

MUSICIANS MARCH

TODAY AT NOON

Orchestras and Stage Hands of
Orpheum and Gayety in
Procession

TO BAN AMERICAN PLAYERS

Assurances From Immigration
Department Given President
Foster — "Burlesque at
Gayety," Said Leader

In connection with the strike at the Orpheum and Gayety theatres there will be a parade through the principal streets today at noon of the musicians and stage employees who are at war to have their new scale of wages recognized. There will be from one hundred to one hundred and twenty-five musicians in the procession so that the music they will produce will come from one of the largest massed bands that has marched for some time through the streets.

The object of the demonstration is to impress on the public the fact that there is still a strike, and that the workers feel confident of success. Their repertoire as they march through the streets will include some favorite theatre selections, and it is the intention to feature "It's a Long Way to Tipperary" on the most crowded portions of the march. They will leave the club headquarters at 41 St. Catherine street west, and proceed as follows: Down St. Lawrence Boulevard to St. James street, west to Victoria Square, up Beaver Hall Hill to St. Catherine street, and east on St. Catherine street to the club quarters once more. The permission given to march does not include the right to stop, and at the Orpheum the only way they can demonstrate as they want to is to march slowly past, playing as they go.

President Foster, of the Trades and Labor Council of the city, has written to Ottawa with respect to alleged infractions of the Alien Labor Law in bringing musicians from the United States to take the place of the musicians who played at the Gayety theatre. He has received replies from the Minister of Labor and the Superintendent of Immigration to the effect that since the 8th instant the immigration inspectors have received instructions not to allow alien musicians to cross the border to take the place of Canadian workers, and that there will be an investigation with regard to those who are at present working in the Gayety theatre. The question as to whether the player of an instrument in an orchestra is a laborer or an artist will have to be decided in this connection. On the one hand it is claimed that music is an art, and that its votaries are therefore artists, and on the other hand that they gain their daily bread by blowing, sawing at or pounding their instruments, and that therefore they work regularly at it as a daily avocation and are therefore to be called workers.

President Foster last night commented on Manager Driscoll's statement some time ago that he would not be dictated to by an American agitator, saying that he would find enough English Union musicians to take their places. "He found it hard to get English trade unionists who would help in breaking a strike, and so he had to go to the United States to get them. Everything is going well from the standpoint of the men, and there is every prospect of an early settlement. Things are not going so well at the theatres with their make-shift crews as the managers try to make out. There has been burlesque at the Gayety theatre since the men struck in every sense of the word."