

CONCERNING MUSIC

By C. A. DAVIDSON (Director of Music for Salem Schools)

Echoes from the State Music Teachers' Association.

This organization is doing a great work already. It is bound to grow wonderfully in membership and influence as the music teachers learn to realize that there are many, many improvements needed all along their line of work, before they may receive the respect which is commonly accorded the physician, the attorney, and other professional men.

There is no reason why music teachers, or in fact any teachers, who have enjoyed thorough preparation, and who are able to secure results with their pupils, should not be considered worthy assets of the community, unless it be that they have lagged behind workers in other lines, in organizing for their own betterment. Physicians, attorneys, ministers, and all sorts and sizes of business men have their local, county, state and interstate organizations, and so have the music teachers. But we must all swing into line, and attend these meetings and get acquainted and cooperate with each other, frankly recognize our shortcomings, and devise ways and means of overcoming them. The sooner we do this, the greater will be our recognition and our influence among our fellow citizens.

The five Salem teachers who attended the meeting at the Multnomah Hotel, Portland, recently, will remember that the main address was given by Dr. Landsbury of the state university. He urged a higher standard of results and therefore of preparation. When pupils come to the university, bringing with them high school credits in music, they are oftentimes found wanting, and yet they have complied with the law and expect to have these credits accepted on a par with Geometry or History. To have them accepted he is asked to G. K. them just as one might indorse a note for a friend. In many cases his conscience is badly strained, and in many others he refuses absolutely.

Now the only way to remedy this is to get at the cause. Inefficient teachers produce inefficient pupils. So beginning this year teachers are asked to answer a list of representative questions about plans, value of violin, and also to state quite definitely what preparation they have had for teaching. This seems very reasonable inasmuch as the answers and outlines asked for may be readily given by anyone who is qualified. It seems all the more reasonable also, when we recall that university graduation in a four-year course is required of all other high school teachers. Only six music teachers of the state or Oregon are college graduates, while only twelve are high school graduates. Is it any wonder that educators who are becoming very much interested in music are demanding more preparation and more results from teachers?

When a guest comes to your home you expect him to conform somewhat to your ways of thinking and conduct. Music is a late arrival at the high school and is knocking at the high school and is knocking for admission. Let her conform to the rules of Geometry to Latin, and let her teachers conform somewhat to the rules governing teachers of these subjects. All sorts of excuses were offered by teachers for not having finished high school or college, for instance, "My health would not permit me to go on." This was ridiculed inasmuch as a tremendous amount of mental and nervous energy is required of one who is to do anything with music.

Dr. Landsbury assured us that within the next few years, college graduation or its equivalent would be required of one and all who wish to teach music.

Perhaps the most popular performer at the meeting was Dent Sawyer, who is at present located in Portland. He has not only artistic vision and brilliant technique, but also that virility and strength which are so much demanded nowadays by a critical public. One little incident which happened after his program was ludicrous enough. A large, tall, portly lady of the society variety, looked down condescendingly on Dent as she shook his hand and congratulated him, saying with all the false dignity she could command, "You have a wonderful future, young man." She knew little or nothing about music or musicians, and least of all did she know that he is already quite well known as a pianist and composer, and that in spite of his youthful appearance, he spent some 14 years concentrating over France and England, and plans in a few years to return to Paris which he considers the most beautiful city of the world and the most enjoyable place for an artist to live.

The association voted to accept our invitation to meet in Salem next Thanksgiving vacation.

Paderewski has given up politics. He has resigned from the premiership of Poland. Sometime ago he said he would never play the piano in public again. Now he expects to retire.

MOTHER IS HELD FOR DROWNING HER BABE

Paw Paw, Mich., Dec. 19.—Mrs. Sarah Tabor, gray and shaken, today told a coroner's jury at Lawton that the mysterious death and disposal of the body of Maud Tabor, her 46 years old daughter.

Grief over the daughter's death and a desire to escape the absolute parting of burial caused her to lower the body into the basement of their home and keep the hiding place secret.

"Maud died in my arms," Mrs. Tabor told the jury. "I found her in her room ill. Her mind was wandering. Just a few rambling remarks she made and then died."

"I put her in that box and used ropes to let it down into the cellar."

ALCOCK DIES

Rouen, France, Dec. 19.—Captain Sir John Alcock, British aviator and first pilot to complete a non-stop trans-Atlantic flight, died here today from injuries sustained when his plane crashed yesterday.

JOURNAL WANT ADS PAY

PALMER WILL NOT PRESS CONTEMPT CHARGES, REPORT

Washington, Dec. 19.—Attorney General Palmer does not intend to prosecute coal miners for violating the anti-strike injunction because the injunction has accomplished its purpose. He told a sub-committee of the interstate commerce committee today.

"I had my choice of prosecuting the miners in the criminal courts for violations of the Lever act or of proceeding against them in the civil courts," said Palmer.

"I deemed it my duty to adopt a course which would best serve the general public welfare and, therefore, asked for an injunction in the civil courts. That injunction has now been obeyed and its purpose is accomplished. I do not think criminal prosecutions at the beginning would have accomplished anything in the way of producing coal and I do not now think I should go back and begin criminal proceedings. In my opinion I must stand by my course in going in the civil courts."

Senator Townsend, Michigan, asked Palmer whether the miners understand they will not be prosecuted for violating the injunction.

"I don't know what they understand," replied Palmer. "I haven't discussed it with them."

Palmer said he did not regard the agreement between the miners' leaders and himself as a settlement, but called it "a compliance with the law."

Palmer gave the committee to understand that he falls at liberty to shape the department of justice policy toward the miners as he deems proper in the light of the future actions of the miners.

REVENUE OFFICERS DECRY DRINKING OF BOOTLEG "BOOZE"

Following Thursday's seizure of distilling apparatus by revenue officers working under the direction of Internal Revenue Collector Milton A. Miller, no arrests have been made. No announcement of subsequent action has been issued by the authorities, but it is believed that no arrests will follow unless further investigation discloses that the prohibition and federal revenue statutes have been directly violated.

Warn Bootleg Addicts. Before leaving Salem, one of the officers issued a statement warning "boozers" against the use of "moonshine" liquor, not only because of the fact that such usage involves and encourages violation of the federal statutes, but also from the view point of health. Collector Miller's deputies have been gathering data as to the harmful effects of the so-called "moonshine" liquor procurable in various parts of the state.

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PODO-LAX LIVES AND STOMACH

It is stated that hospital records in Portland and other cities of the state show that many men have been poisoned and in a few instances with fatal results following the inhibition of even small quantities of "bootleg booze." One of the most common forms of the liquid is where wood alcohol is used to give "form" to the decoction. Amateur distilling methods have also produced a beverage which contains a large percentage of arsenic due to indigestible metals and chemicals being used in the distilling apparatus.

Arsenic Discovered. One moonshiner in Portland was discovered to be using arsenic in his "mixture" it having been discovered that this chemical would give a quick alcoholic reaction and artificial effect of age to the liquor. When arrested, this bootlegger said, "Well, what difference does it make to me? I made this dope to sell, I don't drink it." Another practice in poisonous dilution is to add strychnine to the "beverage" this is said to give it a "kick," and there are records in Collector

Miller's office, showing that a number of Oregonians have acquired a lasting "kick with undertaker's trimmings" from this drink. Mr. Miller, as collector of internal revenue for the Portland district, requests that all citizens of Salem and vicinity co-operate with him in this work by notifying the Portland office of any known "moonshiner" activities or of the manufacture of distilling apparatus.

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