

FAVOR CITY BAND

Portland Musicians Eager for Public Support.

AROUSED BY TACOMA'S EXAMPLE

Leader Julius Adler Tells of Success of the Musical Organization of the City of Tacoma—Does Portland Want One?

The big hit the Tacoma band made in the Elks' parade last Thursday has given rise to the question why Portland has not a band equally good, even superior to any other in the Northwest. That Portland has talent superior to that available in Tacoma or Seattle, is admitted by all, but the reason why this talent is not demonstrated in the music is that the people here differ widely. Jealousy and envy on the part of the musicians, lack of appreciation of good music on the part of the people, refusal of the players to render the best service and unwillingness of the people to pay for a good-sized band, are some of the reasons advanced in explanation of the apparent fact that Tacoma or Seattle play in competition with the organizations in those cities. What are you going to do about it? Is the question that is up to the people of Portland.

Career of Leader Adler.

Mr. Adler is a German, came to this country when 15 years old, began his musical career as a boy after studying as a musician in the United States Army, and later took several years' instruction in Europe. He has never given his attention to anything but music, except that he has received a liberal education by general reading of good literature. He is the leader of the Tacoma band—the leader in every sense of the word. For many years he has been getting along with half-organized bands, but four years ago four or five prominent men raised a subscription of \$500 for the purpose of maintaining a good band, and engaged Adler as leader. He was to receive \$100 per month with double pay during the summer months, this being his compensation for organizing and instructing the band. He also received one or more free passes to all concerts, according to the amount of the subscriptions. No free public concerts are given, but many concerts are given at private homes, and admission is charged, and this, together with the pay for playing at public functions, constitutes the source of income of the players. They make about \$400 each per year. The band has given support, most of them being engaged in business or at trades. The band is composed of 30 men. Adler has the sole voice in choosing players, has the power to remove any of them at will, makes all engagements, handles all funds, and is master of the band in every way. He can give instruction on any instrument used in the band. Rehearsals are held twice a week throughout the year and often when required by work at hand. It is to the financial support of the people of Tacoma that the band, to the plan of organization, to the loyalty of the players, and to his knowledge of music, that Mr. Adler attributes whatever success the band has attained.

Portland Can Have a Band, Too.

He believes that Portland can have a much better band if it will organize upon the same plan. He has observed that in every town there is intense envy among musicians, which leads them to "smoke" any man who succeeds in making a success. This spirit he deprecates as one great obstacle to progress and he would have it supplanted by a fraternal feeling which would cause any musician to rejoice in the success of a fellow-player. The plan of organization which is followed in Portland is vastly different, or rather there seems to be no plan at all. In one instance an association of players elect a leader, and they get what business they can. Another band is gathered by some musician who is satisfied with a few members, and in this way employment is found. In all cases the bands depend entirely upon what they can make by the engagements they secure. They receive no remuneration, require, play the kind of music that seems to be most popular and have such instruction as the leader can afford to give them with the compensation he receives. The bands are all small, often only a few each, varying in size as occasion may demand. The membership is continually changing and the interest lags. There are three band organizations in the city, the Third Regiment Band, Brown's Band and De Caprio's Band. The players are principally men who are regularly engaged in the orchestra of Portland theaters or other places of amusement and are what are generally called professional musicians.

Movement for Summer Concerts.

Last Spring Julius Meier, of Meier & Frank, started a movement for the organization of a band of 30 pieces, and as an inducement he proposed raising \$2000 by popular subscription for the purpose of paying for 20 free concerts, to be given in the public parks of the city. He hoped by this plan to give the band the financial assistance it needed, and at the same time to furnish the public enjoyable music. The plan failed completely, for the reason that the business men would not contribute the necessary funds. When asked yesterday for his views regarding the organization of a band here, Mr. Meier said that civic pride should induce the people of Portland to maintain a band the equal or superior of any other in the Northwest; that if one such is to exist, the business men must take the initiative and provide the necessary financial assistance, and that the first step after the raising of funds should be the appointment of a bandmaster, who should at the same time conduct the band. Mr. Meier said the utmost confidence in the sufficiency of Portland talent, and thinks it is up to the citizens to act.

Charles L. Brown's Views.

Charles L. Brown, leader of Brown's Band, says that the only reason there is not a band in Portland is that there is in Tacoma is that the people will not sup-

port it. Mr. Brown is known as a man of great energy, but his attempt a year ago to get assurances of support for a good band met with failure. He thinks that the only way to secure such a band is for the people of Portland to subscribe a fund of \$2000, of which \$1000 should be expended for music and equipment, and the other \$1000 for salaries of leader and players. He would pay each player \$100 per year for attending rehearsals, thus insuring his constant attendance, and maintenance of the band at all times. His idea is that the musicians should organize and select a leader, and they have the power to remove the leader at will.

"How would the musician who are to compose the band be selected?" he was asked. "They would themselves agree who should be in the band."

"Would you have all the 50 or 70 musicians in Portland participate in the selection of the band?"

"No; only those who are recognized as the leading musicians; perhaps 25 or 30 in number."

"How are you going to determine who those 25 or 30 are?"

"Well," he said, waving his hand around the circle of players assembled in the grandstand at the carnival, "I have the dream of the Portland musicians right here."

Mr. Brown's idea of raising the money is not to get large sums from a few, but to get small sums from many, so that the burden to each is light.

Views of A. DeCaprio. A. DeCaprio, manager of DeCaprio's Band, says that experience has shown that Portland people will not patronize a band concert if an admission fee is charged, and that the only way to financial success, nor have they given the band such assistance as will warrant them in practicing regularly. He approved the plan of a popular subscription of \$2000 to be paid \$100 to each of 20 players per year, and an additional \$100 to be paid as a salary to a leader and instructor. In consideration of this he would have the band give four free concerts a year, and would receive the support from other concerts or engagements. He thinks the leader should be appointed by a committee of citizens, and should be a thorough musician.

Everett Tells of Local Conditions. J. H. Everett, leader of the Third Regiment Band, says that the reception of the Tacoma Elks last Tuesday shows why Portland has not a large and efficient band. The carnival people would pay for only 12 musicians, and it was for that reason that a small band executed a band of 27 through the streets of Portland. On the fourth of July, when the Elks' parade took place, two bands were competing in the parade, and the band that was smaller, and had a smaller repertoire, played in the same manner, producing the "noise" which the Tacoma boys criticized. Mr. Everett thinks there is little use for a band of 30 pieces when the best that can be done is to have a band of 12 or 15 pieces. If the people of Portland will pay a leader \$100 per year, and give the band such support that 30 men can make \$400 each per year, the band will have the best band in the Northwest, and any one of three band leaders now here can organize and manage it.

Frank Griffith, the leader of the Marquand orchestra, who has no interest whatever in any band, said, in answer to questions, that there is no doubt of the excellent talent Portland has for the making of a band, but that the only way to have a band is to have a subscription, and the business men must organize a subscription committee, raise the necessary funds and employ as a leader a good musician, who shall have absolute control of the organization and management of a band.

PORTLAND DAY AT SALEM

Southern Pacific Will Try to Get Metropolis Interested.

In order to encourage closer relations between Portland and the State Fair, General Passenger Agent Coman, of the Southern Pacific, has arranged for a special excursion to Portland, Oregon, September 18, when extra trains will be run and every effort put forth to make a creditable showing for the metropolis. To this end the rate has been made \$1.00, including admission to the fair at Salem. The special trains will leave Portland about 5 A. M. and run through to the fair in about an hour and an instrument used in the band. Rehearsals are held twice a week throughout the year and often when required by work at hand. It is to the financial support of the people of Tacoma that the band, to the plan of organization, to the loyalty of the players, and to his knowledge of music, that Mr. Adler attributes whatever success the band has attained.

SHAREHOLDERS FRIGHTENED.

Doubt Thrown on Solvency of English Railways.

NEW YORK, Sept. 5.—Shareholders in the English railways have been frightened by an article in the American press published in the Times, throwing doubt on the solvency of the railway systems of this country, says a Tribune dispatch from London. The article, which is being widely reprinted, says that the railway orders were received on the stock exchange. The British railway shareholder has to face an ugly prospect, and he is by no means free from responsibility for the situation in which the railway is now placed. The charge of over-capitalization which has been so frequently brought against the British railway companies certainly has a considerable foundation of truth. The shareholder is always on the side of a liberal division of profits when improvements are required, not to obtain an increase of trade, but merely to maintain the existing position. Thus fresh capital is constantly being sunk in an outlay which ought to be made out of the revenue of shareholders. Influence, too, is generally thrown into the scale against proposals for bringing the rolling stock and general equipment up to date, and a committee of the London & North-western shareholders representing 24,000 shares of stock, have been holding conferences with the board in order to devise a feasible plan. The line which it is proposed to adopt is an agreement between the railway companies to limit the amount of new stock, and to license the competition. It is probable, however, that the chief result of the agreement will be increased rates, already too high, thus injuring the general trade of the country.

Rates to Livestock Show.

CHICAGO, Sept. 5.—The Western Packer Association today granted a round-trip rate from all points in its territory to the International Livestock Exposition at Chicago of one fare plus \$2. for carrying baggage, beginning November 20. For all other points in its territory a rate has been arranged, at the same rate, which can be had on sale from November 25 to 30.

DO YOU WEAR STOCKINGS?

Then, buy your reliable shoes from M. Billings, 225 Morrison, and get a fine pair of stockings free.

WON AFTER BITTER FIGHT

MINING CONGRESS' NAME AND SCOPE IS CHANGED.

Next Session Will Be Held at Deadwood and Lead—J. H. Richards, of Idaho, Elected President.

BUTTE, Mont., Sept. 5.—There was a bitter fight on the report of the committee on permanent organization this morning. The change of name to the American Mining Congress and other radical measures for the betterment of the organization were carried amid the greatest excitement ever known in previous sessions. Portland had no show for the next meeting, as a guarantee fund could not be given. There is a promise of the congress in Portland for the Lewis and Clark year. Lawyer J. H. Richards, of Boise, was elected president; Irvin

estimated that over 700 delegates will attend the biennial convention of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen, which will begin here next Monday. The forenoon of Monday will be devoted to the entertainment of President Roosevelt.

LETTER-CARRIERS' CONVENTION.

Elects Officers and Chooses Syracuse as Next Meeting Place.

DENVER, Colo., Sept. 5.—The National Letter-Carriers' Association elected officers today and chose Syracuse as the next meeting place. President J. C. Keller, of Cleveland, O., was re-elected, receiving 753 votes to 207 for B. J. Curtin, of Lynn, Mass., and 122 for A. J. Michener, of St. Louis. For vice-president the vote stood: A. C. McFarland, Des Moines, 594; E. D. Devine, Chicago, 53; A. McDonald, Grand Rapids, Mich., 6. As a majority of all the votes is required to elect, another vote will be necessary on this office. During the day changes were made in

CHARGES MADE THAT PORT OF PORTLAND COMMISSION HAS INJURED THE CITY BY ITS ACTION.

"Great injury has been done to the City of Portland by the selection of a site in Vancouver for the construction of the port of Portland," says the members of the Federated Trades Council, and they will put forth every effort to induce the contractor to do the work in this city. They hold that there are just as good sites as the one selected at Vancouver, and that the large amount of money that will be expended in the construction of the drydock should not be allowed to go to another state. At the meeting of the council a week ago action was taken in regard to this matter, and a committee was appointed to see what could be done. At the regular meeting held last night, the report of the committee was read and approved. Reasons were set forth why the laboring people of the city should demand that the work be done in Portland. The report was as follows:

"To the Federated Trades Council: We, your committee appointed to investigate and report the reasons why the Port of Portland Commission permitted Contractor Wakefield to select a site at Vancouver, Wash. for the construction of a drydock for Portland, have to report as follows: The reason assigned by the commission was that there was no suitable site offered, but they say they had the chance and were requested by Mr. Wakefield to suggest a site in Portland. Mr. Wakefield says that there was no suitable site offered him in Portland, so that he is perfecting a lease of a location about a half mile down the river from Vancouver, and that the drydock will be constructed there.

The Port of Portland Commission made no effort to secure a location. Neither did it ask any of our business or other associations to procure one. If it had called the attention of the Board of Trade or the Improvement Association or Chamber of Commerce, or even the Federated Trades Council, to the fact that \$12,000,000 of the taxpayers' money was in danger of being expended in another state, and that the labor cost, which at the lowest estimate, will amount to \$70,000, would be used to give employment to other than home labor, who will spend their money with the merchants of another state, strong and earnest efforts would have been made and as favorable a location would have been offered, and if necessary the lease could have been paid by public subscription, rather than that this money be expended away from Portland.

"Seventy thousand dollars placed in circulation among the working people of our city during the dull winter months, when employment is scarce, would have been of untold benefit to our whole community. This money was raised by taxation of the people of Oregon. Is it right that the money should be placed outside of our state, where others than those who furnish the funds would reap the benefit?"

"There is another way in which the action of the Port of Portland Commission has injured the city, and that is in the standing of Portland as a port. We would call your attention to the fact that Portland is ambitious to become a shipbuilding port, and that we claim we are favorably situated for the economical construction of a water craft. The Port of Portland Commission, by its action in supporting the contention of Mr. Wakefield that a location cannot be had here for the construction of a drydock for our own use, publishes broadcast to the world that our claim as a shipbuilding port is not well founded, and in fact false. The commission, in its report, states that the cost of a port such as ours would certainly be accepted as authority upon such matters by everyone. To the end that the public may be fully informed of the great injury done to our community and the steps that are being taken by your committee, we recommend that this statement of facts be indorsed by the Federated Trades Council, and that the press be requested to give the same publicity. Respectfully submitted,

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