The Evening Herald

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Letters from the People

About the Discussion of Proposed Managerial Form of Government

Up to date it has not been made manifest just why a managerial form of government for a city of this size would be the proper thing; there have been assertions to that effect, it is true, but concrete manifestations seem to be lacking.

Among the self-evident truths enumerated in the Declaration of Independence are the following:

"Whenever any form of government becomes destructive of the lives, liberties and pursuits of happiness of a people, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute a new form of government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes."

It may be asserted in some quarters that these truths are self-evident only in so far as the national government of a people is involved. But, there is one potent factor that must not be lost sight of in the discussion of any proposed change of government for any political subdivision of these United States, viz.: That the United States government is a constitutional form of government that guarantees to every state in the union a republican form of government. That each state in turn, through its constitution, guarantees to its minor political subdivisions—counties and municipalities—a republican form of government. The home rule amendment to the constitution of the state of Oregon grants to the legal voters of every city and town power to enact and amend their municipal charters, subject to the constitution and criminal laws of the state of Oregon. That last clause is significant; rising, almost, to the dignity of that other ancient utterance: "A word to the wise is sufficient."

Reference to the home rule amendment discloses the fact that the state of Oregon did not delegate to cities and towns, either the right or power to repeal their charters, once enacted, but did specifically withhold from the legislature the power to alter or amend municipal charters.

It may, with assurance, be conceded that a councilmanic form of city government is constitutional, therefore representative. In contrasting that form with the city manager form which centralizes the executive and administrative functions of city government in a single individual, and preferably in a non-resident, non-taxpaying individual at that, leads one to question its representative character. In truth and in fact there is but one branch of city manager form of government that is made elective, viz.: the legislative, which is clothed with but two functions, one of which is to select and appoint the city manager and the other to enact such ordinances as the city manager directs. The city manager is appointed for an indefinite term and serves until removed by the council, resigns, or dies. The city manager makes all appointments and dismissals without reference to the council. He has a free rein and is responsible only to the council. Members of the council, being elective, are subject to recall and probably subject to the power of the people under the initiative and referendum. It would be difficult to conceive of a more autocratically dictatorial form of government. The autocrat at the head of affairs cannot be reached even by the imperial recall. He is in a position to build up an impregnable political machine for the perpetuation of his dynasty. Is it any wonder, then, that the adherents of representative constitutional government are inclined to regard the managerial form of government as an entering wedge in the world-wide effort to discredit and overthrow representative constitutional government; the effort being camouflaged with an economic barrage.

From an economic standpoint commission form of government, wherever in operation ,has proved more expensive than the councilmanic form, though, perhaps, more efficient because of departmental assignments. In the managerial form the city manager must divide his attention between the different departments into which the affairs of municipalities naturally divide themselves. In other words the city mnager must be a specialist in all lines; an accomplishment generally considered beyond the capacity of any single individual, and directly opposed to the modern doctrine of specialization as understood in the medical and commercial world.

Again, managerial form of government really does violence to the principle of government so strongly contended for in late years, that United States senators, and even the president of the United States, should be nominated by direct vote of the people. Are we, then, to conclude that the people of a municipality are less capable than the people of a state, a senatorial district; less capable than the people of the United States as a whole when it comes to a selection of an executive for their local government? It is difficult to reconcile the attitude of advocates of a managerial form of government with their professed devotion to the principle, "Let the people rule." Obviously, the managerial system, viewed in the most charitable light, has th eold method of selecting has the old method of selecting latures and the old system of nominating candidates for official positions by conventions backed clear off the map for machine politics and "boss control."

In the light of these characteristics it is easy to account for the determined opposition to the city manager system from people who put principle above expediency when the test comes. Quoting:

Denver, Colo.—At a special election this city returned to the mayoralty form of government, after less than two years under commission form, by a majority of 3,000 votes.

Baker, Ore.—Baker will retain commission form of government. A proposition to put municipal affairs into the hands of a city manager was defeated by a vote of 809 to 369.

Vandergrift, Pa. — Vandergrift will not have a borough manager any longer as a result of an opinion handed down by Judge A. D. McConnell. The court holds that the council has no right to delegate the municipal managerial powers to a single individual.

Portsmouth, Va.—157 applications for appointment as city manager were before the council when it took up the letters of applicants. The applicants were for the most part non-residents. Only five were residents. The salaries asked ranged from $1,500 to $8,000. No list of applicants will be given out by the council, in accordance with its assurance that applications would be treated as confidential.

That the present cost of municipal government is much too great stands admitted; that fact is an indictment against all forms, councilmanic, commission and managerial, for they all have been on trial in widely scattered communities throughout the country.

Cities have gone from one form to the other and back again in quest of relief from the constantly mounting burden of government. Quoting from an analysis of expenditures published in the municipal Journal:

In 149 of the 213 American cities of more than 30,000 population, the excess of governmental costs, including interest and outlays for permanent improvements, over revenues for the year amounted to $86,013,326.00, or 3.68 per capita. The net indebtedness of these cities averaged $76.64 per capita—a figure nearly eight times as great as the corresponding figure for the national government. 89 cities, or more than 42 per cent of the total number, are operating under commission form. An analysis of expenditures of municipalities of the population of Klamath Falls—though not available—would probably show a more remarkable state of affairs. It is unquestionably true that citizens of the latter class get very little in return—in the way of improvements, such as parks, playgrounds and the like—for the taxes they pay. What, then, do they receive for the money they pay in taxes? You will probably answer: Police protection and fire protection; and you will likely add that, perforce of those two items, reduced fire insurance rates and reduced insurance rates against burglary and theft and accidents.

Without a decided lessening of the cost of overhead, there will be no more funds available from taxation for municipal improvements under a managerial form than under the present councilmanic form. The opportunity is certainly presented to the advocates of a change to the city manager plan to demonstrate the economic superiority of their system. Let us have the demonstration; just on paper, I mean.

PRO BONO PUBLICO.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

MISCELLANEOUS

FOR SALE—9 head No. 1. milk cows. All young cows. Holstein Durham and Jerseys and Durhams. Address 208 Winters' Bldg. 16-17*

FOR SALE—Two lots in fast growing section on Oregon Ave., 110 ft. frontage on pavement. Corner and adjoining lots. Good view, deep soil and all well cultivated, basement dug. Leaving city and must sell at once. Tel. 273J. 16-17*

Don't overlook the big price reductions on men's fine Overcoats and suits at K. K. K. Store.

FOR RENT—Second floor over-army Store. 619 Main St. Suitable for office or apartment. 16-21

FOR RENT—5 room modern house, furnished, garage, Phone 469W. 16-17

WANTED—Woman for general housework, and cleaning one day a week. Phone 447M. 16-18

100 Men's Fine Caps on sale at 75c—K. K. K. Store.

Stop at Arcade Hotel.
In the heart of Klamath Falls.
Center of shopping and theatre district.
All outside rooms.
Hot & cold water in every room.
Steam Heat, Reasonable rates 1-31*

FOR SALE — Beautiful modern ranch home in Rogue River valley near Medford, on pavement. Simerville, 127 N. 4th St., City. Also acreage. 15-20*

Fine lot of Sweaters at ½ price. K K. K. Store.

If you want to sell it, buy it, trade it, or find it, try a Herald classified ad.

STEAM HEATED rooms $3.50 per week. Large, well lighted lobby, shower baths. New winter rates. Central Hotel, J. T. Ward, Mgr. 9tf.

HERE WE ARE AGAIN!

White Leghorn Baby Chicks.
Barron-Tancred Strain.
Hatched exclusively from our own hens that averaged for the year 1921, 151 eggs each for the whole flock. This is the real test of merit, rather than the achievement of a few selected from a large flock and fed on pie and Angel food at a laying contest.

We have greatly enlarged our plant and are prepared to hatch fifty thousand chicks during the season.

Order early and get them when wanted.

Prices per 100: January and February $15.00; March and April $12.50; May and June $11.00. Pure bred P. Rocks and R. I. Reds hatched on special order.

Maywood Poultry Farm, Corning, Calif. J3-F3

Men's Leather Overcoats and Sheep lined coats, ½ the regular price—K K. K. Store.

Sweet Cider, 127 N. 4th. 13-21*

250 Tons new alfalfa hay for sale, $5.00 ton. Jay Fairclo., Merrill highway. 7-26*

Lyceum Hall, cor. 8th & High, well suited for select parties, will be rented at nominal prices. Apply to M. Motschenbacher, Phone 556W, or on premises. 30-tf

All men's suits on sale at K. K. K. Store—Big Reduction.

MEAT INJURIOUS TO THE KIDNEYS

Take a Tablespoonful of Salts if Back Hurts or Bladder Bothers

We are a nation of meat eaters and our blood is filled with uric acid, says a well-known authority, who warns us to be constantly on guard against kidney trouble.

The kidneys do their utmost to free the blood of this irritating acid, but become weak from the overwork; they get sluggish; the eliminative tissues clog and thus the waste is retained in the blood to poison the entire system.

When your kidneys ache and feel like lumps of lead, and you have stinging pains in the back or the urine is cloudy, full of sediment, or the bladder is irritable obliging you to seek relief during the night; when you have severe headaches, nervous and dizzy spells, sleeplessness, acid stomach or rheumatism in bad weather, get from your pharmacist about four ounces of Jad Salts; take a tablespoonful in a glass of water before breakfast each morning and in a few days your kidneys will act fine. This famous salts is made from the acid of grapes and lemon juice, combined with lithia, and has been used for generations to flush and stimulate clogged kidneys, to neutralize the acids in urine so it is no longer a source of irritation, thus ending urinary and bladder disorders.

Jad Salts is inexpensive and cannot injure; makes a delightful effervescent lithia-water drink, and nobody can make a mistake by taking a little occasionally to keep the kidneys clean and active.—Adv.

EASY TO DARKEN YOUR GRAY HAIR

You Can Bring Back Color and Lustre With Sage Tea And Sulphur

When you darken your hair with Sage Tea and Sulphur, no one can tell, because it's done so naturally, so evenly. Preparing this mixture, though, at home is mussy and troublesome. At little cost, you can buy at any drug store the ready-to-use preparation, improved by the addition of other ingredients, called "Wyeth's Sage and Sulphur Compound." You just dampen a sponge or soft brush with it and draw this through your hair, taking one small strand at a time. By morning all gray hair disappears, and after another application or two your hair becomes beautifully darkened, glossy and luxuriant.

Gray, faded hair, though no disgrace, is a sign of old age, and as we all desire a youthful and attractive appearance, get busy at once with Wyeth's Sage and Sulphur Compound, and look years younger.—Adv.

OUCH! LUMBAGO! RUB PAINS FROM SORE, LAME BACK

Rub Backache away With Small Trial Bottle of Old "St. Jacobs Oil."

Back hurt you? Can't straighten up without feeling sudden pains, sharp aches and twinges? Now listen- That's lumbago, sciatica or maybe from a strain, and you'll get relief the moment you rub your back with soothing, penetrating "St. Jacobs Oil." Nothing else takes out soreness, lameness and stiffness so quickly. You simply rub it on your back and out comes the pain. It is harmless and doesn't burn the skin.

Limber up! Don't suffer! Get a small trial bottle of old, honest "St. Jacobs Oil" from any drug store, and after using it just once, you'll forget that you ever had backache, lumbago or sciatica, because your back will never hurt or cause any more misery. It never disappoints and has been recommended for 60 years.—Adv.

This Pure Cream Stops Head Colds

Apply in Nostrils—It Opens Air Passages Instantly.

Colds and catarrh yield like magic to soothing, healing, antiseptic cream that penetrates through every air passage and relieves swollen, inflamed membranes of nose and throat. Your clogged nostrils open right up and you can breathe freely. Hawking and snuffling stop. Don't stay stuffed up and miserable.

Get a small bottle of Ely's Cream Balm from your druggist. Apply a little in the nostrils and get instant relief. Millions endorse this remedy known for more than fifty years.—Adv.