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CITY GOVERNMENT BY COMMISSION

Discussed by the League of American Municipalities.

GOVERNMENT BY THE PUBLIC

The Goal of American Democracy, Declares W. M. Allen, of New York City, and Not Government by a Few or Many Officers.

Norfolk, Va., September 19.—Today's sessions of the eleventh annual convention of the American League of municipalities were devoted almost exclusively to the discussion of municipal government by the commission versus mayor and council."

An address was made by Rear Admiral Francis E. Chadwick, United States navy, of Newport, R. I., who took a decided stand against municipal government by commission.

James M. Head, of Boston, Mass., formerly mayor of Nashville, Tenn., horribly approved of the new Des Moines, Iowa, charter for commission government.

Some Facts About Commission.

William H. Allen, secretary of the Bureau of Municipal Research, New York city, declared that the cities of the United States owe a debt of gratitude to Galveston and Des Moines for having caused the country to consider seriously the defects of existing city charters. But it should not be forgotten that the advocates of government by commission have heretofore failed to recognize three fundamental facts:

1. Misgovernment in a democracy is due primarily to ignorance on the part of the general public as to official acts and community needs.

2. Misgovernment by commission is possible because the commission plan of itself does not insure intelligence on the part of the general public as to government results and community needs.

3. Hundreds of communities in the United States, including New York city, are now being misgoverned by commission.

The goal of American democracy should be government by the public and not by a few or many officers. Government by the public is impossible and always will be impossible wherever government is uninformed or misinformed. Unless this commission plan provides for an intelligent electorate, it will misgovern. An uninformed electorate gives autocracy, boodling, corruption. Equal rights can extend no further than equal intelligence. Special privilege always has existed and always will exist where intelligence

WANT GEN. WHEELER'S RANK IN CONFEDERATE ARMY ON HIS MONUMENT AT ARLINGTON

Decatur, Ala., September 19.—(Special.)—Alabama congressmen will be requested by friends of the late General Joe Wheeler and by friends of the Wheeler family to prevail upon the United States congress to allow the confederate rank of General Wheeler to be engraven upon his monument at his grave in Arlington national cemetery at Washington, D. C.

The monument to General Wheeler's grave in Arlington has just been completed. It was erected to his memory by his daughter. On one side of the monument are two blank lines, where it was the wish of the general's daughters that his confederate rank should be carved, but the war department objected, hence the two blank lines. This objection on the part of the war department at Washington was not only a sad disappointment to the sons and daughters of General Wheeler, but it was a disappointment and surprise as well to the many friends of the late noted general in this section of Alabama, the section where General Wheeler spent the better portion of his life.

At the time of General Wheeler's death it was the desire of his daughters to see him laid away in the family burying grounds at Wheeler station, nineteen miles west of Decatur on the Southern railroad, but the war department insisted that he should be buried at Arlington because he was a general in the United States army.

It was the eighth Alabama district, the district in which Decatur is located, that General Wheeler represented so ably in the halls of the United States congress for twenty long years and the people here feel that congress should grant this one simple request of the Misses Wheeler and allow the general's confederate rank to be carved on his marble monument. There is nothing in the national laws or the rules of the war department to prohibit this inscription being carved on this monument and the people of this district are at a loss to know why the request was refused.

FATHER AND PRODIGAL SON ARE RECONCILED IN COURT

New York, September 19.—Father and son, the former a wealthy physician, the latter a prisoner in the night court on a charge of begging, have been reconciled as the result of the young man's examination by Magistrate Breen. The father is Dr. Charles A. Whitney, a member of the Sons of the Revolution, the St. Nicholas Society and other organizations. The son, who has lost a leg and has been away from home for a year, owing to differences with his parents, is Lloyd Whitney, 22 years old. Magistrate Breen, who obtained the young man's story, remanded him to the prison connected with the court, and thither the father comes early this morning to obtain the son's release. When Dr. Whitney informed the magistrate that he was willing to take his son home, Magistrate Breen signed the discharge papers. Then father and son met. They were closeted for nearly an hour and when they opened the door they were arm in arm. Father and son left the court room, got into a cab and went home together.

FROM PUYALLUP TO GOTHAM IN A "PRAIRIE SCHOONER"

New York, September 19.—A team of oxen drawing a "prairie schooner," the driver of which was a rugged-looking old man who wore typical garb, including a sombrero, attracted great crowds on Broadway. The vehicle and the driver were not only in striking contrast with the jam of automobiles and carriages on the "Great White Way," but they were a decided novelty in New York. The driver was Ezra Meaker, a pioneer of the Oregon trail, who had returned over the trail he followed to the west half a century ago. All along Riverside drive from Grant's tomb to Seventy-second street, Meaker was followed by an interested and curious throng. When Broadway was reached the crowd was so dense that the oxen, which the pale old man afterwards described as Dave and Dandy, had a hard time to make any headway. Meaker's trip ended at last at the Battery. He had come all the way from Puyallup, Wash., to New York in 62 days. Meaker's object in making his unique journey is to persuade the government to build a national highway from east to west.

BIG BOND ISSUE | GREEN CONSULS

CEMENT FILLED WATER MAINS

Serious Charge Against An Augusta Plumbing Contractor.

HE IS NOW LODGED IN JAIL

But for Bigness of Contractor's Alleged Misdeeds It Is Said the Government Would Have Lost Twenty-five Thousand Dollars.

Macon, Ga., September 19.—(Special.)—W. O. Barrett, an Augusta plumbing contractor, was taken into custody this afternoon on [illegible] works of the new post-office building and is now lodged in the county jail as the result of a cleverly worked investigation that led to his [illegible] accusal, locating the pipes in the big heating [illegible] at with cement so as to prevent the operation when the new building is [illegible] ted under inspection.

The authorities found eight mains uncapped and [illegible] ed with cement so that it would have been impossible to operate. It was charged that the man had become entangled when he failed to get the contract for [illegible] the steamheating plant and [illegible] revenge.

He was employed in placing the water connections [illegible] the time the charge was brought against him. It was said on the ground that Barrett waited until the apparatus had been placed and capped and then did his work. But for the discovery at the early time the government would have lost $25,000 in piping out the [illegible] pipes after the building was complete. He will have a hearing before Commissioner Erwin tomorrow. Authorities refused to give out any statement regarding the prisoner.

MONEY FOR LOT AND MILITARY

Aldermanic Board Concurs on Two Important Papers From Council.

At a meeting of the aldermanic board yesterday afternoon the resolution making the appropriation for the lot on Washington street [illegible] the Girl's High school was concurred in. Council had adopted the resolution, which pays Dr.

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