

# WARNS THE PEOPLE AGAINST THE CHARTER

## Clear and Businesslike Statement of Its Perils for Practical Men.

### John T. Doyle Addresses an Open Letter to Thomas Magee—Not a Workingman's Charter.

In the war of words over the proposed charter for the city and county of San Francisco there arises more and more frequently a sharp note of warning from some thoughtful leader. Clear as a bugle-call, the following open letter from John T. Doyle to Thomas Magee will be heeded by all citizens who favor a fair and representative city government. Mr. Doyle is well known as a capable man of affairs, who enjoys opportunities of taking the broadest view of transactions as a whole and in their relations, while his experience has brought him into intimate association with municipal systems, past and present. He addresses Thomas Magee, who, in common with many business men, only see certain defects in the existing organic law, and will doubtless appreciate formal warning of the perils stored in the new charter. In regard to the autocratic power lavished on the new Mayor, the litigation and expense which the new instrument will open up, the complications attending ready transactions, the immunity of railroad companies in cases of valuations and assessments, the difficulty of amendment—in a word, the dangerous eccentricities of the document—Mr. Doyle's comment is singularly logical, distinct and convincing. He sums up the situation in the words: "It can do no good to real workingmen. . . . It is merely a concession to political bums."

Thomas Magee, Esq.—Dear Sir: The interest you take in municipal reform leads me to address to you some observations on the proposed new charter for San Francisco. You are advocating its adoption. With great regret I am forced to disagree with yourself and other friends, for the following among other reasons:

A leading objection to the adoption of the proposed charter is the inordinate and uncontrolled power it gives to the Mayor. He not only appoints the members of the Board of Public Works, Board of Education, Police Commissioners, Fire Commissioners, Civil Service Commissioners and Park Commissioners (to which, I think, there is no objection), but he has the power of removing all or any of these officers, at pleasure, by merely communicating the fact to the Board of Supervisors with his reasons for it. As those reasons are not required to satisfy any one but himself, it will always suffice for him to say that he considered that the public interest required the change. This power of removal is not confined to his own appointees, but extends to all city and county officers, who owe their positions to appointment, as distinguished from election. The Mayor, besides the Mayor and Supervisors, there are but ten, namely: The Clerk, Auditor, Treasurer, Assessor, Tax Collector, District Attorney, City Attorney, Coroner, Recorder and Sheriff. All other principals and subordinate numbering (including the Police Department) probably 800, or more, are subject to instantaneous removal by the Mayor for any reason satisfactory to himself. This is a greater power than has been within my knowledge confined to any municipal officer less than the President of the United States. Exercised by him even, it has given rise to the gravest dissatisfaction and led during the last twenty-five years to constant agitation in favor of its curtailment; its inevitable tendency to produce corrupt administration is undeniable; successive Presidents have deplored the evil and have, by extending the application of the civil service act of Congress, passed as a remedy, striven to diminish it. A citizen less than the President of the United States. Exercised by him even, it has given rise to the gravest dissatisfaction and led during the last twenty-five years to constant agitation in favor of its curtailment; its inevitable tendency to produce corrupt administration is undeniable; successive Presidents have deplored the evil and have, by extending the application of the civil service act of Congress, passed as a remedy, striven to diminish it.

It is forbidden to open in the new charter of the city any such streets as the small intermediate ones in the Western Addition, so useful to the Department in getting at the rear of a fire and extinguishing it without mischief incident to a mob of people tramping through halls, parlors and dining-rooms to get at the kitchen, wherein it usually originates. Owners of property holding in common cannot even subdivide it, leaving streets agreed on by themselves, for in such cases a parcel map is almost always necessary, and the County Recorder is forbidden to file such map, unless it bears the approval of the members of the Board of Public Works. Without such approval it is even declared to have no legal validity; not even good as a contract. Again, the charter has a provision designed to facilitate the sale of petty streets and alleys in the business part of the city, which, by a blunder of the draughtsman, insures their perpetuity by requiring the land to be twice put up before they can be closed. The provision for an election and popular vote on any ordinance asked for by 15 per cent of the voters and also on the grant of certain franchises (the referendum), I regard as a stupid and mischievous fad, it is borrowed from the Swiss constitution and experience has proved it to be wholly unadapted to our people; but if we are to have enactments by popular vote, why are grants of railroad franchises excepted from the same? They are to be supplied light and water? The latter accommodate every house on the street without obstructing it in the least. The rails, on the contrary, obstruct travel on the street and yield profit only to the railroad companies. Our elections now occur every two years; their frequency is, however, an acknowledged evil of great magnitude, not only because of the loss of time and waste of money entailed, but because they tend to breed and support a class of people who live by politics only. The new charter simply doubles their number, without reference to special elections liable to occur under it. This is very bad.

I see that apologetics for this innovation in city government, admitting its many defects, seek votes for it on the plea that these defects can be easily amended. There is no warrant, however, in this suggestion. The provisions for amendment contained in the instrument itself are in direct conflict with the constitution, which requires three-fifths of the votes cast for that purpose, while the charter only calls for a majority vote. Amendment will be anything but easy; the amendments will have to be proposed, published, voted on, carried by a three-fifths vote and then passed by the Legislature. As this body meets only in alternate years, delay and inconvenience are unavoidable. If the financial article leaves the city's revenues deficient for want of penalties for non-payment, as I fear, the consequences will be very disastrous.

I have not enumerated half of the objections revealed by a study of this instrument. Its defects can, I think, nearly all be traced to the mode in which it was prepared. The constitutional entrusts such a task to a board of only fifteen freholders because of the difficulty of securing agreement among large numbers without vicious bar-

gains and compromises. This instrument was prepared by a body of one hundred gentlemen selected by his Honor the Mayor, and though adopted by the Freeholder convention, after slight amendments, it remains in the cardinal feature of the work of the Mayor's original committee. When he nominated that body he was fresh from a contest with the Board of Supervisors wherein, though backed by the police, and claiming the aid of a judge, and the Superior Court, his action was arrested by the decision of the Supreme Court, and failed of its purpose. Conscious of the rectitude of his intentions, and confident in the integrity of his late adversaries, the Mayor became dominated by the idea of concentrating power in hands he knew to be honest, and depriving of it his enemies, and a body of one hundred formed the contrary opinion. His committee of one hundred was naturally composed of gentlemen holding similar opinions, and the instrument resulting from their deliberations reflects their origin. Under it the Mayor is practically the autocrat of the city. It is built upon the fundamental idea and assumption that a Supervisor is a born rogue, and a Mayor is a born honorable man, endowed with integrity, intelligence, vigilance, discernment, ability and courage of the highest order, incapable of being swayed by any selfish or improper motive. Hence no necessity of guarding against abuses or failure of duty on his part, but the highest need of depriving the Supervisor of power to do anything without the consent of the Mayor. The concurrence of fourteen votes out of eighteen is therefore required to overcome the Mayor's veto, a provision that plainly intimates the provision of dishonor to the Mayor's veto. I will not say that there are no grounds for such apprehension, but if that is the sort of people we are to expect for Supervisors, why do we want so many as eight hundred? Why do we give them any power beyond what the constitution itself confers? On the other hand, I know of no warrant for expecting such eminent virtue and intellect in a candidate for Mayor. The list of gentlemen I have known in that position since the days of H. P. Coon, while I gladly recognize that with few exceptions they were respectable men, some of them possessed of such transcendent merits as this new charter assumes in all, or to whom I would entrust such enormous powers as it confers, without at least some corresponding responsibility. Here there is absolutely none. On the other hand, the number of eccentric provisions (some of which have been adverted to) lead to the inference of swappings and bargains among the Mayor and persons, each anxious to secure adoption of his particular fad; hence come the referendum, the mandate and the like.

He Leaves the State Suddenly. Labor Resents Insults to the Charleston. IS WANTED AS A WITNESS. HIS ATTORNEY ACUSED OF SHARP PRACTICE. The Railroad Commission May Charge Both Counsel and Client With Breaches of Court Discipline.

C. P. Huntington said good-by to San Francisco on Thursday without the formality of first informing the State Board of Railroad Commissioners of his intention. E. S. Pillsbury, his attorney in the suit of J. R. Robinson against the Southern Pacific Company, now pending before the Commissioners, also professes that he was not aware of the magnate's intentions until yesterday morning. The result of Huntington's hurried departure is a complication in the proceedings before the Commissioners. He had been summoned as a witness in the Robinson suit, but was excused from attendance on the board until the question of jurisdiction had been argued and decided. The arguments were made on Thursday, and at 10 o'clock yesterday morning was the hour set for giving the decision. In the meantime, Huntington quietly folded his tent and departed beyond the confines of the State.

When the board met yesterday morning Chairman La Rue announced the decision of the question of jurisdiction, and the jurisdiction to hear the Robinson case. He also said that he had just been informed that Huntington had left the State in accordance with the order of the board on the board until the question of jurisdiction had been argued and decided. The arguments were made on Thursday, and at 10 o'clock yesterday morning was the hour set for giving the decision. In the meantime, Huntington quietly folded his tent and departed beyond the confines of the State.

GOING OVER OLD SURVEYS. Senator Gleaves and Party to Investigate Alleged Land Frauds. Surveyor-General Gleaves and several surveyors departed yesterday for an extended trip through the southern part of the State, where he will make investigations into the integrity of old surveys of public lands that have been called into question by the reports of H. L. Collier, who once held the position of United States Examiner of Surveys and State Agent for the same. It is reported that Gleaves has been in a peck of trouble since he first took office, and it is now believed that he is out of the department, as an individual has been charged with the payment of a bribe to Collier, who is reported to have been in the department for several long reports of alleged fraudulent surveys. This case has been referred to the Attorney General, and the investigation is being conducted by the department.

To-Day's News Letter. Contains vigorous articles on the proposed new charter, the death of Gladstone and other timely topics; sharp paragraphs, a character sketch of an old well-known citizen, pertinent allusions to prominent figures of San Francisco, and numerous local hits; full social, dramatic and literary news, and careful mining review. Of all newswriters for 10 cents.

Allowed to Compromise. Saloonkeeper Sullivan, Haquette, Radovich, Fink and Powell, upon whom a raid was made some months ago by a special internal revenue agent from Washington, have been allowed to compromise with the Government on the payment of fines aggregating the amount of \$10,000. The agents have returned to the city, and the compromise has been consummated. The compromise was a violation of the regulations, and consisted in handing over to the agents a sum of \$10,000 in stamps, there having been no intention to defraud the Government.

# BOYCOTT THE BULLETIN

LABOR RESENTS INSULTS TO THE CHARLESTON. A CAUSTIC RESOLUTION. NO BLAME ATTACHES TO THE CRUISER'S CONSTRUCTION. SHEET THAT ATTEMPTS TO BLACKEN HOME INDUSTRY.

On the early morning cars going out to the Union Iron Works yesterday there was but one subject of conversation that received any attention from the mechanics ready for their day's work. For the moment the war was submerged. What held the minds of the artisans was a bitter attack on the Charleston in Thursday evening's Bulletin.

Whenever two or three men collected a general condemnation of the Bulletin article was certain of vociferous utterance. The condemnatory spirit was so strong that the bulletin board meeting was in the air, and no special call for a general assemblage was necessary. Hardly had the hammers begun to fall and the wheels to spin round when a notice was posted on the bulletin board attached to both the entrance gates of the plant that there would be a general mass meeting held to consider the "scurrilous article published in the Bulletin" of the previous evening. The workmen of the Union Iron Works considered the Bulletin's article a vilifying attack upon them as well as a reflection upon their workmanship, and they were ready to resent it. They did so by a boycott of the paper.

STABBED IN THE BACK. Fight between a Candy Peddler and a Boy. J. C. Mitchell Bremer, who has the privilege of selling candy and peanuts in the pony and dog show in Central Park, was arrested yesterday afternoon on a charge of assault to commit murder. Bremer has been for some time annoyed by a crowd of boys known as the Eighth street gang, and yesterday afternoon he was surrounded by a pack of boys who were to be distributed the boys kept calling out the numbers in a loud voice. This angered Bremer and he started for the boys. He caught hold of Henry Wehrli, a boy about 14 years of age, and a fight ensued. Bremer kicked Wehrli and threw him on the floor. Then Bremer grabbed hold of a knife and plunged it into Wehrli's back.

DEATH OF AN OLD SOLDIER. Captain John J. Shepherd Dies Only a Few Hours After Having Received His Commission. Captain John J. Shepherd, a member of George H. Thomas Post, Grand Army of the Republic, died last Thursday night at his residence at the Abbottsford House of pneumonia. The deceased served as a lieutenant in the California Regiment during the Civil War. Up to three years ago he had been employed for several years in the Naval Office in the Customhouse in this city, and made many warm friends.

Retended to Be a Great Man. George H. Colvert, 623 Market street, sworn to a complaint in Judge Low's court yesterday for the arrest of Charles Coulter, alias Poulter, alias Petersen, on the charge of obtaining goods by false pretenses. Colvert stated that Coulter had been a hawker on the streets for many years, and that he had obtained goods by false pretenses. Colvert stated that Coulter had been a hawker on the streets for many years, and that he had obtained goods by false pretenses.

ADVERTISEMENTS. TO-DAY! == SATURDAY == TO-DAY! OUR GIGANTIC CONSOLIDATION SALE CLOSING A TREMENDOUS WEEK'S BUSINESS WITH SPECIAL AND EXTRAORDINARY BARGAINS THROUGHOUT THE STOCK OF OUR LOS ANGELES STORE. STORE OPEN UNTIL 10 O'CLOCK SATURDAY EVENING.

TWO SPLENDID TRAINS DAILY TO THE EAST VIA Great Rock Island Route. ROCKY MOUNTAIN LIMITED COLORADO FLYER. Leaves DENVER, 9:30 a.m. COLO. SPRINGS, 9:35 a.m. Arrives LINCOLN 11:45 p.m. OMAHA, 1:30 a.m. DES MOINES, 5:25 a.m. DAVENPORT, 9:45 a.m. CHICAGO, 2:15 p.m. Next Day. Through Sleepers and Chair Cars Colorado to Chicago. Wide Vestibule throughout. The finest train to St. Louis via Wabash Ry.

WIIIIY THE STAR INDORSES THE CHARTER Read and Learn! For ST. MICHAEL THE AI BARK HUNTER. POSITIVELY SAILS JUNE 1ST. She is promoted by Marine Surveyors as among the SAFEST and SWIFTEST vessels sailing out of San Francisco.

SPECIAL NOTICE! THE TAVERN OF CASTLE CRAG Will Be Open for the Reception of Guests JUNE FIRST. Owing to the favorable weather conditions in the Siesta region and at the request of many patrons the Tavern of Castle Crags will be opened for the reception of guests Wednesday, June 1st, 1898.

DR. MCNUITY. THIS WELL-KNOWN AND RELIABLE OLD Spanish cure Private, Nervous, Blood and Skin Diseases cures only. Many Powers restored. Over 20 years experience. Send for Book Free. Published at Home. Terms reasonable. Hours 9 to 3 daily; 10 to 12 on Saturdays. 1012 E. Commercial street and sacredly confidential. Call or address P. ROSCOE MCNUITY, M. D., 26 1/2 Kearny Street, San Francisco, Cal.

NEW WESTERN HOTEL. KEARNY AND WASHINGTON STS.—RE-modeled and renovated. KING, WARD & CO. European plan. Rooms 10c to \$1.50 day. \$5 to \$5 week, \$10 to \$20 month. Free bath; hot and cold water every room; fire grates in every room; elevator runs all night.

CASTORIA For Infants and Children. An old German woman, living in a Kansas town, says of Ripans Tablets: "When we came out to Kansas, eighteen years ago, we were very poor and we had a big family. I had to work very hard in the house and outside, too, milking cows, slopping hogs, picketing horses, making garden and so on. I was far from my relatives and didn't like the country. I didn't know nobody, so I stayed at home and worried. We had a hard time of it. No fruit, no vegetables, no nothing. Such living was enough to ruin anybody's insides. After a while my stomach got out of order, and grew worse and worse. I lost my appetite. Nothing tasted good. I was troubled with sourness and gulplings. Then I got to be cross as a bear. I was downhearted too. I felt kind of drowsy most of the time, and had no courage for anything. I dreamt the awfulest dreams. But I didn't think I was bad sick, and doctors cost too much and may be don't do any good. At last, my brother in Philadelphia sent me some Ripans Tablets. He said they were good for my case. I used them and then got more. Soon I was well again, almost like when I was a girl in Germany."