

# DES MOINES PLAN USED NOW IN MULTNOMAH

John F. Logan, a member of the charter revision committee, said yesterday he was surprised at the apparent ignorance of the people in regard to the Des Moines plan, when as a matter of fact such a system has been in vogue in Multnomah county for years.

Why, but county government is nothing but a plan similar to the Des Moines system, he said. We have three county commissioners who attend to all of the business of the county. These three men have the power over the buildings, sewer funds and a greater population than the city government has and yet one never has complaints and questions that are satisfactorily arising about city affairs. The county commissioners have control of the courts, the four fairs, the money, county bridges and are able to levy a tax of 20 mills if necessary, whereas the city could not raise a levy exceeding 9 mills.

**Power Almost Unlimited.**  
The possibilities for expenditure under the county commissioners is 10 times greater than under the city, but we never heard any complaint about the administration of the county affairs. Such in my opinion would be the case if the city were to adopt a commission of a small number of men.

This is all the Des Moines plan amounts to and should not be a bugaboo to frighten the people. By placing the power in the hands of three or five men the people would undoubtedly have closer and better management of its affairs than it could have with the present system of government or one similar to it.

There could be no shirking or putting off of responsibility on the part of any of the commissioners under the commission form of government. These men would be held accountable to the people and a taxpayer could go to them on any question and receive a reply that would end the business in a few minutes. At present a man can spend months trying to have a small piece of business transacted that should not require 15 minutes. Why it should be necessary when a plan could be formed which would relieve the citizens of such conditions is something I do not understand.

Little was done at yesterday's meeting of the charter board other than to organize and set a date for the first meeting of the members, which will be

Friday night at 8 o'clock. All meetings of the committee will be held in the council chamber. Judge Mevius was elected chairman and C. F. Wieland, deputy city auditor, was elected secretary.

The committee voted to request the council for an appropriation for sufficient money with which to employ the services of an expert reporter to take down the minutes of the meeting. It was over the question of asking for money that the real spirit of the committee was shown. A debate arose as to the propriety of calling for money at the first meeting but the members decided that inasmuch as the money is necessary for an expert reporter and that the time of the committee is short the request would have to be made.

**Make Two Reports.**  
All suggestions will be gratefully received by the committee but it was decided that all should be written and sent to the committee. Heads of departments and citizens in general are urged to present any objection they may know of in regard to the charter and aid the committee in every way. That much time would be lost by having citizens appear before the board and make oral objections was the opinion of the members and the board voted to notify citizens through the newspapers that all suggestions must be made in writing.

At the outset of yesterday's meeting a committee was appointed with power to draw up an order of business under which the members will proceed and also with authority to appoint sub-committees for the various branches of the government. Two other committees were voted for. One will review and report on a city government with a mayor and council while the other committee will report on the commission form of government similar to the Des Moines plan, copies of which will be prepared for the members.

The advisory committee which was appointed by the United East Side Pash club met last night and organized by electing L. E. Rice chairman. No other business was transacted save to discuss the future action of the advisory committee. W. L. Hoise addressed the committee stating that the best work of the advisory committee should be to study and consider propositions and amendments that have a special interest to the east side.

# TIMBER LOSS IS SMALL

### Forests Along Deschutes and in Paulina Mountains Sustain Only Slight Damage From Recent Fires—Reports Exaggerated.

Exaggerated reports regarding forest fires in Crook county, particularly in the Paulina mountains and along the Deschutes river, have given rise to the impression that a large area has been destroyed, according to A. P. Tomohus, who returned to Portland today from a visit to the upper Deschutes region, where he watched the progress of the flames for several days, or until the fire was under control.

"The fire in the Paulina mountains burned over nine sections of land," said Mr. Tomohus. "The pine needles, with which the ground is heavily matted, were the first to be attacked. There is no underbrush in the country, so the flames were confined largely to the fallen timber and grass and needles. I doubt if in the nine sections burned over there has been in excess of 5 per cent of the live timber destroyed."

Along the Deschutes river the loss has been considerably less. I think 25 will cover the entire loss of pine in the section burned along the Deschutes."

The fact that the timber belt in the Deschutes region is free of underbrush of any kind is largely responsible for the small loss according to timber owners and lumber companies in the district where the fires have been fought by the forest rangers. The flames, once run through the needles and grass, created a heavy volume of smoke, attacked the fallen timber and in spots run into the live timber and destroyed it, but the loss is insignificant, and corroborates the assertion often made that the timber belt of the Deschutes is one of the few in the country where a forest fire in reality can do but little damage.

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### Building Permits.

J. Fraebel, erect dwelling, East Sixty-seventh between Base Line road and Pine, \$1,200; F. J. Payne, erect dwelling, East Thirty-second between Front and Harrison, \$1,600; Mrs. D. J. Brown, erect dwelling, Franklin between East Twenty-eighth and East Twenty-ninth, \$1,900; J. S. Wertz, erect dwelling, Franklin between East Twenty-eighth and East Twenty-ninth, \$1,800; F. O. Vornthal, erect dwelling, East Fifty-first between Tillamook and Hancock, \$2,000; E. W. Reber, erect dwelling, Main between East Thirtieth and East Thirty-first, \$1,800; Julius Kramer, erect dwelling, head of Marshall and Cornell road, \$5,500.

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