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THE PROPOSED NEW CHARTER.

The people of Salem will next week vote on the adoption of a new city charter which provides for the commission form of government, or, more strictly speaking, one of the many forms of the commission plan.

The Capital Journal has no particular advice to offer on the subject to its readers. It believes that the system of government is not so important as the way in which the system is administered. After all, will it make much difference whether we call the governing board councilmen or commissioners?

The principal change provided for by the new charter reduces the number of members of the council from fourteen to seven, to be elected at large instead of by wards, and empowers them to hire a paid business manager to manage the affairs of the city.

Could not the council, as at present constituted, hire a business manager if it was deemed advisable? If not, a very simple change in the present charter might give them the power to do so.

The new plan might or might not work better than the present one. It will all depend on the men elected as commissioners, just as it does now upon the men who comprise the board of aldermen, or council, as it is generally called.

There is a great tendency at the present time to try new and experimental things in city, county and state government. The result has been, on the whole, to complicate the machinery and constantly levy more money to meet the increasing cost of administration. People lose sight of the fact that bad business judgment, carelessness and extravagance in expending public funds on the part of the officials is more to blame for the increasing cost of government than anything else. They are prone to blame the system instead of calling their public servants to strict account.

When Oregon had less of government and when commissions were unknown, it will be recalled that taxes were much lower, and that life and property were just as safe as they are today. Now about every third man one meets (and some women, too) wear the badge of an inspector or other official—and the taxpayers foot the bill. There is altogether too much government, and the only relief can come from simplifying administration, and not from changing to even more complicated systems.

Any number of good men, seven or fourteen, call them commissioners or councilmen, ought to be able to give Salem good government. The same number of bad or incompetent officials will be sure to make a mess of it and taxpayers will not get value received for the money it costs them.

The only specific objection we have to the new charter, and that does not concern the system proposed, is that it empowers the commission to increase the city tax levy from 11 1/2 mills to 16 1/2 mills. That is a dangerous thing to do, because officials as a rule spend all the money they can legally raise by taxation, whether it is really necessary or not. Our tax rate is too high now, and it would be an exhibition of bad business judgment to give the city legislative body the power to increase it in their discretion.

Emperor Joseph, of Austria, who has not been heard of since the war started, is still holding down his job, according to the story of William J. Shepher, appearing in yesterday's Capital Journal. He tells of the aged emperor giving an American artist seven sittings for his picture. It is right that the world should have a picture of the old emperor, so that future generations may see just what the ruler who applied the torch to the European bonfire looked like at the time.

Considering what is happening over in Europe, it is probably just as well that some American millionaires purchased a few works of the old masters and brought them over to this side of the pond. They would have been destroyed had they remained in the old country, while here they can be interned safely until after the war and then the folks back there can have replicas made of them—provided any of them have the price left.

WILL SALEM BE LEFT OUT?

Announcement that 6,000 tons of foodstuffs will be sent from Portland, Seattle and Tacoma was made yesterday by Samuel Hill, chairman of the committee appointed by Governor West to take charge of Belgian relief funds. Mr. Hill says a ship has been secured and that its name and sailing date will be made known soon. This is indeed welcome news to all who sympathize with the brave Belgians who have lost country, homes and everything in a war not of their seeking. The unfortunate situation of their country between two of the warring nations brought indescribable disaster upon them, and every generous American feels that he would like to relieve their distress as far as possible. It is too bad that no effort has been made in Salem to gather contributions to this cause, which may well be called "Holy."

There are many here not only willing to give in this behalf, but really anxious to do so, and if no charitable institution or church will take charge of it, the mayor should name some one or have some arrangement made where contributions could be left. The little town of Dublin, in one of the New England states, though having a population of but six hundred, gave \$2,800 to the Red Cross and other relief measures. At this rate, Salem would give nearly \$100,000. Salem owes it to herself not to be unrepresented in this noble giving. It is not simply charity, but a duty we owe to humanity and the world. Who will take charge of the matter at once?

That class of scary Americans who scent a war with Japan every time they smell tea are almost as panicky as those Canadians who fear a raid of German-Americans from this side of the border. The Germans in America are law-abiding and the very best of citizens. They would no more think of doing anything that would violate the neutrality of this country than they would of joining the enemies of the Fatherland. Whether the Germans are right or wrong in their fight in Europe is something that we as Americans are not called upon to judge. That will be for the future to disclose, when the anger and bitterness have passed away and the historian has access to all the facts. But, as citizens, it can be said no nation sends better men to America than Germany. Sturdy, self-reliant and manly, the German is a good citizen of any country, whether it is the land of his birth or of his adoption.

Henty D. White, former American ambassador to France, yesterday told President Wilson there was no use in undertaking to make peace in Europe because none of the warring nations had yet felt that their resources had been drained, and that until this stage was reached nothing could be done toward peace. This is true, and yet the drain must begin to tell, even on the richest of them. It looks much like a gambling game where no one wants to quit, and won't, until someone goes broke. It is a dead certainty that some of the players' stacks of chips, in the way of men, must sometime be exhausted, and the same may be said of the money. If this is the correct version, the winner will be the one who can play his cards closest to his breast and stay the longest.

North Yakima comes to the front with the most gruesome story of the year. It surely was a dramatic scene when Frank Lenzi stood by the side of the open grave into which his father's body had just been lowered and told the horror-stricken assemblage that he had murdered him. Then in detail he told the story of the crime, how he had struck his father over the head with an iron stake and with his brother's assistance dragged him into the barn, where, when he showed signs of returning consciousness, he deliberately placed a shotgun over the old man's heart and pulled the trigger. It would seem from this that the limit in the way of murder had been reached, as it was in the spectacular character of its being made public.

It would seem from the dispatches that not only is Japan not hunting war, but is doing her best to keep out of it. Her taking part in the attack on Kiao Chau was forced on her, and she draws the line against going further. Not only this, but she is preparing to turn over the little islands she took possession of in the Pacific, to China, just as she promised to do.

Jerome K. Jerome has made the statement that "Americans are becoming insane about humor." He must have been reading some of his own stuff that Americans used to consider humor and tried to laugh at.

MACLEAY NEWS NOTES

(Capital Journal Special Service.)
Macleay, Ore., Dec. 2.—Mr. John Kirehner had quite a painful accident, while out chopping wood, the axe slipped and cut off his toe.
Mr. Milton Minge, who has property up by Scotts Mills, has moved to his home near Salem for the winter.
The friends of Mr. Wm. Darby were very sorry to hear of his illness and hope he will soon recover to greet them with his jolly "How do you do!"
The road work which was going on at full blast was stopped on account of the Salem Sand & Gravel company having to move their plant, but the work will soon be going on again.
Mr. F. T. Nash, who is one of the officers of the Wabun Hills Telephone company, has just put in an order for a number of new poles for the repairing of the line up in the hills above Macleay.
Mr. J. F. C. Tekenburg is building himself a new modern house, which will improve things greatly.
Rev. Winters, of Salem, will preach at Macleay December 6 at 3 o'clock, and all are invited to come.
Macleay grange will hold their reg-

ular meeting December 11. It will be election of officers and will be quite interesting.

Mrs. Lizzie Smith, daughter of Mrs. Mary Howl, who has just undergone a very serious operation, is some better, and if the weather permits will be moved from the sanatorium today to the home or her mother on State street.
Mr. and Mrs. Delbert McKenzie have with them Mrs. McKenzie's parents from the east, who are going to visit Oregon for the winter.
M. H. K. Martin has purchased a new registered Jersey bull, name French General, from the John Girardin herd near Turner.

QUESTION OF NEUTRALITY.

Washington, Dec. 2.—Secretary of State Bryan conferred this afternoon with Charles M. Schwab, owner of the Bethlehem Steel Works, as to how far Schwab may go in the manufacture of war material. Bryan explained that the state department had heard that Schwab had obtained contracts abroad, and he summoned Schwab to inquire whether the contracts would involve American neutrality. Bryan said he had taken the matter under advisement and would make no final decision for several days.

THE ROUND-UP

A. L. Morris, of Eugene, presumably in good health when he started from home to his work Monday, was found dead in an alley four blocks from home, that night. His death was due to heart failure. He was a native Oregonian and 58 years old.

Amos H. Stanford, 61 years old, and residing at Lebanon, secured a license at Albany, Tuesday, to marry his brother's widow, Mrs. Maggie Sanford, aged 47.

Baker is urging the patronizing of Baker's three cigar factories and its brewery, to make "the blow of prohibition fall as lightly as possible."

The school board of Baker played a trick on the taxpayers by holding the annual school election without giving any notice. Twenty-four persons were privately notified, and they met and voted a 7.5 mills tax. This will yield \$43,300.

The Dallas Itemizer has just celebrated its fortieth anniversary. It is now under its eighth ownership, published by Boyd & Bloom as lessees. V. E. Fiske, postmaster of Dallas, is the present owner. It is one of the very largest and newest of Oregon's many excellent weeklies.

Tillamook women have organized a Civic league, of which the Herald says: "While the object of the league is civic improvement in its broadest sense, it is also the intention to begin a movement which it is hoped will ultimately result in securing a county library and a Carnegie building."

Lebanon Express: While real estate is considered very dull throughout the state, there are a few new people constantly coming to our town. These strangers usually say that they have heard good reports of this vicinity before leaving the east, and before looking over the country have a desire to see Lebanon.

The Canby Business Men's club has been revived, after a lapse of several months and the secretary has been instructed to notify all members of the club that the organization has taken on new life and henceforth will be doing the things such an organization is expected to do. Improvement of the ferry across the Willamette river will be one of the club's first tasks.

That a work of practical charity may be carried out in an unostentatious way as an incident to a pleasant public school affair, it is proposed at Hillsboro to promote a public Christmas tree. The Independent says of it: "It gives all of Hillsboro an opportunity to be a good fellow and bring happiness to many little hearts. In the language of the day, go to it."

Look Alive

If you're selling shredded cheese, look alive; thus your customers you'll please, look alive; even though your trade be punk, so you scarcely make a plunk, spring a cheerful line of look—look alive! When a man comes to your store, look alive; thus you'll sell a whole lot more, look alive; for the man who'll spend a bone, has some troubles of his own, and you bore him with your groan

look alive. Let your tale of woe be brief, look alive; deal in anything but grief, look alive; if you are inclined to fear, or to snarl about your store, haste to show yourself the door—look alive! If you are a weary clerk, look alive; poorly paid for heavy work, look alive; blithely work and watch your chance (you will have it!) to advance; otherwise your name is Pance—look alive. Act as though you liked your job—look alive! No one profits by a job—look alive! For the sore disgruntled lad, with a face morose and sad, always find the sliding bar—look alive! If alive, march with the crowd—look alive! If you're dead, go get a shroud—look alive! All the cheerful boys are wise, and the ones with weeping eyes hardly ever win a prize—look alive!

FOREST NOTES

A great deal of the oak used on the Pacific coast comes from the eastern part of Asia.

To guard against tree repair fakers, or quack tree surgeons, the Massachusetts forestry association will inspect the shade trees belonging to its members, free of charge.

The Shihwald, or city forest of Zurich, Switzerland, adds to the town's revenues \$7.20 per acre a year, reducing the amount needed to be raised through taxation by more than \$25,000.

In northern Idaho and Montana, which had many fires during the past summer, 35 per cent of the fires on national forests were caused by railroads, 20 per cent by lightning and 10 per cent by campers. The remainder were due to brush burning and other miscellaneous or unknown causes.

A mountain lion recently killed in the Grand Canyon game preserve, which adjoins the Tusayan national forest, measured 10 feet from nose to tail. Mountain lions and other beasts of prey, such as wolves, coyotes and wildcats, are killed by forest officers and game wardens because they are a menace to stock and game animals.

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- ROSE DALE SLICED HAWAIIAN PINEAPPLE. Net contents, 14 oz. We have 150 doz., 10c per tin. \$1.10 per dozen.
- SOLAR BRAND SLICED PINEAPPLE, No. 2 tins. 2 tins for 25c; \$1.35 per dozen.
- DEL MONTE TENDER SWEET PEAS 15c per tin; \$1.65 per dozen.
- 16-lb. SMALL WHITE BEANS for.....\$1.00
- 18-lb. LARGE WHITE BEANS for.....\$1.00
- 18-lb. PINK OR BAYO BEANS for.....\$1.00
- 12-lb. BEST ITALIAN PRUNES for.....\$1.00
- 16-lb. JAPAN STYLE RICE for.....\$1.00
- 14-lb. FANCY HEAD RICE for.....\$1.00
- 20-lb. BEST CREAM OATS for.....\$1.00
- 3 CANS COUNTRY CLUB MILK for.....25c
- SINCLAIR HAMS, per pound.....22 1/2c
- WHITE ROSE FLOUR, SPECIAL, per sack.....\$1.50

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OLD FRIENDS

"'Twas many, many years ago,"
The Park Row Vet 'ran said,
"That I first saw that precious child
Of Mister Newlywed.
And Little Nemo—charming boy—
Who still is in the game!
They're old enough to whiskers grow
Still they look just the same.
"And Mrs. Katzenjammer's Kids,
Who get Der Captain's goat,
Have been for twenty years or more
Entitled to a vote.
And Buster Brown should have gray hair
And show the marks of age.
Yet all do baby stunts upon
The comic Sunday page."
—Editor & Publisher.

BOLD MEXICAN THIEF.

Los Angeles, Dec. 2.—Slipping into the Emil Zemansky jewelry company's store here today while a clerk was showing a tray of rings to a customer, an unidentified Mexican seized a handful of rings and fled.
Pursued by clerks and customers, the fugitive ran through a crowded block in Main street, dashed into a doorway and up a flight of stairs, and plunged through a second story window.
While his pursuers, who had been joined by hundreds of pedestrians, were jammed in the stairway, the Mexican vaulted a fence and disappeared down an alley.
Zemansky claimed the rings were worth several hundred dollars.
Men who gamble pick their own pockets.

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