

PROGRESS ON CITY CHARTER

Chairman Rosewater Submits First Chapter of New Code of Laws.

PENALTIES AND PUNISHMENTS

Provides Method of Dealing with Those Who Misuse Public Funds or Falsify the Records.

President Victor Rosewater of the city charter convention, as chairman of the general committee of five which will draft the charter, at the meeting of the convention yesterday afternoon submitted the first chapter of the new charter. It is a chapter on "Penalties" and provides for the punishment of offenders with a fine of \$1,000, or less, and a jail term of not more than one year for violating the following provisions:

Misuse of public funds: To fail to report to the city treasurer, or to convert to private use, any moneys collected from any source for performing any service as an official; to conceal any personal interest to the detriment of the city; to mutilate or falsify any public record; to be interested in any contract with the city, or to have any interest in the wages of a city employee; to accept money from contractors, to solicit political contributions, to make threats of reprisal; to attempt to bribe officials, purchase of petition signatures, to sign false signatures to petitions.

This chapter of the charter, if adopted, strikes a new note in prohibiting the acceptance of fees for services performed as public officials, in procuring false signatures to paving petitions, initiative and other petitions, in signing false names to petitions, and in prohibiting combinations of bidders.

Over One Week. The report of the committee, at the request of the chairman, was laid over for a week. In the meantime each member of the committee will be given a copy of it. Members will be permitted to suggest amendments.

John Reagan, chairman of the committee on public affairs, submitted, as the report of his committee, a comprehensive plan for municipal civil service, the report being referred to the general committee.

Reagan's report calls for the appointment of a civil service commission of three to serve for six years at a salary of \$1,000 each per year. The commission shall be appointed by the mayor. The examinations shall be open and free and competitive, nonpartisan and non-sectarian. The following officers are exempted from the civil service:

City attorney and his assistants, chief of police, chief of fire department, city physician and library trustees. The city commission is given power to extend the civil service to other officers.

Chairman Harry J. Hackett, of the committee on police and sanitation, made a report for his committee in which he recommended that the city physician be chosen at the same election at which commissioners were elected, instead of appointed. It gives the commission power to issue certain bonds for improvements and emergencies and fixes the maximum amount which the police department may spend at \$100,000 a year and the maximum annual expenditure for garbage removal at \$30,000 a year.

Chairman Dan Horrigan of the committee on public improvements recommended that the larger part of the present charter relating to public improvements be incorporated in the new charter, with the following changes:

Power to City Council. Giving the city council power to order improvements, providing there is no protest from a majority of the property owners. This power is to be exercised within a circle the radius of which is 700 feet from the city hall.

The council is given power to tax cost of improvements to the property benefited, exclusive of street and alley intersections, and excepting repaving, when not more than half of the cost can be so taxed. The present plan is denounced as an "intolerable burden upon property owners."

Abolishing the paving promoter by the creation of the office of city paving agent, whose duty it is to help property owners select paving material they desire.

"Open" paving specifications, giving all bidders on any kind of material an equal chance.

Power is given the city council to issue bonds for the purpose of paying the cost of extending the systems of main sewers.

Cost of opening and extending streets is borne by the whole city under the plan submitted by the committee.

At the conclusion of the reading of the report, Member C. L. Shamp wanted to know what had become of some of the propositions he had advocated. Horrigan told him the committee had been unfavorable to them. Then arose a discussion whether the several committees should report on all matters, for or against, and the sentiment was against such procedure.

Another meeting is to be held next Tuesday, when it is probable all reports of subcommittees will be submitted. Within the two or three weeks following, the general committee will harmonize these reports and submit them to the whole committee of fifteen for approval.

Children Supply is Not Equal to Demand

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., June 4.—The committee investigating home finding institutions in Illinois, reported to the lower house of the legislature today. The report says in part:

"In most of the home finding institutions, the demand for children has been greater than the supply. The societies started out to find homes for homeless children, but they now are seeking children for childless homes."

Industrial Workers On "Hunger Strike"

PEORIA, Ill., June 4.—A "hunger strike" is the latest weapon to be used by the Industrial Workers of the World, a number of whom are in the city jail on charges of disorderly conduct and inciting a riot. Since Monday at breakfast the prisoners have refused to eat, breaking their dishes by striking them against the bars.

A Great Mistake is to neglect a cold or cough. Dr. King's New Discovery cures them and may prevent consumption. 50c and \$1. For sale by Beaton Drug Co.—Advertisement.

Learning to Drive Car Kills Man; Held For Manslaughter

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., June 4.—Charged with homicide, Mrs. S. L. Woodford, wife of the former United States ambassador to Spain, was arrested today and placed under \$2,500 bonds, because the automobile she was learning to drive, ran down and killed William Stanhouse, a laborer in Fairfield, near here, Mrs. Woodford and her chauffeur will be given a hearing June 5.

EXPLAINS ELECTION LAWS

Harley G. Moorhead Tells About New Voting Methods.

SAYS HE'S FOR SQUARE DEAL

In Address Before Economic League New Commissioner Promises He Will Conduct Office Regardless of Partisanship.

Harley G. Moorhead, newly appointed election commissioner, spoke last night to an assembly of twenty-two members of the Economic league presided over by Chairman C. G. Cunningham on "A Square Election Deal." An explanation of the relief the state legislature hoped to accomplish with the laws recently instituted was given. He told briefly of redistricting the precincts, limiting each to not more than 300 voters, making eighty-six in Omaha where there were sixty-four and seventeen in South Omaha where there were fourteen.

In his opinion he believed the cost of the office of commissioner would be more than saved in ten years' time and that after that it would be a source of economy.

Each Voter Tabbed. According to the new laws each voter will be registered with a detailed description of himself, including physical appearances and data regarding birth. Duplicates will be kept, one in the general office at the court house and another in the precinct where the voter casts his ballot. He will thus be identified at the time of voting and he may register at any time in the year. The registration books will be open on any legal business day, but new registration will have to be made ten days prior to any election. Only one registration is necessary, however, and unless a man should move into another precinct will hold continuously.

It will fall upon the new commissioner's lot to appoint the inspectors, judges and clerks, some 600 in all, for the election places and in choosing these he is not restricted to any particular party of the county, but may pick men according to his discretion. All will be under oath and will be subject to prosecution if they do not follow the letter of the law.

Preserving Order. In any place he may see fit, he may appoint not to exceed two peace officers to keep order. The old election laws prevail where they are not over-ruled by the new ones and in the event of illiterate voters, a voter can be helped if he states the man he wishes to vote for. In such cases a judge and a clerk of opposite party will assist the illiterate.

Mr. Moorhead said he stood for a square deal regardless of partisanship. The charter committee report of the Economic league was continued under the order of unfinished business and was approved by the league to be presented by the committee to the charter convention.

South Omaha Given Second Night at Den

Next Monday night will be South Omaha night at the Ak-Bar-Ben Den. A big time is being planned, and South Omaha is expected to turn out in great numbers to see the big show.

ANSWER FROM HITCHCOCK

Former Postmaster General Declares Treasury Figures Are Correct.

ACTION OF CONGRESS CITED

O. K. of Democratic House Placed on Conduct of His Department —Bourbons Are a Bar to Economy.

SILVER CITY, N. M., June 3.—On arriving at Silver City today from the Mogollon mountains, where he has been spending some weeks, former Postmaster General Frank H. Hitchcock was shown for the first time the statement issued a few days ago by Postmaster General Burleson attacking his administration of the Postoffice department. After reading the charges Mr. Hitchcock issued the following statement:

"A committee, composed in the main of newly appointed assistants, having less than three months' experience in postoffice business, attempts in a report to the present head of the department to discredit the financial showing made by the postal service under President Taft's administration. After reporting alleged discrepancies that are insignificant when compared with the great sums known to have been saved by their predecessors, this committee of novitiates proceeds in its published statement to enlighten the American people as to the character of the postal service they have been receiving.

Declares Statement Inaccurate. "Their statement is as inaccurate as it is gratuitous, for the public well knows that never was the postal service conducted more efficiently, or mail handled with greater precision and despatch, than in the closing years of the Taft administration. In that administration nearly 5,000 new postoffices were established, delivery letter carriers were provided in about 300 additional cities, and over 3,000 new rural routes, aggregating about 75,000 miles, were authorized.

"Notwithstanding these great extensions of service and the heavy increase in expenditures they required, the Postoffice department was placed on a self-sustaining basis, and that was its condition when, on the fourth of March, it passed into the hands of newly appointed officers, who seem thus far to have been exhausting their time and their energy in a vain attempt to detract from the record made by the devoted public servants they succeeded.

"The postal committee of a democratic house of congress endeavored last year in a similar manner to attack the audited accounts of the postal service, but after investigation that committee was fair enough to admit that the department had become self-sustaining. The returns as to surplus or deficit are made up not by the Postoffice department, but by the Treasury department, where all postal income is received and all postal accounts finally audited.

Treasury Reported Deficit Gone. "The secretary of the treasury reported the wiping out of the postal deficit and the record thus certified to in his fiscal report is likely to stand in history. If the Postoffice department could have received a proper allowance for the cost of carrying franked mail, the postal surplus would have been much larger than that recorded, and this is true after deducting the expense incurred on account of the postal service by the Treasury department for the free quartering of certain postoffices in federal buildings, an expense that is less than half the cost of the franking privilege. In the fiscal year 1912 more than 395,000 pieces of mail, having an aggregate weight of about 61,000,000 pounds, were carried free of charge under the franking of congressmen and of the various government establishments. If postage at the usual rates had been paid on this matter it is estimated that the postal revenues would have increased by more than \$30,000,000.

"In the last administration we appealed in vain to a democratic house for legislation abolishing the franking abuse. It is a subject that the present postal management might well consider for it affords an opportunity to save the department

millions of dollars a year. But judging from the committee's report, as published in the press, the gentlemen now in charge of postal destinies seem more interested in disclosing the fact that during the four years preceding March 4 an average of thirty-four clerkships per annum remained vacant in the department.

Biggest Business Organization. "The United States postal service comprises altogether more than 200,000 offices and men. It is the largest business organization in the world. It expends annually about \$50,000,000 and now takes in approximately that amount in postal receipts. It requires a high order of business ability and the closest kind of application on the part of the various officers in charge to conduct successfully a public service so extensive and so intricate.

"The question very naturally may present itself in the public mind as to why the present officers of the department instead of consuming all this time in an endeavor to discredit the good work of the men they succeeded, are not devoting themselves more attentively to the important branches of the service entrusted to their care, even if they are thus far unable in their inexperience to map out and execute a constructive postal program so as to broaden still further the usefulness of the postoffice. They doubtless will find it a considerable task and one requiring their strict attention to maintain throughout our vast country the efficiency of the postal service as developed and extended by their predecessors and particularly of those great branches of the service recently established for the benefit of the people by a republican administration, the postal savings bank and the parcel post."

AUTO BULLETINS AS TO THE CONDITION OF THE ROADS

"The Nebraska State Automobile association with headquarters at the Hotel Rome will in the future have bulletins posted relative to the condition of the roads leading out of Omaha to the north, south and west," says Harry Lawrie, secretary.

"For the information and guidance of automobilists the association is prepared to furnish to the members additional information regarding road conditions on special inquiry. Any communications to telephone Douglas 2975 will receive prompt attention in regard to the foregoing matters."

W. E. JOHNSON INJURED BY PASSING AUTOMOBILE

W. E. Johnson, traveling salesman residing at 6028 Davenport street, was run over by an automobile Tuesday evening at Carroll, Ia. He was standing on the curbing at the side of the street when the car, driven by Mr. Pond of Ralston, Ia., ran into him, knocked him down and two wheels passed over his hip. The injured man was resting easily at his hotel and it is thought that nothing more serious than bruises will result.

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