FIVE MEN ENOUGH TO GOVERN CITY, SAYS BOISE MAN

Prominent Citizen of Idaho Capital Strong Supporter of Commission Form and Recall System.

"Five good men can do more for a city in its government than 50 poor ones," said Moses Alexander, who for four years was mayor of Boise, Idaho, and who has made considerable study of municipal problems. "Five men are enough for a commission."

The commission form of city government, hedged about by the recall and the initiative and referendum, has a stanch supporter in Mr. Alexander. His points in favor of the new method of handling city affairs are based on arguments that appeal to the average mind.

He is in the city, accompanied by Mrs. Alexander. They are guests at the Portland hotel and will be there for a few days. Mr. Alexander is one of the leading merchants of Boise.

"Petitions are now being circulated in Boise asking for an election to vote on a commission form of government," said Mr. Alexander. "It is the only kind of a government for a city. It is the same then as electing five directors to run any other kind of a corporation. There are no politics in it.

"Under the commission form of government the party boss and the political convention are eliminated. This is a long step toward purifying municipal affairs. Most men who are elected to municipal offices in the United States are good men. But they are often led by the persuasion of the party boss to stray from the path of rectitude against their better judgment and will.

Curb to Corporations.

"Every corporation that does business with the municipality is better off under a commission form of government. Then they can do business on a business basis. They don't have to worry about the result of elections every two years and be in constant fear of being held up by municipal grafters.

"There is no reason why a corporation that wants a city franchise should not get it if it pays what the franchise is worth. I don't believe in any city giving away franchises, but I believe in giving them when the city is adequately paid for them.

"The commission form of government will make every man feel he is a part and parcel of the municipality in which he lives. He doesn't have to vote party politics, but votes for a board of directors to run the city affairs for him.

"A city like Portland, one of the largest on the Pacific coast, needs a commission form of government to realize its best growth. The commission form is based on the integrity of the people. This incites civic pride in everybody. Civic pride instills confidence, confidence brings capital and capital builds a city.

Supporter of Recall.

"Municipal scandal in San Francisco did more to injure that city than anything else that ever happened there. It hurt civic pride and scared away capital.

"As a citizen of Idaho, I am interested in the growth of Portland. We must have a metropolis on the coast and as Portland is nearest to us I want to see Portland become a great city rapidly. I think Portland and Boise are two of the best cities in the northwest. Portland as a large city and Boise as a small one.

"We are building and growing as fast in Boise, in proportion, as you are in Portland. Fine business blocks are being erected there."

Mr. Alexander is also a staunch supporter of the recall and the initiative and referendum. They are necessary, he says, to make the commission form of government its greatest success.

"The recall is not only a safeguard to the public but to the official himself," he said. "It is a great wall for the official to lean upon. When an official is importuned by his friends to commit acts of favoritism or of a discreditable character, he can call their attention to the recall and that he does not care to be a victim of its operation."

PART OF MATE'S WINNINGS WANTED BY MRS. BETTS

(United Press Leased Wire.)

New York, Aug. 18.—Claiming, incidentally, that her husband, Louis L. Betts, a sporting man, made a single killing of $140,000, Mrs. Louis L. Betts is suing for a separation, $2000 a month alimony and $2500 counsel fees.

The sum named by Mrs. Betts, which she says was taken from a "steel king" recalls a statement made by Mrs. Cecil Marsten in March last in connection with an application for alimony and counsel fees from her husband, Almarin Marsten. Mrs. Marsten said her husband used to tell her of moneys he made from gambling; that in one instance he mentioned a man who took $140,000 from another man, whose name Mrs. Marsten did not care to disclose.

Gompers on Tour of Northwest.

(United Press Leased Wire.)

Denver, Colo., Aug. 18.—President Samuel Gompers of the American Federation of Labor will arrive here tomorrow, his first stop from Washington on his northwestern tour, which is to last two months. He will cross the border and visit Vancouver before the return trip is begun, and several days will be spent in visiting cities in the state of Washington.

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WHOLE MEXICAN STATE GRIPPED BY NEW REVOLT

(United Press Leased Wire.)

Yautepec, State of Morelos, Mexico, Aug. 18.—As a result of a battle between the rebels and federals in which 19 Zapatistas and many federals were killed, the entire state of Morelos, except the city of Cuernavaca, today is up in arms against the government.

The first battle of the new revolution occurred between a force of Zapata's men under command of Jose Morales and an advance guard of federals under General Blanquet.

Margarita Nero, the Mexican Joan of Arc, came from Cuautla, with a force of 300, to assist the rebels, but after a fierce engagement, in which she was slightly wounded in the arm, she was obliged to fall back to the barricades of the city, where the combined forces succeeded in turning the federals back.

WELL, RED HAIR AND LIGHTNING BUGS NEED CARRY NO LIGHT

(Salem Bureau of The Journal.)

Salem, Or., Aug. 18.—Red-headed persons and lightning bugs will be the only moving objects of that character in the state not required by law to carry lamps at night if the new motor vehicle law is construed literally. A construction of the law on this point has been asked of the attorney general by Medford attorneys. "Vehicle" in the law is defined as any moving "thing" not moved by horse power. A motor vehicle is defined as any "thing" moved other than by horse power. All vehicles other than motor cars are required to carry one light showing red to the rear. It may be inferred, therefore, that pedestrians being "things" moved by power," will have to display lights at night showing red to rear. Baby carriages will also come under this law. This question has been referred to the the attorney general by Medford attorneys.

About 100 trademarks a week are registered at the patent office at Washington.

BETTER MAIL SERVICE TO PORTLAND IS ASKED

(Special to The Journal.)

Kennewick, Wash., Aug. 18.—A petition asking better mail service between this city and Portland is being circulated here by the secretary of the Commercial club. Local business men claim their business dealings with Portland houses are seriously handicapped by the present service. At present the only train carrying mail direct from Kennewick to Portland is No. 1 over the Spokane, Portland & Seattle, which leaves here at 12:45 p. m. Consequently letters posted after noon lie in the office here for 24 hours or are routed over the Northern Pacific. As the heaviest postings of the day are during the late afternoon and evening, delayed delivery is frequently the cause of annoyance in business circles. The petition asks that S., P. & S. train No. 3, leaving here at 1:35 a. m., be made a mail train. In case the request is granted by the department letters mailed here in the evening will be delivered in Portland early the following morning.

ARMS SMUGGLED INTO MEXICO; REVOLT FEARED

(United Press Leased Wire.)

San Diego, Cal., Aug. 18.—Although it is known that arms and ammunition are being smuggled across the line into Mexico at Campo, it is not believed that the rebels who are planning another insurrection will show any activity for some time.

Small bands of filibusters are reported south of the border and many refugees are crossing to the American side, fearing trouble.

List of New Teachers Is Big.

Salem, Or., Aug. 18.—Since the new law requiring all teachers' certificates to be issued by the state superintendent, a fourth as many certificates have been issued as existed in the state at the close of 1910. This indicates a rapid increase in the number of teachers corresponding to the growth in the school population, as most of the one-year pupils go to the new teachers. The following is the list of certificates issued up to date: One year, 762; special, five; five year, 85; primary, 35, and life, 33.

Journal Want Ads bring results.

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