

ROSWELL DAILY RECORD

DEMOCRATIC IN POLITICS.

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WHY THE LOCAL "COMMISSION" PLAN IS DOOMED.

It is quite evident that the so-called local "Commission" Plan of government is doomed to defeat at the polls. The reasons for this are numerous and quite sufficient to convince any thinking man.

The local plan is vicious and bad. It eliminates nearly all the good points of the real Commission Plan and introduces in their place a number of things that are contrived so as to work great injury to the city government.

The clause that the commissioners "must be not otherwise engaged," barring out, as it does, all business men, is alone sufficient to kill the measure.

Then it calls for a mayor and two or four commissioners, at a total salary per year of \$4,600 or \$7,400. It is to be presumed that the election, if it should be successful, would result in the selection of but two commissioners besides the mayor. Thus the initial cost in salaries would be at least \$4,600, but what is there in the law to prevent the commissioners from putting it up to the people to vote two more commissioners? Absolutely nothing. Thus the chances are that before the first year had passed we would be paying salaries of \$7,400.

The total city revenues amount to but \$25,000 per year. With the latter arrangement in effect, of four commissioners, almost one-third of this amount would be required to expend the other two-thirds. In addition to these salaries must be considered the salaries of the police and sanitary forces, the fire department, and then comes the interest on bonds already issued and numerous other expenses. With the present income of the city these could not all be paid after deducting \$7,400 from the \$25,000.

The idea of paying out either \$4,600 or \$7,400 to conduct a business of \$25,000 per year is simply absurd. We have corporations here in Roswell conducting affairs amounting to more than a million of dollars per year, the banks for instance, and it is safe to say that not one of them pay salaries to the members of the directory boards. They pay good salaries to the managers, but do not throw away thousands of dollars every year in useless salaries to their directors.

The city of Roswell is a corporation, just like any bank or mercantile business. It could select a board of directors, just as they do, composed of efficient business men, with but nominal salaries. We recognize the difference between the conduct of city affairs and those of a private corporation. We believe the directors of the city or the commissioners, whatever they may be called, should receive a salary, but the sum named in the local so-called "Commission" Plan is entirely out of sight and unreasonable. With a capable commission, of two or three men, a mayor or manager could be selected at a fair salary and the business of the city conducted at a small cost. The commissioners need meet but quarterly, a capable manager should be able to manage all the rest. If he could not, he would not be qualified to hold down the position.

The best thing that can be done under the circumstances is to beat the absurd plan put before us and at the next legislature secure the passage of one that will meet the situation. If the right kind of a plan cannot be secured, we are better off as we are.

The proper form of commission government is successful and the Record is sorry Roswell cannot vote on such a plan. It has done wonders wherever tried. In Dallas, Texas, it has been most successful. A recent issue of the Kansas City Times gives an idea of the way it has worked there, and we reproduce it for the benefit of our readers.

The Way Dallas Worked It.
"More has been accomplished for

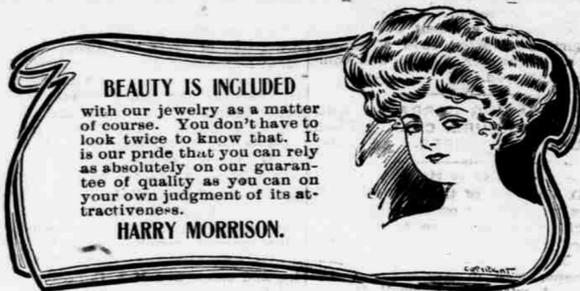
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commissioners, and is ready to help them in every possible way. . . .
"Accomplishes More with Less Cost."
"The election a short time ago was a farce. After a great deal of persuasion a man was induced to run against S. J. Hay, the former mayor, commissioner who was a candidate for re-election. He was snowed under by an overwhelming vote, and each commissioner was re-elected by a tremendous majority. They had proved in the two years that they had served the city that the commission form of government accomplished more with less expense than any other form of city government which has yet been devised."

THE RECORD SAYS OTHERWISE
"I don't believe in open saloons any day of the week, or any form of gamb-



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HARRY MORRISON.

the general welfare of Dallas in the two years that the commission form of government has been in existence there than was accomplished in any other ten years in the city's history," said Orville Thorp, general manager of the Kansas City Life Insurance Company for the state of Texas, who was at the Savoy Hotel recently. Mr. Thorp has lived in Dallas for seven years and has followed the local politics with a keen interest.

Parks and Pavements a Joke.
"Seven years ago," he continued, "the agitation for paving the streets of the town became so great that the

ling, and have never failed to vote and work against them both at every opportunity; but on things that are not in themselves harmful, I do not believe in the lid, and am one of those who believe in the commonsense plan of the right thing."

Thus Will Robinson in the Register-Tribune. Now let us see what his record on this really was.

On December 20, 1907, he voted in favor of reducing the saloon license from two thousand to one thousand dollars.

On May 6, 1908 he voted against the

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city officials were forced to give in to the general demand and pave the streets. But they chose a poor grade of asphalt at a high price, with the result that in a year there wasn't a street in town that anyone could drive a motor car over without breaking an arm or a leg. The hot sun of the South melted the poor grade of asphalt and made great holes in every business street. The city park was a joke. It was simply a bit of woods with a narrow road cut through it, and no care was taken of it by the men paid for that purpose.

Finally the citizens could stand the rotten state of affairs no longer. Two years ago twenty business men of Dallas put an independent ticket in the field and made the commission form of government the issue of the can-

passage of the city anti-gambling ordinance.

Later in the year when the bawdy house ordinance was introduced in the city council, he moved to refer it to the fire committee, a majority of whose members afterwards voted against the passage of the ordinance. Failing to bring this about he voted against this ordinance at every opportunity and tried in every way to defeat it, finally voting against its passage on final vote.

These are the facts as written in the official record of the city.

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paign. The whole ticket carried by a good majority and four of the most able and progressive men in the city were made commissioners.

Now Everyone Boosts.
"Many of the oldest citizens shook their heads and said sagely, 'You can never eliminate graft and politics from a city's government.' But it didn't take those commissioners long to show the knackers that the graft and politics could be eliminated. The first thing the street commissioner did was to have the disgraceful asphalt removed and to have sunproof, water proof bitulthic paving put in its place. Today that paving looks like new. The City Park was enlarged and beautified, so that now every visitor to Dallas is taken and shown the city's pride, the new park system. An elaborate boulevard system was also laid out and is now completed. But the most important result of the commission government is the fact that every citizen in Dallas is aiding in the work. Under the old regime there was always someone knocking the city officials, but there is none of that now. Everyone knows and respects the

OFFICIAL COPY OF CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS. (Condensed Report.)

Tuesday evening, June 1, 1909. Council met in regular session. Mayor presiding. All members present.

Minutes of previous meeting read and approved.

Petition from owners of Victoria Heights asking permission to change plat of said Heights granted unanimously.

Semi-Annual report of Electrical Inspector read and ordered filed.

Finance Committee's report read and ordered filed.

Water, Sewer and lights committee reported on petition of St. Mary's Hospital for sewer extensions, and recommended petition be granted, provided the hospital use sufficient water to meet interest on total cost of extension, and actual cost of such extension. Report unanimously adopted and the City Attorney instructed to prepare contract to this effect.

The same committee reported on similar application of Messrs. Gibbany

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Into two cups of sifted flour, sift and mix one level teaspoon of salt and four level teaspoons of baking powder; chop in one level tablespoon of chilled COTTOLENE; wet to a stiff dough with about 1/2 cup of milk, or half water and half milk. Bake in a hot oven.—Mary J. Linco n.

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