

EAST SIDE STRONGLY FAVORS DES MOINES PLAN

Dr. C. H. Chapman appeared before the advisory charter committee of the Federated East Side clubs last night at the Sargent hotel and made a brief and instructive address in which he outlined the salient points of the Des Moines and Galveston charters.

After hearing the address the score or more of committee members present took part in a general discussion during which many matters of public interest were dealt with and suggestions were made which will later be taken up by members of the charter revision board appointed by Mayor Lane.

Good Points in Des Moines Plan.

President Whitney L. Boise, of the Federated clubs, took occasion in the course of his remarks to say that there is not a city official who is not thoroughly disgusted with the present charter of the city of Portland. The chief appeal made to the club by the Des Moines charter is the fact that it fixes definite responsibility on each councilman and officer of the city.

As Dr. Chapman said, there is no chance to bandy words on the part of opposing factions, for the duties and powers of all officials are clearly set forth in the charter of the Iowa city and responsibility is fixed so that in case any blame attaches there is no doubt as to the quarter in which it shall fall. There the mayor may not say to the councilmen, "it is your fault," and the council may not retaliate by shifting the burden to his shoulders.

Dr. Chapman said that the Des Moines people are so well satisfied with the workings of their new departure in civic government that the chamber of commerce in that city is sending broadcast throughout the country literature telling about the innovation and earnestly urging all cities to try it. As a check to the power with which a few men are entrusted it is

maintained the recall, the referendum and initiative and the publicity with which business must be conducted is most effective preventative of graft and all forms of dishonesty.

Present Charter Threatens.

The speaker of the evening maintained that the old form of charter which distributes power and responsibility as does the Portland document is out of place in modern twentieth century business enterprise. "For," he declared, "a city is nothing more or less than a huge corporation, and it must be conducted in the same business lines. It is a mistake to suppose that you can successfully govern a small community or a municipality by the same methods as those with which a large state or empire is carried on."

The legislative, judicial and executive ideas, as separate elements, is outgrown. Conditions of today demand that these functions shall be exercised together. All three branches must be combined in order that there shall be no shifting of blame or annulling of efficient administration.

Confidence in Officials.

"Another thing that is productive of more evil than any other one consideration is the suspicion with which public officers are generally regarded. The keynote of the Des Moines charter is confidence in the officers and publicity of their acts."

At the conclusion of Dr. Chapman's address nearly every business man took occasion to express his views. It was the unanimous opinion that Portland's councilmen should be paid a sufficient salary to guarantee the faithful performance of their public duties. Judging from the attitude of the speakers, the east side will insist upon the abolishment of the ward system of government and the cutting down of the number of councilmen. The remuneration suggested by the speakers was somewhere around \$2,000 a year for each councilman and a slightly larger sum for the mayor.

S. P. PRIVILEGES NOT EXCLUSIVE

In overruling the demurrer of the defendant this morning in the case of the Pacific Postal Telegraph-Cable company versus the Oregon & California Railroad company and the Southern Pacific company, United States Circuit Judge Wolverton renders a decision which not only is of great importance to the parties to the action, but which will have a most important bearing upon the question of eminent domain.

The telegraph company is trying to condemn a right-of-way over the railroad's right of way from Portland to the southern boundary of the state, the railroad company refuses to allow it to use the land. The railroad company holds its right of way under the right of eminent domain and claims that this right ceases to be operative after it has once been exercised and the land is held under such condemnatory proceedings.

The Postal Telegraph company, on the other hand, claims that it has a good right to condemn a right of way over the right of way held by the railroad company as over its own private land. It is this question which the judge decides, holding that the telegraph company is right in its contention.

He says that he is led firmly to the conviction that "under the general law coupled with statutory authority for the exercise of the right of eminent domain, property devoted to one public use through quasi-public concerns may be taken for another public use for like concerns, where the taking will not materially impair or interfere with, or is not inconsistent with, the use already acquired and is not detrimental to the public."

"The prime essential is that the two uses may stand together, and it is not of vital consequence that some inconvenience may result to the prior occupant, so that the latter suiter does not interpose in such a manner as to materially interfere with the practical use of the antecedent franchise." The demurrer is, therefore, overruled.

The railroad company has a right of way 100 feet wide to the southern boundary of the state, and the telegraph company claims the right to condemn over this right of way a right of way for itself 25 feet on each side of the center of the road.



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PROHIBITS PLAN TO RECEIVE CANDIDATE

Prohibitionists of Portland are planning to receive their candidate for president, Eugene W. Chafin, when he arrives in Portland Friday next. He will be received by a committee at the Union depot Friday morning at 7 o'clock. The committee will consist of J. E. Newell, state chairman of the Prohibition party, F. McKereher, B. Lee Paget and E. T. Johnson. After breakfast at the Portland Mr. Chafin, accompanied by Mr. Newell, will leave for Newberg, where an address will be delivered in the forenoon. In the afternoon an address will be delivered in McMinnville, and at night a third address will be delivered in the First Methodist church of this city.

Saturday morning Mr. Chafin will speak in Woodburn in the forenoon, at Salem in the afternoon and at Albany in the evening. Sunday he will speak in Medford in the forenoon, and at Ashland in the evening. He will then make a canvass of California.

WILL ASK COUNCIL TO WIDEN ALBINA

J. H. Nolte, secretary of the North Albina Improvement association, H. Rubin and H. C. Meyers have been appointed a committee to introduce a resolution in the city council calling for the widening of Albina avenue to

70 feet, from the east side abutment of the contemplated new bridge through to Columbia boulevard.

To make the required width will only require an increase of five feet on each side of the present avenue.

The movement has been started by well-known property-owners who have considerable holdings on the thoroughfare.

New York Prohibits Nominate.

(United Press Leased Wire.) Syracuse, N. Y., Sept. 2.—Rev. George E. Stockwell of Fort Plain, N. Y., was nominated today by the prohibitionists for governor of the state.

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