

HOW TO RULE THE CITY

WONDERFUL ADVANCEMENT TOWARD IDEAL MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT IN GALVESTON UNDER "COMMISSION PLAN"—NO LONGER BANKRUPT—CRIME DECREASED—DEATH REDUCED—GRAFT DEAD.

Special Correspondence to The Press
BY HARRY G. FARMER.

GALVESTON, Tex., Oct. 13.—Is the Galveston plan of city government a success?

The people of Galveston think it is. Ask the first man met on the street. He will answer: "Fine! We now get our money's worth."

Seven years have passed since Galveston abolished its old board of aldermen and began this new experiment. During this period there have been elections in addition to the one which set the commission government going; at each of these the people have had a chance to make a change. But what has happened? In no election has the opposition polled a quarter of the city's vote. The people are content.

Why? Because the commission government has redeemed the city from hopeless bankruptcy; it has wiped out a large floating debt; it has rebuilt public buildings ruined by the storm of Sept. 8, 1900; it has planned and carried through huge public works designed to protect the city from a repetition of that great catastrophe; it has brought the city's bonds from 60 cents to above par; it has planned and partly carried out a completely new system of sewage drainage; it has metered the water service, cleared the sidewalks of fruit stands and obstructions; cleaned out all policy shops and public gambling; restricted bar rooms to the business district, cleaned up the water front, inaugurated sanitation, prosecuted all city cases to a finish, paid nearly half a million on the bonded debt, helped to restore confidence, increased the value of real estate, decreased the tax rate until it is actually less than the six largest cities of the state, reduced the size of the force, decreased crime and reduced the death rate.

And in the doing of all this there has not been the whisper or suggestion of graft.

Is there much more one could ask of a city government?

When election time comes around in Galveston it is now the customary thing for a committee of prominent citizens to wait on the four commissioners and ask them please to all stand for another term. The chairman of the com-

mittee hands the commission a beautifully engrossed petition in which the commission is told what a fine record it has made, and the committee adds that it (it being a delegation from the City club) will do all the work and pay all bills involved in the campaign.

The members of the commission take the matter under advisement and finally consent to run. The committee from the City club spends \$350 in printed circulars, and that is all there is to it. The commission government goes right along.

There are only four of these commissioners and the mayor president. The scheme is simplicity itself. It is merely a business corporation with a president (or general manager) and its four directors. These five gentlemen get together around a square table and vote what to do. A majority is final.

For convenience in transacting business the various city departments are assigned to special commissioners. This one has charge of finance and revenue, and under his direction are placed the offices of city assessor and collector, the city treasurer and city auditor. Another commissioner has charge of water works and sewerage; another of health, sidewalk inspection, etc., and another of the police and fire departments. All, however, meet and act together, and a majority vote is required on all matters requiring city authority.

The men who are serving Galveston as commissioners are what might be termed her "prominent business men." Three of them are in the millionaire class and the other two are in comfortable circumstances. The \$1200 paid the commissioners and the \$2000 paid the mayor can hardly be regarded as the inducements which command their services. Each gives about two hours a day to the city's business and spends absolutely no time at all in what might be called "doing politics."

The commission is required by the charter to meet at least once a week. Occasionally there are special meetings called. All meetings are public, and the newspapers report the proceedings in full.

The good points in Galveston's commission stand out in brighter contrast when viewed in the light of history. Up to 1900 the city labored under the aldermanic plan. It was the same old story of graft and incompetence. The taxes were not collected, the city had to issue scrip to pay current bills, the book-

HOW'S THIS FOR A HONEYMOON COUPLE?



Here is how Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Barker looked on their 1,600 mile brakebeam honeymoon from Lincoln, Nebraska, to Seattle, in the course of which they lately passed through Spokane. They went through all the ex-

periences of tramp life, riding underneath when driven off the cars or out of them. They slept in any sort of shelter they could find and begged food from back doors. Mrs. Barker, who is an attractive

young woman when dressed according to her sex, says it was lots of fun in spite of the hardships. The average woman, however, will speculate considerable on her idea of fund. She walked about 250 miles between stations.

keeping was hopeless, the aldermen were in on contracts, embezzlement and defalcation went unnoticed, public works were neglected, vice was protected, the police were corrupt, the fire department inadequate, the health department a nullity, and there was no hope of a betterment.

When the storm had reduced Galveston to a wreck and had drowned a fifth of her people the old aldermanic government fell of its own weight. It acknowledged its incompetence and begged for aid and advice of the governor of the state. One of its members advised that all resign. As there were no salaries in sight the idea was rather popular with the aldermen. But it made no difference to anybody what they said or did. Nobody paid any heed. In the stress of the hour and the need for strong, intelligent action, the city's affairs were taken over by a voluntary committee—an association of property owners known as the deep waterways commission—which had at first been formed to secure federal appropriations for Galveston. To these men the public looked; and at their sessions, held daily, all was done that was done.

An urgent appeal to the state legislature gave the city its present charter.

"But," says somebody, "is this government by the people?" To me it seems to be—at least more so than the old aldermanic plan. In the last analysis it is a question of what the people—a majority of the people—want. Certainly they did not want what they got up to Sept. 8, 1900. It seems to me that they do want what they are now getting.

But suppose the commission should turn bad—or part bad? It is easy enough, under this system, to see where the badness lies. If the public works are neglected, one of these four men is directly responsible; if the finances do not turn a proper balance, another of these four men is directly responsible. If the fire or police departments are not right, the man to blame is direct yin the public eye. And at any of these two year elections the people have but to nominate a new man and throw the old man out. There is a concentration of responsibility as well as power; and the remedy for evils is direct.

But suppose three of the commissioners should organize for loot? There is an appeal provided to the courts for removal in such cases.

But suppose a majority of the commission should keep within the la wand still sell out the people in the grant of public franchises? The people would be sold out.

Theoretically, then, the commission plan is not perfect. It is like a monarchy, which, with a perfect monarch, is the ideal form of government, but with a bad monarch, the worst.

But it is significant, to say the least, that the only serious objections to the Galveston plan are those raised in theory. In its seven years of practice they have not had to be confronted.

It so happens that the Galveston street railway franchises were disposed of before the commission government came into power. The city owns its water and its lighting plants. There have been few special privileges to be farmed out.

On the other hand, there have been enormous contracts in connection with the grade raising and the sea wall work, not to mention paving and the installing of new sewers; and in the handling of all

EXPECT RATE CASE RULING IN FEW DAYS

The announcement that Spokane's fight against unjust discrimination of railroads on freight rates has been successful is confidently expected within a few days by the large business interests.

The fight before the interstate commerce commission was one of the hardest which any city made before the commission. The railroads massed their best legal talent against Attorney H. M. Stephens, who represented Spokane. Frank McCune, formerly a rate clerk with the Northern Pacific, was Spokane's star witness. McCune's denunciations with railroads for years put him in possession of valuable information which was used as evidence to show the discrimination against this city.

McCune subsequently had trouble with the officers of the chamber of commerce and resigned a position which had been guaranteed him for life. Lately he brought suit against the chamber of commerce, including among his claims \$5,000 paid to Attorney Stephens for legal services. He alleged that as the director of the city's case he was entitled to the money.

It has been about a year since the rate hearing and the decision has been held up for political reasons along with a lot of others.

Present rates given Spokane amount to the rate to the coast plus the rate back.

Paris' Very Latest



The latest fashion from Paris is a long scarf worn full length over a director's gown of the latest type. The picture shows a Parisienne gowned in the new style.

DOMESTIC DEMONSTRATION

About 75 ladies attended the demonstration of domestic science by Miss Brodski of St. Louis at the First Methodist church yesterday afternoon. The demonstrations will continue all week. The church receives the benefit of a small admission fee charged. Ladies are requested to bring a small dish with them to sample the various viands prepared.

Do the bill collectors always dun as they would be done by?

The wheel of fortune has turned many a man's head.

Wednesday Thursday

Pattern Hats

33 1-3 Per Cent Reduction From the Regular Price at Tyler's Style Shop

ALL colored pattern hats in the store. The largest and most up to date line in the city. Pattern hats direct from the fashion center of France and from all the leading trimmed hat houses of the East. A great variety of beautiful color combinations. A swell hat to match any suit. This is the chance you have been waiting for. Do not miss it. No black, white, or black and white hats included in this sale.

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Wednesday and Thursday Only

Winter Underwear

50 dozen heavy, fine, sanitary, wool fleece shirts and drawers; all sizes; colors gray and blue; choice, only..... 50c

25 dozen fine, wool mixed, French ribbed shirts and drawers; color, gray and pink; choice, only..... 60c

Men's Night Shirts

A beautiful line of fine Outing Flannel; full size, and long; at. \$1.00 and \$1.25

Men's Pajamas

Splendid values; Wilson Bros. make; \$1.00 up to \$3.50

MEN'S TROUSERS—The kind that wear well; per pair..... \$1.50, \$2.00, \$2.50 and \$3.50

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Famous Clothing Co.

110 Post Street

Men's Shirts

A big assortment of working shirts; black and blue stripe; choice, only..... 50c

Wool Over Shirts

The "Staley," the most satisfactory overshirt on the market for service and comfort today; at. \$1.25 and \$1.75

Hosiery Specials

A big drive in plain and fancy cotton hose; value 25c and 35c; three pairs for only..... 50c

An extra good black and brown Sox; two pairs for..... 25c

ADDS MILLIONS TO FRANCHISE TAX

PORTLAND, Oct. 13.—Assessed valuation of property in Multnomah county on which the taxes for 1909 will be levied will approximate \$240,000,000.

There are many interesting features to the figures compiled by the county assessor. One is in regard to the assessment of the undivided surplus of the Harriman lines in Oregon. This year Assessor Sigler assessed the undivided surplus at \$14,400,000 after deducting the \$8,250,000 dividend declared by the corporation, January 1 of this year. Last year the assessment on the undivided surplus of this corporation amounted to \$16,150,000, and the corporation objected to the levying of taxes on this amount and carried the matter into the courts. The case is still pending.

Another interesting item is in regard to the assessment of franchises. He has valued the franchises in this city held by public service corporations at \$2,643,300, which is an increase over last year's valuations of about \$20,000.

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ENGLAND'S BEST PAID LAWYER A JEW

LONDON, Oct. 13.—Rufus Isaac, K. C., M. P., is credited with having the largest income that has ever been possessed by a member of the English bar. His position is so strong that he will in all probability end his career as the lord chancellor of England, the first Jew to attain that honor.

He was born in London in 1860, the son of a well to do merchant. He attended universities on the continent and it was then planned that he should go to Cambridge. He defeated this program by running away to sea. A trip to Rio Janeiro was sufficient, however, and on his return he joined the stock exchange. Then he studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1887. His rise since that time has been phenomenal. Few important cases come up here with which he is not connected. A \$10,000 fee is nothing unusual to him, and his income is probably not far from \$1000 a day. Isaac is an intense worker and makes a practice of arising at 5 a. m. to begin his daily labors.

CORSET WISDOM.

Corsets are all important to the stout woman; if her dress allowance is small, she will be wise to forego the smart visiting frock or expensive hat, and buy instead a thoroughly good corset, made to measure; she should satisfy herself that the fitting is perfect.

Ambition gets along faster when unhindered by a tender conscience.

TO MAKE THE SHAMROCK EMBLEM OF TEMPERANCE

DUBLIN, Oct. 13.—A great temperance crusade has been undertaken throughout the south and west of Ireland by the Roman Catholic bishops, and every Sunday for the last five months pastoral messages condemning the vice of drunkenness have been read at the churches at all the services.

The latest pronouncement has been by the Rt. Rev. Dr. Hoare, bishop of Ardgau, who attacks the practice of drinking at wakes and at the farewell parties given in honor of departing emigrants. The drinking at wakes, he declares, is not only harmful to the living, but disrespectful to the dead. Drinking at harvest was also attacked, and the bishop appealed to the clergy and the people to do all in their power to discountenance these abuses.

The bishop of Fermis has also issued a pastoral letter condemning the practice of supplying drink at threshings, and appealing to the people to join the Anti-Treating league and to wear the shamrock badge as a reminder that they are soldiers in the great army that is fighting to win Ireland from drunkenness.

The "Knowing How"

"She knows how to put her clothes on!" What a wealth of meaning there is to women in that encomium! For, though her raiment may be simple and have cost but little, the woman who knows how to put that raiment on may range herself beside her most expensively garbed rival who does not possess the knowledge, and triumph in the eyes of the discriminating.

NEW SCHOOL NEXT SPRING

The building of a parental school in Spokane, to take charge of which William Baker, head of a similar school in Seattle, has been employed, will probably not begin before next spring. Plans for the school were prepared and donated to the board by Albert Held, the architect.

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