THE NEW AMERICAN CITY

A Resume of the Recent Movement in Municipal Politics and the Salient Features of Civic Reform.

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VIII LESSONS FROM EUROPEAN CITIES

The cities of America have been slow in appreciating and taking to themselves the lessons learned by many European cities through years, yes centuries, of striving, of upgrowth and civic development. Only within the last few years, in the introduction into a few of our cities of real city planning, of a genuine esthetic side to municipal administration and especially in the city manager plan, have we seen the workings of the principles that have advanced the cities of Europe into a position of recognized preeminence.

The English City

The English city is honestly and efficiently administered. Graft as we know it is uncommon, instead of being almost the rule as with us. This is due to two things; the deep underlying characteristic of the English people of postively refusing to tolerate any imposition, and the short ballot system which has been in use there for many years and which has brought officials closely in touch with popular will, certainly in city governmental matters.

The councils are usually large and do their work through committees. With us the Mayor is a political leader usually with considerable power. InGermany he is a permanent administrative expert. In England he is the dignified presiding officer of the council, usually the oldest in point of service; he receives no salary and is generally thought of as the chief dignitary of the city representing it on state occasions. In England the wealthy, high-born leisure class rarely enters municipal politics as they do in Germany.

The salient note is economy; getting full value for every dollar expended. On an average the American city wastes ten times as high a proportion of its expenditures as does the English. But the English city is far behind the German in real administrative excellence, in its breadth o. vision, its look to the future, and in its conception of the duties the city owes to the citizens.

Paris

The French and Austrian cities, typified by Paris and Vienna, are noted for their attention to the esthetic side of civic activities, but even in this, their specialty, they do not equal the typical German city. Paris claims to be the most beautiful city in the world and is sparing no pains to make good her boast. In her replanning under Louis Napoleon great arterial boulevards were cut through congested parts of the city at a cost of $265,000,000. She had to pay the cost of previous short-sightedness, just as many American cities are beginning to realize they must sometime do. Vienna and many of the German cities were spared this expense by the public ownership of lands.

Vienna

Venna disputes Paris's claim to being the most beautiful of cities. Its attractiveness is due to most scientific and intelligent planning. In the old days when most of the population of Central Europe was gathered into the cities, and they, practically as independent states, were constantly warring among themselves, great walls were built about them as means of defense. Vienna had one. When a more peaceful order was established and these walls no longer needed for the purpose originally intended, Vienna razed hers and on its sight built a splendid boulevard completely circling the old city. This is known as the Ring Strasse and is one of the most beautiful streets of the world, contesting with the Champs Elysees of Paris and Unter der Linden of Berlin for the honor of being the most beautiful. Along it are splendid public structures, including the Royal Palace, Parliment Buildings, University, Royal Opera House, Cathedral, Courts, Arsenal and Art Museum. The plans, even to the details were determined fifty years ago and subsequent building was made to follow the lines orginally projected.

Much of the land lying outside the old wall was owned by the city and was laid out in a most scientific and artistic manner, with a fine regard for the future growth of the city.

Budapest

The two towns of Buda and Pest, occupying opposite banks of the Danube were consolidated in 1873. A commission was entrusted with the task of planning a single city of the two. The river was made the center of their plans and the city built along and back from it.

German Cities

But it is in the cities of Germany that we find the highest development of the science of municipal government. Bigness of vision, farsightedness, attention to details, are their characteristics. All Germany seems organized with a definite ambition, a conscious purpose of becoming the dominent world force. The army and navy are not alone in this study and plan. The universities, technical schools, colleges of commerce and the common schools are part of a national plan to develop the highest possible efficiency in 65,000,000 people. Health is studied. Labor conditions carefully considered. And everything tending to the promotion of this wonderful plan is justly considered the natural and imperative concern of government, both national and local.

City Building a Science

Farsightedness dominates the whole scheme. They not only see the necessity of a merchant marine protected by their dreadnaughts, but they see that their people are being drawn from the country-side into the cities. The number living in cities of over 100,000 people has increased, relatively, 50 per cent, in ten years. And t.e keen visioned kaiser and the whole nation, knowing that the regiments and battleships, the factories and mills must be manned by strong and well trained men, which a city life tends to imperil, are studying the city as they study military science. They realize that rifles and big guns may be important, but the men behind them are more so.

Hence with Germans, city building and city administration is a science She is perfecting her cities as Bismarck perfected the army. The engineer and the artist, the architect and the expert in hygiene are alike called upon to contribute to the plan. And they have constantly in mind the generations that are to follow as well as that now upon the stage. They see in the city the center of civilization and are building accordingly.

Efficient and Beautiful

While the German city is preminent in beauty, ordiliness and on its esthetic side, it must not be supposed that they are any the less superior in efficiency. It is the combination of beauty with industry, of utility with esthetic taste and the uniimity of all classes in striving for a common goal that makes for their real excellence. This is true of all German cities more or less, but especially those of Southern Germany,—the cities of the Rhine,—from Cologne and Dusseldorf to Munich. I shall refer to these cities and their high development in the chapter on "city planning and esthetics."

Expert Administration

The typical council of a German city is composed of eminent business and professional men, who consider it a great honor to be thus selected. They receive no salaries, but competition for the places is very keen. The real administration of the cities is in the hands of the Burgomeisters. He is a trained expert,—a member of a most honored profession. He is a product of both the training school, the university course in the profession of municipal government, and the experience of actual service. He is promoted from post to post on his record of merit and achivement. He has under him a corps of trained assistants. Some are salaried, some are not. The expert official, the trained personnel, plus an almost universal public interest, is the explanation of the high degree of efficiency in their municipal affairs.

American cities grew for a century without learning this all important lesson. We have selected our private corporation administrators, college presidents, school superintendents, librarians, and even the ministers of our churches, wherever we could find them and by what was, in effect, a process of competitive selection. But only in the last few years, in the introduction of the admirable city manager plan, have we applied those same efficient principles to the most important of our collective activities, that of municipal government. It bespeaks the dawn of a happier day.

CONFERENCE ON PUBLIC SERVICE UNDER WAY

NEW YORK, May 12.—The conference on universities and public service called by Mayor Mitchel began its two days' meeting today. The address was on "Upbuilding of Governmental Administration—the Greatest Need of American Democracy," by Dr. Charles McCarthy of the legislative reference library, Madison, Wis.

NO COMMON DRINKING TROUGHS FOR ANIMALS

PHILADELPHIA, May 12.—Following its ban on the common drinking cup for human beings, the board of health here today forbid the use of common drinking troughs for animals. The state livestock sanitary board declared that glanders and other diseases were being spread by the common troughs.

RELATIVES CLAIM HEROES' REMAINS FOR INTERMENT

NEW YORK, May 12.—The great public tribute at an end, the relatives of three of the seventeen sailors and marines killed at Vera Cruz today claimed their bodies and took them to their homes in this city. The bodies of the others were sent to their various destinations.

The coffin containing the body of Dennis J. Lane, accompanied by the father, John P. Lane, arrived at the Lane home, in East Forty-fifth street, from the navyyard last night.

In the house Mrs. Catherine Lane, the mother, waited. She was overcome when told that the coffin could not be opened. Later those in the streets were allowed to enter and hundreds passed the flag-draped coffin. The funeral services will be held tomorrow in St. Agnes' Catholic church. Cadets of St. Francis Xavier's school will escort the body to the church, where the children of the school and St. Agnes school will meet the cortege.

John F. Schumaker's body was removed to the home of his mother, Mrs. Isabella Mackay, in Brooklyn. When the body arrived there the crowd was so great police reserves had to be called out.

BEAGLE BEAGLETS

Burd Johnston and Mrs. Gage were over from Debenger Gap Saturday.

Supervisor Peterson was here one day last week to give eighth grade tests and look after the interests of the schools in this section, only two now being in session.

The McCreights and Miss Shoults motored to Medford Tuesday and brought Dell Morrison home with them. Dell will remain at home for a time, caring for his father, who is seriously ill with a complication of ailments.

Mr. Kline, our new fruit inspector, made this section a visit last week and made many friends among the farmers.

John Magruder hauled a load of wood to Central Point Wednesday and brought back a load of cement for Jess Glass to commence the foundation for his new house. Jess will also put up a fine silo this fall.

L. M. Sweet was in Central Point and Jacksonville on legal business on Wednesday.

Dave Cottrell and wife were in Medford the latter part of last week on business and looking over the political aspirants.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson were in Central Point Wednesday and Mrs. Johnson again Saturday.

Dell Morrison made a trip to Central Point Saturday to get medicine for his father. Dr. Dow came out Sunday.

The Mountain school will give an entertainment at the Antioch school house Saturday night, May 16. The Medford orchestra will be present and furnish music for the evening, and will also play for the dance at the home of Professor Sweet after the entertainment. A cordial invitation is extended to all, and this promises to be one of the most delightful occasions of the year. Come and bring your baskets and pleasant smiles; we'll furnish the "Sweet" smiles.

Mrs. L. M. Sweet and daughter, Louie, were in Central Point from Thursday until Saturday visiting relatives.

C. O. Rodgers was taken suddenly ill Friday night with kidney trouble, but is some better at present.

George Moore and Cliff Hazlewood were over from the Meadows Saturday looking after a colt of Mr. Moore's.

Frank Rodgers and family made a shopping trip to Central Point Saturday.

W. W. Morrison is reported as resting some easier at this writing.

The many friends of Mrs. Case are delighted to hear that she is rapidly recovering from her recent serious illness. Dr. Davis of Central Point was here Saturday and Sunday caring for her.

Theodore Glass is working for Jess Glass on the tearing down of the old house and commencing the new one.

Clarence Wilhite made a business trip to Central Point Saturday.

Miss Shoults was an over-Sunday guest of her aunt, Mrs. Dow, at Debenger.

Mr. Narregan came over from Eagle Point Sunday to look after his property interests here.

Mrs. Alberta Jones closed her school in the Roosevelt district Friday and is now at her home here for the summer.

Several Beagleites attended the circus in Medford Monday.

Several of our young people motored to the Modoc grounds Sunday to witness the ball game between the Modoc and Table Rock teams. All came back shouting for Table Rock—guess we know what that means.

Messrs. Ebel and Buchter and ladies of Medford were in this vicinity sightseeing Sunday.

Sometimes it makes us smile to listen to the experiences of others in their travels and journeys of life, and we often wonder whether people realize how they would appear in print. For illustration, I give below in verse a conversation recently indulged in by three of our most favorite friends:

"We've been to many a city,
Sailing in many a ship,
But never found a boothblack
Who didn't want a tip."
—J. O. Isaacson.

"We've been to many cities
And sailed from many docks,
But we never found a boothblack
Who didn't daub our socks."
—D. W. Stone.

"We've been to many cities
And tooted many a horn,
But we never found a boothblack
Who did not hurt our corn."
—Mr. Robnett.

The annual birthday party for "Grandma" Martha J. Rodgers, which has been held for several years, was given at the home of her daughter, Mrs. George Stacy, at this place Sunday. Grandma Rodgers has passed her 83d milestone in life and yet, while infirm in body and limb, retains her mental activities most acutely and these little incidents of kindness and affection bestowed upon her each year certainly must serve to replenish the green spots along earth's highway most vividly. One who has braved the hardships of Oregon's earlier days and struggled through the cares necessitated in rearing a large family of children surely is worthy of all the little deeds that serves to constantly mend the weakening link which at the best cannot be but for a day. Life is often spoken of as in three periods—childhood, manhood or womanhood and childhood—and we've often wondered if the last could be the test of Him who knoweth and doeth all things best, and who, while feeding the lambs, never forgetteth the sheep. The saddest drama of life we've ever witnessed has been neglected and shunned old age, which takes so little to please and nothing forgot, and passing days are but irridescent dreams. Life is builded upon deeds, not words, and we trust that when life's fleeting moments have fled and the parting is over the great divide, Grandma can lovingly repeat: "It was not of worldly goods, but such love as they had they gave unto me." The entire family, consisting of eight children, with their immediate families, were present, excepting C. O. Rodgers, who was ill at his home here. The names of the children are as follows: C. O. Rodgers, Frank Rodgers, Jasper Rodgers, Howard Rodgers, John Rodgers, Minnie Stacy, Mrs. Jack Houston and Mrs. Carter. Others from away were: Mr. and Mrs. Jim Cornutt of Central Point and Grandpa Houston of Trial.

Mrs. Laura Brown is caring for Mrs. Case.