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Norwich, Friday, April 7, 1911.

The Circulation of The Bulletin.

The Bulletin has the largest circulation of any paper in Eastern Connecticut, and from three to four times larger than that of any in Norwich. It is delivered to over 3,000 of the 4,000 houses in Norwich, and read by ninety-three per cent. of the people. In Windham it is delivered to over 300 houses, in Putnam and Danielson to over 1,100, and in all of these places it is considered the local daily.

Eastern Connecticut has forty-nine towns, one hundred and sixty-five postoffice districts, and forty-one rural free delivery routes.

The Bulletin is sold in every town and on all of the R. F. D. routes in Eastern Connecticut.

CIRCULATION

1901, average	4,413
1905, average	5,920
Week ending April 1,	8,075

PARCELS POST.

The parcels post movement will not down. The fact that the last congress just turned the whole matter down and would not favor even a rural route experiment has aroused the promoters of it in all parts of the country.

The Chicago Tribune has this to say upon the subject:

"A conference of great importance has been called by the Postal Progress league for April 25 in Washington. This conference will consider plans for legislation on the subject of postal service, and it should be attended especially by representatives of organizations interested in the parcels post.

"Five thousand invitations to governors, commercial and agricultural societies, and civic and political clubs have been sent out, and it is expected that members of the diplomatic corps will tell the conference of the workings of the postal systems abroad.

"What happened to the modest little proposal for an experiment in the parcels post in the last congress shows that it is war. If we are ever to have this extension of our postal service, our movement must be more concerted and concentrated. The press should take it up without delay and keep it in the public and the congressional mind from now on.

"At present the opposition seems to be intrenched, but the next congress will be stronger from the point of view of popular legislation, and a substantial beginning may be made if the fight is got out before the people."

PUBLIC INDIFFERENCE.

The Hartford Courant very appropriately calls the public indifference which is constantly being shown up in New England, "sleeping self-government," and it looks as if most New England communities were suffering from the true sleeping sickness.

Commenting on Tuesday's election, The Courant says:

"But here we have a picture of Hartford at a city election—half the male voters stay away from the polls, three-quarters of the female voters stay away, of the voters who do vote the number who neglect to vote on incidental non-political questions ranges from a fifth to a half. A half do not care to vote at all and of those who do vote a half do not take any interest in the questions presented to them. This is self-government."

There is the case of Northfield, Mass., with a defaulting selectman whose accounts haven't been audited for seven years, now awake to slipshod methods wholly attributable to public indifference, and it has to be said: "Had the auditors done their duty this selectman would have been caught the first year he went wrong or perhaps, better still, if he knew that his accounts would be gone over as they should be, he would never have tampered with the treasury. As it is now the town is out the money and the embezzler is in bed, suffering from a nervous breakdown, and likely to go to jail or prison."

And such evidences of the neglect of public business are coming up nearly every week.

Perhaps a commission form of government with a good sized civic league to show a live interest in these matters would be a real improvement.

A couple residing in Heavenly Houston have separated because they could not agree on what they would do with a million if Carnegie should give them one.

Congressman Cannon was in order when he told the democratic majority that it was not necessary for it to use the minority any meaner than the republicans did.

The supreme court of the United States is giving the trusts some hard knocks, and the indications are that it will knock out some of their tyrannic rules.

Cornelius Vanderbilt could not cross his legs in a New York court without being found in contempt. The liberties of a millionaire are limited.

There is no denying that Rembrandt's Mill goes on paying dividends although it has never started a wheel or employed an operative.

The Chicago News says: Direct primaries continue to loom up as the greatest thing the professional politicians ever tried to assassinate.

The democratic house and the seventeen-year locusts arrived together, and now it is being figured out which is the worse for the country.

HOW BUSINESS HAS IMPROVED.

Evidence that business has greatly improved since the tariff bill was passed and gave confidence for the immediate business future, are many; but perhaps none is better than this:

The record of defaults in the New England states shows a falling off in total commercial liabilities in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Connecticut, but increases in Vermont and Rhode Island. In Massachusetts the liabilities were $1,101,056 as compared with $1,275,035 in 1910. In the six New England states the total liabilities amounted to $2,157,469 against $2,740,136 last year.

	Number.		Liabilities.	
	1911.	1910.	1911.	1910.
Maine,	33	57	$387,424	$685,631
N. H.,	5	8	27,167	43,469
Vt.,	10	12	97,565	82,735
Mass.,	152	136	1,101,056	1,275,035
Conn.,	54	60	351,777	618,420
R. I.,	33	8	182,480	35,866
N. E.	287	281	$2,157,469	$2,740,136

Better still might have been the record of this year, but for the menace of a democratic revision. Capital is losing confidence every day, and will until congress stops meddling with the successful economic policies of the country.

AQUATIC EXERCISE.

There is a sentiment among the alumni of Brown for the revival of rowing as an exercise and attraction. The Providence Journal, in advocating the matter, said:

"While college rowing is an expensive sport as at present maintained, it can be conducted on a modest basis. The other day the Massachusetts Institute of Technology received a challenge from the United States naval academy to row an eight-oar race at Annapolis. 'Tech' has neither a boathouse nor a boat, but the challenge was promptly accepted, and the race will take place in a little over three weeks. A certain amount of training is necessary for an aquatic contest like this, even when the course is only a mile or two in length; but the alumni crews that are hastily made up by Yale and Harvard at New London have little preparation, and no evil results are reported in consequence."

"All that is needed," The Journal says, "is some one to take the initiative." Since Brown has the ability, it ought not be difficult to find the promoter.

THE SHAME OF IT.

Rutland has had a worse experience with its water department than Norwich, for it had to cut off its water supply because of typhoid germs in the water and a consequent epidemic of fever. The epidemic is a thing of the past now, and conditions are encouraging; but just read this from the Rutland News:

"A curious sight was noted in a Rutland restaurant Tuesday noon. A family from the rural districts brought their own drinking water with them. It was contained in the peculiarly shaped bottle characteristic of the much-advertised 40-rod whiskey from a distant state—'Four full quarts, express prepaid, in plain package with no marks to indicate contents, for $3.20; if not satisfied after drinking one quart return at our expense and get your money back' (and no drinker of it ever lived to claim the rebate). Fastidious visitors to Rutland, afraid of our city water and yet with evidence upon them of having lived through at least a quart of 80-cent whiskey! What worse insult could our sanitary experts have brought upon us?"

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Thirty churches in Boston are without pastors. That is an inviting field.

President Taft did not worry congress much with his message. It was brief and to the point.

No lazy man ever became an angler—there is too much walking, to say nothing of digging the bait.

Maple-sugar weather is now becoming first class and the run of sap will be all that could be expected.

John Bull is feeling well once more with his revenues exceeding his expenses by twenty-eight millions.

Indiana thinks she can worry through life with one saloon to every seven hundred of the population.

Next to a good newspaper a new hotel is one of the finest permanent advertisements any city can have.

Arkansas has abolished the free lunch, and this ought to lessen the price of mint juleps in that state.

Chicago expected to have a new mayor, but it elected an old one who knew how to pull the tarred ropes.

A Wisconsin man recovered one thousand dollars for a lost toe. This is a high price for a slight sacrifice.

Happy thought for today: A near-philosopher says it costs less to be good than it does to hire a lawyer to keep you out of jail.

While the United States sends a shipload of supplies to the Chinese famine sufferers, Christian Russia sends China an ultimatum.

Leaden Footed Spring in Maine.

While in this part of New England we are preparing for real spring weather, in Maine they are still snowbound, and it will be a long time before the last deep drift has melted. A despatch from Phillips under date of Saturday reports the worst blizzard for years. "No ttempt," says the despatch, "has been made to break out the roads. . .Farmers were blockaded, and in some places the drifts reach the eaves of the houses . . No freight trains were started in this part of Maine yesterday." The lumber industry will be much hampered by this unexpected tempest, and Maine citizens in general may be pardoned if they indulge in vigorous language to express their feelings towards the weather. Tomorrow the sun is due to cross the line, but Maine will be only just digging itself out of the snowbanks when that great astronomical event occurs.—Providence Journal.

Dink Would Have to Work.

Suppose all Hinky Dink's friends should follow the beautiful example of Lorimer and refrain from drinking!—Chicago News.

Utility for Cigar Bands.

Any ring, says the New York city court, will make an engagement ring. At the seashore, then, cigar bands will do.—Syracuse Post-Standard.

In No Danger.

Tom Watson needn't be afraid of assassination. He'll talk himself to death before anyone pays any attention to him.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

GOVERNMENT BY COMMISSIONERS

How Four More Texan Cities Regard the Change

CORRESPONDENCE FROM TWO CITIES

A Variety of Opinions—Large Difference of Opinion Upon the Recall—The New Government an Improvement on the Old—Human Nature Cannot be Eliminated From Political Action—Commission Government Does Not Work Well in Every Respect.

	Population.
DALLAS	92,104
WACO	26,425
DENISON	13,632
AUSTIN	25,574

I. a. Is any political designation allowed after the names of candidates on the ballot?

Dallas—Yes, but so far precautions to prevent "Democratic" ticket have succeeded.

The names must come under heads of party, such as democrat, republican, independent citizen's, etc.

No. A few attempts have been made to put in nomination party tickets, but so far they have failed.

Two answered—Yes.

Waco—Two answered—No.

Denison—One answered—No.

Austin—No; the successful candidates draw for the places or select them by agreement after the election.

No; but the printing of party tickets in parallel columns is permitted.

I think not.

b. Has the activity of parties in selfishly seeking the election of their own members been diminished?

Dallas—There is only one party here—democratic. The G. O. P. is a skeleton organization for federal pap purposes. The democratic party's custom has been not to run a city ticket. Only exception occurred 20 years ago.

Hard to say—regular parties do not put tickets in the field, but there are various independent political clubs and organizations which do.

Two answered—Yes.

One answered—No.

Waco—I think not.

One answered—Yes.

Austin—No party politics in city affairs.

Municipal elections in this city have been non-partisan for many years. The only political nominations made are by the socialists, and they are not of consequence, as there are few adherents of that faith in Dallas. A faction of the democratic party is trying to bring on nominations.

Yes, and has been almost entirely eliminated.

c. In general, are the elections cleaner?

Dallas—The commission form has not affected elections save to increase expenditure of money by rich promoters of candidates.

Yes; perfectly clean.

Decidedly so.

Two answered—Yes.

Waco—Supposed to be.

In every respect.

Denison—Clean. No charges to contrary.

Austin.—There is no marked change. The general election law of Texas, which was in effect prior to adoption of the commission plan, had removed most of the objectionable features from elections.

Yes; much so.

II. a. Are men of higher character and greater ability induced to become candidates for office?

Dallas—Yes; noother need apply.

Yes; requires better men and they are in demand.

One answered—No.

Two answered—Yes.

Waco—Offer themselves or are brought out by interested parties.

Yes; in every way.

Denison—Have re-elected some men at every election since commission adopted in 1907.

Austin—To some extent; but the provision in the Dallas charter which requires commissioners to devote their entire time to the service of the city, and the recall provision, act as deterrents.

We have had but two years of the commission form of government, and we have had men of the best character—one a former bank president, another a capitalist, railroad official, and two leading business men.

b. Are your aldermen chosen as specialists—that is, for especial knowledge of finance, of highways, of building, or departmental work in charities, fire department, water works, etc.?

Dallas—Four commissioners and mayor are chosen for their special fitness and knowledge in such departments.

Yes, in each of five departments.

No; just business men of good judgment.

Somewhat.

One answered—Yes.

Waco—One answered—Yes.

One made no reply.

Denison—One answered—No.

Austin—The commissioners are chosen generally and the board makes the assignments. However, it is generally understood before the election what the assignments will be.

These matters are taken into consideration, but they do not run for a specific office. It is generally understood what place a candidate will take if elected. Most of the successful candidates have special qualifications.

III. a. Is there greater and more direct responsibility upon members of the municipal council?

Dallas—Decidedly so.

You bet. We can put our finger on the man every time.

In theory, greater; in practice, not so.

Two answered—Yes.

Waco—Commission form in city government, therefore responsible.

A great deal more.

Denison—Responsibility is fixed. Each councilman has charge of one or more departments.

Austin—Two answered Yes.

b. Are appointments made by them (more than before) on the grounds of fitness rather than political strength?

Dallas—All appointments made on grounds of fitness.

Three answered Yes.

One answered No.

Waco—Fitness believed to be entirely so.

Denison—One answered Yes.

Austin—Almost entirely on account of fitness. There are both democrats and republicans on the present council and employes are serving without opposition from both parties here. This means something in this state.

Yes—to some extent.

c. Does the administration in its methods resemble more than the old form the business administration of some large industry?

Dallas—Yes, decidedly.

Yes. Business methods are introduced in every department.

Three answered Yes.

Waco—Yes, just like any corporation.

One made no reply.

Denison—One answered Yes.

Austin—Two answered Yes.

IV. a. Are the salaries of the mayor and aldermen larger under this form than before?

Dallas—Yes. Mayor gets $4,000 now; four commissioners $3,000 each. They ought to have more.

Aldermen were paid $5 per meeting. Salaries for mayor $4,000, each commissioner $3,500.

Yes—increased from $10 a month to $3,000 a year.

One answered Yes.

One answered No.

Waco—Yes, intends to make them still larger.

One answered No.

Denison—Yes; $1,800 and $1,500, respectively; formerly nominal.

Austin—Under old form mayor got $1,000. Mayor now gets $2,500. Twelve aldermen got $12 a month; four aldermen now get $2,000 a year.

One answered Yes.

b. Has there been greater resulting economy in the administration of the several departments?

Dallas—In proportion to growth of city from 42,000 to 92,000 inhabitants, Yes.

Two answered Yes.

One answered No.

Waco—Taxes reduced, greater economy in every way, streets perfect.

One answered Yes.

Denison—One answered Yes.

Austin—There has been greater efficiency, but it is impossible to say whether there has been greater economy. The aggregate expenditures are larger; but the city has grown a great deal since adoption of the commission plan.

One answered Yes.

c. Does each member of the municipal council give his full time to the work of administration?

Dallas—He agrees to.

Yes—practically.

Two answered Yes.

Waco—Only as necessary.

Partial time.

Denison—No, each gives as much time as is needed.

Austin—Yes; the charter so requires. In the judgment of the writer, it ought not to do so. No such requirement is made in Galveston, where the commission plan originated.

Yes, they give from eight to ten hours a day.

d. Has the financial standing of the city been improved?

Dallas—No change.

Credit always good. It is A1 now.

Two answered Yes.

Waco. Yes. City credit good as gold. Everything on cash basis.

One answered Yes.

Denison—Yes. First paving in 35 years done since commission was adopted.

Austin—Yes; the city has paid off more bonded indebtedness in past two years than it did in former five; and in addition has greatly improved municipal service.

One answered Yes.

V. In general, is the new form of government cleaner from political influence, more business-like in administration, more effectually organized, more progressive, more soundly economical?

Dallas—I regard this scheme as distinctly reactionary and undemocratic. English cities secure efficiency without any such "business" despotism as this entails.

Yes, to all five questions. Emphatically Yes.

Yes, very greatly improved.

One answered Yes.

Waco—Yes, cleaner in every way; business in every department run like a bank.

Cleaner; business-like; soundly economical.

Denison—Yes, but still not perfect, due to some loopholes in charter, Mayor at outs with the two commissioners.

Austin—Upon the whole, Yes.

One answered Yes.

VI. a. What per cent. of voters is required to gain a recall, and is it effective?

Dallas—35. It is very effective. It is the only thing that forces the lordly commissioners to regard the average man at all.

35 per cent. of vote cast for mayor. Used once to recall two school trustees for holding star chamber sessions. New men who succeeded them dug up much bad business in schools and effort to recall four old associates of the two previously recalled is about to culminate.

When a petition equal to 35 per cent. of the total vote cast at the last election for mayor is filed with the board of commissioners, the board must call an election within 40 days to determine the question.

35 per cent.; has not been tried out on the mayor or commissioners.

Waco—30 per cent.; but it ought to be 50.

Not effective.

Denison—20 per cent. of voters. Recall yet untried.

Austin—A petition of 25 per cent. will get a recall election. A discharged employe attempted to get a recall once but was unsuccessful. The recall is a good check here and I think it is satisfactory.

35 per cent., unfortunately—Yes.

b. Are the public utilities—water, gas and electric lighting plants—owned by the city, and are they inventoried annually, and a balance sheet published, as is the custom of corporations owning such plants?

Dallas—Only the water plant owned by the city. The other companies more nearly own the city government.

City owns water plant. Financial statement as you outline is not published. The departments' fiscal operations are at all times open to citizens. At present the department is run, not at cost, but at a profit of about $100,000 annually on about $210,000 receipts. Other public utilities privately owned.

The city owns the water plant and that department files an annual statement, and the city auditor publishes an annual statement showing its financial condition. The gas and electric light plants are not owned by the city.

Only waterworks—Yes.

Waco—Yes. Full statement annually by best auditors in state.

Waterworks by city. Annual standing published. Move on hand to put gas and light plant in city hands.

Denison—Water plant purchased two years ago. Statements show annual profits of about $20,000.

Austin—The city owns all public utilities mentioned except gas plant. The water, light and power plants are economically managed and an inventory is made such as you mention.

The city owns the water plant. An annual statement is made; but there is no thorough inventory.

LETTER FROM DALLAS EDITOR.

There is one thing about a commission I would emphasize. That is, not to put it in effect unless the charter carries the initiative, refedendum and recall features. We have all three here. A commission, with its immense powers, can break a town before it wakes up, and these three people's power measures are the best safeguard.

Our charter also calls for open sessions. It specifically forbids star-chamber work, a very important matter, by the way.

The reason I say the mayor and four commissioners should get even more than we pay them now, respectively $4,000 and $3,000, is because I believe our officers have averaged at least ten hours a day since they took the jobs, and the volume and character of work and the heavy responsibilities, in my mind calls for ample reward.

Our municipal revenue is in excess of $1,000,000 a year, exclusive of bond money, and the kind of men who can spend that amount of money properly are worth paying well.

ANOTHER LETTER FROM DALLAS NEWSPAPERMAN.

It is impossible to give an accurate statement concerning the operation of the commission plan of government in Dallas in response to categorical questions.

Although I have taken issue with the Dallas city commission very sharply upon certain matters, and cannot at all approve of their course in respect to same, I believe that the commission government upon the whole has been better than the government under the old aldermanic plan.

Two things have operated to hurt the commission government in Dallas, as well as in some other cities. Senatorial courtesy, and the extravagant claims made for it by over-zealous advocates. These latter have pictured it as infallible and automatic; have endeavored to create the impression that it will work while you sleep, and that "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty" is a back number. Also, many of them have held it to be lese majeste to criticise the commission.

As one of the original promoters of the commission plan at Galveston, I do not share, but upon the contrary resent, such sentiments. The commission plan gives the people an opportunity to have good government; that is all.

A large number of our citizens are very dissatisfied with the operation of the recall, as well as with the operation of the initiative and referendum. Two of our school trustees were recalled last summer, because they refused to vote for the re-election of two teachers. A movement is now on foot to recall four more for a similar reason. Meantime the schools have suffered very much. Those citizens who now oppose the recall feature were original advocates of the commission form at Dallas.

There is another group of citizens who are opposed to the commission plan as it stands. Most of these want the recall, initiative and referendum retained, but they want a board of aldermen, clothed only with legislative power. They say the commission as it stands is too far removed from the people.

My own idea is that Dallas ought to adopt the Galveston plan, which it has not. The Galveston charter, in my opinion, is superior, because 1. It does not require the commissioners to give all their time to the service of the city. If the people are careful in the first instance, the men whom they elect as commissioners will devote all the time necessary to city affairs; otherwise, a watchclock will do little good. 2. It does not contain the recall, initiative and referendum features. The commission plan essentially means concentrated representative democracy. Representative democracy and pure democracy will not mix. A city may have the commission plan, or it may have the recall, etc. It cannot have both simultaneously. In any event, I feel sure, no city ought to have the recall, initiative and refendum, unless it is required that at least 51 per cent. of the people shall petition to invoke the operation of the same. No mere minority of the people ought to be permitted to pester the majority.

I believe in the commission plan as strongly as I have at any time in the past; but it seems to me it is receiving a severe jolt from efforts to mix it with instruments of pure democracy and from extravagant claims made by unwise friends.

A LETTER FROM THE MAYOR OF DENISON.

Answering yours of recent date, permit me to state that if both governments are honest and active it would be difficult to state whether the old form or new is the better. Good men make good government, if awake to the needs of the occasion. Conversely, bad men make bad government. Leaving all metaphors out of consideration, the old form of government made the mayor councilmen, chief of

(Continued on Page Nine.)

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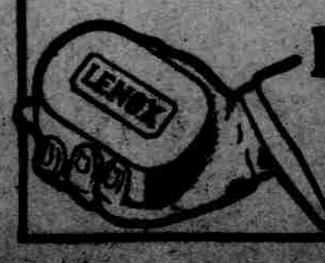

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