"The Musicians and Petrillo," by Robert D. Leiter (Bookman Assoc. 202 pp. \$3.75), is the story of the American Federation of Musicians and its colorful leader. Congressman Carroll D. Kearns, who reviews it below. was chairman of the subcommittee that investigated James C. Petrillo and the AFofM for the Eightieth Congress.

### By Carroll D. Kearns

N "The Musicians and Petrillo" Robert D. Leiter has portrayed most interestingly the development of the American Federation of Musicians from its beginnings to its present high estate under the leadership of the dynamic James Caesar Petrillo. He writes as a historian, yet interjects so many sidelights about Mr. Petrillo that the reader finds himself turning the pages expectantly almost as though it were fiction. He emphasizes the importance of the late Joseph M. Weber and explains how his conservative philosophy of union organization played such an important part in the forming of a well-working and highly functionable body, which Mr. Petrillo was to inherit and carry to even greater heights. But it is only when Mr. Leiter gets into the real meat of his story—which is James C. Petrillo and how he molded the thinking of this group of professionals into his pattern of operation—that he hits his stride. He describes the rise of this labor leader, from a poor little lad, through a rough journey of life, to the top position in one of the greatest membership bodies of the American Federation of Labor. He shows how Petrillo's ability to delve into such phases of union organization as restriction of membership and the revision of the laws of 1908, when the inroads of the service bands were first considered competition (as late as last month Petrillo still objected to service band competition), plus his continual changing of laws and bylaws, enabled him to make the union function in a manner best suited to the goals he had in mind.

Petrillo's rapid climb in the Chicago union was interrupted by Charles Bagley of Los Angeles, who defeated him for the office of vice president. But that was only a momentary setback in his career, and he was able to overcome all obstacles and finally succeed Weber as international president. Petrillo's leap from Chicago to New York-where the long struggle for supremacy in the American Fed-

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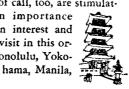


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years—ended in success for Petrillo and put his organizational problems behind him for all time.

Mr. Leiter properly has no hesitancy in spanking Petrillo when he deserves to be spanked and praising him when he deserves praise. He deals well with the technological encroachments of the entertainment industry; particularly good coverage is given to sound in movies, to AM and FM in radio, and to television. Petrillo fought all technological developments, yet was forced to succumb to them as all men, regardless of stature, must do when science finally overtakes them.

Petrillo was probably one of the most dictatorial union figures in the country in 1946. Almost every edition of the press headlined some of his powers being exerted in various sections of the country and even in Canada. This high ride was short-lived for Petrillo, and fortunately so.

The part of the book dealing with the Congressional hearings was naturally most interesting to me as chairman of the subcommittee which under a public law was authorized to investigate James C. Petrillo and the American Federation of Musicians. The author is correct in stating that Mr. Petrillo made several immediate and tangible concessions as a result of his appearance before the subcommittee. I was most happy to note that Mr. Leiter singled out the code of ethics with the American Association of School Administrators and the Music Educators National Conference which permitted students to perform in public, to broadcast, and to make

of their music education when such was non-commercial and non-competitive in nature. This was also true of the service bands pertaining to recordings to be used for educational purposes and public concerts given free at public request.

It is significant to note that it was about the same time that the Congressional investigations were being concluded that Mr. Petrillo for the first time gave evidence of tolerance to new technological inroads, namely the innovation of FM radio and television. These two new industries, affecting employment, wage scales, and further technical development, were given patient consideration by Mr. Petrillo and afforded an opportunity to get their feet on the ground before full union regulations were demanded.

Mr. Leiter's book is a good one. Mr. Petrillo should take no exceptions to it, nor should others mentioned therein. Petrillo will always be Petrillo. But there is no doubt that the musicians throughout the country have benefited greatly by his insistence on better wages and working conditions. The vast prestige that the profession has enjoyed in the last four years is the outgrowth of a change in attitude and policy of Mr. Petrillo. I have found, as others have, that Mr. Petrillo drives a hard bargain in all his negotiations. But once "the deal is made," to use his own expression, he keeps it—he is truly a man of his word. I join with Joseph H. Ream, former vice president of the Columbia Broadcasting Company, who said, "So far as I know, Mr. Petrillo is always a gentleman.'

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## 'i'ne Civir War

Continued from page 19

a segregated school, arranged for her education in Salem, Massachusetts. Here in the hive of Yankee abolitionism she met many antislavery leaders, delighted in their lectures, and resolved to do her part to end slavery and discrimination. Her great opportunity came in 1862 when she went to Port Royal, South Carolina, as a teacher of illiterate "contrabands" left when their masters had been forced to evacuate the Sea Islands.

The diarist, a young, sensitive, intelligent girl, recorded her inmost reactions to racial prejudice. Her journal entries for the years 1854-64, though often effusive and exclamatory, provide a remarkably clear insight into her intellectual growth and her dedication to the "holy cause" of helping her "oppressed and suffering people."

Mr. Billington's excellent editing of the journal greatly increases its usefulness. —J. Merton England.

JOHNNY REB'S STORY: In the 1880's. when Confederate brigadiers were weaving a romantic legend of the Lost Cause, Sam Watkins of Tennessee decided it was high time that a private who "took a small part in the fracas" tell his version of it. His account, first carried serially in his home-town newspaper, soon appeared in book form in an edition of two thousand copies. It sold quickly, and the book remained out of print until 1900. Now Bell Irvin Wiley, the historian of the common soldier in the Civil War, has made available a third edition of Watkins's delightful "'Co. Aytch,' Maury Grays, First Tennessee Regiment; or, A Side Show of the Big Show" (McCowat-Mercer Press, Jackson, Tenn., \$5).

Sam Watkins was in every march, skirmish, and battle of the First Tennessee Regiment during the war. His feet peeled like an onion tramping West Virginia hills under "Fool Tom Jackson"; he became a starved skeleton, scourged by diarrhea and dispirited by defeat, under Bragg; he regained his strength, morale, and deadly fighting prowess under "the born soldier," Joe Johnston; and he saw his fine army degenerate into a ragged mob when the Gallant Hood "played hell in Tennessee."

Soldiering in the Army of Tennessee is well revealed by Sam Watkins. A score of years later he could record vividly the sounds and scenes of battle or his reaction to the sickening odor of rotting flesh at a hospital. Nevertheless, tragedy is often relieved by humor.

—J. M. E.