

THE OBSERVER

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DAYTON'S NEW CHARTER IS SIMILAR.

Dayton, Ohio, took a giant step forward when it voted to adopt a new charter, which provides for the city manager plan of government, a type unique among the newer plans of government, similar to La Grande's proposed plan.

The radical difference between the commission plan and the one just adopted in Dayton lies in the control of the operating or administrative departments. In the commission plan, the individual commissioners are supervisors of departments, sometimes elected to specific posts, but more often assigned to those departments by the commission as a whole. The mayor is the nominal head of the city government, but he is practically a peer of the other commissioners.

Under the plan evolved in Dayton and soon to become effective there, the commission, individually and collectively, is a legislative body only or what might be called a board of directors whose members will not be required to devote much of their time to public service. The details of administration will be left to the city manager, an appointed expert executive agent. The choice of the city manager will not be confined to local talent. In fact, at the time of his appointment he may not be even a resident of the city. Party politics have no part whatever in his elections.

The city manager will hold office only so long as he gives satisfaction to the commission, which stipulates his salary. He will exercise control, through appointments and removals, subject to civil service regulations, of the entire administration, exclusive of the schools and courts. He will thus correspond to the general manager of a private corporation.

One other unique thing about the Dayton plan of government is that no one will be voted for directly by mayor. The commissioner receiving the highest number of votes will act as mayor and will be the political head of the city. He will preside at meetings of the commissioners, but will

have no appointing or vote power.

The city manager scheme of government originated in Sumter, S. C. Only a few cities have adopted it. The La Grande committee of citizens appointed to draft the new charter considered every form of government known and finally recommended a plan similar to that adopted by Dayton.

THE HETCH HETCHY BILL.

There is little wonder that many people should believe what William Jennings Bryan once humorously stated it to be his belief, that the Hetch-hetchy controversy was over some Indian snake dance. For all of 33 years the river in California bearing this name has been more or less in the public mind, for it was in 1890 that a bill was passed in congress establishing a national park in the Hetch-hetchy valley. It was described by the house committee at that time as one of nature's wonders, "containing therein primeval forests, great valleys, and inaccessible heights, the walls of which vary from 2,000 to 5,000 feet and from the highest points of which the plummet will swing clear to the base." Continuing the report said: "The preservation by the government in all its original beauty of a region like this seems to the committee to be a duty to the present and future generations. The rapid increase of population and the resulting destruction of nature objects make it incumbent upon the government, in so far as may be, to preserve the wonders and beauties of our country from injury and destruction, in order that they may afford pleasure as well as instruction to the people."

Were it not for the fact that San Francisco quarreled with the local water company a little over 10 years ago there would be no Hetch-Hetchy controversy. Owing to the quarrel, which since has been settled, the company did not extend its mains in proportion to the increase in the city's population and consequently San Francisco's existing supply of water is inadequate. Directly after the quarrel the city decided upon the Hetch-Hetchy valley as the most desirable source from whence to secure its water and appealed to Secretary Hitchcock for permission to use the valley for a reservoir. This was in 1903. Failing then, a bill was introduced in congress in the following year without result. Again in 1905 and in 1909 bills were introduced and failed. Now the question is up again. Throughout the last decade the city has been persistent in its efforts to gain the desired rights. It has met with opposition of the most pronounced type and a little of it coming from other cities in California. The strongest and most effective objection has come from the Society for the prevention of national parks, which has from time to time flooded the country with literature setting forth its contentions. National officials have widely disagreed over the question. Secretary Hitchcock opposed it in 1903. Later Secretary Garfield favored it.

What the present congress will do with it is hard to say. The facts before it are that San Francisco's water

supply is inadequate and that there is relief for the city in the Hetch-Hetchy valley. Other sources of water supply can be brought to the city from greater distances but at greatly increased cost. National, state and city engineers have gone over the ground and many of them if not all of them hold that the Hetch-Hetchy is by far the best solution to the city's problem.

The opposition contends that the city's present water system can be extended to meet all of the future needs of the city and that by filtration the water can be made pure. The use of the Hetch-Hetchy would end its usefulness as a national park and spoil its beauty. If the water is to be used it should be devoted to irrigation in the immediate vicinity, where irrigation is necessary. If it is to be used to supply water to San Francisco the bill should be so drafted that other cities may be given the same rights. The present bill if passed would make San Francisco the dictator to all of the other cities of the state for which the water might be available.

At all events there is logic in the contention that the passage of the bill would eventually exclude the public from the valley and inasmuch as the water situation may be relieved in San Francisco by other arrangements it would appear that the government would be establishing an unwise precedent by acceding to the city's wishes.

Nat Goodwin declares that his fifth wife is the best of all. Nat is getting so old that any kind of a young woman would have him would naturally look good.

It is remarked by quite a number of real reliable girls that you never can tell by a man's gait how nicely he dances.

It seems strange that ball teams do not provide calliopes and steam whistles for the rooters instead of cow bells and horns.

KAMELA MAN ARRESTED.

Two Men Charged With Disorderly and Destructive Conduct.

Charles E. Woodward and Stanley D. Willis have been sent to jail in lieu of fine money, for being disorderly and of destructive conduct at Kamela a day or two ago. It is asserted by the complainants that Willis threw rocks through windows of an O. W. building at Kamela and were otherwise disorderly.

Argued in the Supreme Court.

The case of Service & Wright Lumber company vs. Sumpter Valley Railroad company, appealed from this county, was argued before the supreme court at Salem last Wednesday. The plaintiff was represented by Judge Sam White of Portland and Robert Service of this city and the defense by Zera Snow of Portland and J. L. Rand of this city.—Baker Democrat.

Illinois Coal Output Increases.

Chicago, Ill., Sept. 12.—Production of coal in Illinois in 1912 reached the great total of 59,885,226 short tons with a value of \$70,294,338. These are the record breaking figures for the state announced today by E. N. Parker, coal statistician of the United States geological survey, who figures that the total area producing coal in Illinois, which is not generally known as a "coal state," is approximately 35,600 square miles, including half of the 102 counties of the state.

Weak, Inactive Kidneys Cause Much Sickness.

Backache, rheumatism, and all kidney and bladder disorders are caused from weak inactive kidneys, which fail to filter out the poisons, and keep the blood pure. The only way to positively and permanently cure such troubles is to remove the cause. The reason why Foley Kidney Pills are the best medicine for kidney and bladder troubles is because they are made wholly of those healing, strengthening and restorative ingredients that nature needs to build up and renew these important and vital organs. See that you get Foley Kidney Pills for your kidney and bladder troubles. They are tonic in action, quick to give good results, and contain no harmful drugs. A. T. Hill.



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In a wonderful variety of styles and shades, now on display in our

Exclusive Millinery Department

Agents for the Famous "Gage Bros." and "Ly-mans" Pattern Hats. Here you will always find the largest and best assortment selections in the city and always priced reasonable. "Pay us a visit."

NEW FALL SUITINGS AND TRIMMINGS TO MATCH

Many of the elegant new Brocades are in exclusive dress lengths. New Brocade Velvets, New Brocade Ratine, New Brocade Bandings.

Come and see for yourself our extensive showing of the many new fabrics for the Fall Season.

West

THE QUALITY STORE

The Relishable Kind Of Soda



is the kind we serve from our fountains—cool, cheering, thirstappealing. The first drop and the last are equally pure and tempting—perfectly delicious. Flavored to suit all tastes and fancies, and just enough ice cream to make it positively refreshing at all hours. This is the healthiest drink one can take in the summer time and likewise the most economical.

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La Grande.

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NOW IS THE TIME TO PLANT THEM.

FINE, LARGE BULBS, 25c EACH. POTTED IN LARGE POTS, 50c.

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Some men have various ideas of horse, but will make themselves blind conserving their eyesight. They re-trying to follow a split skirt into the fuse to look at a man pounding a poor horizon.

ASK FOR FLYNN & CO'S TRIUMPH THE BEST HAVANA BLENDED CIGARETTES SOLD IN THE NORTH WEST

Saturday Special CANTALOUPE

SIX for 25 Cents

A FRESH LOT OF GREEN AND RIPE TOMATOES, GREEN PEPPERS, PICKLING ONIONS, SWEET POTATOES, CELERY, FRESH CORN, EGG PLANTS, PEACHES, PEARS, GRAPES AND APPLES. ALL KINDS OF BAKERY GOODS.

BERRY BROS.

Corner Fir and Adams

Phone Black 101

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Organized in 1887.

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Surplus\$130,000.00
Total Resources\$1,000,000.00

For twenty-six years, in all kinds of financial weather, we have successfully catered to the monetary wants of the people of La Grande and the Grande Ronde Valley.

We respectfully solicit your business.

La Grande National Bank

La Grande, Oregon