there will not be very many unions in the city, whether musicians or others, if they continue to conduct under present day methods which organized labor has adopted.

"I believe in organization and every fair-minded man does, but with the methods I have serious objections; I have been made to feel the harshness of some of the methods of unionism in the past, and therefore do not easily forget.

"If there is at any time, whether in the ranks of the Musicians union or unaffiliated, an opportunity to assist I will do as I have done in the past, and will be very glad to do everything in my power, but I am not now of the opinion that the way to best benefit those who make their living, by and through music is to join with the Musicians, which you so attractively hold forth, but with the policy of which I have not agreed."

Yours very truly,  
George H. Parsons."

George H. Parsons and his band and orchestra are at present engaged to play the Gresham fair engagement in September. Gresham is within 20 miles of the city of Portland and is in the jurisdiction of Local No. 99, Gresham having no Local of its own.

Mr. H. A. Lewis, 96th and East Burnside streets (phone Tabor 204) President of the Gresham Fair association was interviewed several times by telephone and once by letter, asking him to try and see that a union band would be hired for the fair this year. Mr. Lewis stated that the fair board had awarded the contract to George H. Parsons, but would take the matter up with the other members of the board and see what could be done. We fully informed him of the position of George H. Parsons with this association and his unfair practices with his own associates. On Tuesday, August 17th, Mr. Lewis phoned to the association that the contract had been definitely given to George H. Parsons and that nothing could be done for us. Mr. Charles Brown, a band leader belonging to the Musicians union had a meeting with the Gresham fair board on Monday, 16th, but was informed by a member of the board that the previous board meeting had instructed them as to whom they should conclude a contract and that nothing further could be done.

The Gresham fair association board have decided to engage the notorious George Parsons band and orchestra.

Read George Parsons' record as above stated, carefully, and think whether you would have done this if you had been a member of the Gresham fair board.

## URGE FRANKING PRIVILEGE

The franking privilege for mail and permission to post notices in the postoffices were urged as two vital needs in the campaign for labor bureau efficiency, by Harry Donahue, in charge of the municipal work at Los Angeles, at the conference of federal, state and municipal officials called by Secretary of Labor Wilson.

## FAVOR NATIONAL PENSIONS

A national pension system was endorsed by the convention of the state association of plumbers, steamfitters, gasfitters and helpers held in Northampton, Mass.

## PATTERN MAKERS ADVANCE

The Lake Submarine company at Bridgeport, Conn., has agreed to the flat rate of 47 cents an hour demanded by its striking patternmakers and these workers are again employed with all grievances adjusted. The company agrees that applications for pattern makers shall be made through the union and the latter agrees that no further attempt to raise wages shall be attempted until it can be shown that other Bridgeport manufacturer are paying the same rate or a higher rate.

## LABOR LAW FORCES CHANGE

The new child labor law, which took effect last month, is forcing laundries in Iowa to change their working systems because of a provision that no girl under 21 years of age shall be employed at any occupation where she will be required to stand on her feet continuously.

## WANT SIX-HOUR DAY

The painters' district council at San Francisco has appointed a committee to inaugurate a campaign for a six-hour day for painters during the winter months, when a large number of these workers are unemployed.

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**SATURDAY AUGUST 28**  
**Musicians' Day**  
AT  
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UNDER THE AUSPICES OF LOCAL 99, A. F. of M.  
Monster Orchestral Concert at 3 p. m.  
Military Band Concert, 8:30 p. m.  
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