

centralization of authority. And in the majority of instances those persons who are afraid of a government by a strong man have avoided the difficulty by making a great many elective offices, thereby in effect putting the people themselves in a position to pass upon the various details of government. Fortunately our states have no foreign policies and can have no policies with each other save those provided in the federal constitution. Therefore, a weak and temporizing form of state government does not do as much harm as it might legitimately be expected to do, and as it certainly would do if applied to any state hav-

ing international relations. The result is to punish only the people of each state for the sins of government permitted by that state.

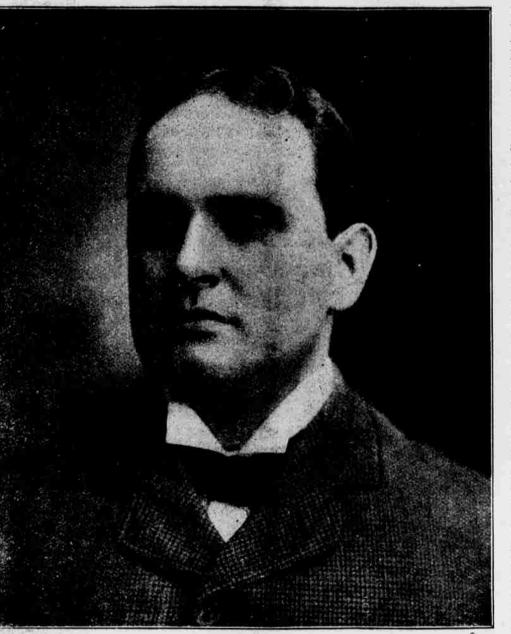
The practical experience of the world has shown that that government is soundest which chooses its rulers most carefully and then expects them to rule.

Under the present disjointed system in the several states, there is a general rule that officers are elected wherein an excuse can be found for an election, and that the appointive office is rare and comparatively unimport-This is esant. pecially true of offices created by a constitutional con vention. Legislatures in creating offices quite frequently create appointive of-But a confices. stitutional convention seems to be constitutionally opposed to putting any

any ingenuity, be vested elsewhere. the union, frequent elections are held at which are chosen a governor, a secretary of state, an auditor of public accounts, a state treasurer and state superintendent of schools, a sheriff for each of the several counties, a coroner for each of the several counties, a superintendent of schools and a raft of county officials for each county in the state, with a perfect swarm of elected officers for each city or town in the state. In addition to these

officers the public, charitable and penal institutions, and institutions of learning, are administered by various boards, some elected and some appointed. The result is a system of government which for complexity is the most baffling device the human mind can conceive. Let us assume that such a state is governed under a constitution based upon the lines of the federal constitution. There would then be elected a governor and a legislature, and in the several towns and cities a mayor and a city council. The desire of the people of the several counties of the state for local selfgovernment, by which is meant, not the counties would be appointed, and

and controlled by [the department of justice, at the head of which is the attorney general. If we had a like system in the state, an attorney general, instead of being elected, would be appointed by the governor, and there would be appointed subordinate to him a state's attorney or county prosecutor for each county in the state. The prosecution of criminals and the administration of justice would thereby be entirely removed from local influence, and the administration of the office depend entirely upon the law and not upon local sentiment. So, also, the various sheriffs throughout



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power into the hands of a governor or the choice of a local man for office, | in the mater of changes in the other chief official which may, by but the choice of a man who will basic forms of local government and respond to local influences, is simply a for this reason, among others, the er-As a result, in most of the states of method for holding within the hands rors of the first state governments of the people of each county the power which were made for country communities, live with us though their of saying whether they shall be observers of the law in its entirety or faults are increasingly more prominent in all our 20th century activity than not. ever before. The present systems of Federal Division of Labor. state and local governments are a burden to the people who sustain them. Under the federal constitution the It admits of no doubt that this burden several functions of government are will be greatly lessened if not made imexercised each under a cabinet official; perceptible by following not some new thus all the vast machinery of the or original scheme of government, but courts, marshal and district attorneys by applying those principles of poli-

the same authority, thus making the preservation of the public peace a matter not to be affected by the question of whether the next election would be a close one or not, or by the question of whether an avoidance of duty would bring more votes than its performance. So also in the matter of auditing public accounts, the examination of corporations, the school system and charitable and penal institutions, all would be administered at a comparatively slight expense and with a certainty of improved results if managed in proper departments, under responsible, experienced heads appointed by and responsible to the governor, who, in turn would be responsible to the people.

would be subject to

Americans are noticeably conservative

of the federal government is managed