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Official Paper of Coos County
OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF MARSHFIELD.

THE WORK OF THE WORLD.

Many the dreamer, with viol and lute, many with dance and song;
Many the builder, with brawn of brute, helping the world along.
Many who wearily loaf and groan, helpless as knights of rest,
While ever the note of the morning horn is echoing over the crest:
Men must be doing the work of the world,
Hammer and mallet and steam;
Tolling and trouble till time is furled
In the folds of a dreamless dream!

Why, I would wander in field and wood and hide in the deep green places,
Where only the thing that you see is good, and all is a grace of graces.
Many have wearied of smoke and dust and longed for rest and the river,
But over and out of the chimneys tall is the roar of the echo forever:
Men must be doing the work of the world,
And it must be done to the end,
With only the joy of its doing to pay
And only its hardship for friend!

Thus, when the spirit to loaf and to sing comes over me heart and soul,
And I long for the freedom to take the road and go to the clover and roll,
I buckle my brain to the brawn and blood of the heart that beats with care,
And I hear the roar of the whistles of work thundering over me there:
Men must be doing the work of the world,
And no one must stop to play,
For there isn't a minute to lose in life,
And the spheres were not made in a day!

A PRAYER.

GIVE me, O Lord, that quietness of heart that makes the most of labor and rest. Save me from passionate excitement, petulant fretfulness and idle fear, keeping me ever in the restful presence of Thy love.
Teach me to be alert and wise in all responsibilities without hurry and without neglect. Tame Thou and rule my tongue, that I may not transgress Thy law of love. When others censure may I seek Thine image in each fellow man, finding with charity as one who shall be judged.
Banish envy from my thought and hatred from my lips.
Help me to be content, amid the strife of tongues, with my unspoken thought. When anxious cares threaten my peace, help me to run to Thee that I may find my rest and be made strong for calm endurance and valiant service.
—Selected.

THE WONDERFUL WIRELESS.

AFTER July no passenger steamer carrying fifty or more passengers to sail as far as two hundred miles, will be permitted to leave port unless equipped with wireless telegraph apparatus. This is a law of congress. Most of the large steam-

ers on the sea and lakes are already supplied. Within the past year the wireless telegraph has saved nearly \$12,000,000 and thousands of lives that were in jeopardy.

It has become one of the essentials of passenger steamers and the connected story of what the wireless has been to disabled ships in the past two years, would make more fascinating reading than a fairy tale. And men are gaining more and more control over it every year, and the messages are being sent and received over larger and longer distances. And still there is an instinct which is growing stronger and stronger in the souls of men that wireless telegraphy is as yet, not half developed. It may be a feeling that grows out of hope only, but it is a very sweet one. It may come of the growing belief that this world and the next are not so very far apart, and that as electricity is the very life of the world and at the same time the perfect conductor of the messages that the wireless flings into space; who knows that it will not sometime send a message that will strike on that other shore and that an answer may come back over the soundless waste and be recorded in some station here?

It has a voice which the roar of angered oceans cannot still; it has a substance which the hurricane cannot beat back; it has wings which defy storm and cold and heat, and when brings messages tied to those wings; why should it not conquer space also? If we but knew the characters of the alphabet used on the other side, who knows but we should be getting these messages now? "A great and strong wind rent the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks and after the wind an earthquake and after the earthquake a fire," but the Lord was in neither, but "after the fire a still, small voice."

In our modern world the wireless defies the wind, the earthquake and the fire, but when shall we hear its still, small voice telling us of what has been, and what is to be? Nothing else is so wonderful as what the wireless has already revealed and it is but ten years since its manifestations began to be recorded. What do the years hold in reserve for men through that source, when human ears become adjusted to hear and human brains to interpret its "still, small voice?"

BE CHEERFUL.

O laugh and be joyous! Don't fret and annoy us by telling your troubles—we've some of our own; we don't want to nurse them or pet or rehearse them and dreary old grouches should let us alone! We try to keep smiling in manner beguiling, and just when our faces are stretched into shape, some gloomy old duffer starts making us suffer by telling us stories of hearses and rape. We try to be sunny and cheery and funny, we'd kick up our heels like as many bay steers, but always some hoary old skate with a story of trouble and anguish lays siege to our ears. Our woes—we'd forget 'em; no more would we wet 'em with streams of the briny from sorrowing eyes, if they were exclusive; but people obtrusive are loading us down with their own stock of sighs. We'd bear our own burden and strive for the gerdon of peace that should come when the battle is o'er; but always some duff'll come up with his trouble and stand and expound it until we are sore.—
WALT MASON.

BIG GAME PRESERVE.

Clear Lake Section Set Aside By President Taft.
PORTLAND, Ore., May 15.—Wild birds of the state may hereafter take refuge in Clear Lake and the surrounding lands, for President Taft has declared this a government bird preserve. Clear Lake lies near the California line and the reserve includes 25,000 acres. It was purchased by the government as a reservoir site five years ago.

Clear Lake has been one of the best known breeding spots for wild birds for years and is second only to the Lower Klamath Lake regions. Millions of ducks nest there each spring. The lake is from 12 to 15 miles across at its widest point.

The action of President Taft in setting aside the Clear Lake reserve is believed to be the first step toward establishing an immense game reserve in Southern Oregon south of Klamath Falls and including the lava bed country along the California line. For a year an effort has been made to have the president set aside the lava beds as a refuge for mule deer. This has been fought by the stock interests but is still being considered at Washington.

After the show try a Turkish bath Phone 214-J.

The Story of the Short Ballot Cities

A Series of Articles on the New Commission Form of Municipal Government

By **RICHARD S. CHILDS**

III.

The Secret of the Success of the Commission Plan

NO mere form of government will automatically produce good government. But forms can be devised that will automatically give popular government. The people's will can be baffled or facilitated by the form of government. The people's work at the polls can be made obscure, complex and difficult, or it can be made clear, simple and easy. Under the commission plan, with its short ballot, the people's work is very clear, very simple, very easy. And that is all the secret there is to the success of the plan.

In theory citizenship is the business of every citizen. But in our old style city governments effective citizenship is one of the learned professions. To vote intelligently a citizen must "go into politics." That means work, and the average man can't afford to do much unpaid work. So politics becomes dominated by a few men, and the people at large helplessly leave the bulk of the ticket to the party politicians to do as they please with.

In our old fashioned city governments, we have committed two serious errors.

First, we have scattered the powers of government among so many petty officials that it is quite impossible for the people to watch and control them all.

Second, we have subdivided the power in such small fragments that no single part is really worth watching. A member of the city council, for instance, under the old form of government, has so little power that it is really not worth while for the people of the town to become agitated over the question of who shall get the job.

The typical old style city government of this country consists of a mayor, with fairly large power, a string of minor administrative officials also chosen by popular vote, and a council which sometimes consists of two legislative bodies. The feature of this plan is the distribution of power, based on our ancient fear of kings. We have always had a superstitious dread of giving to any elected official power enough to do anything for us without getting the consent of several others. We have overlooked the fact that to make the former official obey our wishes we had also to exert simultaneous compulsion over the latter, whose consent he needed, and that popular control became thus anything but the simple matter it ought to be. The politicians can always get their own way if they make the council large enough. A council of fifteen men might occasionally feel personally the pressure of public opinion, but triple the size of the council, and the individual members become so insignificant and publicity so subdivided that each member is safely "lost in the shuffle."

Those who promoted the idea of having a host of elective officials in the government have always taken it for granted that there was something democratic about this procedure. Democracy, however, does not consist in electing everybody, but in controlling everybody. The mayor's office boy, for instance, may be appointed by the mayor, or elected by popular vote. He is a public servant, but there is nothing democratic in electing him when he can just as well be appointed. The vital thing is that he shall be controlled by the people, and if he will be under better control through appointment than through election, it is more democratic to appoint him.

The commission plan of government is based on no false idea that the people want to elect everybody. It gives the power to five men, who thereby become conspicuously responsible before all the people of the city. Each one of them is important enough to make it worth while for the citizens to inquire concerning his record and character. Each candidate for the office can attract a crowd to hear him speak, whereas an old time councilman would have been utterly unable to get a hearing before the people. There are not so many of these officials but what every citizen can find out about all of them and vote intelligently on election day. There are not so many as to cause a citizen to depend upon tickets put together for him by political specialists. Each citizen can and does make up his own ticket, and the function of the professional ticket making machines is thereby entirely disposed of.

If the commission were composed of ten men instead of five the list of names would be longer than the average citizen would be likely to remember for himself, and we should see a natural grouping of candidates and their election by groups instead of singly. Some "good government association" or some party machine, even on a nonpartisan ballot, would be sure to advertise tickets for the guidance of the voters, and in accepting these tickets the people would be sharing their power with the ticket makers.

The Short Ballot.

The commission plan succeeds therefore because it puts the power where the people can see it. The vital feature is not the method of organization, but the method of popular control. It is the ballot on election day which is

unique. It is so short that every citizen knows what he is doing and is not relying on a party label or on the guidance of a politician. The "average man," "the man in the street," or the "plain people," whatever you choose to call them, are in complete control of the government. The short ballot has left no work for the politician to do; the people arrange the whole matter directly with the candidates without the politicians' help.

The politician is a specialist in citizenship, and in the commission governed cities citizenship is so simple that there is nothing to be a specialist in.

The most marked phenomenon of commission government has been the increased interest of the people in their city government. All eyes have been focused on the city hall month after month without interruption. The acts of the commission are the topic of conversation for the street car and the business men's luncheon. Criticism is plentiful, and—better yet—knowledge of the facts is widespread. The people of the city oversee the government.

The force of public opinion has been repeatedly illustrated in the commission governed cities. Few men, good or bad, would have the strength to resist popular demand when it is so intensively concentrated upon them. Each commissioner knows his responsibility for what is done, and knows that everybody else in town knows it too. Politicians of the average sort have been elected to office many times in commission governed cities, but their conspicuous responsibility has brought about a remarkable responsiveness to the opinion of the people.

The initiative, referendum and recall are considered important features of the plan by many people, but Gustavson and Houston made a success of the commission plan before any of these features were thought of and their charters to this day do not provide for them. Furthermore, these cities do not feel the need of these devices and there is no demand for their introduction.

A Chance For Mistakes.

A few suggestions for the improvement of the plan have been made rather persistently, based not upon any disaster that has happened in the past, but rather on the fear that there might be trouble in the future. It has been noted, for example, that the city clerk in Des Moines, who passes upon the correctness of petitions for the recall of commissioners, is himself a creature of the commission and that in this work he ought to be independent. It is also pointed out that there is no independent auditing of the city's accounts. The commission audits its own books. In both cases it has been suggested that these offices be filled by popular vote. In the language of those who propose these changes, "have them independently elected by the people and responsible to the people." This familiar argument involves an error, the avoidance of which constitutes the great value of the commission plan. It is easy enough to create a new office and make it elective by popular vote, but it is not so easy to "have" such an officer "responsible to the people." He will not be responsible to the people if he is elected in obscurity with no limelight directed on his office. To be sure, he may be legally responsible and the responsibility in law may be very clearly established, but the people cannot and will not hold him to account unless he stands out conspicuously before them. An officer whose functions are purely executive and not of great importance cannot possibly be conspicuous. If the city clerk or city auditor were made elective in Des Moines it would be a little office, overshadowed by the rest of the ticket, down at the bottom of the ballot. There would be very little publicity regarding the candidates, very little of the purifying limelight which is responsible for the present good political sanitation in the higher offices, and any group of schemers might put through a successful conspiracy to capture the job.

The desirability of an independent audit and an independent judgment on recall petitions is nevertheless obvious. It should, however, be secured in some other way than by attempting to make the people choose the officers. The same effect can be obtained by having the state assume these duties. Let an appointee of the governor be charged with the duty of auditing the books of all the cities in the state, with the right to prescribe a uniform method of keeping them. There is no difficulty in letting some state officer, such as the secretary of state, pass upon the genuineness and validity of recall petitions. The remoteness of such an officer from the disputants makes it reasonably certain that his position will be fair.

If all false "improvements" can be avoided the future of the commission plan will continue to be full of success, and its fundamental principle, when once understood, will be extended to states and counties. Already a national association, called the Short Ballot Organization, with Woodrow Wilson at its head, is in the field. We are on the eve of vast and wholesome changes!

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