

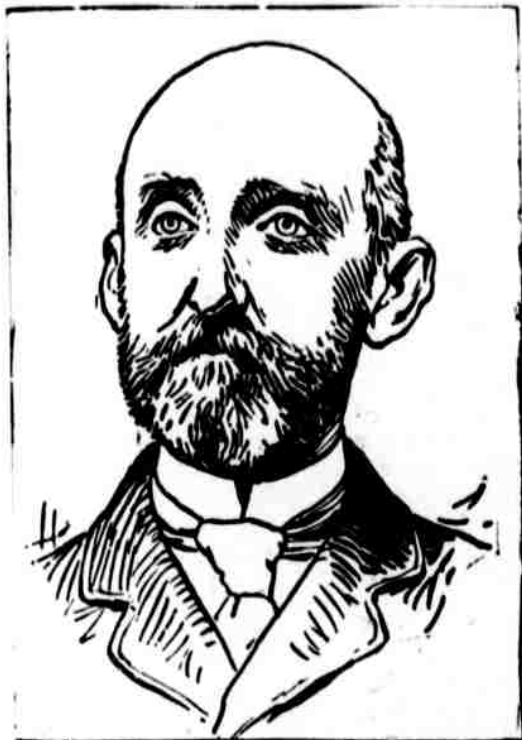
NOTED MEN



PRINCE BISMARCK

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CAPTAIN A. T. MAHAN, U. S. N.



STEPHEN CRANK



FRANK R. STOCKTON.

MODEL CITY COUNCIL.

OBJECT-LESSON IN MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.

Thoroughly Representative Body of Seventy-Two Members—They Have No Special Privileges or Passes—Public Ownership of All Monopolies.



R. George F. Park-
er furnishes a study
of the city adminis-
tration of Birming-
ham to the Century
under the title of
"An Object Lesson
in Municipal Gov-
ernment." M. R.
Parker says: The
governing body, ex-
ecutive as well as legislative, is the
city council. The eighteen wards are
each represented by four members, one
having the title of alderman, and three
that of councillor, all meeting in a sin-
gle body. One is elected annually for
each ward, so that two-thirds of the
councillors, and all the aldermen, have
had experience. They are chosen by
burgesses, who are male or female oc-
cupiers of any dwelling house, shop, or
manufactory, or of any land or tenement
of the annual value of £10. The
difference between burgesses and par-
liamentary electors is that women are
admitted to the former.

The parliamentary electors number
81,097, and burgesses and school board
electors 92,709, the difference represent-
ing with fair accuracy women voters.
Members of parliament are elected by
districts, councillors from wards, and
the school board on a general ticket.
No two classes are voted for at the
same election, though practically the
same machinery is employed. The ex-
penditure permitted to municipal candi-
dates is about £60 each. Vacancies
in the council are filled by special elec-
tion. One alderman from each ward
is elected by the council for six years,
half the terms ending every three
years. As a rule they are re-elected in-
definitely, party or factional considera-
tions having little influence.

The council is reorganized on the 9th
of November of each year, when the
general purposes committee, comprised
of the mayor as chairman, and the
chairman of each of the working com-
mittees, nominates the committees for
the ensuing year. Outside persons are
appointed as additional members of the
Museum and School of Art, Free Li-
braries, and Technical Schools Com-
mittees, who in practice control the tech-
nical work, the council members retain-
ing financial management.

Each member of a committee pro-
posed is voted for separately. The
wishes of individuals are rarely con-
sulted until their names are presented,
when they may decline and be excused.
None may serve on more than two com-
mittees, nor be chairman of more than
one. Every effort is made to secure
the very best results. No precedents
require the appointment of old mem-
bers even to important committees, and
a new member known to be capable and
interested in some special work has no
difficulty in obtaining an assignment
that may enable him to do his best.
But in practice the experienced men
are reappointed without question. Each
committee selects its own chairman.

The council is a thoroughly repre-
sentative body. Of the seventy-two
members of the present council, twenty-
three are manufacturers, six are
classified as gentlemen (men retired
from business), six are provision mer-
chants, five are brass and iron found-
ers, solicitors, jewelers, and medical
men respectively, three are merchants,
there are two each of auctioneers, chem-
ists, and drapers, while printers, teach-
ers, butchers, bakers, glassworkers,
tin-plate workers, and newspaper man-
agers each have one. So far as I can
find out, but one publican has ever
been in the council, although this class
had much influence prior to 1871.

No member has any privileges on a
railway or public conveyance of any
sort, even on the tramways belonging
to the city, or admission to a theater
or entertainment, and no one is per-
mitted to vote on a question when he

has a personal interest. He is subject
to a fine of £50, with loss of office, if he
enters into any contract with the city,
or sells an article of even the smallest
value to the council, or to any of its
subsidiary or associated committees or
departments. So strictly is this ob-
served that a member of a committee,
suspected of a desire to sell eligible
property to the city, was forced to re-
tire from public life.

When the work of a committee is to
be discussed, it presents a report of all
it has done since its affairs were last
before the council, setting out what it
proposes. This report or agenda must
be printed and sent to each councillor
three full days before the meeting.
In some cases, especially when a new
scheme is proposed, each member is
requested to make a personal investiga-
tion of the conditions with which it
is proposed to deal.

FIRST OF AERONAUTS.

Blanchard Sailed in Air Before Balloons
Were Made.

Eighty-five years ago there died in
Paris, Blanchard, the first man to gain
celebrity as a balloonist, says the New
York Mail and Express. He was born
in 1738 and before the balloon was in-
vented he had navigated the air in an
atmospheric machine of his own inven-
tion, which was propelled with oars
and which attained a height above
ground of about eighty feet. Blanchard
made his first ascent in a balloon
at Paris, March 2, 1784. On January 7,
1785, he crossed the English channel
in a balloon, accompanied by Dr. Jef-
fries. Under the circumstances it was
a feat of great daring. The aeronauts
the trip ended cast away everything
but the basket under the balloon, and
were about to cut it away when they
were carried over the town of Calais
and finally dropped in a forest. The
officials of Calais gave Blanchard a
dinner, presented to him papers of citi-
zenship in a gold box, gave him \$1,200
for his balloon and a pension of \$125
yearly. The king of France also pen-
sioned him. Blanchard boasted that
he had risen 13,000 feet higher than
any aeronaut of his time. He made
sixty ascensions, the last one causing
his death. His wife continued the
business after him and was killed by a
fall from a balloon in 1819. Albert of
Saxony, a Dominican monk, is credited
with having formed the first correct
idea of building balloons early in the
fourteenth century, but his ideas never
took practical shape. While the scien-
tists were working on the question in
1783 the brothers Montgolfier, paper
makers, near Lyons, made and sent up
the first balloon on June 5. This bal-
loon was made of linen, was 315 feet in
circumference and rose 1,600 feet. It
was filled with heated air. About three
months later Prof. Charles sent up his
balloon, called a "Charliere." It trav-
eled some miles from the starting and
fell in a village. The peasants re-
garded it as a living monster, and fell
upon it with pitchforks and flails and
tore it to pieces, to the loss and disgust
of its owner.

The first living things to leave the
earth in a balloon were a sheep, a hen
and a duck. They landed safely and
the sheep was found grazing. The first
ascent in a hydrogen balloon was made
by Prof. Charles in Paris, Dec. 1, 1783.

An Abused Wife.

Married Daughter—Oh, dear, such a
time as I do have with that husband of
mine! I don't have a minute's peace
when he's in the house. He is always
calling me to help do something or
other.

Mother—What does he want now?

Daughter—He wants me to traipse
way up stairs just to thread a needle
for him, so he can mend his clothes.

Out of Observation.

Miss De Fashion—I've been having a
perfectly lovely time; teas and parties,
and music and dancing, and private
theatricals, and everything you can
think of. Haven't had so much fun for
a year.

Friend (shocked)—What? During
Lent?

Miss De Fashion—Oh, it's all right,
dear. We were in the country.

Recent Sermons.

WAR.—The world is coming to un-
derstand more and more the absurdity
of maintaining a warlike attitude and
supporting in times of peace great
armies. The sentiment against war is
steadily gaining.—Rev. A. Z. Conrad,
Congregationalist, Worcester, Mass.

CHEERFULNESS.—There is no use
to be down in the dark, damp cellar
when there are light, and warmth, and
comfort in the parlor. Consistency is
a great essential of a Christian life.
There is too little of it in the lives of
Christian people.—Rev. J. I. Paxton,
Presbyterian, Philadelphia.

WOMAN.—I am ashamed to say that
for 6,000 years man has been a petty
tyrant and lordling as far as woman
has been concerned. Every intelligent
student of history knows this to be
true.—Rev. E. F. Wright, Congrega-
tionalist, Gardner, Ill.

CITIZENSHIP.—Good citizenship de-
mands first the recognition of God as
supreme governor. As citizens men
have no more right to ignore God than
as individuals. If our bodies and souls
belong to Him so does our state.—Rev.
C. A. Van Anda, Chicago.

GOVERNMENT.—God deals with
governments as with individuals.
Where righteousness reigns there is
blessing. Where it is ignored there
cometh destruction.—Rev. J. L.
Weaver, Presbyterian, Philadelphia.

SOCIAL ETHICS.—As Columbus dis-
covered a neglected hemisphere, so we
are just discovering a neglected hemi-
sphere of church work—the hemisphere
of social ethics.—Rev. W. F. Craft,
Presbyterian, Washington.

PATRIOTISM.—True American pa-
triotism lies in fulfillment of American
ideas rather than in calculating upon
American interests. It is the sound,
patriotic American spirit to hold duty
higher than interest, to hold the citi-
zen's obligations at least as sacred as
his rights.—Rev. J. F. Brodie, Congre-
gationalist, Salem, Mass.

THE STATE.—The state is a moral
organism. One man is not altogether
man. Human nature cannot manifest
itself wholly in the individual. It does
not develop in isolation. Hence emerge
of very necessity out of the soul of hu-
manity itself family life, social life,
religious life, political life.—Rev. N. Luc-
cock, Methodist, Pittsburg.

POLITICS AND RELIGION.—Just so
long as good men walk one way in
their religion and another in their pol-
itics and join in the foolish cry that
politics has nothing to do with religion,
so long will bad men with selfish
schemes and unscrupulous methods
control affairs. Religion must be mixed
with politics, business, industrial, and
social life.—Rev. F. B. Cherington,
Congregationalist, Spokane, Wash.

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What a blessing no man can hinder
our private access to God. Every man
can build a chapel in his breast, him-
self the priest, his heart the sacrifice
and the earth he treads on the altar.—
Jeremy Taylor.