

Honolulu Star-Bulletin

RILEY H. ALLEN

EDITOR

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1915.

A LEAGUE OF NEUTRAL NATIONS.

NEW CHARTER PLANS.

The charter recommended by a special committee of the Municipal Research Club deserves the most careful consideration of the charter convention which meets next week, and will receive that consideration from every delegate who is wide awake to the needs of the city and whose attendance at the convention means something to him.

The charter was drafted by an able committee consisting of Former Governor W. F. Frear, Judge C. W. Ashford, C. R. Hemenway, W. H. McClellan, A. H. Tarleton, L. M. Judd and Judge W. L. Whitney. It is a non-partisan committee. Furthermore, it is composed not of theorists but of men every one of whom has had practical experience in municipal politics and most of whom have had considerable insight into municipal government.

The remarks of one of these men is specially interesting. "I'll confess that I haven't been much in favor of the 'short-ballot' form of government," he said, "but as I have progressed with the study of charter matters and the work on this draft, I am coming more and more to favor it and the city-manager plan."

His is the common, one might almost say the universal experience. Study of American municipal government leads inevitably to the conclusion that efficiency can be promoted by eliminating some of the elective offices and putting responsibility in the hands of men who can be held responsible.

The Municipal Research Club has no axe to grind in its discussion of charter reform. Its members are not out after anything except good government. It is to be noticed that they have not recommended "commission government." They would retain the board of supervisors who are to appoint a city manager. The board would be a thoroughly representative one. The charter as recommended by the club's committee will take away none of the power of the voters, in fact, its ultimate effect would be to increase the power of voters because it would center responsibility on those elected to office and therefore put them more under the control of popular vote.

There will be other charter plans presented and it is probable that each of them will have good features. Lively discussion is to be desired, but it is to be hoped that no delegate will take at the outset the position that the present charter is good enough—because that is ignorance; and that no delegate will assume that charter revision is an attempt to "put something over" on the voter, because that is foolishness.

Of course it's only a guess but the guess is that the story about Admiral von Tirpitz resigning is on a par with those of the death of the German fleet, both of which, it will be remembered, aroused great interest shortly after the war broke out.

Berlin says that British and French strategists are to be sent to Russia's aid. This is the first time we have noticed Berlin admitting that the British and French have any strategists.

LETTERS

PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS

Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin:
 Sir: It is pleasing to see, by John Martin's little interview in yesterday's issue of your paper, that at least one citizen takes an interest in the question of parks and playgrounds, now up in concrete form through the pending negotiations with the Bishop Estate.
 Mr. Martin uses one of the arguments that I offered at the meeting of the board of supervisors the other night, saying that the time would come, after Honolulu became a real city, when public opinion in Honolulu would compel the acquisition of beauty and recreation spots throughout the city and that the prices of land would then be much higher than they are today. The example and experience of mainland cities were instances, where enormous expenses have been incurred in this regard—all for lack of foresighted planning in the nascent stages of municipal existence.
 As to the growth of values I told of the statement made to me by the founder of one of the corporate estates of Honolulu that he once was offered all of the land on the "plains" from Kalaheo to the Waikiki road, now Kalaheo avenue, for a few California "slugs" that he displayed on the palm of his hand, and he added that he would hardly have missed the price if he had accepted the offer.
 With regard to the Beretania street playground, the purchase of which is especially opposed, I think the reasons for its acquisition are stronger even than those respecting Atkinson and Paea parks. Atkinson park is direct-

ly across Ala Moana "boulevard" from the large grounds of Kapuniwa school, which may well accommodate the little children of the locality, and besides there may be other lands along the beach which might be acquired for a playground at a reasonable price. Paea park also, although splendidly situated for the purpose, is in a section where, probably, another site might be obtained without paying a very high price. At the same time, I am in favor of procuring all three parks in question.

Reverting to the Beretania street place, there are special reasons why it should be retained.
 1. It is an established playground for the smaller children of the locality and I do not see how anyone who has observed the amount of enjoyment the little ones derive from it, making for their healthy development—which means future saving to the taxpayers in the items of tuberculosis and indigent sick—can feel anything but an eager desire for retention of this playground.

2. Answering the argument that it is too near Ala park, I contend that Ala park is none too large for the big boys that from the first have utilized it for baseball. A little children's playground would be out of place, in point of safety, joined close to a baseball park. Moreover, the necessary equipment of a juvenile playground would involve having it absolutely shut off from any other public recreation ground. This means that to have such an institution in Ala park the area would have to be broken up, which not only would detract from its appearance but deprive the public of much of the value the park now has for such purposes as great outdoor as-

semblies and carnival uses. It is argued on the other side that the block Ewa of the park could be condemned, making the area large enough for all the purposes in question, but the proposal of this course has not brought forward data to show that it would not cost as much or more than the purchase of the Beretania plot.
 3. Beretania ground is in the midst of a congested tenement district, which is one of the chief points in favor of a playground there according to mainland examples, though strange to say used as an argument against the proposition here.
 4. It is also central with regard to the Oriental business section, where an open space is desirable both for sanitary and fire protection considerations.
 5. Against the plea that the land is too valuable for the purpose in question, it need only be said that it will never be cheaper, hence if the other arguments in favor of its acquisition are sound there is no time better than now to effect the deal.

With regard to the financial questions involved in the entire scheme the general reply to the opposition is that the purchase of these parks would be a good investment, both for the specific reasons in favor of their ownership by the city and for their asset value. Thus far the city and county of Honolulu has no security for bond issues excepting the plants of the public utilities it conducts—and not full title for all of these even—and its revenues from various sources, all controlled by the territorial legislature either directly or indirectly. With some landed estate in its possession, constantly increasing in value, Hon-

olulu would be in much better position than it is for financing large projects.
 It is argued that it would be bad policy to spend so much money on parks and playgrounds until the roads of the city, and country, are put in satisfactory condition. Roads are not something needed in modernly developing the city and county, although they may be the only things in the heads of many candidates for municipal office. Besides, there is new revenue for road purposes every six months, and, besides, like every other city in the world, will have roads to build and maintain until doomsday, but a piece of ground once bought for the use and enjoyment of the people is an everlasting possession costing almost nothing to maintain.
 This year the supervisors are setting apart \$60,000 in round figures for the improvement of the fire department, the renewal of the fire and police alarm equipment and the expansion of the street lighting system, not to mention between \$15,000 and \$20,000 for emergency hospital service. There will not be any call for other large miscellaneous improvements, probably, during the term of this board. Therefore, with three half-yearly periods to follow, the present liberal road appropriations, with the frontage tax in operation, greatly contributing, may not be liberally increased and the parks in question bought and paid for outright before June 30, 1917, leaving no debt to our successors, simply by dividing the amount required equally between the coming three periods.

Another proposal I have submitted to the board, which if adopted will utterly remove any financial objection to the purchase of the parks. This is to obtain an enabling act from the legislature for abolishing the cash basis fund, which, on account of the change of term of the city government, will not be needed after June 30, 1917, because this change brings each new board into office after the first half-yearly collection of taxes, so that all the supervisors will need to do is to make appropriations within the revenue awaiting them in the treasury. With the cash basis fund released, there would be a balance of nearly \$100,000 left after the price of parks was taken out.
 DANIEL LOGAN.

At least one feature will enliven Labor Day next Monday, for the Foresters have planned a family basket picnic on the Peninsula at Pearl City. Under the auspices of Court Camoes, No. 8110, A. O. F. A special train leaves the city at 8:30 o'clock in the morning. The passenger train will consist of no less than 15 coaches and besides this there will be many autos making the trip.

It's safe to say that if China becomes a monarchy there won't be any less of the boycott on Japanese goods.

Bulletins from the bedside of the English pound shows that in exchange its financial pulse is falling rapidly.

It's safe to say that if China becomes a monarchy there won't be any less of the boycott on Japanese goods.

It's safe to say that if China becomes a monarchy there won't be any less of the boycott on Japanese goods.

It's safe to say that if China becomes a monarchy there won't be any less of the boycott on Japanese goods.

MUNICIPAL RESEARCH CLUB WILL HAVE CHARTER PLAN TO SUGGEST

Special Committee Reports in Favor of City Manager Plan, With Retention of Board of Supervisors — Recommendations to Be Discussed by Club and Then Submitted to the Charter Convention Which Will Convene Here Next Week

As the result of months of work on the part of well-qualified members, preceded by more than two years of study by the club, the Municipal Research Club is perfecting a new city charter which will be submitted to the charter revision convention next week. The charter has been drafted by a committee of seven, headed by Former Governor Walter F. Frear. As prophesied by the Star-Bulletin a few days ago the report of this committee favors the city manager plan of government.

The city manager plan and the retention of a board of supervisors are perhaps the two outstanding features in the charter, which is worked out in complete detail.

A third feature is that the "recall" is provided for, but that the committee does not favor trying the "initiative and referendum" at this time.

Judge Frear reported for the committee at an interesting meeting of the Research Club held last night in the Chamber of Commerce rooms. The report was accepted, but the recommendations have not yet been adopted. There was a short discussion of some of the charter features last night, but fuller discussion was left for next Monday evening. That will be the evening of Labor Day, but the club will meet at 7:30 o'clock to discuss the committee's report in detail. It can safely be said now that there is little likelihood that any material change will be made in the charter as drafted by the committee. In the first place the committee has devoted a large amount of time and detailed work to the subject, and in the second place the general sentiment of the club, from months of previous discussion, had already crystallized in favor of the lines as exemplified in the committee's recommendations.

The preferential voting system, the

election of a mayor by the five supervisors from among their own number, and the election of the city auditor are noteworthy features of this plan. The auditor is the only elected official besides the five supervisors.

The elective officers are to hold office for four years. However, the "rotation system" is to be used—that is, at the end of every two years either two or three supervisors retire, the system being similar to that of the territorial senate.

The work of the special committee was very gratifying to the club as a whole, and when a motion for a vote of thanks was put, it passed with applause. President G. F. Bush after the meeting expressed personally his appreciation of the committee's untiring efforts and success in drafting a strong charter.

Arrangements for the convention are still "up in the air." As previously told, the legislative act which authorized the convention does not specify any particulars as to the manner of holding the convention and the defraying of expenses. In the absence of any statute provisions, it is assumed that the city must look after the matter. Mayor Lane has gone away on a fishing trip, but before going last evening he called Supervisor Logan by telephone and asked him to act in his place as mayor. Supervisor Logan brought up the matter of arranging for the convention, and the mayor indicated that he would leave all of this to the board's hands, so it is probable that at tonight's meeting the board will discuss the matter.

In case the city does not act, the governor will be asked to do so, inasmuch as the territorial legislature passed the act. It has already been suggested that the national guard armory might be secured for the convention meeting.

GEISHA GIRLS WILL DANCE AT NIPPU JIJI FETE

Established in 1895 as a triweekly with a circulation of 300, the Nippu Jiji has grown with astonishing rapidity during the last 20 years and is now published every afternoon of the year with a circulation of 4800, reaching 33,000 readers. Twenty years ago on October 15 the first copy left the press and next Sunday the 5000th edition will be given to the public and an elaborate celebration staged by the Japanese paper.

The program for the day falls into two parts. Beginning at 1 o'clock there will be a series of speeches with Dr. T. Katsunuma officiating, and Consul H. Arita and R. O. Matheson taking part.

Following this there will be dancing by 36 Geisha girls, wrestling by young local Japanese athletes, fencing in the unique Nipponese style and a comedy of the vaudeville nature.

Mayor Lane will send the Hawaiian band to participate. The celebration will take place at the Tokiwaen theater on Nuuanu street.

MAYOR LANE THINKS CITY WILL HAVE TO FOOT CHARTER BILL

No meeting has yet been held by the mayor and supervisors to ascertain whether or not the city is to make an appropriation to carry out the charter convention prescribed by last legislature. The convention begins next Tuesday.

Supervisor Logan says that he feels some action has to be taken soon in the matter. Logan and Arnold have conferred with Deputy Attorneys Christy and Carden to see if the city has the right to appropriate money for carrying on the convention.

The deputy attorneys have promised to have the decision ready to hand in to the board tonight.

Mayor Lane says that there is no doubt in his mind that the city would be expected to defray the expenses of the convention. "It is only a question of whether we meet now and appropriate money for the convention," says the mayor, "or whether we meet when the convention is over and agree to pay the sum expended."

For Sale

ON EASY TERMS
Lots 75x150 feet.

Corner Lots\$500
Inside Lots\$450
\$100 Cash—Balance in
Monthly Payments

Apply to

Palolo Ave.

Guardian Trust Co., Ltd.

Stangenwald Building, Merchant St.

SOUVENIR Jewelry

Gives the most comprehensive assortment of Souvenir Jewelry of all the islands of Hawaii.

J. H. HANSEN & CO.

HENRY W. KINNEY, superintendent of public instruction, returned to Honolulu yesterday from a business trip to Kauai.

GOL SAMUEL JOHNSON of the national guard, and Mrs. Johnson will make their home at the Young Hotel for the present time.

MRS. CHARLES T. LEWIS and daughters, who have been in Maui for the past few months, are returning to Honolulu on Saturday, September 4.

MISS LENA LEWIS of Chicago, who has been visiting with her brother, Chas. T. Lewis and family, will arrive in Honolulu September 4 to stay until the sailing of the Mauna.

CHARLES R. FORBES, superintendent of public works and chairman of the public utilities commission, who is now in Hilo, is expected to return to Honolulu Sunday morning in the Wilhelmina.

CHARLES J. MCCARTHY, territorial treasurer, was appointed yesterday by Governor Pinkham to represent Hawaii at the national convention of insurance commissioners which will hold its sessions in Monterey, Cal., from September 21 to 25.

R. G. MACKENZIE, who was formerly assistant engineer at Paluau Hill, and is now a corporal in the 24th Cameron Highlanders, writes that his regiment is still undergoing a hard course of drill in Scotland. He sends aloha to his Hawaiian friends and wishes them to know that despite the hardships of war he has gained 14 pounds.

W. POLLOCK, once a Honolulu and now a sergeant in the 138th Company, Royal Engineers, of the British army, has recently joined the order of Benedictine. His marriage to an English girl took place shortly after he joined the army. In his recent letter to his Honolulu friend, Pollock writes that he

A cozy bungalow, on an excellent lot in "Makiki Beautiful," can be secured by a first payment of \$500, the other payments to follow regularly at the rate of \$48 monthly. The total cost of home and lot will be \$3450. There are just 5 of these opportunities.

VIEIRA JEWELRY CO., LTD., 115 Hotel

NAPKIN RINGS in many beautiful designs. We engrave them free.

VIEIRA JEWELRY CO., LTD., 115 Hotel

Henry Waterhouse Trust Co., Limited.

FURNISHED

Waikiki	3 bedrooms	\$40
Bates Street	3 bedrooms	30
Pahoa and Sixth Avenues, corner	2 bedrooms (partly furnished)	17
Waialae Road	15 bedrooms (partly furnished)	125
Palolo Ave. (bet. 12th and Koko Head Aves.)	3 bedrooms	25
2568 Rooke St., Punui	4 bedrooms	75

UNFURNISHED

Royal Grove	2 bedrooms	20
Royal Grove	2 bedrooms	20
Hackfield and Prospect	2 bedrooms	20
Kewalo Street	3 bedrooms	30
Young and Alexander Streets	2 bedrooms	20
Cor. Kamehameha Ave. and Manoa	2 bedrooms	20
Wildier Ave. (opp. Oahu College)	3 bedrooms	30
12th and Mauna Loa Aves., Kaimuki	2 bedrooms	20
14 Mendocina Tract (Liliha St.)	3 bedrooms	30
18 Dayton Tract (Liliha St.)	3 bedrooms	30
40 Beach Walk	3 bedrooms	30
770 Kinau Street	4 bedrooms	40
1004 W. 5th Ave., Kaimuki	2 bedrooms	20
1020 Aloha Lane	2 bedrooms	20
1056 14th Ave., Kaimuki	2 bedrooms	20
1205 Wilhelmina Rise, Kaimuki	3 bedrooms	30
2130 Kamehameha Ave., Manoa	3 bedrooms	30
1231 Matlock Ave.	2 bedrooms	20
1313 Maunaloa Street	3 bedrooms	30
1562 Nuuanu Ave.	5 bedrooms	50
1704 King Street	2 bedrooms	20
1359 Wildier Street	4 bedrooms	40