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BRITISH COLUMBIA

MUSICIAN

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POST WAR BRITAIN

By E. C. MILLER

During the month of June and the greater part of July I gave most of my time to sight-seeing. Among the many places of interest visited were the Natural History, Victoria and Albert, United Service and Great War Museums; The Royal Art, Tate, and Portraiture Galleries; and last but by no means least that rendevouz of all kiddies—the Zoological Gardens. Towards the end of July pressing invitations caused me to take a trip up North. I should like at this point to be allowed the privilege, of explaining the present system of railways in the Old Country. It is commonly known to many of our readers who have at one time dwelt in the Old Land, that there were something like twenty or more railway companies engaged in a desperate struggle, for the patronage of the travelling public. What with the over capitalization of the lines and this excessive competition, the outlook was already a poor one for those looking for dividends from this class of stock. Immediately after the war the currency was deliberately debased in Britain just the same as it was here, otherwise it would be almost impossible to liquidate the enormous debt incurred through that fearful struggle. With the reduction of the purchasing power of the pound sterling similar to the dollar, correspondingly up went the cost of lving; and in order to have wages more in accord with the price of existence, labor justifiably demanded corresponding increases of salaries. The great railway unions made demands equivalent to a 100% increase. However, the Government were in a dilemma, as the only way to grant this was to do away with the excessive competition, and they were averse to nationalizing the railways as demanded by the unions, and I believe the Labor Party. An alternative was suggested and later adopted that was to form five mergers out of the twenty former systems, and group the new systems on the zone principle, so that each railway company would have its own territory as far as possible to operate in. This plan met with a certain amount of success as the unions got their 100% increase, and the cost of travelling to the general public only increased 50%. There was one drawback, however, that was due to the reduced competition, many trains were taken off their runs, and those left were consequently overcrowded. It is a sight now-a-days, especially during the holiday season, to witness the platforms congested with trippers, often standing ten-deep waiting for a train to be shunted in. As soon as the train comes to a stop there is one wild surge for the door, and if one has not the luck to be adjacent to the door at the time of the stopping of the train, it invariably meant standing in the corridor, perhaps for hours during the journey. Rates are not the only worry to railways in the Old Land. There is another rival for the public favor, that is the motor bus. I must say these busses are the acme of comfort and speed. A great outcry has gone up from the railways against this new menace. This has been justified to some extent on account of the heavy expenditure the lines have to maintain; whereas the busses contribute little or nothing to the upkeep of the highways. Some relief has been afforded through the latest Winstonian Budget which has increased the tax on gasoline (or petrol as it is called over there), and the revenue collected from this imposition being earmarked for the relief of industry.

I am glad to say that I was one of the fortunates in securing a good seat on the "Flying Scotsman" leaving King's Cross at 10:00 a.m. for the North. I had for a companion as far as York, a retired engineer of the Great Eastern Railway, who played a considerable part in the great General Strike of 1926, and gave me many details of the cause, and the issue from his point of view. When a tourist travels through the eastern counties of England, he cannot help but admire the splendidly cultivated fields with their well-kept hedges. Every piece of land seems to be put to a good purpose, there being no waste. Our train at a terrific rate of speed passed through the towns of Peterborough and Grantham with their beautiful cathedrals, and Selby with its famous abbey. On arrival at York I purposely broke my journey in order to see the Minster. The city of York is a minute town compared to the great city that bears its name situated on the Hudson. It is one of the quaintest old places in the world. The old city walls and ramparts are still in existence; but they will in all probability never be used again for defensive purposes, as the upper parts have been converted into walks and a driveway. Many of the streets are very narrow, and abutting on either side are some of the quaintest old houses and shops—possibly dating from the Tudor days or even earlier—to be seen anywhere. Its greatest glory, however, is the Minster, the cathedral church of the Ecclesiastical Province of York. The building is one of the finest Gothic structures in the world ranking with Cologne, and Amiens. There are two front towers and a central tower, and, of course, with this type of architecture it is built on a cruciform plan. Once inside the visitor cannot help but marvel at the beauty of its design and its immense proportions. York Minster contains in its windows more than a third of the painted glass in England from the pre-reformation days. This came about by the city having a dutiful son in the person of Sir Thomas Fairfax, one of the leading generals in the civil war under the Protector Oliver Cromwell. When the Puritans were in the ascendency, just after the execution of Charles the First, their zeal for simplicity in public worship was such that a ruthless destruction of all monuments and adornments in churches took place throughout the land. Sir Thomas Fairfax, though he may have been very thorough in carrying out his instructions in other parts of the country, nevertheless was determined that whatever took place elsewhere, would not be allowed in his home city. The zealots' destructive work was consequently prohibited in York, and the Minster and its treasures were saved. York Minster, though it possesses very few statues and tombs by contrast with Westminster Abbey, by comparison in my opinion has greater distinction by being a finer edifice and of greater proportions. Its construction dates many centuries back probably A.D. 603; but it must have taken several hundred years for its completion. Down in the crypt visitors are shown the well where King Edwin of Northumbria during the Heptarchy was baptised, after he and his followers had embraced Christianity.

Continuing my journey North, I arrived in the coal metropolis "Newcastle" the same evening. This is a grimy old city, and while I was there it was quoted in the press,—much to the indignation of its inhabitants,—as being the ugliest town in England. The River Tyne as usual was choked with shipping. The din caused by the enormous construction of shipbuilding along the banks is almost earsplitting. However, it must be remembered it is probably the greatest centre for that type of construction in the world. This might give offence to Scottish enthusiasts who claim that the Clyde is entitled to that honor; but I am inclined to believe that if they look up official statistics, my statement will be verified. It was in the shipyards of the Tyne that the Atlantic record breaker the "Mauretania" was built. Another famous little ship was the "Turbinia," the first boat to have the turbine engine, and which was constructed at the Parson's Engineering Works. Today as the result of the Honorable C. Parson's invention, nearly all our fastest ships are driven by this type of engine. Before leaving Newcastle I had the pleasure of renewing the acquaintance of some friends who are directors in the control of the Scotswood Iron Works, which employ some 800 men. The process of rolling iron joists, rails, etc. from ingots taken from huge furnaces was very interesting. During the time I took lunch with them, the discussion of facts and figures and other interesting items of general business in the Old Country, fully impressed me with the determination of its people to recover their pre-war prosperity, and incidentally to pay up their debts in full.

At the end of a week I travelled farther North to Lesbury, a village situated amid sylvan surroundings near Alnmouth and Alnwick in Northumberland. This county has some of the most beautiful scenery I have ever seen. It is also crammed with castles and country seats brimful with historical lore. There is Alnwick Castle, the magnificent home of the Dukes of Northumberland. This is a splendid specimen of a feudal domain of the Norman period. It was within a couple of miles of this castle that Hotspur who became Earl of Northumberland, killed the invading King Malcolm of Scotland. The story is that Hotspur when requested to hand over the keys of the castle to the King presented them on the point of a lance. The moment Malcolm attempted to lift them off, Hotspur pushed the lance through his eye and killed him, and then defeated the Scottish invading forces. For a long time after this, the family name of the Northumberlands was called Pierce-eye, which in the course of time became Percy, the same as it is today. In most of the border wars between England and Scotland prior to the union of the two countries Alnwick Castle was the great stronghold that held up the marauding bands. Bamborough Castle is another glorious specimen of the Feudal times standing right by the sea and in an excellent state of preservation. I understand it is now the property of the Armstrong family, who are associated with the Whitworths in the great firm at Elswick, Newcastle-on-Tyne, shipbuilders and gun constructors. Lord Armstrong now lives at Rothbury, and

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BRITISH COLUMBIA MUSICIAN

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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.

Revision of the Constitution and By-Laws

Periodically all societies must revise their old laws, or draft new ones if they are to keep abreast of the times. It is now three years since the last committee sat under Chairman L. Blacknell. Today we have another which is making its report under the chairmanship of Executive Member Harry Stocker.

Notices containing the complete Constitution, and all its By-laws have been sent to all members; and at the last General Meeting of the Local, May 13th, the report of the committee was taken up, and dealt with down to and including Section I., Article IV., under the caption of "Meetings." At that point the report proceedings terminated; but will continue again at the General Meeting on Sunday, June 10th.

Members cannot be too careful over the revision of their laws. The fine weather prevailing at present undoubtedly is an insistent invitation for out-door enjoyment; but there is the call of duty also, which demands the interest of members in that which is vital to the welfare of their Local.

If we are sincere members of the A. F. of M. and this Local, and not merely cardmen just to gain its protection and to obtain access to the competitive field controlled in this jurisdiction, then we certainly should make some effort, even if we have to forego some picnic or other form of leisure, when the most serious of all our duties occurs, viz, that of formulating the Constitution and By-Laws by which this Local is governed.

* * * * *

The annual revision of the Price-List is another weighty matter that has to be taken up in the near future; but in importance it must take second place to the revision of our laws. Our membership as often as not, is divided into groups performing in certain occupations such as the theatre, dance, and band. Each group can, therefore, very well allow—if it desires—the discussion of charges, etc., for services to the members employed in that particular type of engagement, to others who are more vitally concerned. But not so the revision of the laws, as all groups comprising our membership are equally affected thereby.

In the new revision one of the dominating questions of the day which is agitating locals of the A.F. of M. and has in some instances been adopted, viz, the enforcement of the six-day law has been incorporated (No. 76) in the new by-law proposals, in addition to a Standing Resolution (No. 4) which has partly been based on that of Standing Resolution No. 39 of the A.F. of M., and which in substance is practically the same. It is true that the recommendation of the Northwest Conference was adopted by this Local on the 11th May, 1924, regarding the establishment of a six-day law; but the same was not placed in the By-Laws for enforcement at that time. This omission the present committee proposes to rectify.

Another important revision is that under the sub-title of "Claims." It is very evident that Sections 41, 42 and 43 of the old laws were enacted at various periods, and under present day governance they look perhaps to some of our members somewhat disjointed. The whole is now redrafted, and the sections are placed in sequence.

* * * * *

Then there is that of members employed on an engagement, and by reason—say of travelling members—their services are not required but receive pay for the same; and yet these members may have hitherto competed with other musicians of this Local for engagements, during the hours when otherwise they would have been playing. A new law changes that. This proposed law before the committee inserted it in their report was submitted to President Weber, as to whether it was intra vires of the principles of the A.F. of M. The International President not only replied in the affirmative, but declared it to be equitable.

Under the caption of "Notices" engagements have been defined as to the meaning of permanent, semi-permanent and casual; and the time of notice required to terminate these en-engagements. Again under the title of "Stewards" it is planned to have the present reports styled "Form A," and a similar report only on a smaller stub for casual engagements to be called "Form B."

The duties of the Secretaries have been more clearly defined, also those of the Sergeant-at-Arms and the Board of Directors. The new Article "Trials and Appeals" (No. XVII.) contains eighteen sections and embodies all the amendments passed during 1927. The principle of what "Good Standing" actually means, and its enforcement as applied by Seattle and Winnipeg, etc., is contained in the new proposals.

* * * * *

Another proposal is that if a General Meeting makes a decision re a delegate to the Convention, to prevent that decision being overturned too easily by what may be an unrepresentative Special Meeting, at an unearthly hour of the night or any other time; notice not only must be given, but a three-fourths majority of the meeting will be required to rescind the former decision. Should a necessity arise based on genuine grounds demanding a re-consideration of the previous decision, it is believed that the same will be granted unanimously. In the meantime the committee by adopting a three-fourths majority, presumes the Local will be effectually safeguarded against any hasty decisions when the reasons may be to the contrary.

It will be thus seen how important are these proposals, and in order to ensure that they meet with the approval of the great majority of the membership, they should only be considered at what is a really representative meeting of this organization; and then only as a special order of business when the General Meeting at the time of sitting is at its greatest strength.

Mr. Moore who was at one time manager of the Progress Theatre in this jurisdiction has just returned from the United States in which country he has been a resident for some time. The information he conveyed to this office of conditions in that country are the very reverse of being good. Today, according to his statement there are 8,000,000 unemployed and it is more than possible the list will grow. He says that a bill is now in Congress to establish a five day week in order to spread the prevailing opportunities over a greater number and relieve the present distressing situation. His information is in keeping with the placard we have recently received from Local 47, Los Angeles, warning members to keep away from that city, stating that there are hundreds of musicians unemployed. The collapse of the great building boom and its reaction in other quarters undoubtedly is much the cause of this slump. Possibly when the population has had time to catch up with the great expansion that has been in evidence since 1919, the onward march to prosperity will be resumed. Mr. Moore will very likely in the near future be a member of this organization.

We are pleased to inform the membership that on the 11th of May, 1928, a daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. J. de Jasserand who bears the name of "Joanne." Our members will surely extend to the happy parents their felicitations, and wish "bon voyage" to the little lady on the stream of life.

The Editor receives news from time to time of many of our wandering members... Just lately word has come from Dan Green who tells us that he is now headquartered in Los Angeles, but for the moment is booked on the road with the film entitled "Wings." He has for company Allan Ruffelle, and both Allan and himself wish to be remembered to all old friends.

Another of our members who is glad to be remembered by us, is Jack Hunt, at present resident in Victoria. He is now a member of the Royal Victoria Theatre Orchestra. From his information it is very evident that the members of the Local in that city, are well acquainted with the controversies which affect us over here, such as the travelling band, and C. P. C. S. questions.

Members are cautioned against soliciting, or accepting engagements in another jurisdiction before first ascertaining from the Recording Secretary if there are any valid reasons why the engagemnets should not be accepted. When an engagement is accepted in another jurisdiction, members must CARRY THEIR CARDS and be in good standing; also that at all times, the higher price of either local MUST be the minimum price of the engagement in question. This does not refer to regular season theatre engagements in another jurisdiction.

Post War Britain

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lets Bamborough Castle as a home for poor gentry. Adjacent to the castle are the two small islands of Holy Isle, and Lindisfarne; which in historic times maintained a monastery, and was the point where St. Cuthbert landed to introduce Christianity into England. A little farther along the mainland is St. Aidans Church, named after another of the Christian missionaries to early Britain. In the churchyard lies buried Grace Darling of the lifeboat fame. Her father it will be remembered was a lighthouse keeper on Holy Island or Lindisfarne, and it was from this point that the heroic girl put out to sea in a boat during a storm, to save the crew of a ship that was lying on the reef. Chillingham Castle, the home of the Earls of Tankerville, was another old place I visited. In a park on this estate exists the last herd of wild cattle, descended from the early British herds before the Anglo-Saxons landed in England. This estate has been greatly cut down due to the excessive taxation, which has forced so many landowners to the wall since the Great War.

Motoring in Northumberland is an intense pleasure to devotees of that form of relaxation. On one of our trips we went through Wooler and the Cheviots onto Floors Castle near Kelso, Roxburghshire in Scotland. This is the home of the Duke of Roxburgh who married the daughter of Ogden Goelet the American multimillionaire. Sometimes our trips were by the coast passing through Seahouses and Craster, a fishing village that reminded me of that delightful song, "The Little Sands of Duna Call Me Home." In this district are the county seats of Viscount Grey of Falloden, who was the Foreign Secretary at the opening of the Great War, and Earl Grey, former Governor-General of Canada, and one-time owner of the Coldstream Ranch near Vernon in the Okanagan Valley. Alnmouth is one of the most delightful seaside resorts and not yet overdone by trippers. Warkworth Castle is now a heap of ruins. My three weeks' stay in this lovely county came to an end much too quickly for me, and when time called I trailed my way south again, breaking my journey at Durham City to see the Cathedral and Durham Castle. This cathedral occupies more ground space than that of any other in England. Its interior architecture seemed peculiar to me, something like one associates with early Egyptian of the period of Rameses when he was Pharoah of Egypt. One of the most famous personalities in the Anglican Church is its Bishop, viz, Dr. Hensley Henson. He is a man of very strong theological views and does not hesitate to express them, apparently regardless of the consequences. Before he became the appointed Bishop, he was dean of the cathedral, and was known as one of the three famous deans of England. The other two being Dean Welldon, now of Durham and formerly of Manchester and Calcutta in India, and Dean Inge of St. Paul's Cathedral, known as the gloomy dean. The castle is gradually crumbling and strenuous efforts are being made to preserve it; but it will be very costly to continue these efforts, especially in these hard times when money is not so plentiful as in the pre-war days. Some of the rooms are used by the judges when on circuit during the assizes. Others are allotted to house the University of Durham, and several more are crammed with interesting exhibits and paintings. It was funny to see such places as the "buttery" and others reminiscent of the days when "Knights were Bold."

Before closing my descriptive tour while in England, I would like to mention something about Westminster Cathedral, the new edifice which is the metropolitan church of the Primate of the Roman Catholic Church in England. The site of this cathedral was purchased during the primacy of Cardinal Manning, who, I believe, was associated with Newman in the leadership of the Oxford movement that nearly split the Anglican Church. Newman at a later date joined the Roman Catholic Church and became a cardinal. The well-known hymn, "Lead Kindly Light" was written by him. The Catholic Cathedral of Westminster must not be confused by those not acquainted with London with Westminster Abbey. It is a building of immense proportions second only to Durham in its occupation of ground space. The architecture is Byzantine, style that dominated in the early Christian era. Its prototype is the great church of St. Sophia in Constantinople, built by the Emperor Justinian, and which is now used as a Mahommedan mosque. When the cathedral was planned and it was known that a departure would be taken from the orthodox Gothic, there was much disappointment. After the completion

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OFFICIAL BULLETIN

LOCAL 145, A.F. OF M. OF UNITED STATES AND CANADA

Vancouver, B. C., June, 1928. For Circulation Among Members Only

NOTICE

General Meeting

Sunday, June 10, 1928, at 10 a.m., in the G.W.V.A. Hall, 856 Seymour Street

AGENDA

1. To further consider committee's report on revision of Constitution and By-laws.
2. To appoint a Price-List Committee.
3. NOTICES OF MOTION:
   To consider notice of motion "That the General Meetings shall be held at 8:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month."
4. Any further business.

Secretary's Monthly Report

New Members by Application: Mrs. E. Shepherd (pianist).

Transfers issued: A. E. Crawford, Harry T. Smith.

Transfers deposited: ~~H. McCallum~~, 180. Geo. E. Aylett, 190.

Transfers withdrawn: E. E. Elliott.

Travelling Members: Armand Gaudette, 198. Hugo Conn, 10.

Placed on Exempt List: J. J. Taylor, Richard Copley, A. Dezela.

WILL. EDMUNDS,
Recording Secretary.

TRIAL BOARD MEETING MAY 22, 1928

Meeting called to order at 11 a.m. Member J. Toevs in the chair; other members present: H. Hills, J. Fraser, F. Mulgrew, W. Bremner.

Case of Executive Board vs. W. Pulman, violation of Article 17, Section 11, in that he appeared at an engagement at the Strand Theatre under the influence of liquor.

Case dismissed. Lack of evidence.

Case of Executive Board vs. Ed. Bresler, for breach of faith and fair dealing under Section 3, Article 17 of this Local's By-laws, in that he did sign the attendance book of the Regular Meeting of May 13 and left the meeting without first obtaining the permission of the President.

Found guilty. Fined $1.00 Member Bresler's name to be erased from the attendance book of May 13, 1928.

Case of Executive Board vs. Geo. Wood, for a breach of good faith and fair dealing in that he did play an engagement with Mr. W. Tweedie while on the Exempt List contrary to Article 14 of the By-laws of Local 145. Member Wood found guilty of unintentionally breaking the above law. Given a vote of censure.

Minutes of Union and Executive Board Meetings

GENERAL UNION MEETING OF MAY 13, 1928, HELD AT THE G.W.V.A. HALL, SEYMOUR STREET

Officers all present.

Meeting called to order at 10:10 a.m. President Miller in the Chair.

Minutes of the General Union Meeting of April 15, 1928, were adopted as read.

Minutes of Regular Board Meeting of April 20, were adopted as read with exception of paragraph regarding the N.V.A. Midnight Matinee at the New Orpheum Theatre, which was deferred to unfinished business.

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of Aprli 25th, were adopted as read.

Minutes of Special Union Meeting of April 28th, were adopted as read

Minutes of Regular Board Meeting of May 4th were adopted as read with exception of that part of minutes referring to permission granted to members of Strand Theatre, wearing whiskers and costumes, which was referred to unfinished business.

Minutes of Reguular Board Meeting of May 11, 1928, were read. Discussion on minutes. Member Ed. Pritchard requests information why stenographer was paid overtime and what same was for. President's reply satisfactory to member.

Member E. A. Jamieson requested information as to reasons for granting a free radio broadcast to the Parks Board Band. President Miller replied.

R. T. Copley requested information regarding permission granted for the Strand Theatre Orchestra to play for one hour at the Theatrical Ball at the Auditorium. Recording Secretary replied stating price members were paid for this engagement. Reply satisfactory to Member Copley.

Member R. H. Ward requested information on what grounds permission had been granted to members of Strand Orchestra to play the Gyro Club Luncheon on Monday, May 14, 1928. President Miller replied to same.

Member Ward also requested information regarding the application for reinstatement of R. V. Hainsworth, replied to by the Chairman and Recording Secretary. It was then regularly moved and seconded that the Minutes be adopted as read; but that part of Minutes relating to Parks Board Band be referred to unfinished business and that part of minutes referring to R. V. Hainsworth be deferred to new business. Motion carried.

Communications

Communication from Jos. N. Weber, referring to Group Life Insurance as put forward in a prospectus by the Union Labor Life Insurance Co., referred to Benevolent Society.

Communication from Navy League, thanking this Union for the donation of an orchestra on the cruise of the Princess Elaine on May 7, 1928, ordered filed.

Communication from W. A. Barnes, manager of the New Orpheum Theatre, thanking this Union on behalf of Mr. L. Pantages and himself to all the members of this Union who contributed their services to the recent N.V.A. Benefit at the New Orpheum Theatre, ordered filed.

Communication from Trades and Labor Council, same having reference to a resolution placed before that body urging that body to sever its connection with the Canadian Labor Party and requesting this Local's opinion on same. After discussion on this resolution, it was regularly moved and seconded that Local 145 is unanimously in favor of the Trades and Labor Party withdrawing from the Canadian Labor Party. Motion carried.

Reports of Committees

Trades and Labor Report—Delegate E. C. Fitzgerald presented his report, which upon motion was accepted and member thanked for his services.

Sick Committee's Report—Members Thos. Shankie, W. Edmunds, E. Cox, E. Fitzgerald presented reports on condition of our sick members, F. Dyke, Madam Norman, J. Bleakley, R. B. McPherson, P. Duguid, A. Dezela, Mrs. W. Haywood, reporting progress on all these members. Reports were accepted.

Emergency Committee's Report—Chairman Stocker reported clear bill this month.

Financial Report—Financial Secretary-Treasurer Williams presented his monthly report. Same was adopted and ordered filed for reference.

Auditor's Report—Recording Secretary read report, whereupon it was regularly moved and seconded that the same be accepted and filed for reference. Speaking to the question Member Jamieson, offered the suggestion that this motion include the full Auditor's Report for the past four months. Motion carried.

AGENDA

Committee on H. Taylor's application being paragraph 1 on the Agenda. Secretary read recommendation of the 1927 Trial Board, whereupon it was regularly moved and seconded that same be accepted and Secretary instructed to forward same to President Weber. Motion carried.

Notice of Motion as printed in Paragraph 2, on the Agenda in the B. C. Musician, May issue, was regularly moved and seconded that this notice of motion be adopted as stated.

On the question, the following amendment was offered that the Minutes be printed on a separate sheet and inserted at the expense of the Local, and the Minutes be only sent to bona-fide members of Local 145. Matter was discussed by Members E. Cox, W. W. Euper, A. H. Nachbar, H. Slatter, E. A. Jamieson, R. H. Ward, Ed. Pritchard, C. J. Cornfield, W. E. Williams, J. Bowyer, H. Copley, Thos. Shankie.

An amendment to the amendment was then offered that a committee of three be appointed by the Chair to bring in a report as to the financial stability of the B. C. Musician, this was ruled out of order; and chairman suggested to the mover to have his motion read, that same be referred to a committee of three to be appointed from the floor. The mover acceded to the request; but the motion was lost. The amendment upon the main motion then carried.

The question on resolution as amended was stated and another amendment was offered to delete the payment of 25c per quarter, this amendment carried.

The question on the resolution as further amended, "that the B. C. Musician be continued and that the Local pay for the printing of its Minutes, which shall be printed on a separate sheet and inserted in the paper when mailing and that these minutes shall only be sent to bona-fide members of this organization. The Resolution as amended then carried.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the rules of order be suspended and we go to unfinished business. Carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Discussion on Section of Minutes of May 11, referring to permission given to the Parks Board Band to play a concert over radio, gratis. Moved and seconded that this matter be referred to the Board for further data and that permission be held in abeyance in the interim. Motion carried.

Discussion on Section of Minutes of May 4, referring to permission given to three members of the Strand Theatre Orchestra to use sets of whiskers. It was regularly moved and seconded that permission in future be not granted to any stage band to use false whiskers, except when members are paid for same in conformity with section 11 of the price-list.

Discussion took place upon communication from W. A. Barnes and Lloyd Pantages, thanking our members for their services in connection with the recent N.V.A. Benefit, whereupon it was regularly moved and seconded that our Delegates to the Vancouver Theatrical Federation be instructed to bring this matter up at their next meeting and advise the Federation that this Union is opposed to the granting of the services of our members gratis for these functions in future.

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EMPRESS THEATRE NOW FAIR TO ORGANIZED LABOR

MINUTES OF UNION AND EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

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REPORT OF COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO REVISE THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Standing Resolutions

Numbers 1, 2 and 3, adopted as printed in the By-law committee's report.

Number 4 was deferred to await consideration of Section 76 of Article 22.

Number 5, it was regularly moved and seconded, number 5 be adopted as printed. Motion lost. These two paragraphs are therefore deleted.

FORWARD

Excerpts from the Constitution and By-laws of the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada.

Sections 1 to 7 were adopted as printed.

CONSTITUTION

Preamble was adopted.

Article 1: "Title" adopted.

Article 2: "Object" adopted.

Article 3: Membership.

Section 1 and 2 and N.B. adopted.

Section 3: It was regularly moved and seconded that the word "Financial," on second line be changed to read "Recording" and that after words "ten dollars" on the sixth line insert words "plus the current quarter dues." The motion carried.

Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 were adopted as printed.

Section 9: Moved and seconded that the words "President or Board of Directors" on the seventh line be deleted and substitute the words "Recording Secretary" therefor. Motion carried.

Sections 10, 11, 12 were adopted as printed.

Section 13: Moved and seconded that Section 13 be deleted and the following substitute in its stead: "A member having resigned in good standing, may rejoin on payment of half of the application fee; provided in the interim the said member has not violated any law of this Local or of the A.F. of M. However, if a member who has resigned from this Local, and is yet a member of another local, and desires to rejoin, he can only do so by first entering this jurisdiction on transfer, and establishing a bona-fide residence therein. Having fulfilled these conditions, he may rejoin on payment of half the application fee."

Motion Adopted

Section 14 was adopted as printed.

Section 15: Add after the word "assessments" on the fifth line the words "except Local Defence Fund or International Defence Fund Assessments."

Section 16 adopted as printed.

Article 4: **Meetings**

Section 1: It was moved and seconded that Section 1 be adopted as printed. Speaking to the question the following amendment was moved and seconde, "to strike out the words Sunday of each month, except when Easter Sunday falls on that day" on the second and third lines, and insert the words "second Wednesday of each month except when a Statutory holiday occurs on that day, when the Executive Board shall set another day as substitute." Motion that this law lay on the table was lost.

Motion that a plebiscite be taken to the entire membership by mail to obtain a referendum on the same, was lost. After discussion on same, the amendment carried. A vote was then taken on the main motion, as amended. Vote resulted as follows:

Twenty (20) for; Eighteen (18) against.

Consideration of the By-laws then adjourned to the Regular Order of Business.

Secretary read communication from J. Bowyer, viz; I beg leave to tender my resignation as vice-president of Local 145, to take effect from May 13, 1928. Moved and seconded that same lay on the table till next meeting. Motion carried.

Notice of Motion: I hereby give notice of motion that at the next General Meeting I will move that the General Meetings shall be held at 8:00 p. m. on the second Wednesday of each month.

Moved and seconded that we do now adjourn until Wednesday morning, May 16, 1928 at 10:00 a.m. in theG. W. V. A. Hall, Seymour Street, for the further consideration of the committee's report on the revision of the Constitution and By-laws. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF MAY 15, 1928

Officers all present with the exception of Vice-President J. Bowyer, Excuse tendered by Member Bowyer for being absent was accepted by the Board.

Bills Approved

Burrard Publishing Co., $4.59.

Radio Contract Approved

John Harper and Radio Station CN RV.

Contract Approved

Between Stanley M. Arsted and the Dance Corporation of America, at the Auditorium.

Request of Member J. P. Harvey for credit for two dance tickets was refused.

Excuse for May meeting: Geo. H. Brailey.

Communications

From Walter H. Lee, referred to Secretary.

From Madam Ione Zink, to be allowed to use her daughter as pianist for one or two numbers during her Dancing Show to be held at the Ambassador Caberet, was granted.

From the Convention Reporting Co. of New York City, ordered filed.

From The Union Label Trades Council under the signature of Harry Wood, referred to the General Meeting.

From The American Federation of Labor, ordered filed.

From The American Federation of Labor, referred to the General Meeting.

From Jos. N. Weber, ordered filed.

Application for Membership

The applications of Robt. Roots, banjo; Harry Wilson, trumpet; Bernard Potts, piano; and Norman Linnehan, drums. The applications of the four Ridgely Players Orchestra were accepted under the following conditions: $5.00 with each application and the balance to be paid at the rate of $5.00 each application every two weeks until the full fee is paid. All working privileges to be extended these members in the interim.

Secretary read all correspondence with President Weber's Office in regard to a request to allow Mrs. A. Wells to play for the Isdale Dancing School for their show at the Avenue Theatre, May 25, 1928. President Weber having wired his approval of same, Secretary's correspondence was approved.

Secretary read a telegram received from President Weber authorizing the Executive Board to withhold the adjourned General Union Meeting which was scheduled to be held on Wednesday, May 16, 1928, also President's reply to same. Action approved.

Secretary made report on condition of our member A. Dezela and requests that he be placed on the Exempt List of this Local for the time being. Request granted.

Member W. H. Sara met with the Board and was interrogated regarding the activities of the Boys and Girls Band. Member Sara replied by saying he has nothing to do with the regular activities of this Band, as all matters pertaining to the Band are handled by the Board of Directors of the Band and he is only engaged as instructor. The bandmaster for all occasions being our ex-member J. T. Parle. After much discussion of this matter, Secretary instructed to obtain more data for the next Board meeing.

Sergeant-at-Arms Report

Member Fletcher presented his weekly report, same was accepted by the Board, and his account in the amount of $2.20 ordered filed.

Member J. Toevs was called before the Board to answer certain questions with regard to a letter addressed to the Board by the Trial Board, requesting that more definite details in the laying of charges placed before the Trial Board be given the Secretary. Matter was amicably adjusted.

Secretary reported Happy Land at Hastings Park, were using an orchestraphone which might tend to displace our members for the dances and other things at Hastings Park. Secretary instructed to obtain more data regarding same.

President Miller's reply to letter received from Robt. Buller, same having regard to the employment of orchestras for the C. P. C. S. Boats, was approved by the Executive Board.

Price having been requested for Brighouse Park on Empire Day, for a May Day Fete, was regularly moved and seconded that the Board rescind their previous ruling on this price. Motion carried. It was regularly moved and seconded that the price now be $8.00 per man, plus transportation, double pay, leader; minimum 12 men and leader; at the regular rates prescribed in our Price-list,

Strand Theatre Radio Contract

It was regularly moved and seconded that the contract now in force at the Strand Theatre, between our member Geo. Metcalfe and his orchtstra and the management of the Strand Theatre shall terminate at midnight on Saturday, September 1st, 1928. Motion carried.

The matter of responsibility for the appointment of a Sick and Visiting Committee was brought up. Secretary instructed to communicate with the Benevolent Society, informing them that the matter is in their hands entirely and that the reporting of this committee and also the Emergency Fund Committee at the General Meetings of this Union will be made by permission of the Benevolent Society for the sake of expediency.

B. C. Musician

Moved and seconded that Member F. Fletcher be appointed collector and bookkeeper for the B. C. Musician and the Executive Board hereby authorizes Member C. W. White to audit the books; present a complete statement to the Executive Board and turn over the books to Member Fletcher.

Member C. Pearson requested on behalf of Wm. Tweedie to allow an accordian player who is not a member of this Union to sit in and play one or two numbers each night at the Hastings Park Dance Hall. This would not displace any regular member of the orchestra, permission was denied.

Reported to the Board that Member Ed. Bressler had come to the General Meeting, signed his name on the attendance book and had again left before the meeting opened. Member Fletcher instructed to prefer charges against Member Bressler under Section 3, Article XVIII, Constitution and By-laws.

The matter of President Weber's communication re the International Defence Fund Law, which will be taken

Continued on page 3

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MINUTES OF UNION AND EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

Continued from page 2

up at Louisville, Ky., it is the belief of this Executive Board that when the matter comes up for discussion at our next General Meeting, no objection will be taken to same by this Local.

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF MAY 22, 1928

Officer absent, J. Bowyer.

President Miller in the chair. Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m.

The minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of May 15 were adopted as read.

Business Arising Out of Minutes

Secretary's correspondence with President Weber in the matter of the creation of an International Defence Fund was approved.

Secretary's communication to President Weber re communication from the Music Corporation of America was approved and ordered filed.

Secretary's communication to President Weber stating information (on the competition of music machines, phonographs and panatropes, etc., affecting the unemployment opportunities of our members) was approved.

Member Geo. Uren met with the Executive Board and was interrogated regarding the employment of a bugler for the forthcoming Race Meets. Members statement was satisfactory to the Board.

Member Len Chamberlain called before the Executive Board to explain certain statements on the Steward report of the Vancouver Hotel, for the week ending April 28th, 1928. Members statement was satisfactory.

Bills Approved

Burrard Publishing Co., $237.00; Burrard Publishing Co., $3.86; Mitchell Foley Ltd., $8.75; Union Cut in B. C. Musician,$20.00.

Excuses for non-attendance at May Meeting; granted, A. W. Delamont, R. B. McPherson, Len Wilson, Geo. Turner, Fred Parsons, Margaret I. Rayner, Chas. Gaunt, W. W. Robertson, A. S. Hogue, David Walker, A. H. Griffiths, Julian Haywood, Reg. Hopkins.

Radio Contracts Approved

C. J. Cornfield and Radio CNRV; John Harper and Radio CNRV; Norman Northrop and Radio CKWX; Fred Weaver and Radio CKWX.

Stanley Clare fined fifty cents for failure to leave change of address in this office. Secretary's action was approved.

Request from Member Thos. Shankie for permission for the Scottish Orchestra to play at the Shaughnessy Hospital on Wednesday, May 23, 1928 was granted.

Communication from Member W. Fowler ordered filed.

Secretary instructed to order seven hundred fifty (750) copies of the address directory.

Secretary's telegram to Hope Trading Co., of Hope, B. C. was approved.

Condition of the piano at the Shaughnessy Hospital was brought to the attention of the Executive Board. Secretary instructed to confer with the authorities and endeavor to have pianos brought up to International pitch, A-440.

Sergeant-at-Arms Report

Member Fletcher presented his report, which was accepted and his account in the amount of $4.05, ordered paid.

The application of Mrs. E. L. Shepherd, being all in order was approved, and applicant was obligated by President Miller.

Secretary instructed to send a letter to the Benevolent Society, requesting them to refund to this Union the amounts that had been paid them for rent, by Local 118,I.A.T.S.E. and Local 248, M.P.O., to date from the beginning of their tenancy in this office.

Board adjourned at 12:00noon.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF MAY 29, 1928

Officers all present. Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m. President Miller in the chair.

The minutes of the Regular Board meeting of May 22 were adopted as read.

Business Arising Out of the Minutes

Secretary reported seven hundred fifty (750) copies of the address directory which had been ordered would cost $92.80. Price was approved.

Excuse for non-attendance, May Meeting, granted R. Craig.

Secretary reported having interrogated Len Chamberlain re the Steward Report of the Hotel Vancouver for the weeks ending May 5th and May 12th. Matter deferred to next Board Meeting.

Radio Contracts Approved

John Harper and Radio CKCD; John Harper and Radio CKWX; Wm. B. McQueen and Radio CKWX; Roy Endersby and Radio CFCQ.

Applications for Membership

The application W. Cuthbert, cello and bass,was accepted; the amount of $10.00 paid on application was accepted; balance to be paid in thirty (30) days, from date of May 22, 1928.

The application of A. Milne, organ and piano, was accepted together with the amount of $10.00; balance to be paid within thirty (30) days from date of May 26th.

Secretary reported having granted Cyril Bigham permission to play with the Firemen's Band on Tuesday, for the Girl Guides Rally,on consideration of this member expecting to become a member of the Vancouver Fire Department. Secretary's action approved.

Secretary reported information from Mr. J. McVety of the Labor Employment Bureau, that the Immigration Authorities had granted permission for the importation of a lady cornet player for the C.P.R. Boats. Secretary having communicated this information to our member, Miss Joy Calvert. Action was approved.

Unfinished Business

Deferred from General Union Meeting of May 13, 1928.

Matter of permission having been given to the Park's Board Band to play a concert over the radio, gratis. After discussion on this matter, Board rules that each representative Band be granted to play one free radio broadcast per calendar year, dated from January 1st, 1928.

Secretary's communications to Mr. E. A. Jamieson, Secretary Musician's Benevolent Society, regarding the Sick and Visiting Committee; the Emergency Fund Committee and the safe guarding of this Union's property in the office, were approved.

Secretary's communication to the Mayor and the City Council, Secretary of Bellingham Local 251,A. F. of M., Mr. Garfield King, Vancouver, B. C., J. B. Williams, City Solicitor, Vancouver, B. C., same having to do with the City's recent employment of the Vancouver Boys and Girls Band to represent this City, in Bellingham for the Tulip Festival, was approved.

Secretary read replies from His Worship the Mayor, Louis D. Taylor; City Solicitor, J. B. Williams; same were ordered filed for reference. Secretary instructed to reply to the City Solicitor's letter and also to communicate with the Trades and Labor Council and the Civic Employees' Union, on this same matter.

Sergeant-at-Arms' Report

Member F. Fletcher presented his weekly report, which upon motion was accepted and his account in the amount of $14.65 ordered paid. In connection with the Sergeant-at-Arms report the Executive Board prefers charges against the folowing members of Local 654, New Westminster: R. E. Mackness, H. Morris, R. Beamish, G. H. Brooks, W. Weaver, A. P. Chaplin, C. Percy, F. Stanton, B. M. Richards, S. Flower, J. Hogbin, W. M. Cosman, H. Broughton, A. E. Lyons, H. Moss, A. Buckingham, A. P. Pilling, A. J. Oxenbury; A. Clarke and F. M. Filgiano of Local 145.

On the following counts;

A. Clarke, charged with violation of Section 1, Article 12, of the Constitution and By-laws of the A. F. of M., in that he did play an engagement at Brighouse Park, in the jurisdiction of Local 145, A. F. of M., on May24, 1928, below the scale, as set forth in the price-list of Local 145.

Also that he did, the same engagement play with an expelled member of Local 145, contrary to the second paragraph of Section 19 of Article 10 of the By-laws of the A. F. of M.

Also that he did play this engagement whilst on the Suspended List of Local 145, which is a violation of Section 3 of Article 17, of the By-laws of Local 145, A. F. of M.

Also that he did play this engagement without a fully paid-up card and did play with other members of Local 654, who did not carry paid-up cards, which is a violation of the last paragraph of Section 10, Article 12 of the Constitution and By-laws of the A. F. of M.

F. M. Filgiano, charged with playing on an engagement at Brighouse Park, in the jurisdiction of Local 145, A. F. of M., on May 24, 1928, below the scale as set forth in the Price-list of Local 145, which is a violation of Section 1, Article 12, of the Constitution and By-laws of the A. F. of M.

Also in that he did play said engagement, after being expelled from Local 145, for non-payment of dues etc., which is a violation of the second paragraph of Section 19 of Article10 of the By-laws of the A. F. of M.

Also that he did play this engagement without a fully paid-up card, which is a violation of the last paragraph of Section 10 of Article 12 of the Constitution and By-laws of the A. F. of M.

Also that he did play said engage- Local 145, which is a violation of Section 3 of Article 17, of the By-laws of Local 145, A. F. of M.

Also that he did play with other members of Local 654 who did not carry fully paid-up cards, which is a violation of the last paragraph of Section 10 of Article 12 of the Constitution and By-laws of the A. F. of M.

Charges preferred against Members, A. Buckingham, A. P. Pilling, A. J. Oxenbury, in that they did play an en-

Continued on page 4

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MINUTES OF UNION AND EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

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gagement at Brighouse Park, in the jurisdiction of Local 145 on May 24, 1928 at a price below that as set forth in the price-list of Local 145, which is a violation of Section 1 of Article 12 of the By-laws of the A. F. of M.

Also that they played said engagement with a suspended member of Local 145, which is a violation of Section 3 of article 17 of the By-laws of Local 145.

Also that they did play engagement with members of Local 654 who were playing engagement without fully paid-up cards, which is a violation of the last paragraph of Section10 of Article 12 of the Constitution and By-laws of the A. F. of M.

Also that they did play this engagement with an expelled member of Local 145, which is a violation of the Second paragraph of Section 19 of Article 10 of the Constitution and By-laws of the A. F. of M.

Charges were preferred against following members: R. E. Mackness, H. Morris, R. Beamish, G. H. Brooks, W. Weaver, A. P. Chaplin, C. Percy, F. Stanton, B. M. Richards, S. Flower, J. Hogbin, W. M. Cosman, H. Broughton and A. E. Lyons.

In that they did play an engagement at Brighouse Park in the jurisdiction of Local 145, A. F. of M., May 24, 1928 below the scale as set forth in the Price-list of Local 145, A. F. of M., which is a violation of Section 1 of Article 12 of the Constitution and By-laws of the A. F. of M.

Also that they did play said engagement with an expelled member of Local 145, which is a violation of Section 3 of Article 17 of the By-laws of Local 145.

Also that they did play said engagement without carrying paid-up cards themselves and with other members who did not carry paid-up cards, which is a violation of the last paragraph of Section 10 of Article 12 of the Constitution and By-laws of the A. F. of M.

Charges were also preferred against H. Moss, member of Local 654, in that he did contract for and play an engagement at Brighouse Park which is in the jurisdiction of Local 145, A. F. of M. on May 24, 1928 for a band of twenty (20) pieces including leader, for a price of one hundred ($100.00) dollars, which is below the scale as set forth in the Price-list of Local 145, A. F. of M., which is a violation of Section 1 of Article 12 of the Constitution and By-laws of the A. F. of M.

Also that he did employ A. Clarke, who is a suspended member of Local 145, which is a violation of Section 3 of Article 17 of the By-laws of Local 145, A. F. of M.

Also that he did employ F. Filgiano, who is an expelled member of Local 145, which is a violation of the second paragraph of Section 19 of Article 10 of the Constitution and By-laws of the A. F. of M.

Also that he did play this engagement without carrying a fully paid-up card and did employ other members of Local 654 who did not carry paid-up cards, which is a violation of the last paragraph of Section 10 of Article 12 of the Constitution and By-laws of the A. F. of M.

Member L. Holland was granted permission to play at a free concert being given for the blind at the Empress Theatre.

Transfer Card of member George Aylett, from Local 190, Winnipeg was accepted under the following conditions, that member cannot try out for nor take any permanent engagement without first receiving the necessary sanction of the Executive Board of this Local.

Member Harold Copley met with the Board and requested a ruling as to the using of amplifiers in conjunction with anorchestra. After discussion on this matter, Board rules that amplifiers will not come within the scope of the Broadcasting Law of this Local, provided they are not placed more than 25 yards in each direction from where the band or orchestra is playing.

Board adjourned at 12 noon.

WILL EDMUNDS,
Recording Secretary

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The past few years has placed Vancouver permanently on the map as a distributing point of various high-grade lines of musical merchandise.

This fact is more than ever called to our attention on account of a visit to the European markets just completed by Mr. Arthur B. Miller, of the Vancouver Music Co. Ltd. Mr. Miller had a very interesting trip throughout France, Italy, Austria, Czechoslovakia, and Germany.

In Italy arrangements were made whereby the world's largest Accordion Factory places with him the distribution of their instruments for all of North America. Canadian headquarters will first be located in Vancouver.

In Vienna, and points in Germany, a collection of 70 old Violins and Violoncellos were purchased. Many of these will be on exhibit in Vancouver, and these specimens would be of interest to musicians throughout the entire Dominion.

In Paris arrangements for the distribution of the famous Buffet Clarionets and other instruments, were completed, and this well-known merchandise will be distributed in Canada through a local office.

Mr. Miller reports conditions somewhat improved in Europe over his visit in 1922. However, the North American continent is the best place in the world to live at the present time, and musicians in either Canada or the States are enjoying more privileges, better wages and working conditions than are the artists of Europe.

TRADES AND LABOR NEWS

(Reported by C. E. Fitzgerald and E. J. Tennant. Delegates Bowyer, E. Cox, Tony Miller, W. E. Williams, Fraser, Kennedy present.)

At the meeting of the Trades and Labor Council on May 1st, the result of the plebiscite on the question of the Oriental Franchise was declared as being 30 unions opposed, 3 in favor, and 2 no action. The delegates of the T. & L. Council were accordingly instructed to vote against this measure at the next meeting of the Canadian Labor Party.

A motion was introduced by the Bridge Builders' Union instructing the Trades and Labor Council to withdraw from affiliation with the Canadian Labor Party. The reason advanced for this proposal was that the placing of the Oriental Franchise as a plank in that Party's platform was prejudicial to the true interests of organized labor, and the Canadian Labor Party was, therefore, not truly representative of the Council and its objects. The motion was strenuously debated at great length. The Left Wing sparred desperately for time, and employed all legitimate tactics, (and sometime illegitimate tactics) to prevent the motion being adopted. This question was finally referred to a plebiscite of all the affiliated locals and the result will be declared at the first meeting in June. It should be noted that the Canadian Labor Party on the 28th of May reaffirmed its action concerning the Oriental Franchise.

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of the shell, the criticism was still so severe that Bentley, its architect, died it is believed from a broken heart. The cathedral has four domes which gives it a mosque-like appearance and a campanile which rises to a height of some 300 feet or more. The nave is easily the widest of any cathedral in England; and the arrangement of having the choir in concert formation at the back of the high altar, gives it finer accoustics than any other church. The interior will take many, many more years before it is finally completed in marbles and mosaic as intended; but some of the side chapels are finished, which gives the visitor a sample rich in beauty of what the cathedral ultimately will be. One of these chapels was constructed at the expense of Lord Brampton, who was formerly Mr. Justice Hawkins, the famous criminal judge, and who had become a convert to the Roman faith. To give our readers some slight idea of the expense necessary for the completion of the decorative work, let me cite one or two items. The baldachino over the high altar cost $100,000. The Lady Chapel a similar sum. To decorate the four domes with inlaid mosaics will cost $500,000. When one views the interior of this great cathedral, the immense height of the ceiling, its spacious nave and numerous chapels, and above these the long galleries, and then again the magnitude of the apse and chancel, all of which are planned to be completed in rich marbles and mosaics, one might then form an idea of what the eventual cost will be. From what I can gather the ultimate sum expended on its adornment, etc., will run into several million pounds (not dollars). As previously stated, the reception of the news that the design was to be Byzantine instead of orthodox Gothic was very caustic. In the course of time that has passed since its erection, the critics have not only become accustomed to this new style of architecture (which is really older than Gothic), but now acclaim Westminster Cathedral as the finest church in Western Europe, and the best building in London for purity of design. The fame of this cathedral has become widespread now not only on account of its beauty of design, but more recently for the wonderful music rendered at its services. The director of music is Dr. Terry, who is possibly the foremost musician in the country engaged in cathedral music. Sometime after he was appointed to the post, he was allowed access to the pre-reformation manuscripts of masses, that were kept in the British Museum. Many of these masses by Bryd and others were written for five, six and seven voices, and set in the old-time quarter-tone notation. Dr. Terry has re-arranged these to modern notation, and the same are being sung in that cathedral, often unaccompanied, similar to the Sistine Chapel in Rome, by the loveliest choir it is imaginable to hear. Such is the reputation of this choir that a special deputation was sent by Pope Pius X. from Rome to hear and report.

Very likely several of our readers are now anxious to learn how music and musicians, etc., fare in the Old Land, in these post-war days of high taxation. I regret to say very badly. The high taxation has hit the show business so much that there is a general reduction in the size of orchestras. The only outstanding orchestra in London maintaining its pre-war dimensions, is the Royal Opera, which still carries a personnel of over 100 performers. The Imperial Russian Ballet orchestra employs about 60 players. Musical comedy orchestras in the West-end which formerly had from 40 to 50, are now 30 or less. There are no picture theatre orchestras of a large size similar to those in the United States; that of the Tivoli, 25 musicians, I believe to be the largest. However, a new picture house (or

Post War Britain

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cinemas as they are called over there) is being constructed on the site of the old "Empire," and it is stated that it will seat approximately 6,000; so it is more than likely an orchestra of symphonic dimensions will be employed at that house. Dramatic and entre-acte orchestras have been woefully cut down. I was told that often there were only four players used in the latter, and sometimes a piano alone. I was surprised to note that vaudeville was considerably reduced. Such high-class houses as the Palace Theatre of Varieties, the London Hippodrome, etc., now play musical comedy. I asked for an explanation and was informed that the demand for artists by the movies (many of whom have gone to Hollywood) was so great and the salaries so high, that in consequence this type of entertainment was considerably curtailed. Long runs for plays nowadays are very few. When we remember that the "Chinese Honeymoon" ran nearly four years, ditto the "Country Girl." That the "Merry Widow" ran almost three years and then had to be taken off not because it had exhausted its attractiveness, but only on account of a contract that compelled Dalys Theatre to put on the "Dollar Princess" by a certain date. Then when we think of the five-years' run of "Chu Chin Chow," not to mention several others, we can rest positively assured that London will not only give a good reception to a good play, but its theatre patrons will visit and revisit a theatre to see a musical comedy or farce if it is of the requisite quality. However, the times for the present have changed. Managers are at their wits end to obtain a success and a moderate run. Their hopes for a long run have considerably dwindled in these hard times. Some say that the cause is not altogether due to the excessive taxation; but the present prevailing craze for the movies, has much to do with the depression in the legitimate show business. Before I left, from the information conveyed to me, the restoration to public favor of the playhouse was now evident; as all the signs pointed to the failure of the picture house to hold the public attention, just in the same way jazz in England became a lugubrious failure.

Concerts have been badly hit by the radio (they call it the wireless). Their system for radio and broadcasting is much better than what we have in America. The Government demands a charge for all licenses issued to owners of radio sets, which they must have in their possession before listening-in. The Treasury keeps half of this tax, and the residue is turned over to the British Broadcasting Company (which is given monopoly rights) for the purpose of providing entertainment. The result is with no competition and an assured income, this company has established orchestras and bands at various stations all over the land; besides engaging the very best talent of the concert platform and theatre, linguistic lecturers and those on other subjects, choirs, etc., etc. In London the broadcasting orchestra have players of the calibre of Charles Draper the exquisite clarinettist, who is the professor of that instrument at the Royal College of Music and whose executant ability at any time can be heard on the Columbia records sold in our music stores, and yet he occupies the second chair only. The orchestra is conducted by Mr. John Ansell, probably some of our members have played his compositions; but at times a noted conductor and composer such as Stravinsky may conduct the orchestra in the performance of his own works. The orchestra is of sufficient dimensions to perform a repertoire of all classical standard works. The Military band, I think, is conducted by Mr. O'Donnell, who I understand was one of the most brilliant students that ever came out of the Royal Academy of Music and Knellar Hall. This band has a group of brilliant clarinet players, that it would be indeed difficult to match by a similar group in any other part of the world, in addition to having other fine artists as instrumentalists. It is easily seen then that with such extremely fine talent, when one is sitting in his own home with a radio, there is little or no inducement to go to a concert hall. Sir Henry Wood's Queens Hall Orchestra was nearly doomed to extinction last year, till the British Broadcasting Company took over the concerts, and reduced the season down to six weeks from twelve or so, and broadcasted them. Needless to say the remuneration of these artists employed on the radio, for a steady engagement is the most highly paid in the country.

Though the cost of living is as high, if not higher than here, the salaries by comparison are much lower. Clothes and some other articles may be cheaper than ours; but this is more than made up by the fearful taxation direct and indirect. Single persons are exempt up to $675.00 and are then assessed 20%. Married persons are exempt up to $1,250.00, and a certain amount is allowed for each child under sixteen years of age. House rent is much higher than the pre-war days. It will be thus seen that a minimum salary of £5.0.0. for eight shows in a week for musical comedy (equivalent to $25.00), in a West-end house, by our standards is the reverse of a good salary. Just before I left, the London Branch of the Musicians' Union were demanding $30.00 for eight shows. However, over there the managers refuse to sign any contracts, and there is no stated season for enforcing new demands that I know of. If they find that they cannot find the class of musician they require for the $25.00, they will pay the $30.00 and reduce the orchestra; which is not difficult for them to do, as the Musicians' Union have no minimum law similar to ours. This is a fact, as at the time I was there, when the Shaftesbury Theatre management was notified of the portending change in the price-list, they decided to re-open with a new play with an orchestra reduced by five members, who were thereby added to the already overwhelming list of unemployed. Though the organization of musicians in Great Britain as represented by the Musicians' Union and its branches, is much better than it was before the amalgamation, when there were two societies, viz, the National Orchestral Association and the Amalgamated Musicians' Union, and for a short period, the Federation of Professional Musicians which had its headquarters in Manchester; nevertheless when compared to the A.F. of M., it is in my opinion still a weak body and lacks proper combative powers. A price-list is issued; but when I asked if it was enforced they laughed. Probably it was in the West-end where the wealthy theatres are situated; but not in the suburbs, where the bulk of the musicians are employed. The enforcement of the law is a joke. When I showed them our laws and price-list and those of the A.F. of M. and told them of the punishments and fines enforced over here, they said why a fine may be placed on a member for an extraordinary infraction to the amount of seven shillings and sixpence; but often it is not paid, and little or no attempt is made to obtain it from the offender. The West-end theatre orchestras are invariably made up of union men; but not so in the suburbs. Here union and non-unionism mix quite frequently despite the pleadings of the organizers.

There are no affiliations between the musicians, the stage employees and projectionists; so, without that united action that we have here, there is little or no sting behind any threats to enforce terms. The musicians of the West-end have to depend entirely on the selling power of music, rendered by real good players who know their business; and it is fortunate they have audiences who will not tolerate music badly played, and whose knowledge of perfect rendition makes them very critical of musicianship. The apparently incurable snobbishness of the better-class musician to others, I am afraid, is the secret of their undoing. Since the Musicians' Union has been formed, the old London Orchestral Association has become a club. To join it now a fee of £5.5.0 is required, and very likely in the near future it will be raised; there is also a stipulation that the applicant must have been a member of the Musicians' Union for not less than one year. The idea of a possible increase of the entrance fee is not on account of a shortage of funds, (of money the club has plenty); but in order to keep the Orchestral Association conservative and select to the high-class player, and incidentally to prevent the newcomer from obtaining entrance. The club or L. O. A. numbers about 2500. Through the economical upsets due to the war, many good amateurs of the old days now have turned professional to augment their salary. It is a pitiful sight now as the result of these conditions to see the great crowd of out-of-works, and non-members of the L. O. A. and club, crowding across Archer St. every afternoon in front of the club premises, looking for any odd job that may be thrown to them. The crowd at times becomes so large that the police has strict orders to maintain a right-of-way in order to permit the traffic to pass. I had several chats with

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Post War Britain

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Mr. Fred Orcherton, the President of the L. O. A., and Mr. Fort Greenwood, the Secretary of the London Branch of the Musician's Union, and both emphasized the difficulty of keeping up a strong organization, especially on account of being so near the continent, where so many musicians were so easily procurable; and the unwillingness of the average good player to be more generally affiliated to the great body of labor. This is plainly evident when so many musicians maintain that music is an art and not a trade, and those following this pursuit were consequently professionals and not workers.

Musical directors have an association of their own, and generally speaking are not in the Musicians' Union. The majority of members assert that they (the M. D.'s) belong to the front of the house and that their interests are more allied to the managerial side than to the members of the orchestra. The training schools such as the Royal College of Music, the Royal Academy of Music, the Guildhall School of Music, and Trinity College of Music are prolific as ever in turning out accomplished musicians. I had the pleasure of visiting the R. C. M. on four occasions, twice to the concert hall, and twice to the Parry Theatre in the College. Our late member George Johnston was the principal clarinet in an orchestra of some 60 or 70 performers organized from the student scholars, and re-inforced by some principals and professors. It was indeed a pleasure to hear him play so fluently and artistically the most difficult of passages, in the most intricate of musical works. The amazing ability of these young people is astounding. At the last concert which was conducted by Mr. Adrian Boult the first number was a pianoforte concerto played by a young lad, and the third and fifth were also pianoforte concertos played by young girls in each instance. All three concertos being accompanied by the orchestra. These young artists seemed to me to be not more than twenty years of age in each instance, and yet their expression, technique, and mastery of their subjects, which in each case was played without the score, and moreover, lasted for some twenty minutes for each number, was indeed remarkable. I could not help admiring the contrabasses. They were artists having a complete control over their instruments. It was really fascinating to see and hear them play with such facile ease, and watch their fingers travelling up and down the finger-board, with the dexterity of a violinist in all positions. This all goes to show that to be a real musician and worthy of the Art, a player must be properly taught by a thoroughly qualified teacher, and better still to graduate through a good centre for ensemble playing such as a college or academy.

In my tour up and down England I was very eager to obtain all the information concerning trade and labor that I could gather. From all quarters according to the statements made to me, it is maintained that the General Strike of 1926 was a bad blunder. The whole fault it appears to be is through allowing the Miners' Federation to be dominated by an extremist such as Mr. Cook, who was General Secretary at the time; instead of a rational man like Mr. Hodges, the former General Secretary. The Miners' Federation is easily the largest union in the Trades Union Congress, and consequently has an enormous influence in shaping the policy of not only the T. U. C. but the Labor Party also. I was told that the great majority of people, irrespective of class, were in sympathy with the case of the miners; but the adoption of the principle of the General Strike was repulsive, as that was inflicting suffering on innocent people not concerned with the quarrel; and if successful would be the means of supplanting Parliament by the Trades Union Congress in the government of the country. This meant according to those who held to this idea that the power would pass to those who were in the minority, and simply maintained their position because they had control of the necessary means of existence. Consequently, when the strike was in operation, many of those who were at first in sympathy with the miners, veered over to the side of the Government and helped to break it. I asked why labor in England did not keep out of politics the same as the A.F. of L. and discard the principle of the General Strike, stating that President Green was very out-spoken in his condemnation of the strike on general lines, which was at that time in force in Britain. The principle of the American Federation of Labor is to abhor the General Strike; but to give every assistance to the union involved within reason. I was informed that while the general body of labor was far from being radical, that for a long period the Communistic Party of Russia had concentrated its efforts on the Old Country, believing that if it could induce the British proletariat to establish the communal ideals there, it would not be long before the remainder of the world followed suit. However, I see by the "Daily Press" the T. U. C. has determinedly rejected all overtures from Russia, and avow that the British will keep to the old and tried principles of collective bargaining of the trade-union system that has stood the test of many years, during which time Russia was steeped in the slough of re-action and tyranny. From all accounts, though most of the unions have become bankrupt as the result of the General Strike, they were now recovering. In order to prevent another disaster of a similar nature, which, had it lasted much longer, not only would have smashed trades unions but the country also; or would have indefinitely prevented the nation from making good from the effects of the war, a strong tendency has grown up to have more round-table conversations between the masters and employees; or better still to adopt some plan of compulsory arbitration to avoid such another catastrophe. I understand that in many of the great firms, representatives of the employees are now placed on the Boards of Directors to ensure proper treatment of the men, and for the settlement of grievances; so we can see that much good may come out of the struggle, and there may be greater mutual respect from one side to the other should any dispute arise.

My story has now come to its final conclusion, what with pressing letters arriving from Canada urging my return, and the discovery that though I had many friends in the Old Land, I had still many more in the Dominion; also the difficulty of readily settling down to the customs and habits of the tight little Island after the freedom of contact and sociability in Canada, I made up my mind to return, and accordingly booked my passage on the "Empress of France" sailing from Southampton on the 3rd of September. We had a jolly company on board. Ship life I believe to be the most unconventional of any other. Introductions are not necessary, it is a case of just making yourself at home. A short run brought us to Cherbourg to pick up some passengers from Paris. The trip across the ocean was uneventful, our time being mostly taken up with games, or continually eating from morning to night. About the 7th, Newfoundland was passed, and then the Island of Anticosti which was once owned by Meunier, the French chocolate king; and who, because of his ownership, tried to transfer the territorial rights to the French Government, thus nearly causing a first-class international dispute. On the night of the 9th of September we passed close to the "Empress of Scotland" bound for Southampton, with the Prince of Wales on board. At the moment of passing her, I had a good illustration of the fondness of Americans for royalty, by the boisterous "bon voyage" they gave him as his ship steamed by ours. Our vessel arrived at Rimouski early next morning, and later we had a magnificent view of the St. Lawrence as far as Quebec in fine weather, where we landed about 3:00 p.m. I had made good friends with a couple of graduates from Oxford University, and several delightful American ladies which made me loath to say goodby; but such is the case whenever one travels, we make friends only to lose them again. The train journey was the usual boresome type, hot and dusty, and really did not become interesting till we reached the Rockies on the 13th. I noticed that the trans-Canada highway through the mountains is making great progress, and according to all accounts it will soon be completed. Vancouver was reached the following morning about 8:00 a.m. on the 14th.

I feel very grateful for the warm-hearted reception received from all my friends on my return, and through the medium of this article I wish to personally thank them if I have not done so already. The mountains of B. C. look good to me, moreover, the hospitality of the people with whom I have come in contact, has made me feel very much at home again. Thus ends the tale of a wandering minstrel from Vancouver, B. C., through the Panama Canal to Merrie Old England, the cradle of our tongue and race, and back via Quebec.

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