

City Manager Plan Found Most Efficient in Michigan

Municipal Head of Grand Rapids Declares System Is Also Most Democratic—Manager Is Selected On Basis of Merit—May Be Removed at Any Time If Incompetent.

(Editor's Note—The Bee believes the city manager form of municipal administration should be given careful consideration by the people of Omaha. With this idea in view it is presenting a series of articles by city managers in various sections of the country, explaining the operation of the system. Each of these articles has been prepared expressly for The Omaha Bee and one of them will appear each Sunday.)

BY FRED H. LOCKE, City Manager, Grand Rapids, Mich.

I note with interest the movement in Omaha to amend the city charter to give the city a commission-manager form of municipal administration. It is evident Omaha is having about the same experience with the commission form of government as a great many of the other municipalities that have tried it out.

While the commission form of government is a great advance over the old aldermanic, or council-mayor form, it is, I believe, to be superseded by the commission-manager form. This latter form presumes a single elective representative government board, called the council or commission, which employs the chief administrative officer, or city manager, and holds him responsible for enforcing the law and conducting the city's business affairs in accordance with the board's policies.

Centralized Responsibility. The city manager plan may be likened to the usual organized plan of a business corporation; the city manager acting in approximately the same relative capacity as the president or general manager of a private corporation. Under this plan authority is concentrated in the executive head and he is held responsible for enforcing the law and conducting the city's business. He appoints and directs his subordinates and is responsible for results. He also acts as an adviser to the commission, with the privilege of proposing measures but with no vote.

Contrast between the commission-manager form differs from the usual mayor and council type in vesting authority and responsibility in a single body. It provides a trained, professional, controlled executive, instead of an untrained, amateur, independent executive. It differs from the commission form by concentrating administrative duties in a single appointive officer, instead of

distributing them among the members of the commission.

Most Democratic Plan. The commission-manager form becomes our most democratic form of city government by creating a governing board on which any representative citizen may serve with credit and without technical qualifications or personal sacrifice. A board sensitive to the will of the people since they invest it with sole power and hold it responsible for results. The manager is appointed by this body on the basis of merit, for an indefinite term, and may be removed at any time. Under the commission-manager form citizens appreciate the privilege of having one definite place to go with complaints or for information, namely, the manager's office. If service is not rendered through this department the matter can be brought before the city commission and the manager is found to be unfit for the position he occupies he may be removed.

In conclusion, I believe it is fair to state there are instances where any form of government can be efficient. I believe, however, the possibility of efficiency is greater in the commission form than under the old aldermanic or council form, and that the commission-manager is a decided advantage over the commission form. This latter form removes the executive from the legislative body and gives the opportunity of conducting municipal affairs on a strictly business basis.

Two Score Indians Now Working in Colorado Mines

Telluide, Colo., Dec. 11.—Lo, the Redman has joined the group of foreign miners here that includes representatives from practically every nation on earth.

Forty full-blood Navajo Indians from New Mexico are now employed in a tunnel working here. It is believed to be the first experiment in the use of American Indians as underground workers.

His Favorite Topic

Published by Arrangement With Life

By Charles Dana Gibson



Letters From Home-Made Father to His Son

By ED STREETER
Too Much Insurance Makes a Man Feel Guilty to Live.

Dear Son:—
The man who said life was cheap never talked to a life insurance agent. I just had mine insured for so much I feel selfish every time I live through the day. The first week it was a glorious sensation. I had the feeling that if I got killed somebody had to pay dear for it so I tested out the old car for speed, painted the roof of the barn, ate three helpings of pie, told Henry Peters he was a durned old fool, cleaned up a lot of other odds and ends that's been on my mind for some time.

The trouble is, though, that after a while life insurance makes you suspicious. It seems to me that when I come downstairs in the mornings nowadays everybody asks me how I feel with kind of a hopeful expression. An if I say "Fine," they say "Good," an look depressed.

insult with anything short of a pair of brass knuckles. He just walked in my office, put his hat in the scrap basket and asks have I had my life insured. I says no, that I had enough expenses now what with educating a son an other local charities.

A Doleful Picture.
Well, sir, Sam just collapsed into a chair and started drawing a plan of my home life when my funeral expenses was paid, providin there was enough left for that. That man could have made the millennium sound like a calamity. Before he got really warmed up he had you a cripple, your ma paralyzed, your little brother starvin', the cows all down the well, an the house morgaged.

As I told Sam I seemed to come out the small end of the shoot no matter what I did. If I didn't take out no insurance they all cussed me, an if I did they all forgot I ever lived.

But when Sam told me how Pooch

accordin to the number of people what die an that minus the amount paid divided by 3,1416 is the cash surrender value. Now the 20-year endowment is now complicated.

"Don't go into it," says I. "I can see by your explanation of a straight life its the one for me. I wouldn't be happy with no other."

"Good," says he. "An now for the doctor."

"What's he got to do with it?" says I. "Now my life's insured I should think you'd want to keep me alive as long as you could."

Companies Are Cautious.

"You ain't insured yet," says he. "Unless the doctor guarantees you're good for 50 annual instalments we can't take you on. There's many a man down the outer edge round the grave an don't know it."

On the way over to Milford he told me a number of amusing anecdotes about cancer's an toomers, so that when we got to Doc's, Brady's I was glad to find him in.

The Doc. put a little telephone on my chest an listened, lookin more glum every minit. Then he called Sam over in the corner an whispered to him til I like to have died.

"What's the matter?" I asks.

The Doc. shook his head. "You got valves in your heart," says he. "An I can hear distinct systoles of an aorta. Maybe you have a trochea fer all I can tell. Do you feel sleepy when you wake up in the mornings?"

I had to admit I did.

"An sometimes after two or three cigars do you feel a little heady?"

Once more he'd hit it right.

"Well," says he, "don't worry. You may live for months an months. Praps years."

"But how about the insurance?"

I ast him. "Does that mean they won't give it to me?"

"Like as not," says the Doc. "But don't worry. The end may be a long ways yet."

Well, sir, I took Sam over in the corner and reminded him how we'd always been friends an how I'd lent him five dollars once which he'd

never paid on which was all right. I told him instead of four thousand I wanted to take out ten an if he could fix it up with the Doc. to go the limit up to two dollars.

Sam looked kind of doubtful. He said the Doc. was a great friend of his, though, an he'd see what he could do. The next day he came over with a twenty thousand dollar policy fer me to sign. I told him



The Doctor Put a Little Telephone on My Chest and Listened.

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I'd never ferget a kind genius thing he was doin.

But that was three weeks ago an I feel better'n I ever did. I sort of wish that I'd never got into this thing cause its got on my mind so that the slammin of a door sounds like a coffin lid. This business of sittin around waitin til after your funeral before you can afford to spend any money aint what its cracked up to be.

insuredly yours,
AMOS H. AMESBY,
Fath.

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The women of Borneo spend their time weaving, dyeing, cooking, planting seeds and taking care of their children.

Don't Poke Fun at Poor Boarding House Prune, Science Shows That It Is Chock Full of Calories

Berkeley, Dec. 11.—Poor old prune cursed by the regular boarder, long held out as the toothsome dessert by the boarding house keeper, punned about by the writers and made a joke of wherever its name is heard, it is still some fruit, according to Mrs. Agnes Fay Morgan, associate professor of household science at the University of California. In a letter to Mrs. Robert J. Graham, market chairman of the Berkeley

State Housewives' league, Mrs. Morgan puts the prune in a dress suit and he looks like a different fellow. She says:
"Prunes are a valuable addition to the diet for a number of reasons. In the dried state they furnish an economical source of energy, since they may contain as much as 60 to 65 per cent of sugar. (They compare favorably with other carbohydrates-rich foods, as may be seen from the following brief statement of the costs

and amounts of various foods required to provide the same quantity of energy, 1,160 calories, as is furnished by one pound of dried prunes:
"Prunes at 14 cents a pound, one pound is equal to:
"Fresh peaches at 10 cents a pound, seven pounds, costing 70 cents.
"Canned peaches at 20 cents a pound, five pounds, costing \$1.
"Oranges at 70 cents a dozen, one dozen, costing 70 cents.
"Cranberries at 15 cents a pound, five pounds, costing 75 cents.
"Apples at 5 cents a pound, four pounds, costing 20 cents.
"The use of a reasonable amount in the dietary can be recommended for hygienic as well as economic reasons."



When I Come Downstairs in the Mornings Nowadays Everybody Asks Me How I Feel With Kind of a Hopeful Expression.

An if I say, "Not so well," they say, "Too bad," an crack jokes all durin breakfast. Or visa versa.

I spose taint nothin but magnification but after all that's what most of life is. Up til about three weeks ago I looked at death in about the same way I looked at the income tax an Bullshevikism an the high price of jewelry. They was all terrible things that happened to other people but not to me. But since talkin to Sam Adams, that insurance fello from Milford, I can't pass Jim Bartlett's funeral parlors without peekin in the window, an to see a fello shovelin makes me low spirited fer the rest of the day.

Sam's friends all say hes a "live wire." As near as I can figger a "live wire" is a fello that you can't

Frisee an the Squire had taken out some I allowed I'd have to get in it just to keep them quiet.

"Do you want a straight life?" says he.

I told him how I'd always lived one but I was open to argment.

Then Sam started to explain. Insted of dividin folks up into Baptists, Unitarians an Congregashun-alists like ordinary folks would, he had em arranged into straight life, 20-year endowments, and 40 payment plan. All what didn't fall under one of these heads was a prospect. I guess that's about the same thing as an unbeliever.

"Straight life is the simplest," says he. "You pay so much a year every year, accordin to how old you are an every year you get somethin back

"Where There's a Will

there's a way"—for the widow and children. It is the easiest and best the husband and father can provide.

It is proof of his thoughtful concern for his family. The no-will way suggests carelessness or indifference. Yet the state distributes countless estates every year for people who "never got around" to make a will.

Read our valuable booklet, "Some Vital Questions." Call, write or telephone for a copy.

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