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GEORGE F. HENSHALLMANAGER

THURSDAYFEBRUARY 25, 1909

Governor Frear's suggestion that the counties might save money by letting out road work by contract can hardly be disputed. It would also tend to do away with talk of a "road department machine" in politics.

We wonder what Senator Perkins of California would think if told that the legislature of Hawaii was asked by members, in passing measures for Hawaii to give consideration to whether they will please California or not.

According to predictions, the war cloud in the Balkans darkens as spring approaches. The situation is undoubtedly a very grave one. All the Powers realize that Austria and Serbia can hardly be kept from conflict, and that the outbreak is full of danger of a general European war.

Governor Frear actually cuts Territorial departments \$600,000 in his appropriation estimates, and suggests that it might be advisable to turn over more work to the counties. This is something of a new departure, in the Robin's Egg Blue chamber, and it meets with public approval beyond question. So far, the Territorial departmental have been cast in its favor, and after sixty years of trial of the form or in this spirit much of the duplication of our governments is due. In a theoretic discussion a lot might be said on both sides, as to whether localization of government is a benefit or not, but popular sentiment is so overwhelmingly in favor of it that the discussion is not very practical and the only way to harmonize the people and the administration is by compliance with public wishes in the matter. We think that the trial given so far shows that the local system on the whole works better than the other one.

PRESIDENT ELIOT'S PLAN.

The following model charter for the city of Boston was drafted by Charles W. Eliot, ex-president of Harvard, and is worth consideration as the product of a study, by a man of exceptional ability, of the problem of American municipal government:

"Section 1. A Mayor and four Councilmen shall be nominated and elected at large to hold office for two years; and if any vacancy occurs in any of these offices the remaining members of the Council shall elect a person for the balance of the unexpired term.

"Section 2. Candidates for the Council shall be nominated by a primary election a fortnight before the general election. Every candidate for nomination shall be a resident of the City and a qualified voter, and shall be supported by a petition signed by at least 500 qualified voters that his name be placed on the ballot at the primary election. The City Clerk shall publish the names of all candidates at the primary election. The ballots to be used at this election shall have no party designation or mark whatever.

"Section 3. The ballots used at the general election shall have no party designation or mark whatever. The two candidates receiving the highest number of votes for Mayor at the primary election shall be the only candidates whose names shall be placed on the ballot for Mayor at the succeeding general election, and the eight candidates receiving the highest number of votes for Councilmen shall be the only candidates for the office of Councilmen. The municipal election shall be on the first Tuesday in April.

MEMBERS MAY DIVIDE WORK.

"Section 4. The city shall be governed by this Council consisting of the Mayor and four Councilmen chosen as heretofore provided. Three members of the Council shall constitute a quorum, and the affirmative vote of at least three members shall be necessary to adopt any motion, resolution or ordinance. Upon every vote the yeas and nays shall be called and recorded, and every motion, resolution or ordinance shall be reduced to writing and read, before the vote is taken thereon. The Mayor shall be the President of the Council. He shall have no veto power. The Council shall have all the powers and duties now had and exercised by the Mayor and the City Council of Boston, except as modified by this act, and shall determine the powers, duties and salaries of all other city officers.

"Section 5. The Council may designate each one of its members as head of some large department of City affairs, such as (a) public finance and accounts, (b) public health, safety and sanitation, (c) public highways, parks and waterworks, (d) public charities, corrections and public recreations; but such assignments may be changed at any time. The Council shall at its first meeting, or as soon as practicable thereafter, elect by majority vote a City Clerk, Corporation Counsel, Comptroller and Superintendent of Streets, and such other officers and assistants as are necessary to the efficient conduct of the affairs of the City, and shall fix the terms of service of all such officers and their annual salaries. Any officer or assistant appointed by the Council may be removed by vote of the majority of the members of the Council. The Council shall in due time provide by ordinance for the election of the officers above named, not all in one year, but with appropriate distribution through a series of years.

"Section 6. The Council shall have power from time to time to create and fill offices other than those described in the preceding section, and to discontinue any office according to their judgment of the needs of the City.

MAYOR'S SALARY \$10,000.

"Section 7. The Mayor shall receive an annual salary of \$10,000, and each Councilman shall receive an annual salary of \$7,500. Every other officer or employe shall receive such salary or compensation as the Council shall provide.

"Section 8. The Council shall provide by ordinance for the time of holding regular meetings; and special meetings may be called by the Mayor or by two Councilmen. All meetings of the Council or of any committee thereof, whether regular or special, to which any person not a city officer is admitted, shall be open to the public.

"Section 9. No officer or employe, elected or appointed, shall be interested, directly or indirectly, in any contract or job for work or materials or the purchase thereof, or services to be furnished or per-

formed for the city, or in any contract or job for work, materials or services to be furnished or performed by any person, firm or corporation operating street railways, gas works, water works, electric light or power plants, telegraphs, telephones or other public utilities within the limits of Boston. No such officer or employe shall accept or receive from any person, firm, or corporation operating under a public franchise or City license any frank, free pass, free ticket, or free service, or accept, directly or indirectly, from any such person, firm or corporation, any service upon terms more favorable than those granted to the public generally. Policemen or firemen may, however, accept free transportation when on duty in uniform.

CIVIL SERVICE RULES.

"Section 10. All persons elected or appointed by the Council for the City's service and all persons employed by the Council or its officers in the City's service shall be selected under the rules and by the agency of the Civil Service Commission of the Commonwealth.

The chief of the fire department, or any superintendent or foreman in charge of municipal work, may suspend any subordinate under his control for neglect of duty, or disobedience of orders; but such employe shall have the right of appeal to an authority next above such suspending authority, and shall be discharged only by that higher authority.

"Section 11. The City Comptroller shall each month present to the Council a summary statement of the revenues and expenses of the City for the preceding month detailed by appropriations and funds, and arranged in standard form, together with a balance sheet statement of the current assets and current liabilities of the City at the close of said month. These summaries shall be accompanied by such detailed schedules as the Council may by ordinance require. All of these schedules, together with a summary of the acts and proceedings of the Council for the said month, shall be published in pamphlet form by the Council, which shall furnish copies thereof to all the newspapers of the City and to all persons who shall apply therefor. At the end of each year the Council shall cause a full and complete examination of all the books and accounts of the City to be made by competent public accountants, who shall report in full thereon to the Council. Copies of such reports shall be furnished by the Council to all the newspapers of the City and to all persons who shall apply therefor.

REFERENDUM PROVIDED FOR.

"Section 12. If at the beginning of the term of office of the first Council elected under this act the appropriations for expenditures of the City government for the current fiscal year have been made, the said Council shall have power by ordinance to revise, repeal or change such appropriations, and to make additional appropriations.

"Section 13. No ordinance passed by the Council, except an ordinance for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health or safety, which contains a statement of its urgency and is passed by an affirmative vote of three members of the Council, shall go into effect before ten days from the time of its final passage, and if during said ten days a petition signed by voters of the City equal in number to at least 5 per cent of the entire vote cast for candidates for Mayor at the last preceding general municipal election at which a Mayor was elected, protesting against the passage of such ordinance, be presented to the Council, the same shall thereupon be suspended; and it shall be the duty of the Council to reconsider such ordinance, and if the said ordinance is not entirely repealed the Council shall submit the ordinance to the voters of the City, either at the general election or at a special election to be called for that purpose; and such ordinance shall not go into effect, or become operative, unless a majority of the qualified voters who vote on the same shall vote in favor thereof.

SIX-YEAR TRIAL FOR CHARTER.

"Section 14. Petitions provided for in this act shall be signed by none but legal voters of the City. Each petition shall contain, in addition to the names of the petitioners, the street and number of house in which the petitioner resides, his age, and his length of residence in the city. It shall also be accompanied by the affidavit of one or more legal voters of the City stating that the signers thereof were, at the time of signing, legal voters, and the number of signers at the time the affidavit was made. Petitions presented under this act shall be open to the inspection of the public, and shall be verified by the City Clerk on the order of the Council, or on petition of 5 per cent of the entire vote cast for candidates for Mayor at the last municipal election, and to this end the Council shall allow the Clerk extra assistance if necessary.

"Section 15. This charter shall not go into effect until a majority of the votes cast at a special election on the question of adopting it deny has been to resist all efforts to curtail the Territorial powers, and government established by this act, the majority of the voters in Boston may order a return to the form of City government which existed in Boston prior to the passage of this act.

"Section 16. The School Committee shall continue to be elected in the manner prescribed by law prior to this act; and all City work done under the direction of commissions appointed by the commonwealth shall continue to be done in the manner prescribed by law prior to this act."

AN INSINUATION.
 Swiggs—"I once marched in a procession that was seven hours in passing a given point."
 Biggs—"What was the given point—a saloon?"

THEIR FAVORITES.
 He—"What is your favorite game?"
 She—"Quill on toast. And yours?"
 He—"Eagles on \$20 gold pieces."

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