

BIG MAJORITY FOR COMMISSION FORM

New Charter for Asheville Adopted By Over Two To One Vote.

PRIMARY APRIL 26; ELECTION ON MAY 4

Change Approved By Greater Portion of People Than Advocates Hoped For.

Asheville has adopted commission government. In yesterday's election the new plan for municipal administration swept the city by a vote of more than two to one, every precinct rolling up a substantial majority for the bill, and when the votes were counted last night, out of a total of 1,608 votes cast, 1,150 bore the word 'for,' and 458 'against,' making a majority of 692 for the bill.

The voting in the early hours was heavy, and the supporters of commission plan secured a lead before noon that the opposition, which did not lose hope until late in the day, was unable to overcome. The rain, sleet and snow was unfavorable to a large vote; as was also the absence of the 50 odd candidates, who in general elections, seek office at the hands of the people and persuade voters by all the means known to politics. However, there was no scarcity of campaign workers. Both friends and opponents of the measure appeared early at the voting places, and did not leave until the election officials declared that according to the weather bureau's estimates the sun had set and the polls must be closed. Before 8 o'clock the ballots had been counted and the result announced.

Those who were indifferent about voting, on account of the weather, or because they were still undecided which ballot to use, were sought out by workers and taken to the voting booths in carriages or automobiles. The course of the contest was kept up with very accuracy throughout the day by means of copies of the registration books prepared for each side, and because some workers could in nearly every case tell how the vote was cast. Most of the voters put in the narrow strips of paper without folding them.

Very few challenges were made in the election; and the contest was carried on by both sides in good humor and with an entire absence of bitterness.

At noon today the board of aldermen will meet to canvass the election results and declare the official figures.

On April 26, a primary will be held for the nomination of three candidates for the offices of the three commissioners who will have sole executive authority in the city administration.

From the two highest candidates for each office the people will elect the commissioners on May 4.

Yesterday's vote by precincts follows:

Precinct	For	Against
First	108	74
Second	128	57
Third	276	106
Fourth	237	89
Fifth	163	63
Sixth	238	69

Totals 1,150 458

Majority 692

Marcus Erwin, one of the managers of the campaign in favor of commission government, being asked by a Gazette-News reporter this morning to express himself on the results of the election, made the following statement:

"Of course the managers of the commission government campaign were gratified with the large majority the proposition received. It proves conclusively to my mind that the people at large and not any particular subdivision or clique were behind the measure."

"I trust those men best equipped by wisdom and judgment qualified to conduct the city's affairs may be chosen in the coming primary election. The success or failure of the project rests upon the men chosen to try it out."

"The friends who worked with the managers of the commission side and the citizens generally showed true patriotism and unselfish interest in our work for the adoption of the measure, and to no man or set of men can be given any particular credit for the results."

MEMBERSHIP CONTEST AT Y. M. C. A. NOW ON

Boys Are Securing a Large Number of New Members for Association.

The boys of the Y. M. C. A. are doing some hard campaigning in the membership contest which is in progress this week and while the results so far are not extraordinary, the boys have secured a large number of memberships which they will turn in by Saturday night. The boys who have become members during the campaign sign up for places in the baseball leagues as soon as their applications are turned in and a number have already signed the contracts. On next Monday night, the captains of the baseball teams will be announced and on Wednesday night, the line-ups of the various teams will be selected. There will be a total of 20 teams in the four leagues this summer and the league races will open about April 1. The association is now having some baseball made for the boys and these balls will be the same as the official league balls with the exception that they will be smaller in size. The standing in the membership contest up to last night follows: In the contest for older boys, Jordan led with a total of 25 points; J. Campbell was second with 15 points and C. Brown was third with 12 points. The points scored by the younger boys follows: W. Lee, 61; A. Davis, 54; H. Foster, 30; B. Rogers, 20; S. Webb, 20; J. Harris, 6, and B. Bourne, 5.

Two Cases in Juvenile Court.

Cases against Ranger Wright and Walter Taylor, white boys, are the only ones on the docket of juvenile court, which will meet this afternoon. The boys are charged with assaulting each other.

NO GROUNDS FOR SUIT AGAINST A. P.

So Attorney General Gregory Tells Counsel for The Sun Publishing Company.

Washington, March 17.—Attorney General Gregory in a letter addressed to James M. Beck, counsel for The Sun Publishing Company of New York, told Mr. Beck there was no ground for action by the company against the Associated Press under the anti-trust laws. The letter dated March 12, was made public today. In the letter the attorney general refers to the organization as an association under the membership corporations law of New York and its objects.

He quoted from the by-laws as to eligibility of members, the requirements for election to membership, the manner in which the organization is maintained, of gathering news and its distribution.

MASS MEETING TO BE IN WEST ASHEVILLE

Citizens Tomorrow Night Will Decide as to Asking for School Election.

The citizens of West Asheville, who are in favor of voting a bond issue for the purpose of erecting new school buildings in that town, will hold a mass meeting tomorrow night at 8 o'clock, at which time the matter of asking the board of county commissioners to call an election for the purpose of allowing the citizens to vote \$35,000 school bonds will be decided. It was stated today that the citizens would either decide tomorrow night to ask the board to call the election or drop the entire matter for the time being.

It was first decided by the citizens, in a mass meeting held several weeks ago, to ask the board to allow the citizens to vote on a \$30,000 bond issue, but after careful consideration of the matter it was felt by many that the sum would not be sufficient and \$35,000 was mentioned.

It is the plan now to have one central school building in that section of the town nearest the river, which will cost about \$25,000 and to build a smaller school near the other end of the town.

If the citizens tomorrow night decide to ask the board of county commissioners to call a special school election, they will appear before the board on next Monday. It is also thought that several citizens of the town who are opposed to the bond issue will appear before the board and argue against the calling of the election.

ITALIAN FORCES ROUT REBELS NEAR BCADIA

Rome, March 17.—An Italian punitive expedition sent out from Benja under Colonel Paisia has dispersed strong forces of rebels near Bcadia after hard fighting. The insurgents lost 100 in killed and many wounded. The Italian losses were 40 killed and 45 wounded.

The expedition from Benja, the capital of one of the administrative districts of Tripoli was sent in connection with an expedition from Cyrenaica to put down a rebellion of natives reported to be of considerable proportions.

ROBERT FITZSIMMONS TO MARRY MRS. TEMOX SIMONIN

Newark, N. J., March 17.—Robert Fitzsimmons, former heavyweight pugilistic champion, today applied for a license to marry Mrs. Temox Simonin, divorced wife of Henry Simonin of Portland, Oregon. As Fitzsimmons did have the certificate of his own divorce, he was refused license. He will apply again later.

Mine Sweeper Blown Up.

Paris, March 17.—A British mine sweeper was blown up in the Dardanelles with the loss of several lives by the explosion of a mine which was being removed from the strait, says a Central dispatch from Athens.

MORE PRESSURE PUT ON ITALY

Both Teutonic Allies and Entente Powers Increase Efforts to Gain the Support of Italy.

QUESTION OF AUSTRIAN CONCESSION IS VITAL

What Austria Would Give up Insignificant Compared to Territorial Concessions Italy Demanded.

Rome, March 16.—(Via. Chiasso, Switzerland, March 17.)—Political pressure upon Italy to pledge its future course either to the empires of central Europe or the allies has been augmenting for some time and is now believed to have about reached its climax.

According to thoroughly reliable sources Prince von Buelow, German ambassador, has given formal assurances that Germany will be able to overcome Austria's resistance and induce Vienna to concede to Italy's territorial concessions demanded, together with a free hand in southern Albania. In addition, the central empires would further Italy's ambitions in the eastern Mediterranean. The German diplomat also pointed out that the marine supremacy of Great Britain and France would have the effect of crushing Italy.

Representatives of the allies have presented the matter in quite a different light. They have declared that the defeat of Germany and Austria-Hungary was inevitable, even without the participation of Italy. In case Italy refrained from taking part she would receive nothing from the allies when settlements are made. They advised she further argument that with the conclusion of peace, or shortly thereafter, the separation of Hungary from Austria was to be expected. This would lead to the absorption of the Austrian provinces of German nationality by Germany and the consequent extension of German domination to Trieste, which thus would forever be lost to Italy. In addition Italy would be forced to abandon Avonla and the Aegean islands.

What is believed in high quarters to be an authoritative outline of Italy's territorial demands and Austria's position regarding them was obtained yesterday. The difference of views as thus indicated, appears to be so great that well informed persons can see no likelihood of an adjustment.

Roughly speaking, Italy wants a sweep of territory north and east which would extend her boundary around the northern end of the Adriatic sea as far south as Fiume, on the eastern coast. That would include the Austrian naval base at Pola, and the provinces of Trent and Trieste. Concessions which Austria is believed to be willing to make are insignificant, as compared with the demands.

It is regarded as probable that, under pressure from Germany, the negotiations may be extended, and Austria may be induced to grant larger concessions, but the belief in responsible quarters is that the extreme Austrian concessions would be insufficient to satisfy Italy.

Italy's demands as outlined yesterday are set forth as follows: To the north, she desires the entire province of Trent, bringing her frontier to Venosia, and including the districts of Rovereto, Trento, Merano, Bressanone and Bruneck; to the east, she wants to extend her frontier to the Julian Alps, including the provinces of Gorizia and Istria, with the districts of Tolmeina, Gorizia, Trieste, Pola and Fiume. Besides she wants the Dalmatian Islands, especially Veglia, Cherso, Lunza, Brazza, Lesina, Curzola, Meled and Lissa.

The only ratification of the frontier, which, according to this information, Austria is willing to grant is concession of territory which would give to Italy possession of Lake Garda, with the town of Riva and the valleys of the Chiese and Adige rivers, including the towns of Rovereto and Tione, but excluding Trent and to the east, the valley of the Isarco river, including Gradisca, but excluding Gorizia.

UNION OF BARACA AND PHILATHEAS TO MEET

The regular monthly meeting of the Baraca and Philathea City Union will be held tomorrow night at 8 o'clock at the Methodist Protestant church, corner Hillside street and Merrimon avenue. Besides the regular business to come before the union a president and vice-president will be elected at the meeting tomorrow night. It is urged that all classes in the city send delegates to this meeting. Several talks will be made and refreshments will be served, following the business meeting.

2 MORE BRITISH SHIPS BLOWN UP

Steamers Atlanta and Singal Torpedoed by German Submarine, British Admiralty Announces.

SIX OF CREW OF ONE STEAMER LOST LIVES

Atlanta Succeeds in Reaching Harbor—Mine-Sweeper Is Blown up Operating in the Dardanelles.

London, March 17.—The British steamers Atlanta and Singal have been torpedoed. The text of the report announcing the torpedoing of the vessels is as follows:

"The British steamer Atlanta of 519 tons, owned by Messrs. J. and P. Hutchison of Glasgow, was torpedoed by a German submarine off Innish-kurk on the west coast of Galway island about noon on March 14. The members of the crew were landed at Innishkurk, where the vessel is now in harbor."

The signal of 1562 gross tons (661 tons net), owned by the London and Edinburgh Shipping company of Leith, was torpedoed and sunk at 10:50 o'clock March 15 off the Northumberland coast. Twenty-one members of the crew were landed at North Shields, but six lives are reported lost, including that of chief mate and the stewardess.

The Singal was built in 1894 and was 230 feet long.

INSPECTION OF LOCAL MILITIA THIS WEEK

Companies F and K and Band Will Be Inspected by Army Officer.

The members of companies F and K of the North Carolina National guard have been holding drills for some time past in preparation for the annual inspection which will take place Thursday and Friday nights of this week. Under Captain Sharpe of the United States army, the two companies put in several nights of strenuous preparation last week and will utilize each night of this week, up to the time of the inspection, to bring their organization up to a top-notch condition for the inspection.

The inspection of the two local companies and the First Regiment band will be held under the supervision of Captain Russell Langdon of the United States army who will represent the Federal government and Colonel Thomas Stringfield, who will be the state representative. Company K has as its officers: Captain C. I. Bard, First Lieutenant D. E. Penland and second Lieutenant J. H. Koon, and company F is led by Captain Carl H. Felmet, First Lieutenant Ed. Jones and Second Lieutenant Walter Watts. Bandmaster Ed. Woodard is the commanding officer of the First Regiment band. Company K will be inspected tomorrow night and company F and the First Regiment band will be inspected Friday night.

In a communication from Adjutant General Lawrence W. Young to Captain Bard of company K, notice is given that all the men of each company will be required to stand the inspection and that all who fail to report for the inspection will be subject to a fine ranging from one to fifty dollars with the possibilities of a court martial. The only excuse which will be accepted from the men for non-attendance will be that of illness or the illness of members of their immediate family. During several past inspections, members have absented themselves without punishment but such will not be the case this year, according to the announcement.

The men who fail to attend the inspection through illness will be compelled to show a certificate from a physician certifying to their condition. This year the government will pay the state only for the men in line while previously the state has been paid for the total number of enlisted men. It is further announced that all commissioned officers who failed to stand the inspection with the sanitary troops will be required to be present at the coming inspections.

The men of the local commands, as has been stated, have been putting in some very strenuous drills and have practically mastered the recent changes which were made in the manual issued by the United States war department. As the rating of the local companies will be made on their ability to execute these changes, the commanders are all confident that their troops will attain a high standing.

PIVOTAL AREAS ON EACH FRONT

HOSPITAL CORPS TO TRAIN IN PA.

Major Cleminger Has Received Invitation for Encampment in July.

Major Francis J. Cleminger, commander of Field Hospital corps, No. 1 of the North Carolina national guard, has received an official communication from Adjutant General Lawrence W. Young extending to the local corps the privilege of attending the oint camp for field hospital corps and ambulance companies of the national organized militia, which is to be held this summer at Tobyhanna, Pa. The invitation was extended through the adjutant general by direction of Governor Coker Craig who is the commander-in-chief of the militia of the state. The invitation has been extended to all the commanders of the ninth district of the national guard comprising the militias in the states of Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Florida.

In the communication to Major Cleminger, it is stated that the entire equipment of the corps during its attendance at the national camp will be furnished by the regular army and that the full personnel of Field Hospital No. 1, will be included in the maneuvers. The dates for the attendance of the organizations have been left optional with the division commanders and it was decided that the Asheville corps would attend at a 10 days' period during the month of July. The entire expense of the maneuver will be borne by the national government and will not come out of the state funds as is ordinarily the custom in the militia encampments each year.

It will be necessary for each member of the local corps to be in attendance at every drill to be held between the receipt of the invitation and the period chosen for the camp in order for them to qualify for the trip to the national encampment.

The equipment of Field Hospital No. 1 consists of eight transports, 21 hospital tents, together with surgical and hospital paraphernalia amounting to a weight of 30,000 pounds. As the order for the encampment must be none of the equipment need be taken on but will be furnished by the regular army at the place of the camp, it is with great relief that the local commander learned that the vast array of equipment would not have to be transported with the corps.

The last annual inspection of the hospital corps here, which was held March 11, by Major H. A. Page of Atlanta, the regular army officer detailed for the work, showed the condition of the equipment and the efficiency of the members was the best of any similar organization in every sense of the word. Through the efforts of Adjutant General Young, the equipment here is fully as complete as that furnished in the regular army and the funds for the stocking of the local corps has come from the government funds and has not been taken from the state funds which are provided to this end.

The invitation to attend this encampment has also been extended to the ambulance corps at Canton but no information has been given out by the commander there regarding its attendance.

Major Cleminger will be one of the six medical officers of the national guard to attend the service school of the line which is to be held at Fort Leavenworth for 60 days, starting April 1.

EXPRESS COMPANIES WANT REHEARING AS TO RATES

Four Companies Declare Existing Rates Have Been Disastrous.

Washington, March 17.—Representatives of the American, the Adams, the Southern and the Wells Fargo Express companies have asked leave of the interstate commerce commission to file a petition for a rehearing in the express rates case. They declare that the low rates in force, prescribed by the commission have been disastrous.

JOSEPH P. JOHNSTON IS APPOINTED JUDGE

Washington, March 17.—President Wilson today gave a recess appointment to Joseph P. Johnston of Spartanburg, S. C., as federal judge of the western district of South Carolina. The district was created during the closing days of the last congress.

Struggles Around Neuvo Chappelle and St. Elvi in West, Przasnysz and Przemysl in East Important.

RESULTS MAY AFFECT FUTURE ENGAGEMENTS

No Confirmation of the Report That British Cruiser Has Penetrated Narrows of the Dardanelles.

London, March 17.—Neuvo Chappelle and St. Elvi in the west and Przasnysz and Przemysl in the east are pivots in the battle areas in which struggles may mark milestones in the engagements now being fought. The outcome of the fighting around Neuvo Chappelle, from which the British had driven the Germans with a loss of nearly 20,000 men, should prove, in the opinion of British observers, whether the Germans may mass men and retrieve ground lost by the same battering tactics which they used last year. On the other hand if the British can hold the positions won it should go far toward attesting what may be expected in the general advance in the spring.

The outcome of the battles at Przasnysz should demonstrate whether Von Hindenburg has again failed and virtually nullified all his costly efforts to reach Warsaw.

In the south the Austrians are again trying what they have tried many times before—the relief of the besieged fortress of Przemysl, according to dispatches. Petrograd's latest official dispatches claim that the Austrians have not advanced in the Carpathians, that their efforts have definitely fallen short, being checked in the center at Smolnsk, south of Ludowiska. In the meantime the Russians are closing in their lines around Przemysl.

London has received no confirmation of the report that the British cruiser Amethyst had penetrated the narrows of the Dardanelles as far as Nagera, and unless the destruction of the forts has been more rapid than official reports have indicated, such a success is regarded as unlikely.

Niuport Again Bombarded. Paris, March 17.—The enemy has again seriously bombarded Niuport, this time using 16-inch howitzers, says an undated message from the Petit Parisien's war correspondent.

"Thirty shells fell in the town, blowing enormous holes and demolishing several buildings. No one was hurt, however," he continues.

"The Belgian troops are profiting by the slight recession of the water in the district they occupy and have carried two advance positions—first on the Kloosterhoek farm and second a line of trenches on the road from Pervyse to Schoorbeke."

"Warships and monitors vigorously bombarded Westende. The Germans replied feebly but the fire had no effect. Torpedo boat destroyers protected the ships from attacks by submarines."

"The fire against the shore positions was directed by aeroplanes." Fleet Merely Demonstrating. Constantinople, March 17.—Only unimportant operations are being undertaken by the allied fleet operating in the Dardanelles, during the past few days. The activity of the warships is limited to demonstrations, and two new attempts were made by cruisers and destroyers to approach the outer fortifications and to clear the channel of mines. The attempts are reported to have been futile because of the effective fire from the forts.