

# REVISION OF CHARTER

## Newly Named Commission Meets and Perfects Organization.

### BIG TASK IS COMMENCED

#### Whether Present Government Will Be Modified or Commission Plan Adopted Will Be Decided at the Next Meeting.

Organization of the charter revision commission was effected at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon, when Mayor Lane called the members together in the City Council chambers. Judge Henry E. McGinn was unanimously elected chairman and the offer of City Auditor Barbur to furnish a clerk to act as secretary was accepted. Charles F. Weigant, who is familiar with the work to be handled, was selected for the position. The members then proceeded to business by authorizing the chairman to name a committee of three to formulate rules of order, methods and procedure; another to investigate the Des Moines plan of municipal government and to report upon the same; and a third to investigate and report upon the present system of administration. Adjournment was then taken until 7:30 o'clock next Friday night.

The first session of the commission was very important, and brought out clearly the fact that time is too limited to permit of the charter being reached. In that case, no action will be taken looking toward a vote upon the matter until the following June.

Whether or not the commission will recommend a change in the plan of city government, from the present form to the Des Moines or Galveston commission plans, will be decided on Friday night, although that will afford very little time for the committee to make up a report. It is regarded as necessary that the commission should first adopt one of the other forms of municipal organization before proceeding with its work, as if a change is made to the commission plan, it will be necessary to reconstruct the whole charter, in order to make all of the sections harmonize with the new system. Nearly all of the administrative work is done differently under the commission plan.

Promptly at 2 o'clock all of the members of the commission proceeded to the office of the Mayor, where F. V. Holman and John M. Gearin, were at the Council chambers, ready for the call to order. Mayor Lane, too, was on time and acted as temporary chairman. In a few words, he explained that the Council had authorized the members to revise the charter or to recommend amendments to a complete new charter, as might be deemed wise. He said that, at this time, he had no advice to give or suggestions to make, but that he wished to record his opinion as to the commission in any manner. He said the present charter is a fairly good one, and the people are inclined to criticize it only because of its complexity and its cumbersome proportions. Only in a few places, he said, did he deem it necessary to recommend a change. His opinion should decide to recommend some plan like that in vogue in Des Moines.

Mayor Lane then inquired how the commission wished to proceed, and F. V. Holman nominated Judge Henry E. McGinn as permanent chairman. The election was unanimous and Mr. McGinn took the chair as temporary chairman. In reply to Mayor Lane's remarks, that the members perhaps were engaged in a thankless task, but that, if they gave the people a good charter, that would be sufficient remuneration, Charles F. Weigant was then selected as secretary.

John F. Logan moved that the City Auditor notify all of the municipal officials, especially heads of the various departments, to send in written suggestions for changes in the charter, and Dr. C. H. Chapman moved to include all citizens who have ideas. This was carried and the public now has its opportunity to put in suggestions. These must be submitted in writing, and may be addressed to City Auditor Barbur, at the City Hall. These will be read before the commissioners, who will thus have on the various opinions from which they will compile revisions, amendments or a complete new charter.

Mr. Montague moved that a committee of three be named by the chairman to formulate plans, methods and procedure, so that the commission may have a definite system upon which to work. This was carried, and Dr. Chapman then moved for two committees to report on the two plans of city organization—the commission and councilmanic plans. By the chairman, the situation, the commission can do nothing until it settles the question of whether it will recommend the commission plan.

City Attorney Kavanaugh, who is a member of the commission, moved that the Secretary of State be requested to furnish copies of the city charters with the amendments voted in 1905, which was ordered. Also copies of the Des Moines and Galveston commission plans were ordered.

The commission, upon motion of Mr. Kavanaugh, also voted to ask the Council for an appropriation sufficient to employ an expert reporter and stenographer.

There was some discussion as to what amount of overhauling the commission shall give the charter, but it was finally decided that this cannot be determined until the point as to whether a commission form of government shall be recommended. If the commission plan is agreed upon, it is almost certain that further time will be sought in which to perform the labor of compiling the charter.

The first session of the commission is regarded as an indication that business will be transacted speedily, and all of the problems considered fully. The attendance was gratifying to Mayor Lane, there being only two of the members absent. They were V. V. Holman and John M. Gearin, who are in attendance at the American Bar Association, now in session at Seattle.

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE BUSY

### Holds First Meeting to Consider Charter Changes.

The advisory committee held a preliminary meeting last night at the Sargent Hotel at the adjournment of the United East Side Push Clubs, and organized with the election of L. E. Rice as permanent chairman. Election of a permanent secretary was deferred until

a future meeting. W. L. Boies made a short talk, in which he set forth what he considered the proper functions of the committee. He said, among other things, that the committee should undertake to frame a charter, as the charter commission was composed of able and public-spirited citizens. He said that he considered that the proper function of the advisory committee would be to consider propositions and amendments of special interest to the East Side, and submit them to the charter revision committee.

"This idea seemed to meet with favor of the committee," Boies said, "and to dispose of the impression that the advisory committee would be insistent or intrusive. There was a general discussion of possible amendments. Among these was one to make the improvement of streets competitive and to break up all monopoly in pavements and open the improvement to streets to general competition. Also the matter of expediting the payment of street assessments. A number of other propositions were discussed in a general way. There was a full attendance of members of the committee."

## NEW COMPANY IS REMISS

### No Backing Shown for Gas and Water Projects.

Although invited to be present at the meeting of the Mount Scott Improvement Association at its meeting Monday night, no representative of the company which is asking for a franchise for water and gas plants from the County Court attended and no information was obtained of the status of the project. F. V. Holman, president of the association, remarked that a committee from Firland had also tried to get information about this company, but had failed. Mr. Stout expressed the opinion that another private water system should not be allowed to enter that territory, and doubted whether it was a bona fide project.

It had been rumored, he said, that the company would get water from some springs on Mount Scott, but where the springs are located nobody knew. He quoted County Commissioner Lightner as saying that the new company could get a franchise by filing a good and sufficient bond to build a water plant and furnish an ample supply within a reasonable time. Chairman Stout said that some action should be taken in view of a mystery surrounding this company that ought to be cleared up. In view of the small attendance it was decided to call a general meeting Monday night, September 7, when some definite action will be taken.

It is understood that the Woodmere Water Company is well entrenched in that field. George Brown and his associates handled nearly all the tracts that are covered by the Woodmere Water company and in all cases reserved the exclusive right to lay water mains on all streets. This exclusive right, so it is said, is reserved in all deeds given to that as it now stands it will not be easy for another private company to enter that territory without first buying out the Woodmere Water Company. Holman said that in case of annexation, the city will have no difficulty in taking over the plant of the company.

## MEMBERS OF THE CHARTER REVISION COMMITTEE AFTER EFFECTING ORGANIZATION YESTERDAY AFTERNOON



Reading from left to right, first row—Ben Selling, A. O. Ritan, R. W. Montague, C. M. Ryerson, F. E. Beach, H. H. Newhall, T. B. Wilcox, C. H. Chapman, W. G. Elliot, Jr., Lower row—John F. Logan, Sigurd Grutze, J. P. Kavanaugh, Chairman Henry E. McGinn is seated above, and Secretary Charles F. Weigant below.

# TRAMPS ARE GIVEN FREELIFE OF CITY

## Acting Police Judge Declines to Drive Them Out of Portland.

### SAYS HOBOS HAVE RIGHTS

#### Present Migration of Shiftless Incompetents Southward Marks Announcement of New Policy Toward Vagrants.

With the Autumn influx of migratory hobos at its height, Acting Municipal Judge Isaac Sweet announced from the bench yesterday morning that he does not believe in running hobos out of the city. Having a wide confidence in human nature, he manifested a belief in the utility and goodness of every man. The harassed and hitherto buffeted son of fate often needs only the opportunity to settle down in peace, he implied.

There was joy unbounded in hobo-dom when the good word went out. Half a dozen members of the passing herd were in court and they smiled their approval of the magistrate's tender logic. Thomas O'Brien, in particular, was happy, for the police had just asked that he be given an hour in which to leave town. O'Brien has been passing through this beautiful city twice a year for decades or more. He has failed to come only when restrained by the penitentiary of some neighboring state. In the Spring he has followed the hobo horde northward with the sun. In the fields and woods of the Northwest he has feasted and fasted with his kind through Summer after Summer, living in a paradise of idleness until the first lowering clouds of Fall sent him scurrying southward.

Not more migratory is the swallow than O'Brien and his like. Hundreds of them passed through the city this Spring going north from Southern California. Now they are returning in droves strong, to the sunny south. True, the cities offer shelter and food, but the cities require of a man that he shall work. These men, bred with the instinct of aristocracy as regards work and yet not having the means to evade it openly, would accept most any alternative to manual labor. Keep them in jail with nothing to do and plenty to eat and they will ask nothing more. This being expensive, the various cities of the country have established a rate, based on no other law than that of necessity. It provides for running these derelicts out of town as rapidly as they appear. Hence the hobo horde, which does not have to violate their vows as regards work, and are not in any one city long enough to do much mischief. The system is as old as man and is being practiced by some of the lower animals before man's time.

These facts are pointed out by the police, who are inclined to take exception with the acting magistrate in his views on the rights of vagrants. They believe that the "square deal" policy means to long in town, rapidly graduate into something less useful and more dangerous.

Seattle, Tacoma, Intermediate and adjacent points will continue the old policy. Portland alone being the exception, will get the full benefit of the congested migration. Of course, this is not likely only when some tyrannical days for the acting magistrate will step down at that time in favor of Judge Van Zante, who has never shown any symptoms of wanting to give the "square deal" policy to professional hobos.

"Where are you from?" "Tacoma."

"What do you do?" "Nawthin'."

"Where are you going?" "Don't know."

This dialogue is repeated from 50 to 100 times a week in the Municipal Court with the Municipal Judge and some transient as the dramatic personae.

"Can you be out of town in an hour?" is the usual final question of the interview.

"Sure—thank you, sir," is the stereotyped final response. The hobo goes and is glad of the chance. He expected it and laments only when some tyrannical judge applies the rockpile degree.

"I do not believe in running these people out of the city," Mr. Sweet said when Detective Coleman suggested that O'Brien be told to leave. "This thing of running them from city to city is wrong. Each city should take care of its own vagrants."

O'Brien walked smilingly out of the courtroom, free to remain in Portland as long as the police do not catch him doing anything wrong.

Any lady who chafes to have lost her husband may recover same by calling at the police station, provided hands and talles with the following description—Age 35, height 5 feet 8 inches, brown hair, blue eyes, brown suit, scars on right thumb and forefinger.

This gentleman was picked up at Fourth and Ankeny streets yesterday forenoon, supposedly in a dying condition. He seemed on the verge of death and those who found him hesitated as to whether a priest or doctor should be called.

Patrolmen Circle and Casey lifted the form tenderly into the police patrol

# MAY BUILD DRIVES

## Park Board Considers Roadways Along Willamette.

### COST WILL BE ESTIMATED

#### Superintendent Mische Asks for Immediate Purchase of Mount Tabor Tract, but Board Refuses to Indorse Project.

A boulevard as near to the east and west banks of the Willamette River as it is possible to procure ground will probably be recommended by the City Park Board to the Council in the near future. This would give two beautiful drives and would improve the general appearance of both sections immensely. It is possible that the board will seek to extend these drives through the entire length of the city from north to south. Lengthy discussion of the project took

## FRED T. MERRILL REPLIES

### Says He is Not Responsible for Wrotten's Saloon.

Fred T. Merrill takes exception to the reference made by Mrs. Lola G. Baldwin, chief of the city bureau for protection of young girls and women, in which she said that W. Wrotten's saloon is located "in Merrill's Hall." She was speaking before the liquor license committee of the City Council in an effort to secure revocation of the license of the saloon in question.

Mr. Merrill made the following statement:

"It is an injustice to Professor Berry, who conducts the dancing academy in Merrill's Hall, also an injustice to the Merrill Building, as well as to myself, for the newspaper and Mrs. Baldwin to constantly refer to the 'dancing academy' as 'Merrill's Hall.' The Merrill Building is a bowling alley, but it is used for the newspaper and Mrs. Baldwin to constantly refer to the 'dancing academy' as 'Merrill's Hall.' The Merrill Building is a bowling alley, but it is used for the newspaper and Mrs. Baldwin to constantly refer to the 'dancing academy' as 'Merrill's Hall.'"

## DEPOSITORS GET DIVIDEND

### Many Out-of-Town Creditors Arrive Circus Day.

Circus day brought to Portland a great many out-of-town depositors of the defunct Title Guarantee & Trust Company. For that reason the day was a busy one for Receiver R. S. Howard, Jr. practically all of them, and almost all of them were children who were patrons of the savings-bank department of the suspended institution, called and received in checks their share of the initial dividend of 10 per cent, which was ordered recently. Receiver Howard reports that the creditors of the bank very generally have called and received their checks.

Sales are occurring every day all along the payment in full by the receiver of all claims not exceeding \$25, which was included in the court's order directing the payment of a 10 per cent dividend as proceeding as rapidly as the creditors call at the bank. There were 1750 of these claims, and a majority of them have already been liquidated.

## Mines Innocent of Ore.

### That F. M. Swift and F. J. Richardson Used Unfair Means in Purchasing a Separator and Concentrator from the Hydraulic Gravity Separator Company is Alleged in the Company's Answer to a Suit Filed in the Circuit Court.

Besides the hydraulic separator, Augustus Walker, D. J. Forbes and F. A. Sweeney are named as defendants. The plaintiffs are said to have informed the company that they owned 1200 acres of gold-bearing land in Clackamas County. On June 5 they submitted three samples of ore to the company, which contained gold, and which they asserted were obtained on the land. The company now alleges that an expert had panned the dirt of the land for two days, finding no trace of gold. It is alleged that \$4500, the price of the equipment, was never paid.

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# SUIT SALE

## THIS IS THE LAST CALL

### We close out this week every article that pertains to Summer.

### Our new Fall goods are here; we need room. Now, which do you need the most—\$10 or a \$20 Suit?

This number of good American dollars will buy a good American Suit that is worth twice the money.

# THE LION CLOTHIERS

166-170 Third Street.

when Mr. Closset died he owned 250 shares of stock in the coffee and spice firm of Closset & Devera, worth now \$15,000. Beside this he owned a third interest in Vancouver (Wash.) property, worth \$2000. This is located west of Main street.

The estate of Cora T. Ryan has been appraised at \$2081.54. Of this \$2500 is real estate. The appraisers are John W. Reynolds, A. H. Birrell and D. A. Milne.

## Mrs. Evans Gets Divorce.

Mrs. M. Evans obtained a divorce yesterday morning from U. S. Evans, on the ground of drunkenness. Judge Gantenbein, in the Circuit Court, granted the decree, the case going by default. The couple married at Wasco, in December, 1891, and have two children, of whom the mother was given the custody.

## Olympia Malt Extract, good for grandmas or baby.

Only 10-cents for 1 per cent alcohol. Phones: Main 671, A 2467.

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847 WASHINGTON STREET.

### Paid-Up Capital, \$150,000

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### Holds title to properties pending transfer by sale or other disposition.

### Cares for estates under will, or for executor, administrator or guardian.

### Acts as trustee in bond issues, escrows, etc.

### Furnishes property estimates for non-resident investors.

### Effects collections, etc.

## APPRAISE CLOSSET ESTATE

### Coffee and Spice Merchant Left Property Worth \$19,500.

The estate of Emile Closset is worth \$19,500, according to the appraisal of A. H. Devereaux, E. Dignan and J. F. Richards. Their report, filed in the Circuit Court yesterday afternoon, shows that

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5¢ In dust Right. moisture proof packages. Never sold in bulk.

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