

# 12 YEARS OF COMMISSION GOVERNMENT

(Continued from yesterday)  
Third Article.

About three hundred cities, as already shown, are under the commission form. The trend toward this is so marked as to be recognized even by its opponents as a coming type of city government. The "managing commission" has proved capable of a large degree of foresight in planning, of unity and promptness in action, and of real public spirit.

The "Mayor-manager" plan has not yet met with great favor; there seems to be an underlying North American prejudice against "one-man power." Dallas, Denison, Greenville, Texas, Lewiston, Idaho, and a half dozen other cities have given their Mayor-commissioner large powers; and there are all gradations, from nearly the same authority and salary as the other commissioners, to both vote and veto, power to remove without the concurrence of the other commissioners and a salary nearly twice that of his colleagues, as in Houston.

The commission-manager plan has been adopted in Sumner, S. C., Hickory and Morgantown, N. C., and more recently in Dayton, Springfield and Columbus, O. With the adoption of this method of government, cities of the population of Dayton will enable us soon to judge of its probable merits for other cities of like size.

The long standing dispute between those who favor the single head in government and the advocates of the group of executive boards crop out again in the discussion of the commission form. "Nothing like a single head for efficiency," cry the former; "too many cooks spoil the broth," while the latter point out the value of several minds in conference, and decry "one-man" power. "For determining policies," say the proponents of the group style, "a commission is far better than a single person; in many counselors there is safety," while they call attention to the fact that each department has a single head, and unity of administrative direction results, at least, in each department.

To one viewing the case as involving the fundamental excellencies and defects of each sort of organization—the single-headed versus the many-headed—it appears that each side is partly right. The group or commission, while strong in planning the work of individual departments, may fail to co-ordinate fully the execution of all the divisions, unless the Mayor or some other commissioner is given the co-ordinating power; while the single legislator-executive is likely to lack the broad outlook of the many, and to over emphasize certain favorite phases of civic activity. The commission-manager plan is an attempt to combine the advantages of both methods, and to substitute a single executive for the executive board usual in the commission form. Let us examine its tendencies more in detail.

The commission-manager plan is undoubtedly preferable to the council-manager plan. Assuming that the commission appoints the executive, is there likely to be greater harmony in choosing a single general administration expert, who must please all the members of the commission, than in picking five assistants, one expert in each department, as are the waterworks or lighting superintendents, or the director of parks? Must not the general manager have five assistants, or at the least several? Is there not merely added one more step between the commission and the departments?

Further, is not the manager likely to over-emphasize some one side of matters municipal to the exclusion of other phases? He may handle the city's finances well, but fail to enforce laws or to look after the city's health. The manager whose calling has been that of a civil engineer would tend to see the engineer's problem, the banker who might be chosen would regard a balance on the right side of the ledger as more important; the former police chief would value highly an efficient service of public safety. Unusual breadth and business training are needed for an all-round good city manager—capacity to see all the needs of the city in reasonably correct proportion and meet them by appropriate action. At the present stage, have we such men generally available? And are we not already developing the right sort of municipal experts under our commission governments? Why not develop the Mayor under the commission form into a general manager, in effect though without the title, and retaining the commission form? Why not, if necessary in the interest of unity of administration, make the Mayor clearly the strongest position in the commission to give him greater supervisory power; to increase his salary; to require previous municipal or other administrative service, though it will be doubtful if it will be wise to restore his veto.

Finally, is not the manager likely to acquire such larger powers (as executives have frequently opportunity to do) as to overshadow the commission and ultimately to dominate it? Will not citizens come to vote for a commissioner because he is known to favor so-and-so for manager rather than for

the reason that he would help plan wisely for the city, in which case the commission would become in time a fifth wheel—an unnecessary part of the machinery of government?

The city manager plan has a business-like sound, and appeal to many on that account, and when tried should be judged on its merits. But let us adapt and use the type of city government which has already met with such marked success and proved its substantial worth—the commission form.

The commission form offers to the governing body the greatest opportunity for efficient team work. If there be lack of harmony, let citizens inquire into it. Let city clubs and chambers of commerce and civi leagues see that commissioners are elected who will co-operate and call attention to any lack of co-operation. If necessary as a last resort, give the Mayor more power. But the board—the group—the commission—offers a flexible governing body of the greatest possibilities. The burden of the city's work may be divided, shared, shifted to the shoulders of the man fitted for it, equalized. Unity should be of the high type represented when strong men work together toward a common end. The members of the board should work out a broad and comprehensive policy for their city, and supervise in a strong and reasonably harmonious way the carrying out of the measures. The commissioners will thus become in time real municipal experts. The Mayor will tend to become a general managing expert; the commissioner of public safety, a master of police and fire matters; the commissioner of streets and public works a master municipal engineer. The profession of city administration is in our midst. Young men may well prepare for it. And as they prepare for it, let them study not only correct forms of organization, but what to do with the organization after the correct form is adopted.

(The end.)

### THE QUIET OBSERVER SAYS:

For every man who wants to borrow trouble there are a hundred willing to lend it.

Occasionally a young man who begins by sowing wild oats ends by reaping a grass widow.

Once in a great while a mother manages to persuade her daughter to marry the kind of man who will make her happy.

### THE THEATER

Waltmeyer & O'Conner's Company of Players.

Don't miss seeing this new company opening at the Royal Theatre Sunday matinee March 1.

This clever little company is well known throughout Washington and Oregon, having played stock in Vancouver, Washington for several months. Also a circuit of large theaters throughout the West.

They come to this city well recommended by public and press from every place they have visited. Each member is an artist, having a large list of successes to their credit.

They open here for an extended engagement of two weeks, giving only the highest-class comedies and dramas.

Their opening bill, "Beaten at his own Game," is one of the brightest of their repertoire.

It is a society comedy-drama full of sparkling comedy around which is woven a pretty little love story. It is a sure cure for the blues. If you don't believe it come and see for yourself.

"Beaten at His Own Game," Sunday, March 1.

Times Want ads bring results.

DEVELOPING PRINTING PICTURE FRAMING, ENLARGING AND SUPPLIES

REHFELD BROS. Russell Building, Central Avenue

## The Royal TONIGHT

WHITE EAGLE—Making a hit at every show. You can't help being pleased at his clever work.

JACQUES, THE WOLF—Another tale of the Great Northwest by the American Eclair Co. Blind to the law of man, "The Wolf" treads the Great Northwest. Like a beast incarnate he slinks through the wilds, and yet he has that which compels the love of women. After varied adventures his sins overtake him. Two girls mourn.

ANIMATED WEEKLY—12 interesting subjects.

MIKE AND JAKE JOIN THE ARMY? Joker company is the only rival of the Keystone. Admission: Lower floor, 15c. Balcony, 10c.

Commencing tomorrow afternoon, The Walthenayer & O'Conner Stock Company.

Next Thursday—"MEXICO"—This picture is worth seeing from the fact that many scenes are real scenes from the struggle now going on in Mexico.

## WRITES ABOUT MONROVIA RAIN

S. C. Rogers and Wife Enjoying Southern California Despite Storm

Monrovia, Calif., Feb. 20. Editor Coos Bay Times:

We arrived here one week ago tonight and the next day we were taken around the place in search of a place to keep house. We rented house-keeping rooms across the street from the City Park. This certainly is a most lovely and beautiful place, with straight streets, hard surfaced roads, and clean and sanitary. But the weather is different than I expected to find.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday were delightful days, but Monday evening it commenced to rain and for forty hours I don't think it stopped one minute, and part of the time it just poured down as hard or harder than I ever saw it anywhere in that length of time. Seven inches of water fell. It is still cloudy and rains part of the time. So you can see that it rains some in other places as well as Oregon or Coos Bay.

I am feeling fine and think we are going to enjoy ourselves first rate. I met A. B. Daly and Dr. Tower and daughter. They are all looking well. The great volume of water that fell flowed down the streets like a mill race. The streets are all made quite rounding, nearly eight inches higher in the center than at the curb and it filled the gutters full and in many places the whole road.

We are receiving The Times now. I think I would be homesick if we didn't. Yours respectfully, S. C. Rogers.

### BANNERS FOR SCHOOLS.

Prizes Offered for Best Rural Schools in Coos County.

In order to stimulate more interest in the country schools and bring them to a higher standard of perfection, Coos county is now offering prize banners to the best ones, the same as other counties in the state are doing. The banners will be kept by each school only so long as it maintains its standard of perfection. In determining the degree of perfection, the condition of the school building, the grounds, the sanitation, the furniture and supplies, the library, care of school room, organization, the teacher's work and the attendance are taken into consideration. The county supervisor will grade the schools when he visits them.

### I. W. W. AND THE LAW.

The I. W. W. openly declare themselves to be lawbreakers whenever they think lawbreaking will serve their turn, says an exchange. In a recent number of one of the magazines—the Independent, we believe—a perfectly clear-headed I. W. W. leader openly stated, in substance, that the organization cared nothing for the law, did not propose to pay any attention to it or to any other restraint, but proposed to do what they pleased, when they pleased, and to fight organized society by any and all means within their power. And he was frank enough to say that he had no fault to find with the law and society fighting back. The I. W. W. had declared war and expected war to be waged against them.

Yes, Alonzo, it is possible for a man and a woman to generate a brand of platonic love that will stand the acid test—if it can be kept 500 miles apart.

Coos County Ranchers Can Save \$10 on Every Cow They Own

## A De Laval Cream Separator

will save \$10.00 to \$15.00 per cow each year over any gravity setting process or dilution system of skimming milk, and \$3.00 to \$5.00 over any other cream separator.

Is there any other machine used upon the farm that will pay you anywhere near as well?

There are many farmers in all parts of Coos County who can and will testify to the correctness of the above statement. You will do the same, no matter whether you own one cow or one thousand, after you have experienced the benefits it will confer upon you at the end of even one week's use.

This saving is brought about by the universal law, of a greater quantity and a better quality produced at less cost, upon which a great value is placed. This is the rule followed in any manufacturing business. Dairying is manufacturing, and this same law applies twofold in the production of butter.

Come in and talk it over with us and give us a chance to prove these statements. A new DE LAVAL just received. Drop in and see it.

Eklblad & Son WE SELL HARDWARE

# All Nobby Tread United States Tires

are guaranteed to run 5000 miles. This means the ones you have on your car, as well as the ones you buy from now on.

## 5000 MILES

JUST THINK! This is 1500 miles more than any tire now on the market. The manufacturers have arrived at this guarantee after a test of years which has proved the worth and wearing qualities of the NOBBY TREAD TIRES.

Come in and ask George about this new deal on tires.

**Service:** In case your tire does not give you the full 5000 mileage, I make the adjustment on the spot. No waits, no freight, no ifs and ands, but just get your replacement at GOODRUM'S GARAGE at the time it is presented.

Our service car is ready for your service so if in trouble at any time just phone your wants to 373-L and we will be at your side at once.

# GOODRUM'S Garage

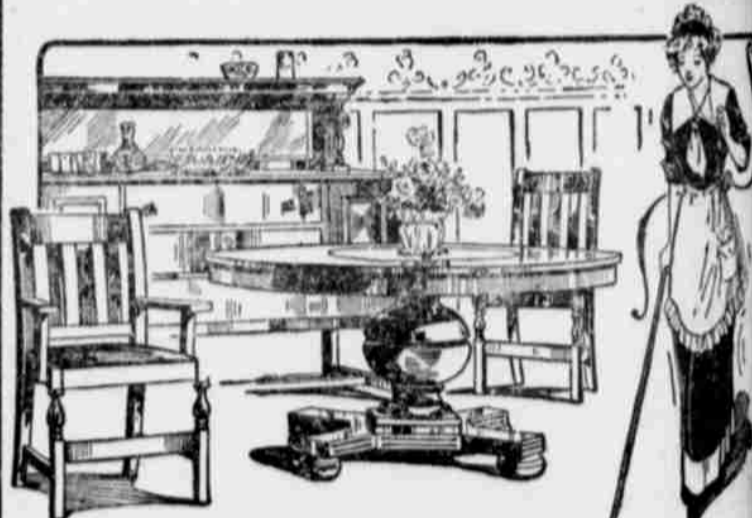
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Perfumes FINEST IN THE WORLD THE FRAGRANCE OF FRESH FLOWERS SEE OUR WINDOW Scandinavian Drug Store Corner Central Avenue and Second Street



Things bought for the home last for years.

The value of any article consists not in the mere POSSESSION of it, but in the SERVICE it renders.

Home furnishings bought of us give service and comfort, not only for a week, month or year, but for a number of years.

"Quality Home Furnishings" can be bought of the

Johnson-Gulovsen Co.

"Why Pay More?"

North Front Street

### BETTER THAN SPANKING

Spanking does not cure children of bed-wetting. There is a constitutional cause for this trouble. Mrs. M. Summers, Box W, Notre Dame, Ind., will send free to any mother her successful home treatment, with full instructions. Send no money, but write her today if your children trouble you in this way. Don't blame the child, the chances are it can't help it. This treatment also cures adults and aged people troubled with urine difficulties by day or night.