

NEW CHARTER WILL CUT OUT EXECUTIVE BOARD

Members of the charter revision commission at a meeting in the city hall last night decided by a vote of 8 to 2 that the executive board as an institution in city government must be relegated to the past with its other antiquated and cumbersome forms of civic rule. The commission adopted a resolution declaring it to be the sense of that body that the committee on executive and legislative provisions be instructed that it is the wish of the charter revision board entirely to eliminate the executive board in drawing up new amendments.

Colonel Holman was the only member who actively supported the plan of having legislative and executive functions separate under the new charter. He was entirely alone, however, in advocating his ideas, as there were none of the other members who spoke who did not take occasion to refer to the present unsatisfactory condition of affairs.

Opinions Change.

It was significant of the speeches that they showed a marked change of opinion from those of the same persons when the commission met some time ago and decided not to adopt the Des Moines plan of charter. It is thought now by the enthusiasts for the Iowa system that the majority of the commission will finally decide on drawing up a charter which shall embody the principles of the Des Moines charter in principle if not in form.

The veering of sentiment in this direction was shown by the almost unanimous vote of the members present on a resolution directing the executive and legislative committee to report a plan providing for the election at large by the people of a governing body to be composed of not more than seven men, including the mayor.

If these resolutions are both embodied in the proposed new charter others of a similar nature will accompany them, and the effect will be to make the new form of government in practice the same as that of Des Moines. John Logan, who introduced the resolution calling for the abolition of the executive board, at first including in his resolution all other boards and commissions, but the resolution was amended to include only the executive board for the reason that

STEARNS' DEATH TAKES AWAY GOOD CITIZEN

The following tribute by a lifelong friend has been paid to the late Willis G. Stearns:

The sudden death of Willis G. Stearns of this city is deeply regretted by those who knew him and his friends. He was a man of a rugged and independent nature admitted to his friendship. Few knew his scholarly tastes and wide reading; he thoroughly studied Huxley, Darwin, Spencer, and other scientists, and after reading every available work on astronomy for love of it, declared that he must then believe in a Divine Creator, and the immortality of the soul.

In his passing the city loses a business man of high order, who in his extensive operations in timber interests, demonstrated that honesty was his religion.

10 Cents to Stock Show.

The race meeting and livestock show at the Country club, September 21 to 25 will be reached by special trains on the O. R. & N. Train will leave union depot at 1 p. m., returning, leave Country club at 8:30 p. m. Fare, 10 cents one way; 20 cents round trip. Tickets at Third and Washington streets and union depot.

BELGIAN BLOCKS OR NO FRANCHISE

most of the commission were not sure that some of the boards might not be necessary, owing to a state provision establishing them.

Work Unsatisfactory.

In speaking for the abolition of the executive board, R. W. Montague said that the work of this department of the city's executive force was unsatisfactory and insufficient that several members of the present board had told him personally that the executive board should be done away with under the new charter.

"It is a mere arm of the mayor's," said Mr. Montague, speaking of the board, "and was originally intended as a sort of cabinet or advisory staff. It is of no practical benefit, for it divides the responsibility without increasing the efficiency."

A resolution was unanimously adopted directing the executive and legislative committee to report their plan in an outline at the next meeting of the charter commission.

The commission voted to have the executive committee assume the duties of the legislative as well, and the committee on streets take up the tasks formerly required of that on public works.

The following new committees were appointed: Executive—Henry E. McGinn, John M. Gearin and T. H. Wilcox.

Boundary wards, precincts and elections—John F. Logan, H. H. Newhall and J. M. Ryerson.

Finance revenue and taxes—Ben Selling, S. Grutze and J. P. Kavanaugh.

Public library and health—S. Grutze, C. H. Chapman and Rev. W. G. Elliot Jr.

Revocation of the blanket franchise now held by the Portland Railway, Light & Power company and the granting of a new one clearly defining and limiting its privileges may be the result of the meeting of the special franchise committee which met with Mayor Lane and City Attorney Kavanaugh in City Engineer Taylor's office yesterday afternoon.

The immediate result of the meeting which was held to consider a letter from the street railway corporation informing the city that it would not pay for improvements on its right of way unless the material used was the same as that put into the rest of the street along which its tracks run, was that mandamus proceedings will be commenced by the city to compel the corporation to pay for its share of the street work recently finished on Union avenue north and for work done on the Front street fill in Marquam gulch.

The railway company formerly complied with the demands of the council to pave its portion of the streets with certain materials not used in other portions. This consists mostly of Belgian blocks. Now the company informs the council in the letter that hereafter it will only pave with material used in the streets in which improvements are made.

The city engineer told the committee that the railway people had refused to pay for improvements now being made on Union avenue north. He, therefore, intended to put in Belgian blocks himself, and then start suit to collect the costs from the corporation. It was decided, however, by the committee after a consultation with the city attorney that the better procedure would be to institute mandamus proceedings.

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Hartford Extra Velvets, also Smith's Extra Velvets, five patterns from which to choose; sewed, lined and laid free in all cases; \$1.85 val., yd... **\$1.25**

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