

OUT OF POLITICS.

Atchison Peop'e Interested in Commission Plan.

Believe It an Improvement Over Mayor and City Council.

NEW CITY GOVERNMENT

A Review of the Workings of the New System.

Good Men in Charge Will Insure Its Complete Success.

The Atchison Champion says: Every day there is noted an awakened interest in the commission plan of running the affairs of Atchison. At first people did not read much about it but now that everybody is talking about it, they want to know what this method of running a city means. Many say, "Well, anything is better than we have been having, so I suppose I am in favor of a change, but I don't know much about this commission business."

ONE YEAR ON THE FARM

Crops for 1908 Exceed Those of Any Previous Twelve Months.

Washington, Nov. 17.—In an interview Secretary Wilson of the agricultural department today told the farmers that the crops for 1908 exceed those of any previous twelve months.

"We are at work just now getting at the figures on the total crop, but it is not far behind that of last year, which was 7,440 million dollars. And that is real money," said the secretary. "It is not a fictitious, but an actual value."

The greatest crop of American grass and then corn. Next after corn is probably cotton; then come wheat and poultry, running neck and neck. The professor adds that the crop is now nearly as valuable as that of the wheat field. The American people eat a great many eggs, and chickens and producing eggs. The price is due to the law of supply and demand.

Very Personal

A tailor in Chicago had a lot of Men's Coats and Vests—good ones.

We bought 'em because we could buy 'em cheap.

We're going to sell 'em the same way.

Coats and Vests worth \$8.00, \$7.00, \$6.00 and \$5.00.

Here We Go!

YOUR CHOICE

Tomorrow, 190

Wednesday, For Coat and Vest

November 18

Clothing Co.

622 KANSAS AVE.

Under our present form of city government, the granting of franchises is left to the exclusive control of the council. We have seen in the past, especially in the case of the present water franchise, what that has meant to our city. Under Article 11, of this act the board of commissioners shall have the same right to consider the details of city franchises as a council, but before a franchise shall be finally granted the ordinance in addition to the usual form of procedure, does not take effect until after the expiration of 60 days from the date of its passage. If during that time 10 per cent of the qualified voters ask that the franchise ordinance be submitted to a popular vote, it shall be the duty of the mayor to call an election for that purpose and the cost of the election shall be paid by the applicant for the franchise. In order to secure this right, every person making an application for a franchise, must deposit with the city treasurer an amount of money sufficient to cover that election. This is perhaps the most important single provision of the act.

The friends of the commission plan urge that it would awaken a greater interest on the part of the people in civic affairs. Few people today find it either convenient or agreeable to put their property in the hands of a few men, and they do not try to shift it, we would boom in a plan to say so and talk about it to your neighbors.

FOR NEW BUREAU

Plan to Have One to Settle Disputes Over Insurance.

Would Be "Claims Department" Under State Commissioner.

FLOOD OF COMPLAINTS

Chief Business of That Official to Act as Arbitrator.

Need of Attorney in Connection With Department Apparent.

A claims department for the state insurance commissioner's office may be one of the things that the coming session of the legislature will be asked to consider.

It has developed in the course of years that one of the chief functions of the state insurance department is to act as arbitrator between policyholders and insurance companies. There is a constant procession of complaints, many of which are of a legal nature, coming before the department. At the present time such complaints when they involve legal questions which the insurance commissioner is not prepared to answer, are referred to the attorney general for solution. It has been suggested that a more businesslike way to do things would be to have an attorney connected with the insurance department, whose business it would be to take up all complaints and report upon them to the insurance commissioner.

The insurance department collect about \$200,000 a year for the state from insurance companies, and is one of the biggest revenue-producing departments in the state house. Some of the insurance men think that since the insurance companies themselves are paying the bills, the department is entitled to almost anything it wants in the way of assistants.

Some insurance companies, however, insist that the department has no business interfering in disputes between the insured and the companies. They say that if the insured have any grievances, they should take them into the courts. Instead of this, they generally appeal to the insurance department, and if the complaint is one of such merit that the commissioner is convinced the insured is getting the worst of the deal, he orders the company to do such and such things. If the company refuses to comply with the insurance commissioner's order, the insurance commissioner can disbar it from doing business in the state. This is such a severe penalty that companies do not disobey orders from the insurance commissioner. It is a swift and effective way to make an insurance company come to terms.

Of course many people attempt to impose upon the department by using it as a collecting agency for bills against insurance agents and others. The department has received letters from hotel men and livery men asking the department to force certain companies to pay bills contracted by such agents of the companies. Of course the department declines to take up such cases.

If the custom of filing complaints before the insurance commissioner continues to grow, it will not be many years until one of two things will have to be done: either there will have to be a new rule under which the department will refuse to take up such complaints, or else there will have to be established a claims department to handle and investigate all such cases.

Hazen Out of Politics.

Springfield, Mass., Nov. 17.—Thomas L. Hazen, of West Springfield, the Independence party candidate for president this year, and last year's candidate for governor, has announced that he has quit politics for good. "The campaign is all over, so far as I am concerned," said Mr. Hazen. "The

MAIL FOR GOMPERS.

He Says He Will Never Pay a Fine for Contempt.

Denver, Nov. 17.—President Samuel Gompers, at the afternoon session of the convention of the American Federation of Labor, declared that if he were found guilty and fined in the contempt proceedings against him at Washington, he would go to jail before he would pay his fine or before the federal court would order the federation to pay a fine for him.

This statement was made by Mr. Gompers during the discussion of the report of the committee on the Gompers report. The committee recommended that immediately following the adjournment of the convention, the executive committee should take the proposition of placing its funds where they may be removed from danger of attachment.

The report brought out a political discussion in which several members declared themselves in favor of the formation of an independent political party. The speaker, John B. Lennon said he would discuss the matter of regarding the funds with good attorneys, and they all agreed that it was impossible, without resulting at some time in perjury by some person. Several suggestions were made from the floor, one being that the funds be deposited in Canada, and another that they should be deposited in some other name than the treasurer's.

These pictures were made from photographs taken only a few weeks ago of Colonel Duncan Cooper and Robin Cooper, the Nashville (Tenn.) men charged with the killing of ex-senator Edward W. Carmack. Robin Cooper, who shot Mr. Carmack, is one of the most prominent young members of society in the Tennessee capital. His father is one of the most widely known men in the south.

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SHORTAGE OF \$20,000.

Causes the Closing of a Bank at Monticello, Ky.

Washington, Nov. 17.—The comptroller of the currency has been advised of the closing doors of the Citizens National bank of Monticello, Ky., on account of a shortage of over \$20,000 in the cashier's department. The bank had a capital of \$50,000 and total resources of about \$194,000.

Somerset, Ky., Nov. 17.—A sensation was caused here and at Monticello today by the arrest of Judge Charles McConaughy, cashier of the Citizens National bank at Monticello, on the charge of forgery and misappropriation of the bank's funds. McConaughy was released on bond.

It is charged that Judge McConaughy forged the name of James W. Simpson, editor of the Monticello Outlook, and of the latter's sister to a note for \$1,000 and placed the amount to his own credit in the bank.

NO PERMIT FOR HIM.

Cloud on M. P. Kuhn's Ownership of a Drug Store.

M. P. Kuhn, druggist, failed today to secure a permit to sell intoxicating liquors according to law at 610 Kansas avenue, the famous old Opera House drug store. It appears that the title to the place has changed hands several times recently, but that no deeds or other transfers are recorded. County Attorney Schenck, who opposed the

granting of the permit, called Lon Townsend in as a witness. Townsend testified that two years ago he sold the place to George Crampton, and that Crampton was to pay him \$500 per year until the purchase price of \$2,000 was paid. Crampton had made one payment when the grand jury indicted him for selling liquor illegally, and he left the country before he could be arrested. Lon says that he waited awhile to hear from Crampton, who failed to make good, and then took possession of the store, selling it to Kuhn for \$1,500 cash. Here the wily county attorney jumped in and asked how Townsend could sell the place to Kuhn, without first securing a quit claim of some kind from Crampton. George Hayden, acting probate judge, considered the point well taken, and informed Kuhn's attorney that, before a permit would be issued, it must be proved that Townsend had some right to sell the property to Kuhn.

There is a Deficit in the Democrat Campaign Treasury.

New York, Nov. 17.—The contributions of the Democratic national committee were not sufficient to meet the expenses of the recent campaign, according to Norman E. Mack, chairman. Mr. Mack said that he would make the deficit good out of his own pocket and that he would regard it as a personal obligation to see that every bill was paid. A statement of the receipts and expenditures of the committee will be filed with the secretary of state at Albany, November 24.

To a reporter who asked Mr. Mack who was going to pay for the maintenance of the permanent Democratic headquarters which are to be opened soon, either in Washington or New York, Mr. Mack said:

"The Democratic party of the United States is going to pay for it. I have had offers from every state in the Union to contribute to a fund for that purpose."

They Should Play Topeka H. S.

Fort Scott, Nov. 17.—The football game yesterday at Athletic park between the Chanute and Fort Scott High Schools added another to Chanute's list of victories. The game was called at 3:30 o'clock and resulted in a score of 27 to 0 in favor of the local team. Five touchdowns and two goal kicks were made by the home boys. The Fort Scott boys tried their best to win the game, but Chanute was too much for them.

FIGHTS VENUE CHANGE.

Prosecution Opposes Application of Ruff's Attorneys.

San Francisco, Nov. 17.—The trial of Abraham Ruff on the charge of bribery was resumed this morning. The same precautions were taken as on yesterday to prevent harm to the defendant or disturbance in the courtroom. Ruff was brought from the jail closely guarded and a large number of detectives and policemen were among the spectators at the trial.

CHICAGO MARKET REPORTS.

Chicago, Nov. 17.—WHEAT—The wheat market opened steady with prices 1/2c lower to 1/4c higher, but eased off a trifle on the latter end of the December delivery. The volume of trade, however, was small. Corn—Market quiet. The price of corn advanced 1/4c to 1/2c. Minneapolis, Duluth and Chicago reported receipts of 742 cars.

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