

# HOW TO RULE THE CITY

SECOND OF SPECIAL ARTICLES TELLS HOW VOTERS WIPE OUT CORRUPTION IN INEFFICIENCY IN DALLAS IN 16 MONTHS.

BY HARRY G. FARMER.

Special Correspondence to The Press

DALLAS, Tex., Oct. 14.—This city, like Galveston, has abolished aldermen and graft, and in their place substituted honesty, economy and a popular form of government. Here, as in Galveston, the "commission plan" is an unqualified success.

Success? How can one tell in so short a time? It is only 16 months since the Dallas experiment began. Quite true. And still I say that what Dallas has is so much better than what it had, and so much better than aldermen and city administrations as I have known them (I served my apprenticeship in covering Chicago's city council)—it is so much more honest, so much more efficient, so much more what the people want—that it would be a waste of time to draw comparisons between the old and new.

In this city, as in Galveston, the aldermanic form of government had broken down. Insufficient water, neglected pavements, high priced gas, a telephone monopoly and poor street car service were the outward manifestations of a system honeycombed by corruption and inefficiency. Taxes were nupaid, the public money mysteriously disappeared, the city's bills piled up; and when the commission finally took hold there was an overdraft on the city's bank of nearly \$200,000.

An investigation of the tax collector's books showed how things had been going. License taxes amounting to some \$25,000 had disappeared. The only record of tax collections of this sort were certain "stub books," and if these books were lost so was all official record of the funds. The commission recovered this particular defalcation from the collector's bondsmen, and a new system of accounting was installed.

In the few months during which the commission has been in power it has reduced the floating debt by more than half, it has begun the construction of a new water works, it has started action to reduce the capital of the high priced gas monopoly, it has granted a franchise to a competing telephone concern, it has improved the city's lights and pavements, decreased expenses, increased revenues, marketed half a million dollars' worth of the city's bonds at 95, bearing interest at 4 per cent, and generally has convinced the people that the city's business is being run as it should be run.

"Do you like this commission plan?" To this inquiry the average man on the street will answer: "Fine!"

The Dallas plan is similar in its general character to that of Galveston. There are four commissioners and a mayor, and they are to the city what the directors and general manager are to a private business. They divide the work among themselves, and each man is responsible for all that happens in his department. The commissioners hold formal and informal conferences, and a majority vote is final. The mayor receives a salary of \$4000 a year and the commissioners are paid \$3000 each. One of the requirements of the charter here is that mayor and commissioners shall give all their time to their public duties. This is not required in Galveston.

In one respect the Dallas plan differs fundamentally from the pattern laid down seven years ago in Galveston, namely, in the addition to the plain commission plan, of a provision for the initiative, referendum and the recall. Perhaps the simplest explanation of this feature will be found in a brief account of the first occasion on which the law was actually tried.

The circumstances were these: An independent telephone concern had applied for a franchise, and their application had been granted by a divided board. There members were in favor of inaugurating competition; the other two favored "monopoly under proper regulation." The old telephone concern, fighting under cover, aroused sentiment enough to secure petitioners in sufficient number to call for the referendum of this franchise to a popular vote, which was accordingly had. The result was overwhelming in favor of the granting of the franchise.

Here, then, is the answer to the question, What if a commission tries to sell the people out? Under the commission plan—plus the referendum—the commission has no chance to sell the people out.

In its referendum feature the Dallas plan is certainly an improvement over the scheme of government in Galveston. In that particular city the commission happens to be a very high class body, and it also happens that in the seven years of the experiment at Galveston there have been no valuable franchises to be dispensed. What

might happen in that or any other city with million dollar franchises to be farmed out, and with no check on the commission's power, any citizen is at liberty to guess.

In Galveston it is a government by "our best people"; in Dallas a majority of the people are supreme. Under the Dallas charter any member of government can by popular vote be "recalled"—that is, can be removed from office and a new man chosen in his place; franchise grants can be vetoed; or, in case of non-action by the commission, the people, by petition, can themselves start and pass such laws as they desire. A specified percentage of the voters, by affixing their names to a petition, can set the wheels in motion.

In its actual operation I find the Dallas city government extremely sensitive to public sentiment. In one instance a mere threat of a "recall" caused the police commissioner to abandon his activities against an amusement house which the people were apparently quite willing should remain open Sundays in defiance of the state closing law. The commissioners seem anxious to anticipate any possible criticism, and there is a marked absence here of those tedious and ineffectual "newspaper campaigns" against popular abuses.

"Why, I no sooner start something which really reflects the wishes of the people," confessed the editor of the influential afternoon paper here, "than I am shut up by getting what I have asked. Anything in reason the commission grants."

The Galveston commissioners, as I have told in a previous article, are nearly all millionaires. They serve for the honor, and give but a small part of their time to the city's business. But Galveston has about 37,000 people to Dallas' 80,000, and here the commissioners are required by charter to give their exclusive energies to their public work. The Dallas commissioners are not millionaires; but neither are they men to whom the three and four thousand dollar salaries would be a great inducement. They are all men who have won success in business lines, one as a wholesale paper dealer, another as a packer, another as a plumber, another as a speculator in real estate, and so on. None of them would be in Bradstreet under \$50,000.

A peculiar feature of the Dallas plan is a \$3000 auditor, nominated by the city's bankers and entirely

## BULGARIANS LONG TO FIGHT THEM



TYPES OF TURKISH ARMY: CENTRAL FIGURE, A TURKISH CAVALRYMAN ON LEFT, ALBANIAN INFANTRYMAN. ON RIGHT, TURKISH INFANTRYMAN.

independent of the commission.

Dallas, like Galveston, has a citizens' association—a sort of good citizenship machine—which nominates the winning ticket, passes around the hat for campaign contributions, issues circulars and generally conducts the campaign. This association has a committee of a hundred and a managing committee of 17, and a secretary manager. In this case a young business man, H. D. Lindsley. The present commission was named and elected by this association.

The former mayor and several of the old political gang tried to break into office under the new charter plan, but in the campaign to secure the charter they had shown their colors on franchise and other matters, and all fell far short of polling a majority of the votes.

Fort Worth and Houston are now operating under commission charters similar to this in Dallas.

### STOLE HER ARSENAL.

Someone yesterday stole a gold plated revolver out of Miss Ethel Macdonough's room in the Spokane hotel while she was appearing at the Orpheum in her trap drum act. She notified the police of the theft.

## SEWER DELAYED TWO WEEKS

Confirmation of the Fourth ward sewer assessment rolls went over for two weeks last night. The council heard a committee of property owners protesting against the confirmation. Attorney Cyrus Pence for the protesters stated that in order to allow more time to secure expressions of sentiment from property owners continuance for 30 days was desired.

A. E. House appeared in favor of the trunk and lateral scheme. He accused Contractor James C. Broad with designedly working up opposition so he would have another opportunity to bid on the job. He said that the contract was let for \$85,000 and that Broad's bid had been \$128,000. House declared Broad tried the same tactics in connection with the Cannon Hill trunk sewer. Broad was not on hand to offer reply.

## CUSHMAN MEETING TOMORROW

Congressman Cushman's meeting tomorrow night at the Spokane theater is the next attraction scheduled by Chairman Ham of the republican county committee. Reemer's band of 14 pieces will furnish the music.

Great preparations will be made for the big rally on the night of October 31, marking the close of the campaign, at which Senator Piles and Congressman Jones, senator to be, will furnish the oratorical red fire.

Chairman Ham today made arrangements to swing an immense banner across Riverside avenue from the Hotel Raymond building, in which the committee has its offices, to the Fernwell building. This banner will be made of rope and will contain pictures of Taft and Sherman seven feet in diameter.

Arrangements have been made for Deputy Prosecutor Stanley Webster to speak at a rally to be held by the Young Men's Republican club of Ritzville Friday night. Walter P. Bell, candidate for attorney general, and George A. Lee, of the prosecuting attorney's office, will speak at Rockford October 26 and at Latah October 27, both being night meetings. Medical Lake, Hillyard and Cheney have asked for meetings and an effort will be made to accede to their wishes.

Of some 10,000 Taft and Sherman buttons received at republican headquarters only about 5,000 are left, so great has been the demand for the buttons, states Secretary Marvin Arnold, of the committee.

Headquarter officials have been pretty busy for the last few days preparing a list of their recommendations for election judges and inspectors. The names are supplied by the precinct committee-men and recommended to the county commissioners by the county committee.

### RAISED COIN FOR TAFT.

BELLINGHAM, Oct. 14.—Contributions of Whatcom county republicans to the national campaign fund this year reached \$2050. It was raised by a volunteer committee and will be forwarded to Chicago today.

## BRIDGE BACK IN COMMITTEE

WATKINS URGES STEEL HIGHWAY STRUCTURE THAT COMPANIES MAY STRENGTHEN—UNIONS FILE PETITIONS FOR CONCRETE.

No definite action with regard to the East Olive avenue bridge plans was taken by the council last night. The board of works sent a communication saying the Traction Co. refused to contribute 33 1/3 per cent. of the cost and therefore recommended a mere highway structure.

Councilman Watkins offered a resolution that a highway structure be adopted.

Councilman Watkins offered a resolution that a highway structure of steel of practically the same plans as the one for car traffic, be ordered. In the event that such a bridge was built it could be strengthened at any time for car traffic, he argued. It would be up to the Traction people then to strengthen the bridge at its own expense any time it wanted to use it for cars. The matter was referred to the committee of the whole.

Petitions from several unions asking favorable action on concrete bridges were read. The petitions were all worded the same, but were signed by different unions. Councilmen listened for awhile to the reading and then Councilman Lambert moved that the bunch of petitions be referred to the committee of the whole, and the council so voted.

### POLICE CHIEF INDICTED

WELLSVILLE, O., Oct. 14.—Chief of Police Charles Williams has been indicted on a charge of arson. Williams is charged with having set fire to a house in which several women were sleeping, on August 18, 1906. Williams, then a patrolman, had trouble with one of the women and had threatened to burn her out.

### INCREASE OF VOTERS.

BELLINGHAM, Oct. 14.—Registration books of this city closed at midnight, with a total of 5,000 names on the poll books, an increase of 736 since the last presidential election.

## WATCH SNATCHER ROAMS STREETS

While August Johnson stood on Riverside avenue, near Bernard street looking at his watch and thinking it was about time for supper, a man snatched the time-piece and ran off down the street. Johnson pursued a block and got winded, but lost the watch.

## KNOCK DOWN AND DRAG OUT ROBBERY

A dozen men stood around the Northern Pacific depot about midnight and did not interfere with two young men who dragged D. W. Hays, an old man of North Yakima, out and after beating him into submission robbed him of \$12. Hays reported to the police and gave a description of his assailants.

### MINNESOTANS WANTED.

Former Minnesotans to the number of about 100 had an enjoyable time last night at the regular monthly meeting of the Minnesota club in the assembly room of the chamber of commerce. An interesting program of musical and literary numbers was rendered, followed by the appointment of a committee on membership. Former Minnesotans are urged to unite with the club, the secretary of which is A. C. Clausen, fourth floor of the Columbia building.

Knights and Ladies of Security will pay their dues at the office of Samuel T. Crane, attorney at law, 410 Columbia building.

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## WIFE REPENTED BUT COURT HOLDS HUBBY

Richard M. Meinhard, who dug his wife's diamonds out of the cellar where she had planted them with his knowledge, and left town, only to be arrested on complaint of his wife when he returned, was bound over to the superior court by Justice Mann yesterday, despite

the unwillingness of Mrs. Meinhard to prosecute. She claimed the diamonds, which were worth \$1,000, had all been returned.

The corporation counsel was ordered by the city council last night to draft an ordinance appropriating \$12,100 to defray expenses of the health department for the balance of the year.

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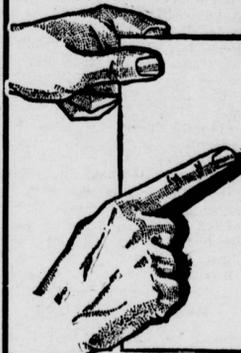
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# SHOES AT COST

## Spokane Shoe Co. Going Out of Business

\$20,000 worth of high grade standard footwear to be sacrificed regardless of former price or value. Sixteen years of uninterrupted business success has been built up by square honest business methods, buying and selling nothing but the most dependable standard shoes. Ever alert to the wants of our many staunch friends and constant patrons has made this business one to be proud of and one we retire from with the greatest reluctance. And we are now going to show our appreciation by giving to the people of Spokane and the Inland Empire the greatest shoe bargain feast ever offered in this city. Bring the whole family in and take advantage of this great money saving shoe sale.

## Come Before Stock Is Picked Over

We can only price a few of the many bargains, but the store is full of good shoe values.

<p><b>LOT B 1</b></p> <p><b>LADIES' \$5.00 AND \$4.00 SHOES \$2.95</b></p> <p>This is a bunch of ladies' fine high grade shoes, made for our best trade. They come in the popular styles and leathers. There are hand turned and welt extension soles, Cuban, military and French heels. They are made by the foremost makers of good shoes. The lot on sales counters for quick selling, per pair... <b>\$2.95</b></p>	<p><b>LOT D 1</b></p> <p><b>LITTLE GENTS' AND YOUTHS' \$1.75 AND \$2.00 SHOES \$1.25</b></p> <p>A bunch of good school shoes for the little boys and youths, made for hard wear with quilted and plain soles. Not a pair worth less than \$1.75. They are on the counter for convenient showing and priced, per pair... <b>\$1.25</b></p> <p><b>LOT D 2 BOYS' \$2.50 AND \$2.00 SHOES \$1.45</b></p> <p>School shoes for the rough and tumble boys in box calf, kangaroo calf, rock oak soles, steel quilted and plain bottoms. Price, per pair... <b>\$1.45</b></p> <p><b>LOT C 1 MISSES' \$1.75 TO \$2.50 SHOES \$1.25</b></p> <p>Bunch of misses' spring and block heel shoes in box calf, vicid kid and patent leather. High grade shoes on the sales counters for convenient buying. Per pair... <b>\$1.25</b></p> <p><b>LOT E 1 LITTLE GIRLS' \$1.75 SHOES \$1.15</b></p> <p>A good lot of small girls' and children's solid leather shoes in vicid kid and box calf spring and block heels; patent leather and stock tips. Good wearing shoes. Price... <b>\$1.15</b></p>
<p><b>LOT B 5</b></p> <p><b>LADIES' \$3.50 OXFORDS \$1.95</b></p> <p>Fine lot of ladies' best oxfords in patent leather, tan Russian calf and chocolate vicid kid; popular shapes; flexible hand turned and welt soles. Bunched in one lot on sales counters for rapid selling. Per pair, only... <b>\$1.95</b></p> <p><b>LOT B 6</b></p> <p><b>LADIES' \$2.50 AND \$3.00 OXFORDS AND SLIPPERS \$1.45</b></p> <p>Ladies' patent leather and vicid kid oxfords and slippers, with hand turned soles; all style heels and toes. Bunched in this lot and marked, per pair... <b>\$1.45</b></p>	<p><b>LOT A</b></p> <p><b>MEN'S \$5.00 AND \$6.00 SHOES \$3.45</b></p> <p>A fine lot of men's better shoes in patent leather, vicid kid, enamel box and velour calf; hand sewed medium and heavy soles. All style toes. Picked from our best line for leaders. They are the kind that made us good friends for over 16 years. Sales counters, per pair, only... <b>\$3.45</b></p>

## A WALK THAT MADE A NEW WORLD'S RECORD



T. E. HAMMOND UNDER FULL HEADWAY.

In a recent walking competition at the Stadium in London, where the Olympic games were held, T. E. Hammond set a new world's record for 24 hours. He covered the remarkable distance of 131 miles, this

being far ahead of any previous performance. In the picture G. A. Olley, a long distance bicycle rider, is walking with Hammond, and is just handing him some grapes by way of refreshment.

Something New in

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