

THE ELITE

THE ladies of Corvallis and vicinity are cordially invited to visit the new home of The Elite in the Whiteside Building, on North Second Street, opposite the Palace Theater, and see the beautiful line of Newest Millinery and the splendid showing of Ladies' Furnishings which have been secured for the Fall trade.

The cozy "Rest Room" is for the convenience of all and The Elite desires shoppers to take advantage of it while down town.

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Facts Worth Noting

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GOVERNING BY COMMISSION.

Idea Spreading In the Cities of the Middle West.

STRICT BUSINESS PROPOSAL.

Good Results in Kansas City, Kan. St. Joseph, Mo., to Adopt the Plan as Closely as Possible—More Iowa Towns Follow Des Moines' Example.

The forces which are at work in the middle west for a more efficient and representative government than has been found possible under the old system of ward representation are gaining ground rapidly. In no section of the country has the "muck raking" of recent years borne greater fruit than in the middle west, and in no section is the science of municipal government receiving such close popular attention. The middle west is always ready to adopt progressive ideas. The people have come to have a distrust of professional politicians. They do their own thinking, and education in political science has shown them the fault in the old system of government.

Thus it is that the middle west is taking to the commission form of government. More than a dozen cities are now operating under it, and the success that has attended its operation has inspired an agitation for its adoption in many others.

Politics Eliminated.

Briefly, the commission form of government is designed to eliminate partisanship in municipal affairs and to operate a municipal government as a business proposition. It substitutes for an unwieldy legislative body and numerous elective officials with a divided responsibility a board, usually of five men, in whom is centered the appointive power of all subordinates and the responsibility for the proper conduct of the municipality's affairs. The "recall" is a feature of all charters. Politics is eliminated by providing for candidacy by petition for the primaries in which the two highest candidates for each office, regardless of party, become the opponents at the final election. Thus it might be that all of the candidates would be members of one political party. The result so far has been without exception in any city a government on business lines in which efficiency counts and where every dollar spent brings a return of 100 cents in service.

There isn't anything in that kind of government for the politicians, and naturally the professional politicians are the chief opponents of the commission form. In one or two instances where commission government has been proposed the politicians have defeated it. Theirs has been only a temporary advantage, however, for ultimately the protagonists of the commission form have won.

Change in Kansas City, Kan.

A notable and recent instance of this was in Kansas City, Kan., a city of 110,000 people and now the largest city which has adopted the new form. Following the passage of the law by the Kansas legislature providing for commission government in cities, Kansas City, Kan., voted on the question. The politicians, who had misruled the city for years and saddled upon it a staggering debt, fought the commission form from every angle. They labeled it "silk stocking" government and declared it un-American, nonrepresentative and extravagant and asserted that it would permit the successful candidates to build up a self-perpetuating machine the people never could get rid of. So well is the city governed that it has attracted attention. For years the city stood still. Now it shows a gain in population of 3,000 in two years, several new manufacturing plants have been started, and so much public and private improvement is under way that the city has been forced to advertise abroad for laborers. In the second election under commission government the politicians put up a ticket, but didn't get enough votes to count.

In Iowa the new idea is spreading also. Des Moines, of course, was the first city to adopt the new form. Its first annual report, issued a few weeks ago, showed a highly efficient administration which in one year made a saving over the old government of \$225,000 and at the same time gave better service. Keokuk and Cedar Rapids have since adopted the Des Moines plan, and several other cities in the state probably will within the next year.

In Other States.

Colorado Springs recently held its first election under a new charter which provides for commission government. The plan there is, in many of its features, a distinct advance over the older form of commission government in Houston, Galveston, Dallas and Fort Worth, Tex. St. Joseph, Mo., a city of 125,000 people, will vote in September on a new charter which, while it does not exactly provide it, gets as near to commission government as the laws of Missouri will permit. The new charter will abolish the present council, made up of ward representatives, and will substitute for it a body of five councilmen elected at large. The number of elective officers is reduced, and authority is centered in the mayor.

Oklahoma has provided for commission government in its cities, and in several of them an agitation is now under way for the adoption of the plan.—Kansas City Cor. New York Post.

DISSOLUTION NOTICE

The partnership of Johnson and Johnson, owners of the Toggery, Corvallis, Oregon, has been this day dissolved, R. C. Herron having acquired the interests of J. C. Johnson and B. W. Johnson in the business, which will be hereafter conducted by C. V. Johnson and R. C. Herron, under the firm name of Johnson & Herron. The latter firm assumes and the liabilities of the business.

JOHNSON & JOHNSON,
JOHNSON & HERRON

Corvallis, Ore., Sept. 1, 1909 9-3-10t

Sister's Academy Opens Sept. 7th

The Academy of Our Lady of Perpetual Help will re-open on September 7th. By means of the new addition and the remodeling of the building the school is now equipped with all modern improvements, and with a corps of competent teachers may be depended upon to do thorough work both in the grades and high school course.

For particulars apply to Sister Superior, 225 West Ninth St., Albany, Oregon. 8-19 to 9-19.

GEO. W. DENMAN

Attorney at Law

CORVALLIS, OREGON

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Will Be Greater Than Ever

\$35,000 in Premiums
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