

COMMISSION PLAN LAUDED; ANSWERS PORTLAND'S NEEDS

E. A. Sherman, Capitalist of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Points Out the Many Valuable Points of System.

E. A. Sherman, a retired capitalist of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, who is in Portland looking after large property interests in Oregon and Washington, desires to see Portland adopt the commission form of government.

Mr. Sherman has been a close student of political affairs, particularly of municipal politics, as a member of the South Dakota legislature he has been the author of a number of important amendments to the constitution of his state and he was one of the first five commissioners to be elected in Sioux Falls under the commission form of government.

The state law allowing cities to adopt the commission form of government was adopted in South Dakota four years ago. Sioux Falls, a city of about 15,000, the metropolis of the state, has had the commission form for two years. About 12 cities in all have adopted it in that state, all experiencing an increase in the number of improvements through the activity of its councilmen, while the city as a whole might be the loser.

"Under our new system we have five commissioners, each of whom is elected by the city as a whole. The tenure of office is five years, and one commissioner is elected each year, four remaining in office. The first five commissioners elected drew lots to determine the length of the term each was to serve, from one to five years.

Direct Responsibility.
The law assigns to each commissioner his duties, and he is directly responsible for the safe conduct of his department.

"In the two years that Sioux Falls has had the commission form of government the business of the city has been run more economically than ever before, taxes are no higher and more improvements have been carried out. In addition, in each of the two years the city has paid off 10 per cent of its outstanding indebtedness.

The original law allowed commissioners \$600 a year each with \$1200 for the mayor. At the last legislature I introduced a bill allowing cities to have three commissioners and increasing their salaries to \$2000 when this was done. Several cities have already made this change in the form of their commissions.

Responsibility for the acts of the deputies in their departments is placed directly on the shoulders of the commissioners.

People May Recall.
If at any time the people lose confidence in a commissioner they can call for a new election, another candidate is chosen and the people can say which they prefer.

Another change made last winter in the South Dakota law at the suggestion of Mr. Sherman, and one he regards as very important, is that providing when any candidate fails to secure a majority of all the votes cast, a secondary election shall be called one week later, at which only the two securing the largest number of votes in the first election shall be voted for. To be nominated a candidate must file a petition bearing the names of 15 per cent of the voters.

The law designates what each commissioner shall have charge of. For instance, one oversees streets, public property and parks; another is commissioner of finance; a third commissioner of water and sewerage; a fourth commissioner of public safety, while the mayor is chairman of the commission and has charge of such departments as health and public lighting.

Placed With Plan.
All the under officials, such as the chief of police, chief of the fire department, auditor, treasurer and all subordinates are appointed by the commissioners. Each commissioner is allowed to name his deputies but he must submit the names to the entire commission before they are appointed and they must secure the approval of the commission as a whole.

These men can be removed from office for dereliction of duty at any time, but though there is no civil service in name, Mr. Sherman says there is in practice.

In adopting the South Dakota law both the Des Moines and the Galveston plans were considered and the result is a combination of what Mr. Sherman thinks are the best points of both. No primaries are held but the secondaries take their place when candidates run closely.

Not only South Dakota, but Iowa cities as well seem to be well pleased with the commission form according to Mr. Sherman. He cites Cedar Rapids, a neighboring city, as one of these.

REMARKABLE CAREER OF PORFIRO DIAZ

Resignation of President of Central American Republic Brings to Close Turbulent Public Life Marked With Patriotism and Tyranny—Left an Orphan at Three Years of Age This Sturdy Son of a Poor Inn-Keeper Rose by His Force of Personality to Be Virtual Ruler of His People for Three Decades.

(By the International News Service.)
Mexico City, May 27.—The official announcement of the resignation of Porfirio Diaz as president of Mexico, not only marks his political death, but through the strange irony of fate, closes the career of 10 years of virtual sovereignty with the same blood red tints that marked his accession to the "throne" of Mexico in 1877, when as a popular idol, clothed with the romance of brave deeds and bearing the standard of political purity, he marched into the same town where he now lies, burdened with years, beset with pain and surrounded by enemies, at the head of 12,000 yelling peons, and took possession of the palace vacated by the departed president.

Porfirio Diaz is one of the strangest figures in modern history. His long life of hazardous activity, and his career that rivaled that of the medieval heroes who have held the attention and won the admiration of countless generations by their Quixotic heroism. The son of a poor inn keeper of Oaxaca, an orphan in 1838, when scarcely three years of age, he rose a poor boy and a hound, through all the various gradations of priest, lawyer, soldier, general, statesman and president, dragging down staid Mexico in his wake till at last he made himself one of the greatest figures in modern times, and his nation one of the leading republics in the world.

Was Precocious Youth.
Early tales of Diaz credit him with a precocity abnormal even in a child surrounded by every advantage and but little removed from one whose early life was spent among the Mexican peons, conceded to be the poorest race in the civilized world, yet there must have been a germ of truth amid the jumble of fiction, for, at a tender age, he was known to have accumulated a vocabulary far above his fellows by assiduous application to the books lent him by itinerant priests, and, when yet in his teens, was selected by the holy fathers to become one of their number.

He studied for the clergy, until a stirring presidential call set all Mexico afire against an invasion by the United States. Young Diaz, his fiery nature grown weary of restraint, flung down his books and crucifix and walked over 250 miles to join the Mexican forces that were fighting the border war with the Americans. After the close of the Mexican invasion he returned once more to his native village, only to find that this action, had forever cut him off from the priesthood, and that he must needs find another vocation. He, however, was welcomed with open arms by a little coterie of students headed by Benito Juarez, an illustrious Indian lawyer, who was then governor of the state of Oaxaca.

His Defiance to Santa Ana.
His first chance of distinction came in 1855 when he joined a revolution against the tyrannical President Santa Ana. Santa Ana attempted to quell the disturbance by calling a general election and forcing his reelection by a show of force. After his military were drawn up in the square, he envaya let it be known that all who failed to vote for him would be imprisoned. Diaz sought the voting booth, but, when pressed to cast his ballot, craved leave to remain neutral. Taunts of cowardice were flung at him by Santa Ana's officers, and, at last wrought to a white heat of passion and surrounded on every side with his enemies, he strode boldly to the ballot box and cast his lot with the rebels. Instantly confusion reigned. Santa Ana's soldiers sought to lay hands upon him. He retreated, drew his sword, seized a horse, and, amid a hail of bullets rode at full gallop through the federal forces to the rebel camp in the hills, where, in the absence of his chief, he assumed command and successfully routed those who pursued to take him captive.

From this time on Diaz's career was one continual round of adventure. Santa Ana was defeated and driven out of Mexico. The rebel chief succeeded him. Juarez was appointed minister of justice, Diaz captain of the national guard. The new administration sought to stamp out the rule of priest and pupil that had yearly yoked Mexico to poverty by its demands upon the people. The church incited a rebellion. Diaz raised through Mexico; a war in which priests appeared before charging troops, a war in which the curse of the church was thundered from thousands of altars and which steeped the fair land of Mexico in a sea of blood.

Is Ordered Banished.
Diaz, now made the governor of a state, and military commander of a district, with the rank of colonel, was besieged in Vera Cruz, and his command reduced to a handful by the repeated onslaughts of the ecclesiastics, till at last he made a spectacular escape from under the very noses of the pope's hordes. With the triumphant entry of the clericals into the Mexican capital dark days began for Diaz and his band of followers. They were hunted like wolves in the mountains and reduced to the last extremity. They came the French invasion, which for a time ruled the country, banishing Diaz and his followers with a price on their heads, and marking its climax of power with his capture in Oaxaca.

Again he made good his escape, and, with the whole French army hot pursuit, found his way to the mountain fastnesses; where he repudiated with scorn an offer to take command of the French army. About this time the close of the war of the rebellion left the United States free to uphold the Monroe doctrine. France was notified to withdraw her troops, the order was obeyed and poor Archduke Maximilian was left to his sad fate.

Diaz, the hero of the peons, put himself at the head of a rebel army,

defeated the federal troops with terrible slaughter and entered Mexico City with his triumphant force. An election was held and Diaz took the field against Juarez, was defeated, and retired to private life. His ardent spirit, however, could not remain long at peace and soon he was again at the head of a band of rebels operating against his erstwhile friend, President Juarez. Juarez died and was succeeded by Senor Lerdo, who put the rebel leader to flight by concentrating a large army and moving steadily toward his strongholds. Diaz escaped to the United States, secreted himself aboard a boat bound for Vera Cruz, was discovered, made prisoner, and, on the eve of sailing, plunged overboard. A vain search was made for him and the report was spread broadcast that he had been eaten by sharks.

In the meantime the vessel continued on its way to Vera Cruz, with Diaz secreted in a narrow closet, where he suffered agonies because of his cramped quarters. At Vera Cruz he bribed some boatmen to take him ashore and as turned up in the very midst of Lerdo's country, with naught on his back but a ragged sailor's suit and naught in his hands, but a sailor's dirk. Like Napoleon returning from Elba, the appearance of Diaz in the country of his birth was the signal for a great uprising. Joy crazed peons, remembering only his brave deeds during a decade of bloody strife, hailed him as their savior. From a ragged sailor's suit to the command of an army numbering thousands was the transition of a day. The Lerdo regime tottered as the news of his appearance became current, and, winning victory after victory, he marched into the capital in 1877 at the head of 12,000 men, the flag of the republic proudly flying over the sea of flashing bayonets to be elected president a few weeks later.

This position he has held ever since, with the exception of four years, 1889 to 1894, when General Gonzalez was given the office because Mexico's constitution later amended forbade the reelection of a president.

Wrought Order From Chaos.
From this chaos Diaz wrought order. He held the turbulent masses still. He made revolution impossible. He organized a police system that swept away the bandits. He built schools. He punished corruption, and made it known that any concession granted by Mexico would never be repudiated. All this and more he accomplished for his war ridden country. But if Diaz has wrought wonders for Mexico, his methods of accomplishing the miracles have been those of a great general rather than a great statesman. His was the iron hand within the velvet glove and was into him who sought to take away

the prestige of the great general and popular hero of the people. Death or banishment awaited him.

Although from time to time minor insurrections against this great Central American oligarchy were in evidence, all were successfully dealt with till in the fall of last year, Senor Francisco I. Madero, Jr., of northern Mexico, backed by the immense wealth of his family, commenced the revolution that has led to the downfall of Diaz. This movement, starting with a small uprising in the northern part of Mexico speedily developed till it seriously menaced the Diaz regime. Town after town was taken. Battle after battle won. Southern Mexico revolted and at last with the fall of Juarez, Diaz's cabinet, foreseeing naught but defeat and further bloodshed starting them in the face, brought such pressure to bear upon the old and feeble ruler that he consented to his resignation with its promise of peace.

JUSTICE HARLAN FORMIDABLE IN COURT, HOSPITABLE IN HOME

(Washington Bureau of The Journal.)
Washington, May 27.—In spite of his grim, grizzled, determined character, Justice Harlan of the United States supreme court, who dissented from the majority in the Standard Oil case, has a kindly side, as a young correspondent discovered last winter. This correspondent received a telegram from a western newspaper, asking him to interview Justice Harlan on the death of a prominent jurist. The telegram reached Washington at 10 minutes to 11. The correspondent was at his suburban bungalow in Chevy Chase, seven miles from the center of the city.

NO ONE BADLY HURT IN STANFIELD WRECK

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Pendleton, Or., May 27.—Mrs. Jane Lausenlager, of Hermiston, Mrs. Warren Preston and Dr. J. Brown of Spokane, G. N. Jackson of Seattle and Conductor Cherry of the motor car were slightly injured in a collision at Stanfield at 7 o'clock last evening when a west bound motor ran into east bound freight No. 56. The freight was at a standstill and the motor car engineer was busy attending to the machinery and overlooked the semaphore. The motor car was disabled, but there was no injury to the freight train. No passengers were severely injured, all having received minor cuts and bruises.

A proposition to hold a general convention of the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paper Hangers of America, which was recently submitted to a referendum vote, was overwhelmingly defeated by the membership.

JUSTICE HARLAN FORMIDABLE IN COURT, HOSPITABLE IN HOME

"What shall I do?" he said, to an interview from Harlan, and I'm 30 minutes from the treasury, and then 15 minutes from his house on Fourteenth street — 45 minutes from here, which will be a quarter to 12 when I reach his residence. "Call up the justice, explain the facts, and ask him if he will see you if you go into the city," the wife advised, with more self-confidence than her husband had.

"I haven't the nerve to do that. Why, Harlan is 80 years old; I'll bet he's in bed by this time, and anyway, he'd be mad as a hornet were I to ask him to see me that late."

His wife seized the telephone. "Hello, is this Mr. Justice Harlan?" "Thank you. This is Mr. Blank's assistant. He wants me to ask you if you would permit him to go to your house for a statement on the death of the late Mr. _____."

ing, too. That is, it was thus storming in Washington City proper; but out in Chevy Chase it was quiet and warm enough for the correspondent to leave without his overcoat.

When he reached the Harlan residence he was almost frozen to the bone, and shivering as he entered the study of the great jurist.

"I hope you will pardon me," the newspaper man said, "for keeping you up so late."

"Keeping me up? Why, young man, this isn't late. Come in and sit by the fireplace, and cannot I get you something to drive away the cold," whereupon—

"The justice was born in Kentucky. When that correspondent got away from the Harlan residence the last car had gone to Chevy Chase, and he had to pay \$3 for a taxicab to get home that night. Giving the desired statement, Justice Harlan grew reminiscent, and drawing on his fund of experiences of half a century in Washington, entertained the newspaper man so absorbingly that it was 2 o'clock before he thought of time.

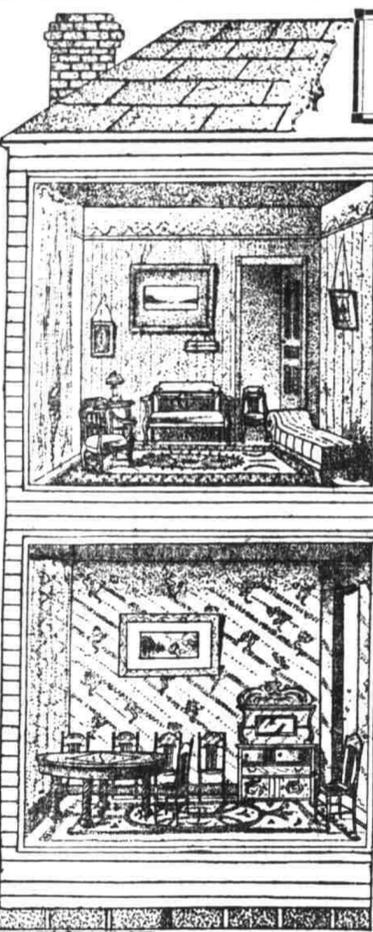
"It was worth \$3," he said, "or \$20, for that matter, to listen to Justice Harlan those two or three hours."

"You haven't enough nerve," his wife said on his return.

"Learned a lesson," he answered. "But I learned more of political history and law than I ever did before in any one month."

Representing in his judicial attitudes, Justice Harlan personally is kindly and courteous in the extreme.

Mass for Veterans.
Washington, D. C., May 27.—Cardinal Gibbons will conduct the military mass for the Civil and Spanish War veterans on the White House ellipse tomorrow. President Taft and members of the cabinet will be in attendance and will follow the parade of veterans.



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Lebanon Cannery Finished.
Lebanon, Or., May 27.—The new Lebanon cannery, 40 by 60 feet, is finished. C. F. Watters has sold a half interest in the business to Andrew Snyder and they have bought all the machinery of the Albany cannery and will consolidate it with the machinery Mr. Watters now has. The new building is on the county road on the north side of Mr. Watters' farm. The new plant expects more than to double the output of the cannery this year. Mr. Watters has been in the business for several years.

Dallas W. of W. Drills Best.
Dallas, Or., May 27.—Dallas W. of W. drill team triumphed over the teams from Marion, Benton, Linn and Polk counties last night in the Women of Woodcraft drill at Salem, getting first