

TOO MUCH POLITICS

MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Social and Economic Feature at Present Lax Says Charter Revisionist.

NEW FORM PROVIDES AID

W. B. Ayer, of Commission, Declares Old System in Vogue Is Costly and Bunglelike—Responsibility Not Centralized.

Discussing commission government of municipalities yesterday, W. B. Ayer, a member of the committee that recently completed the draft of a commission charter for Portland, said the trouble in present-day municipal administration is the influence of politics.

He contends that the fault lies not alone with incompetent officials, but because municipal government today is political rather than social and economical.

With the municipal affairs of Portland entrusted to 48 men, the absence of concentrated authority, points out Mr. Ayer, gives opportunity for shifting responsibility. Mr. Ayer does not assume that a commission plan will guarantee perfect government, but he does maintain that in its operation the commission charter that has been compiled, if adopted by the voters, will accomplish many improvements by encouraging efficiency and economy, concentrating authority and fixing responsibility.

Authority Not Centered. "I am not one of those despairing of government of American cities," said Mr. Ayer. "I do not believe they are so bad as they are painted. Whenever there is an election, or even before, when a candidate is grooming himself for office, it is the fashion to make all sorts of wild statements about graft, vice, etc.; but after election it all settles down to the dull monotony of inefficiency and spasmodic bursts of grandstand play.

"Neither do I believe that the men elected to office are venal or incompetent. They are simply the product of a system of government that is not adapted to the conditions of communal life. Municipal government should be social and economical, not political. Our present charter is purely political, with all its checks and balances. It does not concentrate authority, but gives the opportunity for dodging and shifting responsibility. There are 48 men entrusted with the legislative and executive management of this city—the Mayor, 15 Councilmen, 18 on the Executive Board, four on the Park Board, four on the Water Board, four on the Health Board, five on the Public Docks Commission, five on the Auditor Commission, and the city manager. No great railroad owner, like James J. Hill, would tolerate such a system in his own affairs for a moment. Why should the individuals who make up a city endure it?"

Present System Chaotic. "The so-called commission form of municipal government provides for concentration of power and responsibility in the hands of a few men, and the unnumbered officials are abolished and the entire management of the city—lock, stock and barrel—is given over to the Mayor and four Councilmen, sitting together and called a Council. Each Councilman has authority to him a specific duty, such, for instance, as the parks and fire department, and together they consult and consider the general policies and enact such legislation as may be necessary. The responsibility for efficiency and economical administration is apparent, and I do not question the assertion of ex-Mayor Lane that hundreds of thousands of dollars could be saved annually that are now wasted, by substituting a business management for the chaotic political system now in vogue.

"The question that each citizen is always asking is, are we getting our money's worth? Does each dollar of public money buy as much as a dollar of private money? Personally, I do not see how it is possible under the present charter, for there is no coordination between departments and a divided responsibility. The money received by the city from taxes, fines, etc., amounted this year to \$4,000,000, but then is the size of the city's financial business. The volume of business of any one of our big department stores is about the same amount per annum, and in no case do there ever two or three owners attending to the entire buying and selling. From a business standpoint alone, the present charter is a poor job.

Responsibility Good Thing. "The principal argument of the opponents of the new charter is that the same character of men would be elected to office under the new charter as under the old; consequently, there would be no improvement in the government of the city. I am willing to admit that the same character of men may be chosen under the new as under the old charter, but do not admit that results will be the same. I have never yet known a man who failed to respond, to a degree at least, to increased responsibility. He will not only assume the added burdens, but he will do his work better and more conscientiously; in other words, he rises to the occasion. Every man holding a position of trust and giving his entire time to the business, and receiving an adequate salary for the same, will do much more successful and satisfactory work than when he is receiving nothing and devoting only a small portion of his time. I am absolutely convinced that the failure of municipal government is in only a slight degree due to the character of men elected to office, but almost entirely to the character of government prescribed in our charters.

do not expect a perfect government to follow the adoption of the Commission Charter, but I do expect a great improvement, because it secures the entire time and attention of each Councilman; it encourages efficiency and economy; it concentrates authority and fixes responsibility."

ORATORY TO BE REVIVED

Reorganization of 1902 Interstate League Practically Assured.

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, Eugene, Aug. 3.—(Special).—Following the instructions of the committee on oratory and debate at the University of Oregon, Graduate Manager Geary is proposing the re-organization of the Interstate Oratorical League, established in

1902 among the universities of Oregon, Washington and Idaho, by the King County Bar Association. The plan is to enlarge the league by the admission of the Oregon Agricultural College, Washington State College, Whitman College, and to eliminate the University of Montana, which took the place left vacant by the University of Idaho, three years ago. The main complications in the re-organization of the league are the terms under which the annual gift of the King County Bar Association to the winners of the contest was made. It was stipulated that \$75 should be given to the winner of the first place and \$25 to the winner of second place in an annual oratorical contest held among representatives of the state universities of the Northwest.

McMINNVILLE BUSINESS MAN CHARTER MEMBER OF ELKS LODGE PASSES AWAY.



Arthur L. Tidd, McMinnville, Or., Aug. 3.—(Special).—Arthur L. Tidd, a prominent business man of this city, died here July 30. He was a son of one of the early settlers of this county and was born at Yamhill, Or., February 10th, 1835. He was a member of the Knights of Pythias and of the new Elks' lodge here, of which he was a charter member. He resided with his mother, Mrs. M. C. Tidd, of Yamhill, and was survived by his mother, three sisters and two brothers. They are: Miss Lulu Tidd, McMinnville; Mrs. C. E. Mann, of Seattle; Mrs. J. P. Slater, of Portland; Earl Tidd, of McMinnville, and Wm. Tidd, of California.

The funeral was conducted by the Knights of Pythias lodge and was held at the Christian Church. Burial took place at Yamhill Cemetery near Yamhill, where Mr. Tidd passed his early life.

CITY OFFICIALS DEMUR

MEN UNDER "BRIBERY" INDICTMENT TAKE ACTION.

Attorneys for Mayor, Chief and Others Object to Charges Based on Nuisance Statute.

Asserting that if their clients are guilty of anything it is of a violation of section 2025, Ford's Oregon laws, which relates to the giving or offering of a bribe, or section 2054, Ford's Oregon laws, which refers to malfeasance or negligence in office, Attorneys Malarky, Logan and Benbow yesterday filed in Circuit Court a demurrer to the indictment drawn under the nuisance statute, charging Mayor Ruesslight, Chief of Police Slover, Detective-Captain Baty and Detective-Sergeant Smith with committing an indecent and immoral act and injuring the person and property of another by offering a bribe of \$400 to Deputy District Attorney Collier.

The demurrer is on two grounds, one being that the indictment does not state facts sufficient to constitute a crime and the other being to quote the exact language of the demurrer, "that the acts of the commissions charged therein as being the crime alleged to have been committed by said defendants are not clearly and distinctly set forth in ordinary and concise language without repetition and in such a manner as to enable a person of common understanding to know what is intended thereby, or such certainty as would enable a court to pronounce judgment upon a conviction, according to the rights of the case."

Points to be relied upon in argument are given in detail. It is alleged that the indictment contains nothing to show how the person or property of Collier was injured, how the public peace was grossly disturbed, how public decency was openly outraged or how public morals were injured; that the indictment fails to state a specific date upon which any of the acts mentioned was committed; and that the indictment "shows on its face that the acts complained of were committed for the purpose of evading another act containing evidence of his criminal acts and were therefore innocent and lawful."

DEFINITE SAVINGS DEMONSTRATED

When people patronize sales they expect to save money. The object of this sale is not to save money for you, but to get cash for ourselves. If, by that means, we can make it possible for you to save money, we are glad, for we kill two birds with one stone and make friends, besides. We believe that the following ad will speak for itself. The old Steinbach prices are given so that you can demonstrate definitely, exactly how much money you save on each purchase. It's just a matter of subtraction.

Make Your Own Careful Comparisons

Table with columns: ARTICLE, Steinbach Price, SALE PRICE. Items include Young men's hand-tailored Suits, 1912 rubberized Raincoats, Ladies' rubberized Raincoats, etc.

Table with columns: ARTICLE, Steinbach Price, SALE PRICE. Items include Monarch Shirts, Cluett Shirts, Negligee Shirts, Steinbach Shirts, Ruff Neck Sweaters, etc.

Table with columns: ARTICLE, Steinbach Price, SALE PRICE. Items include Rogers-Peet Clothes, Rogers-Peet Clothes, finest makes to \$40.00, Rogers-Peet blues and blacks to \$35.00, etc.

Sale Continues Monday Morning at 9 o'Clock

Advertisement for A.B. Steinbach & Co. featuring a large illustration of a man in a suit and the text 'LION CLOTHING CO., SUCCESSORS'.

RUDOLPH RUETER DIES

WELL-KNOWN DRAUGHTSMAN PASSES AWAY AT FARM.

Superior Technical Training Makes Native of Westphalia, Germany, Valuable City Employee.

Heart failure yesterday caused the death of Rudolph Rueter, 20 years chief draughtsman in the City Engineer's office, at his farm near Cove Orchard, Yamhill County. Mr. Rueter was 63 years old, having been born January 7, 1849, at Westphalia, Germany.



Rudolph Rueter, Ex-City Engineer, Who Died Yesterday at Cove Orchard.

MRS. RICH TRIES SUICIDE

Woman Known in Portland Becomes Despondent in San Francisco.

A report was received by Captain of Detectives Baty yesterday to the effect that Mrs. Benjamin B. Rich, whose husband formerly owned a string of cigar stores here, had attempted suicide in her apartments, 1791 Bush street, San Francisco, several days ago.

"MAD" CATS WATCHED

POLICE TO REPORT WEIRD ACTION OF STRAY FELINES.

All Unlicensed Dogs to Be Chained to Telegraph Posts and Collected by Poundmaster. Six dozen dog chains were delivered yesterday to the police by City Poundmaster Welch, with which to chain up all unlicensed dogs.

Drowning Cause of Nurse's Death.

CATSKILL, N. Y., Aug. 3.—The report of the physicians who performed an autopsy on the body of Miss Dorcas L. Snodgrass of Mount Vernon gives the cause of death as drowning.

RUPTURE

Seeley's Spermatic Shield Truss, as fitted to the Osar of Russia and now used and approved by the United States Government.

Advertisement for Seeley's Spermatic Shield Truss, featuring an illustration of the truss and text describing its benefits for various conditions.

LAUE-DAVIS DRUG CO.

THIRD AND YAMHILL, PORTLAND, OR. Truss Experts and Exclusive Agents for Seeley's Spermatic Shield Truss.