

Weekly Rogue River Courier

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MILLER ON COMMISSION FORM OF GOVERNMENT.

There is an active demand in Grants Pass for literature concerning the commission plan of city government and in the absence of the commission charter, prepared by a committee of citizens and presented to the city authorities, which will not be printed for something like ten days from now, we give to our readers extracts from an article by Joseph Dana Miller in the Pacific Monthly for September. The article in question seemingly goes into every detail and at this time affords much desirable information for the average citizen:

"The latest hope of municipal reformers is the commission plan. The name 'commission' is unfortunate, for it is not strictly a commission, but a council elected by the city at large, ward lines being eliminated. With Des Moines the plan may be said to have reached its perfect development, excepting only the Grand Junction plan to be noted later. In this city five commissioners are elected to serve two years, one of whom acts as mayor, the others as heads of departments. This favors the concentration of responsibility in the commission and direct responsibility in the heads of departments. It secures greater efficiency, and to this efficiency is added democracy by a law which may call for the submission of all measures to a direct vote of the people.

"Galveston had preceded Des Moines in the adoption of the commission plan by a number of years. But the Galveston plan did not provide for the initiative and referendum, and the members of the commission had at first been appointive and not elective. Of course with that kind of commission government many of the students of the problem had been long familiar. Memphis, after the yellow fever epidemic of 1878, had been governed by a commission appointed by the governor.

"But this was not the kind of government that was wanted, nor even the kind that Mr. J. G. Berryhill was looking for. But it was during a visit to Galveston that Mr. Berryhill became interested in the plan, and he reported it to the Des Moines Commercial club.

"The Iowa Legislature at first rejected contemptuously a law enabling Des Moines and other cities of the state to organize under the commission plan, but later adopted a much more sweeping measure because state-wide sentiment had been evoked. There had been no general referendum on the question, but there was no mistaking public sentiment. Of the plan as perfected it may be said that in its general outlines it was suggested by Galveston, that the recall provision was borrowed from Los Angeles, that the broader referendum had existed in Iowa under an old statute, and that the charter of the City of Dallas suggested the initiative and referendum.

"The Galveston plan removed the conduct of the city government from the control of its citizens. The commission one chosen was absolute during its term of office. But the framers of the Des Moines charter were quick to see that without the submission of its acts for revision by the voters the plan was utterly undemocratic. To be sure Galveston had secured good and efficient government under its plan. But this is possible under almost any arrangement until, under the strain of too great a burden of authority, individual character or capacity breaks down.

"The government of Des Moines

resembles the directorate of a great business corporation. It is composed of a council chosen at large by the whole city of five heads of departments as follows:

First: Department of public affairs.

Second: Department of accounts and figures.

Third: Department of public safety.

Fourth: Department of streets and public improvements.

Fifth: Department of parks and public property.

"The mayor is the head of the department of public affairs, and the commission elect one of their number to be the head of each department. They then proceed to elect the city clerk, assessor, treasurer, auditor, city physician, marshal, chief of the fire department, etc.; they fix salaries, engage and discharge public officials, act as a civil service board; make appropriations and spend them; legislate and execute the laws they frame, all their acts being subject, however, to popular revision. Surely no civic body has ever been given such widely extended powers in a city of ninety thousand. And yet the plan works well after having been nearly three years in operation. The city government is more cleanly, more moral, more efficient, and the tax levy has averaged two and seven-tenths mills less than under the old order. There has been a civic awakening, and few citizens of Des Moines would be willing to go back to the old system.

"There is one objection heard, which may and probably will be obviated later on. That is, that the commission should be chosen by the people as heads of the particular departments over which they will preside. The candidates may have special abilities which will better fit them for the conduct of one department than another, and thus should be chosen with special reference to that department.

"Any citizen may become a candidate for mayor or councilman. The only requirement is a petition of twenty-five citizens. The name now goes on the ballot at the primary in alphabetical order. It is not necessary for him to spend a dollar. At both the primary and the final elections the voter may vote for one candidate for mayor and four candidates for councilmen. There are ten names on the ticket. There can be no partisanship, for there is no party ticket.

"It was Governor Cummins who added the double-election clause by which any one having the necessary twenty-five signatures could be voted for at the primary, the two having the highest number of votes for mayor and the eight having the highest number of votes for councilmen being the candidates at the final election two weeks later. This reduces the possibility of the election of corrupt or incompetent officials to a minimum.

"Spencer traces the evolution of forms from the simple to the complex, and again from the complex to the simple. This applies to social forms as well as to processes of evolutionary growth elsewhere. It may not be wholly fanciful to trace the genesis of city government from the simple forms prevailing in Florence, Venice and Genoa to the more complex development of today and thence to the simpler forms of commission plan. The last is important as including a recognition that the city is an organic whole and not a divided entity, and to that extent the Des Moines system is an improvement over the old.

"The plan has brought about results which as we have indicated, commend themselves to the citizens; among which are the abolition of ward lines and the disappearance of the ward boss; the abolition of party lines and the disappearance of the party boss; and a far greater extension of the civil-service system; corporations are said to be less fearful since there are no city officials to bribe, to trade and introduce

strike bills; citizens are at ease because every franchise must first be endorsed by popular vote. For the second time within its history, Des Moines has lived within its means. Starting with a handicap of \$180,000 left by a former administration, the year 1909 ended without exceeding a single appropriation, and with money left over in several of its funds.

"The Grand Junction charter is an advance over all the plans of city government by commission. It does not provide for the double election. Under it there is but one election, unlike Des Moines. One of the most difficult things, as experience has proved, is to make a primary law that shall not possess grave disadvantages. When a number of nominees are voted for there is a struggle in which money and influence conspire to place, as preferred candidates at the second election, men who may be undesirable. It may therefore resolve itself into a contest in which money is an important factor. This is not possible under the single-election and "preferential-voting" of the Grand Junction charter, where any twenty-five men may secure the appearance on the official ballot of the names of their candidates. The voters then choose their nominees in the order of their preference. If any nominee in the first column has a majority of the votes he is declared elected. If a candidate has not enough votes in the first column to elect, then the votes in the second column are added to those of the first, and to the votes in the second column are added the votes in the third column. Thus is secured the rule of the majority, since it is hardly possible that a minority candidate can be successful. Every candidate must be elected by a majority of the votes rather than a plurality.

"The Grand Junction charter provides what other city charters—even that of Des Moines—fail to include, and that is the principles of the common law. It defines the city's powers, rights and liabilities, and provides for the city's acquisition and operation of any or all of its private utilities now privately owned and operated. The heads of departments bear titles practically the same as the Des Moines' heads, but there is one which is curiously illustrative of a touch of idealism—the 'department (4) of health and civic beauty.' At this both ward leader and civic reformer who thinks municipal government a problem of business merely, will smile indulgently."

Mr. Miller says that there are a list of 96 cities in the United States which have adopted commission form of government and to this can soon be added several more which have voted for the adoption of the plan but the governments are not yet in operation.

GALICE FOR 50c.

Go to Galice or Alameda on Masie's stage from Merlin for 50 cents. Leave Merlin at 2 p. m. 11-10-31

**THE First National Bank of Southern Oregon**  
GRANTS PASS.  
U. S. Depository.  
Capital, Surplus and Undivided Profits \$100,000.  
We invite the public to call on us in our new banking quarters and consider our ability properly to care for the banking needs of the community. Our fire-proof and burglar-proof Safe Deposit Vault is now ready for use, and a safe for rent Safety Deposit Boxes, rentable ranging from \$2.00 to \$10.00 per year.  
Interest Paid on Time Deposits  
L. B. Hall, President  
J. C. Campbell, Vice Pres.  
H. L. Gilkey, Cashier  
R. W. Hackett, Asst. Cashier  
J. T. Cox, Assistant Cashier

**Escaped Lunatic Held—**  
A man escaping from the Salem insane asylum arrived here yesterday and was taken in charge by Marshal McLane who is holding him until the arrival of an attendant from the institution. The man's name is Johnson and he was sent from Leland two years ago.

Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Herzinger returned Tuesday evening from a trip through California. During the past six weeks they have visited at Redding, Sacramento, San Francisco and other points, and report a splendid vacation.

Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Anderson left Tuesday for Portland and eastern Oregon, where they will visit with friends and remain indefinitely. Mr. Anderson is a member of the forest service and has been located at Kerby, but is now taking a vacation.

It doesn't cost you anything and probably will save you money to look over the store ads each evening

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

WYANDOTTE pullets for sale, \$9.00 per dozen. Mrs. E. Erickson, Wilderville. 11-3-41

HORSE and buggy for sale cheap; also farm implements. Apply ¼ mile west of city limits, on river. A. D. Coon. 11-3-21

WE PAY cash for any Oregon session laws before 1866. Also want senate journals 1862 and 1864. Also codes, 1851, journal of council, 1851, statutes of 1854, 1856, and code of civil procedure and Also code of civil procedure and general laws 1862, and archives 1843-49, Write Geo. A. Bateson & Company, Inc., Portland, Ore. 10-6-41

A FIVE STAMP MILL for sale at a bargain; also, a Scotch marine boiler, nearly new. Some good prospects. E. B. Hawkins, Applegate, Oregon. 9-24-41

FOR SALE—45 acres, one mile from Murphy, three-fourths mile from school; unimproved. Enough wood on place to pay for it. Price \$25 per acre. Terms can be had. E. Loughridge, Wilderville, Oregon. 9-8-61

STRAWBERRY PLANTS for sale. Several varieties of each. Inquire of C. R. Brechtbill, North Tenth street. 9-15-81

FOR SALE—Timber claim, NW¼ Sec. 24, Twp 37, 7 West, Josephine county. For particulars address H. Walter, conductor, 3rd and Townsend streets, S. P. Co. San Francisco, Cal. 9-3-11

MISCELLANEOUS

RANNIE, the plumber, is ready at any minute to repair your plumbing. 609 H street. Telephone 146-R. 4-2-1

ARTISTIC photographs, portraits, stamp pictures, amateur finishing. Come and see samples at the Angelo Studio, 605 Sixth street. Mid-summer prices. 11-1-11

High Flight and Olympic Flour

You make no mistake when you buy these two brands. Remember we always guarantee them to give satisfaction.

J. Pardee

Mrs. J. C. McCann of Wilderville, is spending several days with friends in this city.

**Nursery Stock at Cut Price**  
Apple Trees, one year, No. 1, 4 to 6 feet, each 15c, per 100, \$12.50.  
Apple Trees, 3 to 4 feet, each 10c, per 100 \$10.00.  
Apple Trees, 2 to 3 feet, each 7c, per 100 \$6.00.  
Muir Peach Seedlings, per 100 \$1.50.  
Hood River Strawberry Plants, \$4.00 per 1000.  
Hood River Strawberry Plants, by mail post paid, 75c per 100.  
Send for price list small fruit, roses, shrubbery, etc.  
**EULLHURST NURSERY CO.**  
Wolf Creek, Oregon.

WET WEATHER WEAR

The weather is fine now but you know what's coming. Outfit with waterproof clothing while the assortment is complete, stock fresh and new before you get caught in a storm. One wetting may cost you more than several suits of rainproof clothing.

Walrus Brand Water Proof Clothing

is made of the best fabrics procurable and of a very high count. It is all machine coated, being given three coats of waterproof dressing which is forced into the fabric by heavy pressure rolls, drying separately after each coat. When finished the seams are covered with two coats of a rubber solution. The shoulders are covered with a one-piece waterproof cape which absolutely protects all seams. This clothing is proof against the action of acids, alkali or copper water and is not affected by changes of atmosphere.

Walrus brand long coat 54 in. long. Made double throughout, shoulder cape, reinforced sleeves, double storm flap, corduroy collar, pockets, fastens with ball and socket buttons. For heavy weather ..... <b>\$5.00</b>	Walrus brand fireman's pants, made of waterproof drill having four coats of dressing. Made with flannel lining, double flap in front, heavy double seat, reinforced with leather, button hip pocket, fastens with ring and snap, belt straps and also suspender buttons ..... <b>\$3.50</b>	breasted, dark and light gray, brown, slate, tan, green and red, ranging in price from <b>\$1.75 to \$3.00</b>
Walrus brand, 3-4 coat, 44 in. long, same as long coat ..... <b>\$4.50</b>	<b>Towers FISH BRAND</b> Long slicker coats \$3.00 Three-quarter coats \$2.50 Short coats ..... \$1.50 String pants ..... \$1.50	See the new high collar light flannel dress shirts in Hunters Green color. The first shipment sold out in one week, the second shipment is going at ..... <b>\$2.50</b> rapidly
Walrus brand short coat, 34 in. long, same as long coat ..... <b>\$4.00</b>	<b>AQUAPELLE</b> Long coats ..... \$4.50 Short coats ..... \$2.75 Belt pants ..... \$2.00 Hip leggings ..... \$1.25 Hats ..... 75c	<b>MACKINAW COATS</b> Heavy blue or brown coats, leather bound pockets <b>\$5.50 AND \$5.00</b> Heavy canvas coats, blanket lined, corduroy collars <b>\$3.75 TO \$5.00</b> Heavy canvas pants, button flap pockets <b>\$1.25</b> Heavy wool sox <b>25c TO 50c</b>
Walrus brand belt pants, made of heavy drilling, with four coats of waterproof dressing, belt straps and suspender buttons, double seat ..... <b>\$2.50</b>	<b>FLANNEL SHIRTS</b> We have a large and complete assortment of flannel shirts in blue, single and double	

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Outfitters to Boy and Man.  
This Store is the Home of Hart, Schaffner & Marx Clothes