BRITISH COLUMBIA MUSICIAN

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Transfer or Travelling System

THE following article is a part of President Jos. N. Weber's report to the delegates at the Annual Convention of the A. F. of M., held at Colorado Springs last May, and I would urge each member of this local to read and thoroughly digest it.—E. C. MILLER, President No. 145.

THE undisputed success of our organization makes it an imperative duty, if a change is contemplated in the fundamental organization of the Federation, to become retrospective and to keep in mind all the phases of development which led to the present favorable state of the organization. Not to unduly impose upon your indulgence, I will try to do this in as concise a manner as the importance of the question permits.

It is necessary that we begin with the first national organization of musicians, which was continued for several years, but unhappily failed of its purpose for the reason that the particular interest of powerful individual locals only induced them to place their stamp of approval upon such rules and regulations as best suited them. This organization was known as the National League. In the zenith of its success it was composed of about seventy-five locals and the membership was approximatetly 18,000. The locals of which it was composed had a voting power conforming to the number of members of each local. Thus a combination of a few locals, by controlling the vote, forced their will upon all the other local unions—in other words, even though each individual local union represented a unit in itself, a few of these units were in a position through their voting power to control the destinies of the entire organization. The result was that in legislation not the general need of the musicians of the entire country, but the particular desires of a few locals, found their expression. It is obvious that this was one of the reasons which retarded the growth of the organization, aside from its policy to hold aloof from the general labor movement, and had much to do with the eventual dissolution of the organization.

When the American Federation of Musicians was formed by the element in the National League which had throughout the continuance of the League advocated its affiliation with the general labor movement, the question of representation and voting power of the individual locals became acute and finally a compromise was reached, suggested by a representative of the local union in New York (not the M.M.P.U., as same did not become affiliated with the Federation until three years thereafter), that the voting power of any local shall be one for each 100 or a fraction thereof, but that no local union shall cast more than ten votes, except on questions affecting a change in the laws, when each local may, upon roll call, cast as many votes as it has members. However, all laws so passed are to be referred to a Convention committee consisting of the Executive Board of the A. F. of M. and chairmen of all committees, who may sanction or veto same, their action to be final. In other words, profiting by the experience of the National League, the Convention or Conventions enacting above rules followed a policy to consider each local of the Federation a unit within itself and insisted upon the principle that as much as possible questions shall be decided by the number of locals represented at a Convention, rather than by a few locals, who, if permitted to vote their entire strength of their membership would have the opportunity to control the affairs of the Federation, regardless of the vast number of other locals so necessary in order to enable the Federation to represent an almost perfect organization. We have in the American Federation of Musicians many hundreds of locals which represent the smaller units, and which would never submit to the absolute control of less numerous larger units—hence, their interests imperatively demanded, in the very interest of the entire Federation, inclusive of that of the larger locals, that the present law be enacted. This, together with the affiliation of the Federation with the American Federation of Labor, paved the way to development of the Federation to its present proportions. Other national organizations maintain a like law, as, for instance, the pressmen.

We often hear "No taxation without representation." Whereas it is a democratic principle that there should be no taxation without representation, it is not a violation of this principle if a condition imperatively demands a modification of same, more especially for the purpose of making the maintenance and perfecting of an organization possible. The Convention which enacted this law, at the behest of the local union in the larger city, considered the membership of the Federation as composed of local unions, and whereas it agreed to a larger vote for the larger local unions, it disagreed that such union should vote its entire membership, for fear that, if agreeing to this, the influence of a few units would submerge those of all the other units, that is, the experiences of the National League would be repeated in the Federation. In this the Convention which enacted the law followed the policy of combining both principles under which the House of Representatives and the Senate are maintained into one by giving the larger local unions more votes than the smaller, but circumscribing such votes in a manner preventing the Federation from being dominated by the larger locals. In other words, the destinies of the Federation are in the hands of the majority of the delegates to a Convention and not in the hands of a minority representing a large number of members.

I simply make this explanation for the proper understanding of what experiences and difficulties the organized musicians were obliged to meet and overcome, in order to make the present state of the American Federation of Musicians possible. It was the locals themselves, as represented through their delegates at Convention, which enacted these laws. They were the result of experience and, I may say, foresight, and whether they exercised proper statesmanship and wisdom is at all times a Convention's right to judge. If the opinion should ever go abroad among the musicians that a combination of locals control the affairs and destinies of our organization, the unrest, chagrin and dissatisfaction that would follow in many hundreds of locals would not bode well for the continued success of the organization—that much has been proven through the experiences in the National League.

Another reason why the National League, aside from its other shortcomings, could not possibly succeed was the illiberal policy followed by it through attempts to interfere with the opportunities for employment of its members by assigning members of a local merely to their own jurisdiction in their quest for employment. In this the League so miserably failed that its rules in this respect were at the most but a dead letter, but this illiberalism was even carried into the American Federation of Musicians, and the dissatisfaction caused thereby led to the present liberal policy followed by the Federation, expressed by the transfer and other laws.

Almost a generation ago the chief impetus for the enactment of these laws resulted from a controversy between the Denver and Chicago locals. The Federation maintained a rule that bands and orchestras were not permitted to accept engagements in the jurisdiction of any other local without such local's consent. If this rule was violated a certain fine was imposed upon each offending member and one-half of this fine was paid to the local union in whose jurisdiction the violation occurred. This had the tendency to create much bitterness among local unions, as they resented a rule that another local union should profit by the fine imposed upon their own members. A band from Chicago accepted an engagement in a Denver park. The Denver local demurred and promptly fined the members of the band. They filled their engagement and the Chicago local union made the case its own in spite of the fact that its members were in clear violation of the law, and the local suffered expulsion from the Federation rather than cause its members to pay the fine. The matter was brought before the Executive Board of the American Federation of Musicians in 1900 during a Convention held in Philadelphia and it was the unpleasant duty of the newly-elected

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Why Travelling Orchestras?

[By E. A. J.]

THE popular topic upon the lips of almost all of the members these days is "Travelling Orchestras", and therefore, I believe it is an opportune time to discuss the question.

On the front page of this journal is an article by President Weber and on the editorial page is another by our editor but neither of these writings touch upon, what I believe to be the most important factor of the question.

President Weber tells us that we have no alternative but to submit to the present "travelling band" policy, or at least until such time as we can find a solution that will rectify the condition without injuring our organization. Therefore, since we are obliged to accept it, then shall we be resigned to possible unemployment, without making an effort to place ourselves in the competitive field?

I am of the opinion that if the members of this local will get down to "brass tacks" many of them will reap a good harvest from the invasion of the travelling orchestra.

Let us examine just how many of our members have been displaced by travelling bands and the conditions of employment, etc.

The Vancouver Hotel was employing an orchestra of six, just prior to the travelling band coming into that place. Two members were let out entirely and four resumed their previous positions, i.e., "that of concert orchestra." The difference was then, instead of the Hotel employing only six musicians, it now employs eleven musicians. The Ambassador orchestra of six, displaced four local members. An increase of two musicians. The Breakers did not employ any music as it was closed down, therefore that orchestra of six did not displace any of our members. The Patricia orchestra which is the last one to come into this jurisdiction, is composed of eight musicians and displaced an orchestra of three of our members, an increase of five musicians employed. On the whole, nine of our members where on the unemployed list, whilst some twenty-seven musicians took their places.

Now then, let us be reasonable. Is this a condition which should cause such comment as we hear on the street, for example, "What good is the union?" and "I am going to quit the union and go on the outside," or "Why doesn't the union or its officials stop this serious menance?" and numerous other statements made by members "ad. libidum," without any thought of the merits or demerits of the question. Have the members ever considered that our nine members who were displaced, earned approximately $400.00 per week and the twenty-seven that are now employed earn about $1,825,00 per week. And have you realized that in each case where our members have been displaced that their successors have been receiving anywhere from twenty-five to fifty per cent. higher than our scale? Well it is a fact.

Members might say, "What difference does this make to us, we are out of work and these men are getting the money?" It makes this difference. These travelling bands are a novelty. None of them will remain here permanently, the managers want a change. Therefore when they leave, what is to take their place? Here is where our members come in for their own, if they are willing to get down to business and work up combinations that will deliver the goods. The travelling bands have taught the manager that which we could never do ourselves. They have taught them to employ larger combinations. They have taught them that a good combination is a first-class investment for his "cash register" or "box office" and last but not least they have taught them to pay "real money."

Vancouver is a growing city and in a very short time its amusements should employ a far greater number of musicians than at present. We have, just as good talent as can be found anywhere on this continent. It is true that we do not have an over supply of what we may term "cracker-jack" orchestras in the dance or cabaret line composed entirely of local members, but I am sure, that as individual players, our members compare very favorably with any of our competitors from the east or south of the line. What we are in serious need of, is the formation of these individual players into combinations and with the proper management and leadership it should not be a long time before several really good orchestras would be the result and a credit to any management from a money-getting standpoint.

The following is part of an article which was taken from a music journal published in England and I think it just about solves our problem. If the members will follow a policy such as is outlined in this article, they will be the better for it:

"First I will state that the true function of a "dance orchestra" is to create the desire to dance to such an extent that the listener feels an irresistible longing to get on to the floor with a partner who responds to the same musical influence, and once there to continue with the delightful rythm and compelling pulse of the melody indefinitely. The "crack" dance orchestra does this and more. A well-rendered "fox-trot" can delight the musician as well as the dancer. Further, the judicious introduction of quaint and "bizarre" effects, both in musical effects and type of instrument, adds variety and novelty. The perfect dance band entertains in the fullest and widest possible sense.

Why is it that the American musician excels here? Is he a better instrumentalist? I do not think so. Is he, then, more "musical?" Again I do not think he is. Why is it, then, that he practically monopolises this class of work, and is in a position to dictate his price? The reason is that he is not a "hide-bound conservative" in music, but explores the whole gamut music has to offer to attain his end.

I am continually meeting first-class instrumentalists who are decrying this influx of foreign musicians, and in the same breath sigh for the fat fees paid for this delightful work. It is delightful, make no mistake. The up-to-date real dance combination, when giving of its best, will give pleasure to the most critical of musicians, and is in no way (even remotely) related to the "nigger - jazz - cum - petrol - can - walloper" of the war and post-war period.

To the British musician I say "go thou and do likewise," and the 'recipe," I believe, is in the nature of the following:

(1) Get "instrumentalists" who are complete masters of the "technique" of their instruments, these must be "musicians" as well as first-class executants.

(2) The "personnel" must be smart, alert, clean well-dressed, and posses attractive personalities (English musicians are expected to speak correctly and know their manners).

(3) Secure a first-class "arranger and composer," who makes the fullest possible use of his material in melody, counterpoint, and effects.

(4) "Novelties" and "freak" instruments must be continually introduced, and these in the hands of "artistes" will never become nuisances.

(5) Each member must play at least two instruments suitable for dance work.

(6) Engage a Press agent who knows his job, and in addition is "in the know," who, in turn, will make the combination "indispensable to society functions."

There is no reason why the best dance bands in this country should not be "home-grown" entirely, already some of the leading bands have 50 per cent. or more British members. At the same time the "native" must be prepared to learn from America and elsewhere, and be continually introducing new ideas, which must be good. "Politics" is not the only field where we must shed our "conservatism." Progress should be our motto."

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Transfer or Travelling System

(Continued from page 1)

President of the Federation to declare the Chicago local expelled for violation of the laws. Thereafter the Chicago Musical Society, which had seceded from the Chicago Federation of Musicians, appeared at the Denver Convention in 1901 with a request that a charter of the Federation should be granted to it. The Convention, however, in the hope that the Chicago Federation of Musicians might recognize its error in insisting upon the right of its members to violate an existing law, referred the entire matter to the President of the Federation with full power to act. It was the first Convention of the Federation which recognized that laws which place the members of the Federation and their locals in antagonism to one another certainly did not hold out the promise of furthering the interests of all the members of our profession. The matter was finally adjusted by the Chicago local agreeing that the fine be paid, and the further unpleasant duty developed upon the President of the Federation to declare the Denver local entitled to one-half of the fine. However, taking advantage of the power conferred upon him by the Denver Convention, he did not collect from the Chicago local the one-half of the fine which, under the laws of the Federation, should have been paid into the National treasury.

The next few Conventions of the Federation were somewhat turbulent just as soon as the question of universal membership or the rights of the members of the Federation to play engagements anywhere was approached by resolutions to effect a change in the policies of the Federation. **As a compromise the present transfer law was finally enacted, which has been but slightly modified since then. As soon as the Federation became liberal it began to develop in an unprecedented degree, until now it can boast of an almost perfect organization.**

One of the modifications of the law under which members could accept engagements was the exception of theatre season engagements, the reasons for which I have elsewhere explained in this report. However, everything in life seems to move in cycles. First the musicians of the United States and Canada recognized that with an illiberal policy their organization was likely to fall by the wayside. They gave way to the necessity of a liberal policy by accepting a system of transfer and other laws containing only reasonable restrictions, but leaves the rights of members to seek employment wherever it can be found, in the main, free.

Before further describing the development of the Federation, and what hindered its progress at its inception, I beg to say that adaptability to changed conditions is not only fundamenal to the American Federation of Musicians, but to entire organized labor. To fail to subscribe to this immutable law would simply mean the eventual destruction of our organization or of entire organized labor, without a substitute being available to protect the interests of the worker, which can only be protected through collective effort. Adaptability to change in our profession simply means that all development in a trade must be properly met and cannot be hindered.

We have often seen our Conventions attempt to propose laws controlling or hindering the development of the ragtime craze, the jazz craze, and the activities of travelling bands and orchestras. Each one of these attempts was doomed to failure for the simple reason that the Conventions recognized that the change of conditions was the result of acceptance by society of changes in amusement—hence, not of our making and impossible to be controlled by us. To set our face against any natural development is attempting the impossible, and if persisted it means disaster to the success of the organization indulging in such a policy. We cannot with impunity divert our organization from its main purpose, which is the betterment of the material and social conditions of our members as a whole, and cannot possibly by the circumscribing of employment opportunities of members by assigning certain jurisdiction rights to locals with the stipulation that members of no other local shall trespass upon same.

The main purpose of our Federation has to do with the conditions under which services are rendered, as well as the social elevation of our profession. Attempts to hinder development, correct public opinion, or to delude ourselves into the belief that we could be successful in such a direction, is foreign to our purpose and fraught with danger.

It is true that we, the same as entire organized labor, are not always successful, no matter how righteous our cause may be, but in the main, in spite of failures, our organization has proven of immense value to us. That this remain so will prove impossible if the organization becomes an irksome institution to a considerable portion of its own members or if policies are followed which would give a member the right to feel that he is hindered in the pursuit of his livelihood, and hence persecuted rather than protected. This condition would absolutely be brought about if the Federation would venture upon a policy of placing a ring around the individual local unions by stipulating that a musician must not enter the jurisdiction of an individual local union without its consent. I am absolutely positive that if the error is made of attempting to enforce such rules, and such attempt has been made in several Conventions, that again locals and members will be placed in antagonism to one another and a condition will be created where all the activities of the Federation, so sorely needed to guard the material welfare of its members, will be exhausted, to the exclusion of all else, in the attempt to adjust quarrels within our organization.

It is true that if travelling bands and orchestras enter the jurisdiction of a local that they are in competition with local members for employment, but it is also true that this condition existed, more or less pronounced, before local unions became organized. It did then, as now, represent a condition in our trade, not of our own making, which cannot be suppressed but only regulated.

The dissatisfaction often felt by members of a local when displaced by other members, or by members who feel that their employment opportunities have been minimized by bands and orchestras by reason of the modern taste for extreme and burlesqued rhythm in dance music, leads them to turn to their union in an effort to have the condition changed by the proposing of the following or similar rules:

Resolved: That orchestra musicians playing an engagement must conduct themselves as if they were on a professional engagement and refrain from making any unnecessary or unusual noises not indicated in the music, or making movements conspicuously noticeable that would tend to detract from the dignity of their performance.

The assistance of the national organization is then sought to have such a rule adopted by the Convention and enforced in all local unions. One local union in particular made the explanation that it must go on record as being opposed to cat calls, squawks of the clarinet, and wheezes on the saxophone, especially in connection with dance music. It was, of course, the obvious intention of this local to put all jazz organizations hors de combat. The local was advised that such effort would be absolutely useless, as it does not promise results. It was advised that the jazz craze is closely related to the craze for rhythm (ragtime), which seems to have swept the entire world. It has developed from small beginnings, seems to be at present at its zenith, and will eventually disappear. **It is a condition which must be met and to which we must accustom ourselves, whether we like it or not.** It can in no way be hindered or destroyed by any resolutions that individual organizations may indulge in, even though same be the entire American Federation of Musicians. As long as the popular demand for same exists we must meet it or else sit by and let the demand be met by organizations not affiliated with the Federation. As long as public opinion demands, and the employer is willing to pay for such services, same cannot be denied him. Any reform which individual locals or the entire American Federation of Musicians may attempt in this matter will only result in leaving them discredited by reason of its utter failure.

As before already pointed out, the growth and development of our Federation was the result of the following of a liberal policy, which was thrust upon us because men would not have the right to make a living under reaonable union conditions denied them. I agree that for a considerable time organized musicians marched up hill until our perspective became so widened as to make us realize that an organization cannot deny certain fundamental rights to men and at the same time retain their good will and assistance in the maintenance and upbuilding of the organization. **The question before us now is, shall we march down the hill again, and if so, where will it leave us? Can we, with impunity, follow a policy that no musician shall enter the jurisdiction of another local without such other local's consent? If we insist upon this, what will or may be the result? Will the employer who is willing to pay the union wage, and often more, be satisfied to have services of musicians denied him which he considers an attraction? Will the musicians who form such organization accept the dictation of the Federation that they must disband as a matter of course? Will the employer, being willing to the union wages, insist upon his right to employ union men who, in his opin-**

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"Let us co-operate and move forward hand in hand rather than split up into factions and starve our souls on dogmatic differences."
—HUBERT.

TRAVELLING ORCHESTRAS

AN ACUTE controversy has been engaging the attention of many of our members, particularly those connected with dance orchestras, owing to the fact that during the present summer season, we have had no less than four travelling orchestras in this jurisdiction, playing at the Hotel Vancouver, the Ambassador, the Breakers and the Patricia, an invasion which even for Vancouver is unprecedented.

It is an old question and often a bitter one, that has raged not only at the councils of locals, but also at the conventions of the A. F. of M. The law curtailing the activities of travelling orchestras against soliciting or accepting a theatre season engagement in another jurisdiction, without the consent of the local executive, as laid down in paragraph C, section 2, or article X, A. F. of M. by-laws, the violation of which entails a fine not exceeding $100.00, has strongly been advocated to be applied also to other travelling orchestras.

We have therefore taken the liberty to publish that part of the International President's 1924 report, dealing with the transfer or travelling system. President Weber frankly states that as long as employers and their customers are demanding novelties or the eccentric in music, such as its exaggerated rhythm, with its grotesque sounds, etc., the public craving must be satisfied and will not be denied.

Some years ago in meeting the desire of dance patrons the demand was for "Blue Hungarian" or "Red Viennese" bands. Today it is so and so's "Rocky Mountain Syncopators." They are all of the nomadic, or gypsy class, with their roving propensities, and as such they will exist, if not as members of the Federation, then as non-unioinists to the detriment of the entire profession.

The past conventions, recognizing their inability to prevent the encroachment of travelling or dance orchestras into other jurisdictions, or to confine their activities to that of their own, have legalized it, believing that it would be better to have them within the membership under control, thus being able to maintain wages and conditions, than without which, with the inevitable "cut-throat" competition, would soon degenerate into a sorry state of affairs.

Possibly in course of time this phase will pass into limbo, and the legitimate in music even in the dance hall may once more be the correct mode. This, very likely, is part of the aftermath of the catastrophic upheaval during the past ten years, and may be nature's way of restoration to the jaded nerves of those who seek recreation or recuperation in that form of amusement.

In the meantime the presence of the tavelling musician, even though it seems unjust and unfair, must be borne with, as while we have local privileges, etc., so there are also Federation rights.

It is an old saying, "that a prophet is without honor in his own country." If some of our dance musicians would form themselves into regular combinations, the possibilities of employment **en tour** or in other jurisdictions might be greatly enhanced, by the fact that they would be strangers and therefore more attractive.

If we remember, Earle Hill formed an orchestra here and secured an engagement at the Fort Garry Hotel, Winnipeg. We would therefore strongly recommend others to adopt this course, and more than likely, during the present jazz period, they would meet with success.

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

AN ENDEAVOR is being made to resurrect the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, and a resolution as stated in the agenda will be brought before the members for their approval.

The Symphony Society ceased to function with the termination of the last concert in the spring of 1921. This undoubtedly, from an educative and entertaining point, has been deplorable. But furthermore, we as an organization also feel that the cessation of its activities have hurt our interests not a little commercially.

While as individuals, anything that will foster or prosper Art in its best and most beautiful form, must be the passionate desire of every one who may call him or herself a true musician. However, there is another side to that of the idealistic, viz: that of the business or professional one by which we exist.

So organically, musicians as a corporate body must sincerely desire that the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra be re-established, because we believe by the public becoming accustomed to music being discoursed by an orchestra of large dimensions, of say for example sixty performers or more, it would tend to keep the theatre orchestra at a sufficiently large standard, thereby increasing the employment prospects within our own membership.

The Society intends to give ten or twelve concerts, providing the musicians will assist in some way financially taking part of the risk. They deem this necessary, on account of the heavy loss they sustained during their last season, which averaged $700 per performance, and that the country not having yet returned to normal, when they could face a season confident of success financially.

At first it was proposed that the business risk should be shared by members of the orchestra up to 25%. This according to the A. F. of M. laws would be in conflict with that section relating to share partnership engagements, and consequently was dropped. The new resolution which was adopted unanimously by those members interested, is that which asks the local to grant a temporary reduction of the price of a symphony concert, with its one free rehearsal, from $8 to $6.

On this basis, if the Society fared sufficiently well to meet its expenses, and if circumstances warranted, a bonus would be given to each member according to the number of rehearsals and concerts he or she had played.

NOTICE

General Meeting

Sunday, Sept. 14, 1924, in the G. W. V. A. Auditorium, 901 Dunsmuir Street, at 10 a.m.

AGENDA:

1. To consider recommendation that Symphony concert price be amended temporarily to $6.00 instead of $8.00.
2. To consider all prices appertaining to band work. These items have been deferred from the last two meetings.
3. Any other business.

Musicians' Benevolent Society

Special Meeting, Sunday, Sept. 14th, 1924

THE Special Meeting is called for the purpose of dealing with the question of death benefit payments by members.

R. H. WARD, Chairman.

DEATH BENEFIT FUND

WHEN members become so immersed in the details of their professional duties, so as to forget the necessity of meeting their financial obligations, what and which is the best way of reminding or curing them of their habits of procrastination?

We, as a society, are the possessors of one of the cheapest death benefit funds in existence. The average insurance company, we understand, makes a profit of 17%, added to which there are expenses of management. Ours makes no profit at all, and the cost of running the fund is nil. But the most unsatisfactory part about it is the laxity of some of our members to meet the assessment when it is due. This we know in many cases is not due to hard times, nor impoverishment, but just to sheer thoughtlessness.

At the next general meeting this subject will come up for discussion and action, under the auspices of the Benevolent Society, and we hope our members will in the meantime cogitate on some plan that will secure the best means of enabling us to settle with the relatives or heirs of any deceased member, without the slow and dilatory methods we have at present.

VACATION NOTES

PERCY HARVEY, concert master, and Jack Toevs, of the Capitol theatre, Fred. Weaver, musical director at the Empress theatre, and F. M. Planque, music teacher, made up a merry party that sailed in the good ship "Banjo," a launch some 28 feet long, accompanied by an Airedale dog, both belonging to Mr. Planque.

Our members left late on Saturday evening, August 2nd, and were away from home altogether eight days, during that time visiting Gibson's Landing, Saginaw Hotel, Buccaneer Bay, Pender Harbor, Agammenon Channel, Jervis Inlet, Princess Louise Inlet, Texada Island, Lasquati Island, and Malaspina Straits, sleeping on board all of the time.

They report having had a wonderful time fishing, etc., the best being at Salmon Rocks near Gibson's Landing, about 20 miles from Vancouver, and not very well known to our residents. The scenery along the route was very beautiful.

During the trip Percy delighted the party by his culinary attainments. We know what an epicure he is, and the tasteful dishes he set before his fellow travellers would turn many of the good housewives in the queen city green with envy. Jack, the rotund, was head bottle and dish washer, Fred and Mr. Planque the navigators.

They are now all at home once more, well tanned, having had a delightful holiday, and feel well tuned up for a strenuous season.

DOMINION ORGANIST MARRIED

ST. MICHAEL'S Anglican Church was the setting for a pretty ceremony on Tuesday evening, when Miss A. T. Hunter, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hunter of Wallsend, Eng., became the bride of Mr. W. J. Nelless, jr., eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Nelless, 448 Twenty-ninth Avenue East. The bride was given away in marriage by Mr. W. J. Nelless sr., and the ceremony was performed by Rev. G. H. Wilson. The bride was attired in white crepe de chine trimmed with pearls, and she also wore a veil of tulle held in place with a wreath of orange blossoms. Her flowers were Ophelia roses. Miss E. E. Olsen, attired in log cabin canton crepe with black satin hat and carrying lavender sweet peas, and Miss Plevy in grey crepe de chine with hat to match and carrying pink sweet peas and carnations acted as the bridal attendants. Mr. G. Nelless was best man. Following the ceremony a reception was held at the home of the groom's parents, and later Mr. and Mrs. Nelless left on a motor trip to Seattle. On their return they will reside at Inverness Street and Twenty-third Avenue East.

SECRETARY'S MONTHLY REPORT

Re-instated: T. W. Parker, John Borthwick, N. Williamson.

New Members: Eileen McCarthy, piano and violin; James Bell, piano and 'cello; Louis G. Vowles, organ and piano; J. C. Fortin, drums; S. J. Beveridge, violin.

Travelling members: H. Wiley, H. Kiageress, G. J. Parsons, Geo. Widder, F. Bell, E. Meyer, B. Waldridge, E. Swartz, Local No. 6; Robt. C. Ray, F. Read, Local No 442; M. Pilacras, W. E. Thomas, L. Ruggi, Local No. 88; C. W. Meech, Local 303.

Transfers Annulled: Mrs. H. W. Dakin.

Transfers Issued: M. Kocuper, F. A. L. Nash, Miss B. O. Newton, A. W. Arstad, F. Schoefield.

Transfers Withdrawn: E. H. Frank, W. Mallotte, Geo. Jones, E. B. Pegram, A. N. Butler, S. Denhof, F. O. Collins.

Suspended: J. B. Running.

EDWARD JAMIESON,
Secretary.

MINUTES OF UNION AND EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

Regular Union Meeting, Aug. 10, 1924

Officers absent, Vice-President Stocker and A. J. Toevs.

Called to order at 10.10 a.m.

President Miller in the chair.

Upon motion the minutes of the last regular union meeting and all board meetings were accepted as printed in the B. C. Musicians; also the minutes of the Special Union meetings.

Radio

The Secretary read a comunication from Pittsburg local in the matter of radio. Upon motion the matter of radio is referred to the Board to bring in recommendations at the next meeting and also that the letter from Pittsburg be published in the B. C. Musician.

A comunication is received from member G. H. Keeling and family thanking the union and its members for kind expressions of sympathy during their recent sad bereavement. Upon motion filed.

A comunication is received from Mr. R. J. Lydiatt, manager of the Orpheum Theatre, agreeing to new conditions for ensuing season. Upon motion ordered filed.

Members E. A. Wade and Edward Jamieson report as delegates to the T. and L. council. Upon motion reports received and filed.

Upon motion the reports of the delegates to the Theatrical Federation is received and filed.

The Sick Committee reports no sick members for the past month. Upon motion received and filed.

The Emergency committee report one case of distresss last month where $50.00 was loaned to a member. Upon motion filed for reference.

The Financial Secretary-Treassurer reports a balance in the bank and on hand at $302.63. Upon motion received and filed for reference.

Applications for Membership

Upon motion the following applications were accepted and the applicants admitted and obligated: Louis G. Vowles, organ and piano; James Bell. piano and cello; Eileen McCarthy, piano and violin. Upon motion the following applicants were allowed a further 30 days in which to consumate payment of initiation fee: Owen C. Chappell, Rufus Hill, Lorne C. Mahon, Robert P. Munro. Upon motion the meeting rules that in the case of the application of J. C. Fortin, drums, who is playing at the Orpheum Cafe, that if he does not make full payment of initiation fee by Monday, August 11th at 12 noon. he cannot play at the Orpheum.

Appeal of Member W. W. Robertson

Member W. W. Robertson appealed from the decision of the executive board in refusing to allow him to use his son, who is a minor and not a member of this union, at his dance in O'Brien hall. Member Robertson states his case; after which he is questioned by members Phillips, Cornfield and Austin, after which the chair asks the member to retire. Member Bowyer questions the right of the chair to call upon the member to retire.. The chair refers to Roberts' rules of order and stands by his decision.

Moved and seconded that the action of the board be sustained. Discussed by members Slatter. R. A. Smith, Fletcher, Cornfield, Grossmith, Bowyer, Austin, sen., Jamieson and R. H. Ward. The motion being put it carries unanimously.

Band Prices Deferred

Upon motion action of the price list committee's report on those sections relating to band work were deferred until the next regular meeting of the union.

Member W. W. Robertson asks in regard to a non-union horn player playing with the 28th band, July 2nd. Secretary makes explanation. Upon motion referred to board for investigation.

Member Tennant asks if anything is being done to stop the Filipino band from the Empress boats playing at White Rock. The preseident and secretary both contradict a statement that they had permission from this union to play the engagement in question and also that the board had the case in hand at the present time. Members Bowyer and Fletcher also spoke on the question.

Under Good and Welfare the members were urged to patronize the Federation picnic at Belcarra.

Adjourned at 11.55 a.m.

Regular Board Meeting, August 15. 1924.

Officers all present.
Called to order at 10.35 a.m.
President Miller in the chair.

A communication is received from Geo. Pantages, manager of the Pantages theatre in re new conditions at that theatre. Upon motion filed.

A communication is received from J. R. Muir, manager of the Famous Players Can. Corp. Ltd., relative to new conditions at the Capitol and Dominion theatres. Upon motion referred to negotiating committee, which is composed of President Miller, vice-president Stocker and secretary Jamieson.

President Miller reports having administered the obligation to J. C. Fortin, drums. on the 12th instant. Upon motion action of the president endorsed.

Financial secretary-treasurer reports that member Sasserville had paid one half of his arrears and he now appealed for further time to pay balance. Upon motion he is lowed sixty days in which to remit.

Upon motion the secretary is directed to write member E. Cox in regard to the report that he used a non-union horn player at the concert of the 29th band on July 2nd. 1924

Radio

Upon motion the secretary is directed to write such locals as San Francisco, St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Chicago for particulars as to how they legislate the radio question.

Upon motion the secretary is directed to write secretary Kerngood of the A. F. of M. in re J. B. Running who has failed to comply with the previous ruling of the federation.

Upon motion the following members were excused from the last meeting of the union: R. R. Smith, H. Ward, A. Fraser, P. Duguid, J. Lowden, A. R. Calow, A. Dickson. C. E. P. Taylor, F. W. Boyt, R. B. McPherson, A. V. Ealey, E. Allison. F. Brown, E. H. Couling, F. Couling. A. H. Cook, A. J. Deane, Cooper, A. Wells. H. Howard, W. Banner, J. McLuskie, W. G. Brener, F. A. Allen, P. Powell and Livie.

Upon motion the following accounts were ordered paid: Cowan Brookhouse. Ltd., account B. C. Musician, $79.40; Brown Bros., account wreath to Mrs. Keeling. $5.00; F. Fletcher, commissions on new applicants, expenses and payments of customs fees for A. F. of M. supplies, $29.13.

Upon motion the secretary is directed to write member Kingcombe in re the D. O. K. K. bands playing for the reception of the Vancouver Rowing team, August 16th.

TRIAL COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Case of Members R. Morgan, E. F. Saserville, Carl Nelson and R. Koehler.

Charges were preferred against the above named members for an alleged infraction of this local's section 13, article 19 of the by-laws.

Members were unable to be present and submitted written statements in lieu there of. Upon motion the committee does not find sufficient evidence to prove the infraction, therefore it is dismissed.

Meeting adjourned at 11.30 a.m.

Regular Board meeting, August 22, 1924.

Officers all present.
Called to order at 12 noon.

NOTICE

AT the last meeting of the Local the Board was directed to take up the question of Radio, and bring in a recommendation to the members at the September meeting. Owing to the recent theatre controversy, the Board has not had the time to consider the question thoroughly, and therefore its recommendations will be delayed one month.

President Miller in the chair.

Sergeant-at-Arms reports member Peebles of 72nd band playing at English Bay with less than the minimum number of men. Upon motion report is accepted and member J. R. Peebles cited to appear before the Board.

The Sons of England band apply for permission to use some local members to play at its lodge picnic. The local men will be paid for their services. Upon motion granted.

Members of the Irish Fusiliers Band ask permission to play at Shaughnessy Military Hospital. Upon motion granted.

Secretary reports having given permission to Hebrew Society to use amateur musicians at a function at the Alexandra Dancing Academy, September 2, 1924. The function is purely charitable. Upon motion action endorsed.

Member H. A. Copley places a claim against member C. H. Clayton in the amount of $7.00. Upon motion member Clayton is cited to appear at the next Board meeting.

Mr. Nichols, manager of the Royal Theatre, requests price for four hours per day vaudeville or musical comedy service. Also privilege of using three men for four weeks' trial. Upon motion the Board ssets the price at $55.00 leader and $45.00 sidemen, and grants three men concession. along with other stipulations that will be given verbally to the general membership.

Mr. Cassidy. leader of the Patricia Orchestra, submits an affidavit stating the terms of his contract

(Continued next page)

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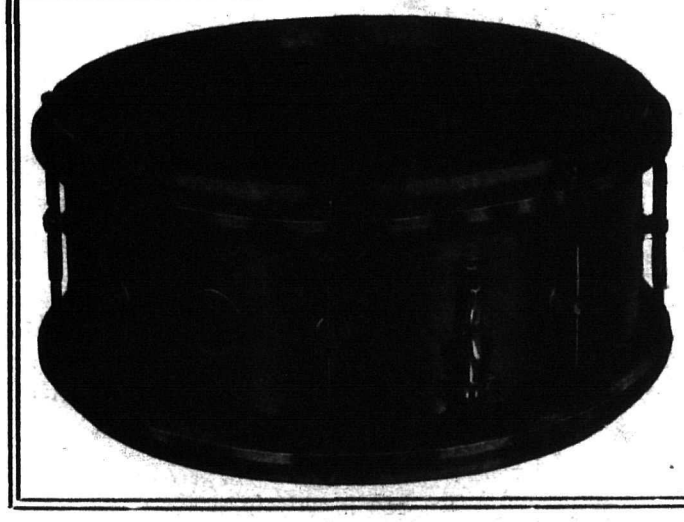

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MINUTES OF UNION AND EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

(Continued from page 5)

at the Patricia. The conditions being in order, the members, upon motion, are given the privileges of the engagement.

Member A. W. Clarke places a claim against member E. Cox, in the amount of $9.00, in the hands of the Board. Upon motion, members Cox, E. H. Allison and H. McDonald are requested to appear at the next Board meeting.

Member E. Cox applies for permission to use some ten or twelve members of his band to play on a charobang for the kiddies in connection with an entertainment at Ceperley Park. Upon motion referred to President with full power to act.

Upon motion the Board rules that unless member Thos. Lyons consumates settlement of his arrears by Monday, August 25th, he be denied the right to play race engacement.

A communication is received from member E. Cox. being a reply to letter from Secretary in connection with his using a non-union horn player July 2nd. Upon motion referred to general meeting.

Secretary reports having set price for Kingsway engagement for 7 hours per day, 7 days per week, at $65 sidemen and $70 leader. Upon motion action endorsed.

Secretary reads letter from manager of Hotel Vancouver accepting new conditions at that place. Upon motion the Secrteary is directed to express the thanks of the members to Mr. Beck and file the communication.

Upon motion the following members were excused from meetings: H. Swoboda, for July, August and September; F. Whittemore for August.

Upon motion the following accounts were ordered paid. F. Fletcher, expenses, $2.70; Mitchell-Foley Co., $1.1.

Adjourned at 1.50 p.m.

Special Board meeting. August 25, 1924.

Officer absent, Vice-President Stocker.

Called to order at 1 p.m.

President Miller in the chair.

This meeting was called for the purpose of appointing delegates to attend the meeting of the North-West District Conference of the A. F. of M., which is to be held in Vancouver, Wednesday, August 27th, at 9.30 a.m. Delegates appointed are President Miller, Secretary Jamieson and A. J. Toevs.

Secretary Jamieson reports that he appointed member F Nichols to take the position of leader at the Royal Theatre. and that he had granted permission for the musicians to take the engagement on a one week's notice basis. Upon motion action endorsed.

Secretary reads his letter to Mr. J. R. Muir, being a reply to the Famous Players Can. Corp., Ltd., in connection with negotiations of new conditions. Upon motion letter endorsed and ordered sent forward.

Adjourned at 1.35 p.m.

Regular Board meeting, August 29, 1924.

Officers all present.

Called to order at 9.30 a.m.

President Miller in the chair.

Secretary reads wire from President Weber in re travelling orchestral members and contracts. Upon motion fieled for reference.

Archie Rae Clarke, alto horn, applies for conditional membership in Irish Fusiliers. Upon motion accepted.

Upon motion member E. H. Morris is cited to appear at the next board meeting.

Accounts ordered paid: Vancouver Typewriter Co., $5.75; F. Fletcher, $4.02.

President Miller reports that he had administered obligation to Sydney John Beveridge, violinist. Upon motion action endorsed.

Member Nick Williamson applies to be removed from exempt list and placed in good standing. Upon motion granted.

Sergeant-at-arms reports conditions apart from theatre controversy as being satisfactory.

Secretary reports on his action in dealing with the Royal theatre. Upon motion endorsed.

Upon motion member Dan Morgan is excused from last meeting.

Harold Taylor, previously a member of this local, had made application again. but is resident in Victoria. Upon motion the secretary is directed to advise Taylor that if he desires to enter this jurisdiction he must do so as a transfer member.

Adjourned at 10.10 a.m.

Special union meeting, Aug. 29, 1924.

Officer absent, W. E. Williams.

Called to order at 11 a.m.

President Miller in the chair.

President Miller and Secretary Jamieson report to the meeting developments as a result of negotiations with the Picture theatre managers on the five and half hour day. They explained all that took place at a meeting with the managers and also read all of the correspondence between the managers and this union. The final decision of the managers was in effect that they were agreeable to meet last season's conditions, but beyond that they would not go.

Moved and seconded that the whole negotiations be left in the hands of the board with full power to act. Secretary Jamieson spoke against such a policy and outlined at great length his reasons for so doing. Other speakers were members Douglas. Green, Storey, Bowyer and Copley, and explanations by President Miller. The motion being put it lost.

Moved and seconded that this meeting sustain the five and half hour demand and all other conditions contained in our letter to the managers of August 4th last and that this is the final attitude of the local. Discussed by member Ward. The motion being put it carried 75 for and one against.

Upon motion the following modification was made to the previous demands of the local:

> "That where no rehearsal is the policy in picture theatres, then time of playing shall be not more than six hours per day; but where a weekly rehearsal is the policy. then the time of playing shall be not more than 5½ hours per day."

Meeting adjourned at 12.30 p.m.

Special board meeting, Sep. 3, 1924.

Officers all present except J. G. Hunt.

Called to order at 11.35 p.m.

President Miller in the chair.

This meeting was called to further consider the negotiations with Picture managers. President Miller stated that owing to the lack of sufficient time to notify all of the members of this meeting, the board had done its best to verbally notify all of the profesional musicians and they would therefor deal with all questions as advisory to the board and would be expected to endorse the minutes when they came up for acceptance at the next union meeting.

The president and secretary informed the members of the situation and its developments since the meeting Friday last. The members were out of the Capitol, Strand and Dominion, the man at the Rex having been sent back on account of the peculiar situation of the management, which could not be considered as adverse to our demands.

A meeting had been held with the Capitol management this afternoon with the result that compromise offer had been made by them in effect as follows: "That instead of the 5½ hour day as demanded, rest periods be increased to 20 minutes to each hour and at no time shall the members be required to play for a period exceeding one hour without a rest period."

The question was discussed informally with the result that the members recommended to the board that they endorse the proposal.

The board acquiesced in the recommendation of the members.

Adjourned at 12 midnight.

Regular Board Meeting, September 5th, 1924.

Officers absent Wm. Pilling and J. G. Hunt.

Called to order at 10.40 a.m.

President Miller in the chair.

A telegram is received from executive officer. J. G. Hunt. Upon motion filed.

Secretary reports having granted permission to local drummer to substitute for the drummer of the Canary Cottage orchestra (Vancouver hotel) as he was ordered to rest a couple of weeks. Upon motion action endorsed.

Secretary reports allowing member Romeo Perry to use Collins, travelling saxophone player. to play at the Breakers for one night a

(Continued next page)

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MINUTES OF UNION AND EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

(Continued from page 6)

Perry was unable to secure another player. Upon motion action endorsed.

Under instructions from secretary Kerngood, of the A. F. of M. member J. B. Running stands suspended until such time as Kerngood countermands the order.

Manager of the advancement fund reports. Upon motion filed for reference.

Upon motion following members were excused from meeting last month: E. Bressler, R. B. McPherson; F. Schoefield for July and August; A. W. Arstad for August.

Upon motion account with B. C. Federationist in the amount of $2.00; and Canadian National Telegraphs, $11.30; and F. Fletcher, including picket expenses, $7.28 ordered paid.

Sergeant-at-arms reports working on lock-out and therefore nothing else to report. Upon motion accepted.

Member Geo. Maddams appears in behalf of member F. Weaver, leader at the Empress. Upon motion members are permitted to go to work there on same basis as last season but if at the end of any one week they do not receive their salaries, they must report to the President immediately. and under no consideration shall the members of the orchestra commit themselves to any action without the consent of the board

Member J. R. Peebles was called to explain why he had a short number of men on the stand at English Bay, August 21st. The member explains that nine of the men were playing at the races and were late in getting back to town but that he continued the concert until 10 p.m. Upon motion the board reserves its decision until next meeting.

Since a special meeting is called for this day at 11.30 p.m., the board allows the organists to play at the three theatres where controversy exists until after the meeting when further action will be decided by the membership.

Adjourned at 1 p.m.

Special Board Meeting, September 5th, 1924.

Officers all present.
Called to order at 11.30 a.m.
President Miller in the chair.

This meeting was called in exactly the same manner as the special board meeting of September 3rd, and the President explained that the position of the members as to the legality was identical.

President Miller outlines further negotiations stating that the climax in the negotiations had come. We either accepted the counter compromise or the fight would begin in earnest by both sides.

Secretary Jamieson read telegrams between this union and President Weber of the Federation.

Mr. Nathanson, managing director of the Famous Players Canadian Corp. Limited, wired President Weber, offering the following compromise: "That two fifteen minute intermissions be allowed in the afternoon and three twenty minute intermissions be allowed in the evening, and stated that further than this he would not go.

The President and Secretary advised the members of their interview with the management and stated the basis of settlement which they (president and secretary) were ready to put before the members. Members Winter and Metcalfe also spoke in similar tone.

Moved and seconded: 'That the Nanthanson compromise (coupled with the verbal explanation of the union's representatives) be accepted.

Discussed by members Ward, Copley, Miles and Edmunds. Motion carried unanimously.

Upon motion the Capitol theatre management is to be solicited to put advertisement in the daily press acknowledging settlement satisfactory to all concerned, as well as on their picture screen.

The board concured in the recommendations of the members.

Adjourned at 12.05 a.m.

EDWARD JAMIESON,
Secretary.

Transfer or Travelling System

(Continued from page 3)

ion, constitute an attraction for him or his business? Will the musicians, whom the right to follow their profession as travelling musicians has been denied, assume the position that they are willing to be union men, but as they cannot remain such save at the sacrifice of not being able to make a living, become non-union? If the latter becomes a fact, how many local unions are in a position to control passing engagements and successfully proceed against the employer, consider him unfair and solicit the good will of all organized labor to punish him for employing musicians to whom the possibility to belong to the American Federation of Musicians has been denied? I dare say it behooves us to carefully consider before we leap. The upbuilding of a successful organization is immensely difficult. The destroying of its influence is a very easy task. It is difficult for an organization to, through continued efforts, eventually control its membership

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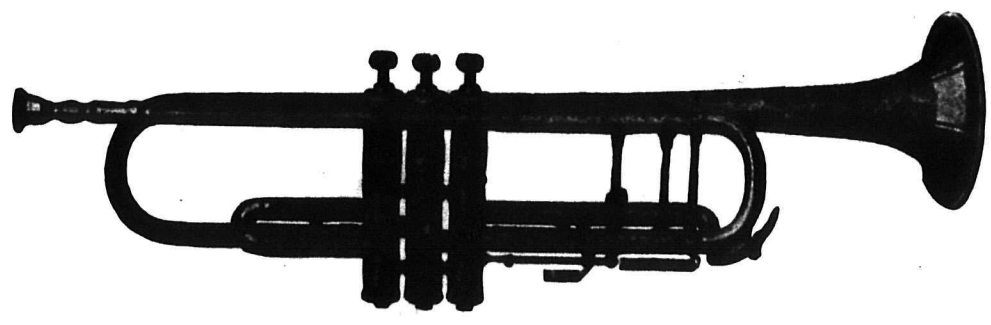

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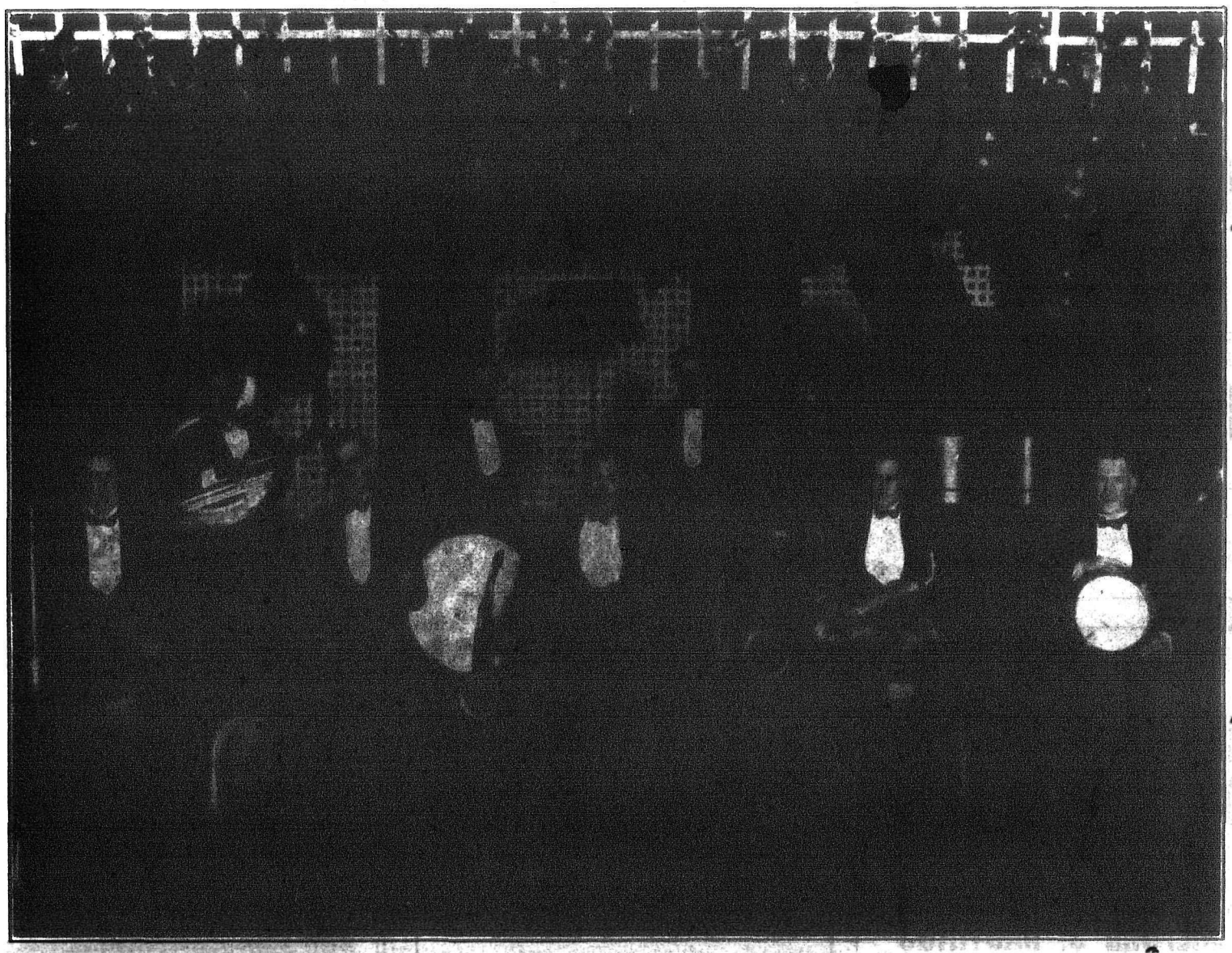

PAUL LAMERAUX.....Saxophone and Clarinet
FORREST MONZINGO.....
.....Saxophone, Clarinet, Trumpet, Piano
VERNON DALE.....Piano, Saxophone, Violin
LAFE CASSIDY, Leader.....Trumpet
FRANK ROACH .....Percussion
EARL CASSIDY .....Sousaphone
WM. JOHNSON .....Banjo, Violin
MARION STAFFORD ..... Trombone, Piano

E. P. MULHERN - - - Proprietor

Transfer or Travelling System

(Continued from page 7)

throughout the entire jurisdiction. It is easy to lose such control if the members find that within the organization there is no room for them unless they surrender their opportunities to make a living as musicians as members of their respective local unions.

The law of the Federation elsewhere mentioned and the explanation given for its enactment, namely, Paragraph C, Section 2, of Article X, has often caused delegates to a Convention to insist that the scope of the rule should be broadened and should include all permanent engagements. The reason why Paragraph C was adopted was lost sight of entirely. Other delegates did not protest so much against permanent engagements being filled by travelling bands or orchestras, but did raise an objection against travelling dance orchestras playing single engagements in their local's jurisdiction. To pacify both classes the Federation would be obliged to decree that each band and orchestra must confine itself to its own jurisdiction and that it is unlawful to enter the jurisdiction of another local. To do this we would have to again begin where we began twenty years ago. This time the musicians of the Unied States and Canada, being practically organized, the dissatisfaction, unrest, and impossible conditions created by such a law would be even more intense than was the case some twenty years ago, when our organization represented but a small portion of the musicians of the North American continent. Numerous members would become non-unionized or forced to deny their identity as union musicians, and the efforts of most locals would have to be expended in a direction of continually protesting and antagonizing non-union organizations at the expense of other activities which have the uplift and not the hindrance of the membership as their object, We cannot with impunity deny men the right to make a living as union musicians as long as they are willing to agree to reasonable rules and regulations of the Federation. It appears that in the present restrictions, which even become irksome to some of our members, we have gone about as far as proper discretion permits. Going further would have the tendency to disorganize and the creating of a condition directly opposite to that which locals and some members expect to create by prohibiting musicians from outside of their jurisdiction to fill engagements in their home town or city .

The easiest thing for an officer of an organization of our kind to do in order to meet the popular approval of meetings and Conventions is to express himself in favor of a proposition which for the time being may appear desirable to the delegates or the membership and therefore is popular. The officer who does this really betrays the membership and his obligation, if his moral courage fails him to call the attention of delegates to possible results of such propositions if enacted into law, if same is of a nature denying certain fundamental rights which every man or citizen has a right to expect or to enjoy without hindrance.

Our organization was conceived in a spirit of fairness to the men who compose it. Its mission was and is to raise the material standard of the musician, protect him against unscrupulous employers, have him work under decent conditions and bring his wages nearer a living standard—all of which could only be obtained through collective effort. Collective effort means the effort of the local unions combined. Whereas some of them individually may be in a better position to individually and successfully enforce all the principles above named, all of them, in the last analysis, are dependent upon the Federation for their success, the same as the Federation in the largest degree is dependent for its success upon the entire labor movement, that is, the organization representing all wage workers, the American Federation of Labor.

A member who joins a local union thereby becomes ipso facto a member of the American Federation of Musicians and eventually has the right to transfer from one jurisdiction to another. He has the right to follow his profession under certain restrictions, which, as it is, often stretches the limit of reasonableness. Why is he a member of the national organization? For the reason that local unions are as much in need of the national organization as the members are in need of the local union. It is the national organization which controls the membership and decrees that members remain away from the jurisdiction of locals in which a local is involved in a controversy with employers and guards against the circumstance that the employer placed the musicians of one town or city in competition with another. Were it not for this in most cases our local unions would find it extremely difficult to prevail in their contentions with employers. **A member of a local, becoming a member of the national organization as soon as he joins a local union, has national as well as local rights, and these national rights must not be unduly curtailed unless you are willing to invite disaster by weakening the national organization.** Giving way to the demands of locals for particular rights, even though granted, would eventually avail them nothing, as they would lose any advantage through the corresponding disorganizing and weakening of the national organization. We cannot set our face against natural conditions, against the rights of men, or indulge in the effort to enforce unreasonable rules, without inviting disaster, which, perhaps slowly creeping upon us, would eventually and unfailingly make us long for the time and conditions during which the Federation was successful.

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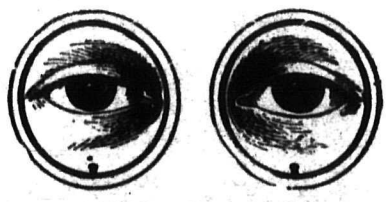

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