

DES MOINES SATISFIED WITH ITS CHARTER RULES

To the Editor of The Journal—As chairman of the committee on municipal affairs of the chamber of commerce, I have devoted much time during the last six months in connection with the matter of municipal government, and at this end sent for and secured a copy of the charter of Galveston, Texas, and of the general law now in force in the state of Iowa, and under which the city of Des Moines is governed, but which law is equally applicable to all cities in Iowa having 25,000 or more inhabitants, if they see fit to adopt its provisions.

More Than Mere Skeleton.
In addition to obtaining a copy of such charter and law, I have corresponded with different persons, residents of the city of Galveston and of Des Moines, Iowa, and I must confess that after obtaining the information I now have, that I was afforded much amusement by reading the articles as published September 4, which purported to give the views of a number of those appointed as a committee to consider the matter of the proposed new charter of the city of Portland, or of adopting a new charter. Among the opinions published as having been expressed by one member of such committee, is that the law of Iowa under which the city of Des Moines is governed is a mere skeleton to which must be given muscle and the glow of life.

As to that opinion, whilst everyone has the right to criticize, one cannot help but think that inasmuch as there are at least a few lawyers in the city of Iowa, who, no doubt, had something to do with the foundation and passage of such law, and as the supreme court of Iowa has sustained the validity of that law, that it must be more than a mere skeleton without substance, though it is true the law does not direct each and every step that each man must take who works at making an excavation on the streets, or otherwise, the law provides as to who shall supervise and direct the work of each branch of the city government and leaves the details for the particular manager of the board who has charge of such branch, to work out and carry into effect, subject, however, to the will of the entire board, and subject further to the will of the people.

Proves Good Results.
Another of said committee is reported to have opposed it for the reason that Dr. Chapman favored it and that it was experimental.
It is true that, in a sense, it is experimental, as the city of Des Moines has only been governed by the provisions of said law for a few years, but in less than one year, but I have in my possession a letter from a member of the Commercial club of Des Moines, in which he states, among other things:

"In a general way we are seeing good results from the new plan. In every business, whether that of a private corporation, or the administration of the affairs of a municipality, a prime requisite is the fixing of responsibility. Under the old form, with ward aldermen and board of public works, city engineer and various council committees, it was impossible to fix responsibility. Authority was vested in a half dozen bodies. Under the new plan, responsibility for everything in the particular department rests with the one alderman, who, by the plan, becomes head of that department."
"In the public works department, the standard of efficiency of the inspection department has been wonderfully improved and practical scientific methods of testing materials have been introduced. As a result there has been more rejections of materials offered for paving and public work in three months than in any three years previous to the plan adopted. On one job of 16 blocks of vitrified brick paving, over 200 blocks of the blocks offered were rejected. On two blocks of creosoted block paving, all the blocks offered were rejected. On the test required in the specification and resulted in its rejection."
Benefits All Around.
"It was formerly the practice for workmen in the streets and sidewalk department to show up at the city hall at 8 a. m. for work, and to take from 20 minutes to an hour of time, paid for by the city, in going to their work. Now the men are required to show up on the work at 8 a. m."
"In the street cleaning department, there has probably been the most marked improvement. We are getting clean streets now and at no greater outlay than formerly, when there was scarcely any noticeable result of work done. The fixing of responsibility has resulted in this for better methods have

been adopted. Our department has discontinued the old brush sweepers and is doing all cleaning with water flushing machines supplemented by hand brush work, and is thus taking advantage of a clause in the new company franchise, requiring the company to supply water for street cleaning purposes. The plan practically eliminates the expensive carting away or refuse, as most of it is now flushed through the sewers. We are satisfied we are getting better paving, sewer and curb work; that there is greater efficiency in the police department—the fire department has all ways been better—our street cleaning a more satisfactory administration of our park system affairs, more work for our money in the street department, better service in the legal department and an absolute knowledge that we can place our finger right on the fellow who is responsible for anything we may not like or approve of."

Not Experiment in Galveston.
What has been or can be said as to the Iowa law mentioned in the Des Moines plan—being in an experimental condition, cannot be truthfully said of the commission plan under which the city of Galveston is being governed, as that city has been governed by the commission of five persons for near seven years, and which is subdivided into four departments as follows:

1. Finance and revenue.
2. Waterworks and sewerage.
3. Streets and public property.
4. Police and fire.

And the mayor-president is the executive head of all such departments. In view of the constant wrangling of our city officials and the resulting long and unnecessary delays in the transaction of its business, to the great detriment of the people of the city as a whole, as compared to that of the city of Galveston, I will quote from a communication by E. R. Greenborough, of the City club of Galveston, who has for years been a close student of municipal affairs and who says as follows:

"The city charter requires that the board shall meet in regular session at least once every week. These meetings take place Thursday afternoon at 6 o'clock. These meetings are conducted in a dignified, businesslike manner, and are free from wrangling, disputes and confusion. The commissioners sit around a directors' table, the mayor presiding. The city attorney has a seat at the various departments are required by the city charter to attend all meetings of the board. But little speech-making is indulged in and the presence of idle spectators is an exception rather than the rule. Business is transacted promptly, but without undue haste. All important matters are discussed and differences adjusted in conference. The city attorney has a general seat at the commissioners, and his advice is freely sought."

Simplicity Great Feature.
"Too many cooks spoil the broth" is an old saying which would be applicable to a board of 12 or 16 aldermen. In Galveston it has been clearly proved that four commissioners and a mayor or president can transact the business of 16 aldermen and a mayor, and do it better, more expeditiously and with greater harmony."

"The strongest feature of the commission plan of city government is its perfect simplicity. Its directness and in limiting the number of those directly charged with the management of the city's affairs, and in fixing in the centralization of responsibility."
"Under this plan the mismanagement of a department is promptly laid at the door of the alderman who is commissioner not only by the general public but by the mayor-president and the other members of the board. The knowledge of personal responsibility and watchfulness causes each commissioner to take personal interest in the affairs of his department, realizing as he must that the merit as well as defects are readily recognized and made known, as well as by the public generally."

"The Galveston commission government began September 18, 1901, at that time the city was practically bankrupt; its taxable values were greatly reduced; it owed heavy debts in shape of scrip issued for current bills; the city hall, water works station, and some of the fire engine houses were in a wretched condition. One of the first acts of the board was to secure the services of three eminent engineers, Messrs. Noble, Robert and Ripley, for the preparation of plans for the protection of the city from calamitous overflows."

Taxes Not High.
"Their report called for a seawall to cost \$1,000,000 and the raising of the grade of the city \$2,000,000. The county built the seawall and the city has raised

Three Hundred Citizens Seated at Tables in Commercial Club Hall.

Three hundred men from every walk of life in Portland attended the banquet at the Commercial club last night to show their esteem for Forrest Smithson, Alfred Gilbert and Dan Kelly, the three famous Oregon champions in the London Olympic games. For four hours the athletes were feasted and toasted and cheered. Every mention of their grand accomplishment in competition with the best-trained athletes in the world was the signal for an outburst and the rafters of the handsome banquet room resounded with the "rah! rah! rahs so spontaneously uttered by the banqueters."

The best vintage of Portland's oratory was uncorrupted and eloquence flowed freely as did the wines of ancient Greece in celebration of an Olympic victory. Public men and private citizens vied with each other in lauding the three young athletes who brought such attention to the state by their achievements. Governor Chamberlain, Mayor Lane, General Charles G. Smith, the toastmaster, Bishop Charles Spalding, who saw and described Smithson's hurdling, Gilbert's vaulting and the memorable Marathon race, Colonel James Jackson, President Ferrin of Pacific university, B. F. Irvine of the board of regents of the Oregon Agricultural college, and Dr. A. A. Morrison.

Of unusual interest were the speeches of the three athletes themselves. As usual Smithson's effort was confined to the shortest space possible. He made a record of 15 seconds over the hurdles and his speech-making lasted scarcely longer. Dan Kelly's response was slightly longer and Gilbert's of considerable length. The latter, in relating the story of the gluck in London and the part "Yankee pluck" played in winning for the United States the Olympic medal, spent much time in decorating the large banquet room and their work showed in the pretty arrangement of things. The menu provided by the committee under the direction of General Beebe was all that could be desired. The menu card contained the pictures of the three victors in their track suits and made a valuable souvenir of the occasion.

With the singing of "America" the banquet ended. A brief informal reception was held afterward so that many who had come late could meet the boys. Today the athletes are guests at luncheon of United States Senator Jonathan Bourne and his family. Senator Bourne was unable to be present at the banquet last night.

The grade of Galveston county has also just passed \$100,000,000. It is to be shared in the cost of \$1,400,000,000 causeway to connect the island with the mainland. Eighty-five per cent of the taxable value of Galveston county are located in the city of Galveston, hence the entire burden of taxation falls largely upon the city proper.

The tax rate for city purposes in 1907 was \$1.60 and state and county purposes \$1.43. The Galveston tax assessing purposes are quite reasonable, and notwithstanding Galveston's experience and accomplishments, its taxes are lower than any other city in Texas.

"All departments of the city are working in perfect harmony and render efficient service."
"It is true that the commission plan simplifies city government and centralizes responsibility. This plan has the advantage of public opinion plays upon the work of each commissioner. If a department is badly managed the commissioner in charge can be held responsible or blamed. Bids must be advertised for in every instance where the expenditure exceeds \$500 and no bond can be issued without a favorable vote of the taxpayers."

All Speak Favorably.
I also quote from a letter dated July 13, 1908, which I received from the secretary of the chamber of commerce of Galveston and which will explain itself and which is as follows:
"Your letter of June 30, it affords me great pleasure to say that the commission form of government has adopted by Galveston and carried out by our competent mayor-president and four commissioners has so commended itself to the people of Galveston that I do not believe there would be 10 votes in favor of going back to the old proposition, if it were submitted."

"The commission form has a great many advantages, to my mind the greatest is that the four commissioners are able to judge more easily and grasp a condition or situation than the former council of 17 members. Then again in selecting but five men who do not run the risk of ward politics being introduced and public members being secured from some certain locality, the commissioners are elected by a vote of all the people in the city, and in any intelligent community there are always enough well-meaning citizens to control. This I have found to be the case in Galveston."

Improve Over Present Form.
From all the information at hand, I therefore conclude as it would seem any reasonable man must, who has knowledge of the conditions prevailing in the city of Portland, and who really has the welfare of the city at heart, that either the so-called Des Moines plan under the general law of Iowa or the so-called Galveston plan, would be a great improvement over that now prevailing in this city, as in either case the business of the city is transacted promptly and in a businesslike way, and hence contractors for paving, sidewalks or other work would know the particular person with whom they would have to deal and that, whilst the matter is completed there would not be months of delay in securing their pay and as a result hundreds of thousands of dollars of the reasonable values on account of such delay, would be saved to the people of our city and it was owing to the knowledge of the great and unnecessary expense to the people of our city in having its street, sewer and other work done and the almost continual quarreling and bickering, and shall I say it, flickering between the mayor and members of our city council, and which almost invariably, where such a course is pursued by any executive and legislative body, operates to the great injury of the city through increased cost and expense to the taxpayers, that induced the committee on municipal affairs of the chamber of commerce to some months ago prepare and make the recommendation that did to the chamber of commerce, that a committee should be appointed to consider the matter and prepare a new charter, which should be somewhat similar to that of Galveston, Texas, or that prevailing in the state of Iowa and known as, or called, the Des Moines plan, and submit the same to the people of Portland for adoption.

S. H. GRUBER.

POLITICS STIRS HAWAIIAN ISLES

Natives Fear Power Will Be Taken From Them by Government.

(United Press Leased Wire.)
Honolulu, Sept. 16.—The coming election for delegates to congress is rapidly developing into a racial quarrel between the home rule party, aided by the labor party and the so-called American party, and it is feared here today that before the 3d of November all the provinces in the Hawaiian islands will be in turmoil.

W. C. Achi, founder of the labor party and Charles Notley, leader of the home rule party, are touring the islands, speaking to the natives and urging them to vote on strictly racial lines this fall.

Notley wants to go to Washington as a delegate and considerable bitterness has been injected into the fight by his friends, who declare that the proposed plan of governing Hawaii by a commission similar to the one that governs the District of Columbia, is simply a plan to take the government of the islands away from the natives.

The scheme to allow soldiers to vote is looked at askance by the natives, who declare that the administration clog garrison the forts with soldiers and thus carry any election in Hawaii. A proposed amendment to the immigration laws allowing planters to assist European immigrants is being opposed by the natives who point to the influx of Japanese that followed a similar amendment, with reference to orientals.

First annual Pacific National Livestock Show and races, Sept. 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, at the Portland Country Club grounds.

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You'll find lots of shoes made nowadays that are cheapened in little ways you can't see—hemlock instead of oak-tanned soles; composition instead of leather heels; pieced counters instead of good solid sole leather.

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Get relief without pain. We use the latest scientific method and our patients are satisfied. We are thorough dentists of many years practical experience and we back every bit of it with our well-known reputation for doing

Miss Roylston Tells of Her Good Fortune

Miss Eva Roylston, a Prominent Young Lady of Dayton, Tenn., Who Was So Run Down From Indigestion and Stomach Trouble That She Could Not Eat Anything, Feels So Overjoyed to Think That She Is Now in Robust Health That She Wants to Tell Everybody About It.



MISS EVA ROYLSTON.

Miss Roylston says that she was all run down, had indigestion and stomach trouble so badly that she could not eat or retain anything on her stomach, but now she is happy to state that these troubles are things of the past. Today she can eat anything and it agrees with her, she is robust and strong and is anxious to tell anybody who is sick and needs a tonic about her wonderful recovery. She says nothing seemed to help her until she took Duffy's Pure Malt Whiskey as prescribed by her doctor and it worked like magic. Miss Roylston requests to have the story of her good fortune published, so that it may be the means of showing the thousands who suffer as she did the quick sure way to complete recovery and health.

Those who read this are at liberty to write this young lady who says she will take pleasure in answering any questions and telling how she was restored to health.

Duffy's Pure Malt Whiskey

is an absolutely pure distillation of malted grain; great care being used to have every kernel thoroughly malted, thus destroying the germ and producing a predigested liquid food in the form of a malt essence, which is the most effective tonic stimulant and invigorator known to science; softened by warmth and moisture its palatability and freedom from injurious substances render it so that it can be retained by the most sensitive stomach.

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CAUTION—When you ask your druggist, grocer or dealer for Duffy's Pure Malt Whiskey be sure you get the genuine. It's the only absolutely pure malt whiskey made in this country. Beware of cheap imitations. Look for the trade-mark, the "Old Chisel," on the label, and make sure you seal over the cork in substance. Write Consulting Physician, Duffy Malt Whiskey Co., Rochester, N. Y., for a copy of interesting medical booklet and free advice.

MINING MAN IS ACCUSED OF THEFT

(United Press Leased Wire.)
Chicago, Sept. 16.—Accused of embezzling \$3,500 of the funds of the Kearns No. 2 Gold Mine company of Rawhide, Nev., Thomas Kearns, a well-known Nevada mining man and a reputed millionaire, was taken to Nevada today to face a charge following his arrest last night at the Palmer house.

The warrant for the arrest of Kearns was sworn to by President James O'Brien of the company, whose funds he is charged with having misappropriated. Kearns claims that the money was voted to him at a meeting of the directors of the company, about three months ago and that the minutes will exonerate him. He threatens to bring suit against O'Brien for heavy damages. He resides in San Francisco.

The accidental death rate of Pennsylvania's coal mines is 2.57 per 1,000 inside employees, against 1.42 per 1,000 in