17 ON THE LIST MEET WITH APPROVAL

Taxpayers' League Scans Amendments Coming Up at June Election and Disapproves of Fifteen Measures Put on the Ballot.

The Taxpayers' league has completed its work of examining and considering the amendments to come before the people at the June election and at a meeting yesterday afternoon the league indorsed the report of the special committee appointed to consider the amendments.

Reports are made on 32 amendments, of which 17 are recommended and 15 are rejected. The findings of the committee will be published in pamphlet form at once and a copy will be sent to every voter, about 35,000 having been ordered printed.

Out of the entire list of amendments taken before the league there were but three which called forth much discussion and any great diversity of opinion from the members. These were the amendment providing for the expenditure of $2,000,000 for a bridge at Larrabee street, the proposed new charter and the provision that the city shall own the soil in the streets. The last was discussed because of its curious feature but there was considerable difference of opinion as to the Larrabee street bridge.

Opposed by Henry.

C. K. Henry led the opposition to the approval of this project on the ground that later on two tubes could be placed under the river at Stark street, but it was the general opinion of those at the meeting that the crying necessity for more bridges over the river is so great that the Larrabee street bridge should be built now and the tubes would still be necessary as soon as the city could afford them.

The majority opinion as to the new charter was that the present one should be given more of a show and that a change would be unwise at this time.

League Recommendations.

The recommendations of the league as to the various amendments are:

The new charter proposed by the committee of 15 is in substance very much like the old charter, except in the radical change of the institution of a small and well paid council and the merging of all legislative and executive functions in the mayor and council. It seems to this committee almost too radical and sudden a change. The commission plan, as it is called, has worked well in some small cities, but no city of the first class has so far adopted it. In Washington, D. C., which has (under congress) a highly centralized administration, the same principle has not, so far, worked very well. The old charter with such amendments as can be made to it at this election should be given a longer trial in new hands before it is condemned and thrown into the junk pile. Vote no.

The charter amendment sugegsted by the committee of seven is too trifling for serious consideration. It only provides that newspapers to obtain the city printing must be at least one year old. Vote no.

The charter amendment to regulate wiring, etc., has for its ultimate purpose the creation of the offices of electrical inspector, inspector of stationary engines, purchasing agent, etc. The league does not consider it wise to create these offices. Vote no.

The amendment requiring franchise holders to keep accessible accounts commends itself as a just and proper one. Vote yes.

The amendment authorizing a women's auxiliary to the police department seems necessary. Vote yes.

The amendment authorizing the city treasurer to purchase bonded warrants is of trifling importance and a treasury full of bonded warrants would be of little use in a panic. Vote no.

The amendment authorizing banks of a capital of $50,000 to receive city deposits on giving proper security seems a proper one. The security being sufficient, the capitalization of the bank is comparatively unimportant. Vote yes.

Purchasing of Warrants.

The amendment authorizing the city treasurer to loan city funds on the security of surety bonds does not commend itself. Surety bonds in a panic, the only time they would be needed, would be about as useful as wet gunpowder, and the surety company would naturally consider itself as liable only after the bank had failed. Vote no.

The amendment modifying the civil service regulations is good as far as it goes. Vote yes.

The amendment to the civil service regulations referred to under this number in the foregoing recommendations is also a very proper one and would doubtless tend to increase efficiency of employes. Vote yes.

The amendment authorizing a deputy clerk for the municipal court seems necessary. Vote yes.

The amendment authorizing the city audifor to act as the clerk of street viewers is a proper one, as its only purpose is to insure the good form of viewers' reports. Vote yes.

Liens on Streets.

The amendment requiring the auditor to ascertain if any liens exist before making payments for appropriated streets has become necessary as cases have occurred where mortgagees, by such proceedings, have lost their security. Vote yes.

The amendment requiring a rededication of streets where a vacation of streets is sought for the purpose of remodeling a plat is a just and proper one. Vote yes.

The amendment providing that the city shall own the soil in streets ordered to be improved presents many curious questions. The right of the owner to use the land in front of his lot is unquestioned until the improvement is ordered and the courts have held that he now owns it afterward. If so, what is the city to do for soil to fill the low places and what must the street contractor do with the soil when he removes it? This amendment attempts to cut the knot in the only reasonable way that seems possible. Vote yes.

The amendment for the bonding of assessments differ from the old in allowing the bonding for all small amounts. This is only just and proper. Vote yes.

The amendment increasing the interest on delinquent assessments from 6 to 10 per cent is reasonable and intended to facilitate their collection. As it is now, 6 per cent being a low rate, has no quickening effect upon the debtor. Vote yes.

Cost Is Increased.

The amendment providing that the acceptance by the city officers of an improvement shall be final is aimed at an abuse that has grown to large proportions. A contractor on city work having finished his contract and had it accepted in good faith by the proper city officers is still under our present system liable to be held up in his pay for years at the suit of private owners. This is an outrage, and has resulted in increasing the cost of city improvements in Portland from 10 to 20 per cent. Contractors have been kept out of their honestly earned pay for years and can have no assurance of receiving their pay at any fixed time. Vote yes.

The amendment abolishing certain boards and relating to water bonds is defective and insufficient. Vote no.

The amendment providing for the issuance of bonds to construct water mains of 10 inches and over in diameter hardly goes far enough, but is an improvement on present conditions. Vote yes.

This amendment allowing the council to fix the salary of the city engineer at any reasonable figure, not less than $2400 a year. The present pay is entirely inadequate. The council has lately paid Mr. Modjeska, an eminent engineer, $5000 for a few weeks service and would do well to pay a city engineer of first class ability a good salary for a longer time, and if it needs authority for that purpose it should be given it. Vote yes.

This amendment allowing the council to increase the city treasurer's salary is not recommended. The salary of the city treasurer is sufficiently provided for already. Vote no.

This amendment allowing the council to increase the salary of the city attorney is wrong in principle. The amount should be fixed in the charter. Vote no.

Crematory Bonds.

This amendment providing for the issuance of $150,000 of crematory bonds meets an immediate necessity. Something in this regard must be done, and as these bonds are payable in 10 annual installments it amounts to but a small anticipation of the city's revenues. Vote yes.

This amendment providing for bonds for the construction of the Broadway and Larrabee street bridge calls for a $2,000,000 bond issue and only the most urgent necessity would justify it, still in the view of this committee the necessity exists at this point, and the bridge must be built. Portland is growing very rapidly, with nearly all of its wholesale and retail business, Union depot, places of amusement, etc., on the west side of the river and three-fourths at least of its residences on the east side. This bridge is therefore an absolute necessity if prospering conditions are to continue as they are. Vote yes.

The amendment relating to electrical wiring is, in the judgment of this committee, correct in principle, but should not pass at the present time, because the electrical companies are at present working under a recently passed ordinance making the space 13 inches on each side of the center of the pole, and it would be an injustice to compel them to immediately undo all that they have done; also because the ordinance is defective in that it does not omit from the operation that portion of the city where the wires are now being placed underground. Vote no.

The amendment to change Madison street bridge to Market is unjust and would entail an extra cost of about $500,000, and as business has adapted itself to the Madison street bridge it should remain where it is. Vote no.

The amendment authorizing the construction of the Sherman street bridge and the issuance of $1,500,000 of city bonds could only be justified by an urgent necessity, which in the view of this committee does not exist, in regard to this bridge. Vote no.

Use of Patented Articles.

The amendment prohibiting patented articles in public improvements has a flavor of the middle or dark ages in it. If the citizens want a patented article why should they not have it? And if they have it, then why should they not pay for it at its price? A law to abolish patents would be more in point, and just about as absurd. Vote No.

The amendment to grant a monopoly of the liquor business to the Gothenburg association and to provide for a partnership of the city in the profits seems dangerous and vicious to the last degree. The corruption of the dispensary system would accompany it. Vote no.

The excise board amendment to regulate the liquor traffic is also a radical departure, but in the other direction, and would if enforced strike disastrously at clubs, hotels and other business enterprises. From even the standpoint of the prohibitionist it would seem unadvisable to abandon the present most effective battlefield of local option for such radical and untried measures that even if maintained for a time could only result in a final and disastrous reaction. Vote no.

Vehicle Ordinance.

The referendum demanded on the vehicle ordinance does not meet with the approval of the league, and in its opinion this ordinance is just and reasonable and should pass. Vote yes.

It is proposed by initiative petition to appoint a commission named in the act to establish and maintain a municipal power and light plant and issue city bonds for the purpose to the amount of $2,000,000. The league at this time advises very strongly against this proposed plan. To issue such a large amount in bonds entailing tremendous interest charges would necessitate heavy tax burdens that would cripple the city to the injury of every man, woman and child in it and experience has shown that municipal light and power plants are often a heavy burden upon a community. Vote no.

As a last word the committee urges great caution in increasing the debt of the city or in any action that might impair its commercial credit or position. Whether a citizen carries his capital in his head, his hands or his pockets, he is alike interested in maintaining the supremacy of his city and the prosperity and happiness of his own household.

NEW BOOKS FOR THE LIBRARY

The following books may be examined at the public library during this week and will be ready for circulation Monday, May 31:

BIOGRAPHY.

Eliot—Life of George Eliot; by Oscar Browning. 1909.

Napoleon I, Emperor of France. Life of Napoleon Bonaparte; by Sabine Baring-Gould. n. d.

Scott—Sir Walter Scott; by W. S. Crockett and J. L. Caw. 1903.

BOOKS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES.

Amundsen—Nordvest Passagen.
Berneker—Graf Lee Tolstoi.
Bleibtreu—Colombey.
Drachmann—Poul og Virginie Under Nordlig Bredde.
Flood—Familien i Lyvik.
Franz—Der Mond.
Harkavy—American Teacher for Yiddish Speaking People.
Heidenstam—Folkungatradet.
Levien—Die Betrogenen.
Lienhard—Wasgau-Fahrten.
Megede—Quitt.
Meyer—Den Forate Barnepleje.
Paulsen—Jodinden.
Scherer—Geschichte der Deutschen Litteratur.
Wetterbargh—Traskeden.

DESCRIPTION AND TRAVEL.

Elliott—Sun and Shadow in Spain. 1908.

Jones—India, Its Life and Thought. 1908.

Robinson—The Twentieth Century American; being a comparative study of the peoples of the two great Anglo-Saxon nations. 1908.

FINE ARTS.

Allen—Evolution in Italian Arts. 1908.

Faust—A Treatise on the Construction, Repairing and Tuning of the Organ. 1905.

Freeborough & Ranken—Chess Openings, Ancient and Modern. n. d.

Krohbiel—Chapters of Opera; being historical and critical observations and records concerning the lyric drama in New York, from its earliest days down to the present. 1909.

Lilley & Midgley—A Book of Studies in Plant Form, with some suggestions for their application to design. 1907.

Universal Portland Cement Co.—Plans for Concrete Residences. 1909.

Velazquez—Velazquez; by S. L. Bensusan. 1907.

Whistler—"Ten o'Clock." 1888.

HISTORY.

Bury—The Ancient Greek Historians. 1909.

Fling—Mirabeau and the French Revolution. v. 1. 1908.

Mosby—Stuart's Cavalry in the Gettysburg Campaign. 1908.

LITERATURE.

Burdette—Smiles Yoked With Sighs. 1900.

Dickinson—The Cathedral, and Other Poems. 1901.

Meynell—Poems. 1903.

Shakespeare—Proverbs; collected by M. C. Clarke and edited by W. J. Rolfe. 1908.

Torence—Comedies; ed. by S. G. Ashmore. 1908.

Ward—Ten Personal Studies. 1908.

PHILOSOPHY.

Keller—The World I Live In. 1908.
Wood—The New Old Healing. 1908.

RELIGION.

Bardenhewer — Patrology; the lives and works of the Fathers of the Church. 1908.

Palmer—Lesson Stories for the Kindergarten Grades of the Bible School. 1908.

SCIENCE.

Butler—A Pocket Handbook of Minerals, designed for use in field or classroom. 1908.

Dolmage—Astronomy of Today; a popular introduction in non-technical language. 1909.

SOCIOLOGY.

Carlton — Education and Industrial Evolution. 1908.

Dickinson—Justice and Liberty; a Political Dialogue. 1908.

Keane—The World's Peoples. 1908.

USEFUL ARTS.

Borchers—Electric Furnaces. 1908.

Hunt—Home Problems from a New Standpoint. 1908.

Meade—The Story of Gold. 1908.

Richey — The Building Mechanics' Ready Reference; Cement Workers' and Plasterers' Edition. 1908.

Rosenthal—Practical Calculations of Transmission Lines. 1909.

St. John—Wireless Telegraphy for Amateurs and Students. 1906.

BOOKS ADDED TO REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

Jones—Forms in Conveyancing and General Legal Forms. Ed. 5, rev. 1899.

PAMPHLETS.

United States Experiment Station, Office of—School Gardening and Nature Study in English Rural Schools and in London.

United States Interstate Commerce Commission—Hours of Service of Railway Employes, State Statutes and Related Court Decisions. February, 1909.

MRS. SCOTT'S ACTION CAUSES D. A. R. UNREST

(United Press Leased Wire.)

Washington, May 28.—A growing unrest over the action of Mrs. M. T. Scott, the recently elected president of the Daughters of the American Revolution, in appointing certain members to places for which they were recently defeated at election, threatens an upheaval of the organization, according to some of the dissatisfied members. Complaints are becoming more pronounced against the president's action in appointing a supervision committee with only one member, the chairman, a member of the national board of the society.

The supervision committee, it is said, is planned to take on new powers and will have a voice in the directing of the national officers. This would give them supervision over regularly elected officers and would place the committee in the position similar to that occupied by a party boss toward the elected officials of the party.

Another complaint is that Mrs. Scott has selected for chairman of the most important committees the women defeated at the recent election. Several minor questions have arisen and unless they are smoothed out a serious defection in the ranks of the organization is predicted.

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Krell French, oak case, splendid for a teacher $255
Schubert, oak case, splendid condition $270
Everett, mahogany case, used three months $300
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Sohmer, oak case, like new $375
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