

# PEOPLE'S CHARTER FRAMERS FAVOR UNITY OF SYSTEM

## Simon Revision Committee Is Urged to Join in Effort to Decide on Practical Plan of Cooperation.

The people's charter committee is heartily in favor of a practical plan of cooperation.

This is the message to be sent by Secretary Lepper of the people's committee to the Simon charter revision committee, which, if it desires to join forces with the people's committee and submit but one commission plan charter to the people next January, must take action at its next meeting.

The resolution containing the statement first quoted was adopted by the people's committee at a meeting last night in the city hall. It was not adopted until after sharp debate in which the opposition was led by Isaac Sweet and H. G. Parsons. W. C. Benbow was one of those voting against the form of consolidation proposed. Strongly favoring the plan of getting together for the sake of insuring a commission plan government insofar as is possible, were George Black, who introduced the resolution, Chairman A. E. Clark of the committee, Dr. Harry Lane, A. D. Cridge and Dr. C. H. Chapman. The text of the resolution adopted reads:

**Resolutions Adopted.**

"Whereas overtures have been made by members of the charter committee appointed by Mayor Simon that such body cooperate with this committee with respect to the formulation of a charter, and

"Whereas, this, the people's charter committee, is heartily in favor of a practical plan of cooperation, and

"Whereas this body has appointed subcommittees from its members to investigate and submit to this committee proposed charter provisions with regard to different subjects necessarily embodied in a charter and the work of such subcommittees in large part has been done and submitted and is now before our whole committee for action; therefore be it

"Resolved that it is the sense of the people's charter committee that, as the subcommittees of the said Simon charter commission shall have prepared the text of their proposed charter provisions covering the various subdivisions of the charter now the subject of consideration by our subcommittees, that our subcommittee having any such subject or charter provisions in hand, meet with a like committee of the other charter commission with a view to comparing their work, ascertaining points of difference, if it can be done consistently with the views of this body.

**Prompt Action Urged.**

"And inasmuch as the work of this body is well advanced and the necessity of prompt and definite action is essential to any practical plan of cooperation, we respectfully suggest to such committee that it submit the text of its proposed charter provisions without delay, as without such action, there is no basis for comparison or practical cooperation.

Passing upon commission plan franchises, in accordance with a report submitted by a subcommittee, of which W. C. Benbow is chairman, the people's committee decided last night that it should never be possible for any corporation to obtain vacations or alienations of public property except by vote of the people. The city council can now pass an ordinance vacating, say, streets to a railroad. The committee's plan is that vacation of streets must be voted upon as a charter amendment.

It was agreed that no franchise for the use of more than three blocks of a street should be issued unless the people vote thereon. For less than three blocks it was thought the commission should have authority to grant the franchises.

Should a corporation obtaining a franchise fail to exhibit good faith or take prompt action it was agreed by the committee that such corporation should be penalized—a fine for the first offense; fine and imprisonment for the second; forfeiture of franchise for the third offense.

The committee also voted that should electricity leak from the lines of any power company and injure pipes, the company should be penalized to the amount of the damage.

The committee decided to include brief mention of the city playground plan after the matter had been presented by L. H. Weir.

### WOULD PUT POWER TO INITIATE STREET WORK WITH PEOPLE

At the next meeting of the charter revision committee appointed by ex-Mayor Simon, City Attorney Grant will introduce for consideration an amendment to the present city charter taking away from the council all authority to initiate street improvement proceedings and placing it entirely in the hands of the property owners.

The amendment will provide that before any street can be made 51 per cent of the owners of the property abutting on such street must sign the petition designating the character of the improvement and the particular pavement, and providing that after such petition is signed by the property owners and filed with the auditor it will require 80 per cent to defeat the improvement by remonstrance.

If this amendment is adopted it will place the entire responsibility of street improvements in the hands of a majority of the property owners on any street, and the property owners will thus have an opportunity, not only to save when a street shall be improved, but may specifically designate the kind and character of the improvement to be made.

The city attorney has given this matter considerable thought and believes that if the amendment is adopted it will do away with the constant agitation of the different paving companies with the council, and will insure spirited competition among the paving companies.

**THREE MASKED MEN LOOT BANK AT NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C.**

(Continued from Page One.)

police station at about 5:30 o'clock and gave the alarm. He had managed to work his bonds loose after the robbers had departed. Chief of Police Bradshaw hurried to the scene, and all of the available officers were pressed into service; but the only clue obtainable

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was that given by the Chinaman. From the thoroughness of the job and the tools with which the work was done, the local officers believe that the same gang that has recently been at work in Vancouver turned the trick here.

**Motor Car Is Stolen.**

Later in the morning another feature was added to the robbery by the report that the motor car of T. J. Trapp, which is one of the largest and most powerful automobiles in the city, had been stolen from his garage, and later this car was found broken down in front of the Y. M. C. A. building. It is presumed that the robbers stole the Trapp machine and intended to make their getaway in it, but something went wrong and they were forced to abandon the car.

The bank usually has a night watchman on duty, but just now he is away on his vacation. It was on the bank guard's bed that the robbers piled the gold and bills they took from the vault after they had blown the door open with nitro-glycerine. It was with the black powder that the watchman's bed that they plugged the hole in the wall of the vault and muffled the explosion in the little room.

Chief of Police Bradshaw has sent word to all of the adjacent cities to be on the watch for the men, and it is believed that they soon will be apprehended.

A prominent financial man, manager of a local trust company, who assisted the manager of the bank in an inquiry into the loss, is authority for the statement that the robbers got away with \$315,000 in all, leaving \$50,000 lying about after they had made their divvy. It is presumed that they found they could dispose of no more about their persons.

"The bank robbers were expert safe-breakers," stated Chief of Police Brad-

shaw, as he laid out before him the tools which he had gathered in the vault. "They must have fired the charge of dynamite by a battery. The tools comprise a brace and bit, a hand crowbar, a piece of gas pipe, several bits and drills and two hand saws for digging out the brick. They chose their tools in every way suitable for the task, and had carefully estimated all the conditions.

"Entry was doubtless made by key through the front door. Then, disturbing no lights in the front office of the bank, they had worked from the rear of the brick vault, the walls of which lent themselves to easy operations, as the bricks were not cemented but united with mortar.

"Once into the vault, work was easy. The cash safe therein, in which the money they had rightly estimated rested, could be drilled without fear of disturbance, and the charge of dynamite shot off without noise. The bedding of the absent janitor's cot was taken to plug up the opening they had made in the wall of the safe, thus there was little possibility of the sound of the explosion passing out to the street."

Manager Brymner, of the looted Bank of Montreal branch, stated that the total amount in the vault robbed was \$315,000, some of which was left scattered about. The staff of the bank was busy this forenoon ascertaining the exact amount of the loss, and Manager Brymner will issue a positive statement as soon as their work is completed.

**Loss Caused by Delay.**

It has been estimated by the national board of fire underwriters that four fifths of the annual fire loss in the United States could be saved if firemen could reach fires in one half the time now required.

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