

# THE HICKORY DEMOCRAT

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## What Other Cities Are Doing Under Commission Form

### Knoxville Saved Nearly \$23,000 During Its First Year.

#### GIVES UNIVERSAL SATISFACTION WHEREVER IT IS TRIED

Ninety Per Cent. of the Citizens of Des Moines, Iowa, Would Vote to Retain the Present Plan-- Kansas Towns All Satisfied With Results Wherever Commission Plan Has Been Adopted

By way of introduction, we want to state that at the beginning of the preparation of the new charter, the Charter Committee opened up a correspondence with the "Short Ballot Organization," and secured from them a "Digest of Short Ballot Charters" that was of great service to them in compiling the charter that our citizens will vote upon on the 17th March. In the following excerpts, where no other credit is given, the extracts are from the "Digest." It may be of interest to our readers to know, too, that President-elect Woodrow Wilson is President of the "Short Ballot Organization," as well as being a member of the Advisory Board

#### PARSONS, KAS.

Before Commission Form, Was Issuing Warrants Which were Stamped "Unpaid for Lack of Funds."

Parsons, Kansas, is a busy railroad center with a population of 12,463. Eighteen months ago it went under the commission form of government. At that time it was issuing warrants which were stamped "unpaid for lack of funds," and the city was bankrupt to all practical purposes. Under the commission, the city now is operating on a cash basis has more than \$40,000 in the treasury, and has liquidated \$12,000 in warrant indebtedness incurred in previous administrations.

Parsons was fortunate in securing a first class mayor. When he stepped into office, bootleggers and jointists were operating flagrantly, with almost no interference from the police. Half a hundred boot leggers and dozens of joints and drug stores were engaged in the unlawful sale of liquor. Now the dives are gone; there are no bars in the rear rooms of drug stores, and a handful of boot leggers skate on thin ice every time they peddle their wares in the back streets and alleys. The mayor is a business man applying business methods to the management of a city's affairs.

#### DES MOINES, IA.

Taxes Reduced and 90 Per Cent of People Wouldn't Change.

Des Moines, Iowa, Oct. 1 1912. Charter Committee.

Hickory, N. C.  
Dear Sirs: I have received your request of Oct. 1 and am forwarding copy of our charter under separate cover.

Des Moines adopted the new plan of city government June 20th, 1907, and the plan became operative April 1, 1908. Since that time our city has made rapid strides.

Responsibility is fixed, every department of the city administration is more efficient, permanent improvements which were thought impossible by old councils have been made, and these things have been accomplished with a tax levy averaging more than two mills less than the average for the last eight years under the old plan.

I believe I am conservative when I say that ninety per cent. of our citizens would vote to retain the commission form of government were the question put to a vote today.

Very truly yours,  
J. R. Hanna, mayor.

#### IOLA, KAS.

Some Figures Showing How this Little City Prospered Under Commission Government.

Iola, Kansas, with 9,032 inhabitants, has met with this experience: For the first time in years the general expenses have been kept within the general revenue. On April 30, 1911, the total balance in all funds was \$66,199.06, showing an increase, after paying off several thousand dollars of floating indebtedness incurred by previous administrations, of \$24,381.19 for the year.

A few items through the departments are enlightening. In 1910, under the old form, the city attorney's "salary and expenses" were \$1,061.68; in 1911, \$734.60. Election expenses drawn from the general fund were \$711.14 in 1910; in 1911, \$263.58. An elastic category of "miscellaneous" in the general fund strank amazingly in 1911 being \$468.47 against \$7,950.60 for the previous year. The salary account for the police patrol dropped in the twelve months from \$4,161.46 to \$2,062.38, and the salary of police judge from \$900 to \$300. Labor in the engineering department cost only \$466.34 in 1911, while in 1910 it was \$1,418.02.

#### KNOXVILLE, TENN.

Saved \$22,908.27 During its First Year Under Commission Form of Government.

From Knoxville, Tenn., Journal and Tribune, Feb. 7, 1913.

Among the many reports which were presented at Thursday's session of the Knoxville commissioners, the most interesting was that of Mr. Sam E. Hill, commissioner of finance, because it concerns the financial condition of the city, and contains suggestions by which Knoxville might save money and become a better governed city. He claimed that through the operation of commission government, in its first year of trial, that the city had been saved the sum \$22,908.27.

The report in its entirety would cover fully a page in this paper. In the beginning, he recites the organization of commission government, and how four commissioners conducted the work that really belonged to five, during nearly all of the entire year just closed. The vacancy in the office of mayor was caused by litigation that was not terminated until November. He mentioned the names of the boards supplanted by the commissioners, told of the great

#### MADERO MURDERED.

Mexican President and Vice President Assassinated.

While being transported in an automobile to prison at midnight Sunday, President Francisco Madero and Vice-president Suarez were killed by their guards. The excuse is that they were attacked by a body of Madero's friends who tried to rescue him, he too trying to break away. The officers of the guards have been arrested. The public believes that the infamous "fugitive law," by which a prisoner is given permission to run and then shot, was invoked in these cases.

Soon afterward, accompanied by her brother, Senora Madero and Mercedes Madero drove to the penitentiary but she was refused permission to see the body of her husband. Senora Suarez also was denied admittance to the mortuary, where physicians, in accordance with the law, were performing an autopsy.

In contrast to the widow, whose grief was of a pitably silent character, expressed in sobs, Mercedes Madero, a beautiful young woman, educated in Paris, who has been a brilliant leader of society since the revolution of 1910, was dry-eyed and tigerish in her emotions. By the side of the two women whose husbands had been killed, the sister hurled accusations at the officers who barred the entrance.

"Cowards!" "Assassins!" she called them, her voice pitched high. The officers stared impassively.

"You! The men who fired on a defenseless man! You and your superior officers are traitors!"

The U. S. government has intervened in the Mexican revolution. Provisional President Huerta was informed that Madero must have a fair trial, but his death came as above stated. Gustavo was allowed to run for his life, and then shot dead by his guards.

It is recalled in some quarters that the action of the Administration in the case of Madero is precisely the reverse of that taken 46 years ago when President Andrew Johnson refused to intervene to prevent the shooting of the unfortunate Emperor Maximilian, who was by a singular coincidence betrayed by the military leader, General Lopez, who was his main reliance. In that case, however, it is pointed out that the Maximilian was in Mexico greatly against the will of the United States and also that he was tried by a legal tribunal in the form of a court martial.

changes made in the system of government, and expressed the hope that the people will be patient and co-operative in awaiting the best results from the new system. He is convinced that the commissioners can do something that will be really worth while. He shows that the tax rate in 1911 was \$1.70 per \$100. The tax rate for 1912 was \$1.60 per \$100. Counting out the tax assessments for special purposes, the rate for general purposes during 1912 was three cents less than in 1911.

#### COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO.

Thirty Per Cent. Gain in Economy Under Commission Form and People Very Well Pleased.

On the whole, Colorado Springs is very well pleased with the first eighteen months of commission government. It has accomplished many things worth while, and it has failed to accomplish other things equally desirable, but it is working steadily toward a higher plane. It is getting results for which it struggled in vain under the old complicated and inefficient system of administration. Figured in dollars and cents the expense of government has been appreciably reduced, for although the amount of money raised by taxation and disbursed is as great as ever, the city is getting greater value for every dollar. The efficiency of the departments has been increased to such an extent that the city clerk, a capable and reliable official, estimates that there has been a thirty per cent. gain in economy. If there is anybody that wants to go back to the old plan of government he has not stood up to be counted.

Eczema spreads rapidly; itching almost drives you mad. For quick relief Doan's Ointment is well recommended. 50c at all stores.

#### COMMENT

##### Why You Should Vote for the Charter, IV.

In preparing the proposed charter for this city, the makers of it consulted a digest of the best and most successful and most satisfactory commission government charters of the country. This charter is the cream of the best there is in modern business management for cities. It would be, in our judgment, like a child refusing to accept a handsome Christmas present; like a prisoner kicking a proffered pardon out of the hands of a governor, for the voters of Hickory to refuse to pass this charter. It would be akin to municipal suicide. To fail to pass it will set Hickory back a decade in municipal progress. That is honestly the opinion of this paper.

The Democrat discovers by a fuller examination that the taxes of the city will not be as high previously been stated under the new charter.

Under our present charter, and the amendments thereto, the Board of Aldermen can levy a tax of \$2.25 on the hundred dollars of property and \$6.75 on the poll. In addition to the poll tax they can levy a \$3.00 street tax. If you will examine the new Charter you will note that the maximum rate is \$1.70 on the hundred dollars and \$5.10 on the poll, and a street tax not to exceed \$2.00. This makes a great difference in favor of the new Charter.

In reference to the license tax, if you will examine the old Charter, Section 2924 of the Revisal of 1905, and the revenue act of the Public Law of 1911, you will find that the present Board of Aldermen can levy any tax that can be levied under the proposed Charter, and that the amounts under each are in nearly every instance the same. At a number of instances you will see that taxes under the new Charter are less than under the old Charter.

The charter will bring the city government down to the average man. It will give the common people the power that really belongs to them--those people of whom Lincoln said that he believed God must love them because he made so many of them; those people to whom Woodrow Wilson referred when he said: "I tell you the men I am interested in are the men who, under the conditions we have had, never had their voices heard, who never got a line in the newspapers, who never got a moment on the platform, who never had access to the ears of Governors or Presidents or of anybody who was responsible for the conduct of public affairs, but who went silently and patiently to their work every day carrying the burden of the world. How are they to be understood by the masters of finance if only the masters of finance are consulted? That is what I mean when I say: 'Bring the Government back to the people.' I do not mean anything demagogic; I do not mean to talk as if we wanted a great mass of men to rush in and destroy something. That is not the idea. I want the people to come in and take possession of their own premises; for I hold that the Government belongs to the people, and they have a right to that intimate access to it which will determine every turn of its policy."

Never a city a city which has once tried this form of government has desired to go back to the old way. The Greensboro News says only this week: "Greensboro has the smile on the other cities. While nearly all of them are discussing charter changes, we are going steadily ahead under our commission government. Wouldn't go back to the old, if we had to."

Above all things, study the charter for yourself. Don't accept as true what John Smith says. Jake Jackson said Peter Johnson told him. It is going over town this week that a Prohibition Recorder could be recalled by a petition of 25 liquor men. That is an error. Only elective officers can be recalled, and the Recorder is appointed by the Board of Aldermen, not elected.

#### Notice.

By order of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Hickory, notice is hereby given; that an election will be held on Monday, March 17th, 1913, at the City Hall in said City, for the purpose of voting upon the adoption or rejection of the proposed Charter, for the City of Hickory, as authorized by the General Assembly of North Carolina, at its 1913 Session.

Notice is further given that J. H. Hatcher, W. J. Shuford and N. S. Dasher, have been appointed as inspectors or judges of said election.

All electors wishing to

## North Carolina Stands Near the Foot of all States for Short School Terms

The Democrat has before pointed out that it does not look good to see North Carolina next only above New Mexico in the States of the Union for length of school term. New Mexico is at the bottom of the list with 90.1 school days in a year. North Carolina has only 93.3 school days in the year.

The following table tells the tale. It will be seen that such states as Rhode Island, Connecticut, Maryland, New York, New Jersey and others have almost twice as long school term as ours. This table, which is reproduced here by courtesy of the Progressive Farmer, explains the need of a six months compulsory school term for North Carolina.

1. Rhode Island--190.7 days.
2. Connecticut--181.2 days.
3. Maryland--179.8 days.
4. New York--178.6 days.
5. California--178.0 days.
6. New Jersey--176.7 days.
7. Wisconsin--173.0 days.
8. Nebraska--170.5 days.
9. Iowa--168.6 days.
10. Washington--164.0 days.
11. South Dakota--163.8 days.
12. Michigan--161.6 days.
13. Massachusetts--160.7 days.
14. Kansas--160.0 days.
15. Utah--157.0 days.
16. Delaware--157.0 days.
17. Ohio--155.0 days.
18. Illinois--154.8 days.
19. New Hampshire--149.7 days.
20. Pennsylvania--149.4 days.
21. Vermont--147.0 days.
22. North Dakota--143.2 days.
23. Maine--142.5 days.
24. Georgia--141.5 days.
25. Montana--138.5 days.
26. Missouri--137.7 days.
27. Wyoming--136.0 days.
28. Minnesota--132.5 days.
29. Nevada--131.8 days.
30. Mississippi--131.0 days.
31. Virginia--130.5 days.
32. Indiana--130.3 days.
33. Oklahoma--128.5 days.
34. West Virginia--127.5 days.
35. Louisiana--124.1 days.
36. Colorado--123.8 days.
37. Tennessee--122.0 days.
38. Texas--119.2 days.
39. Oregon--118.7 days.
40. Idaho--112.5 days.
41. Kentucky--110.6 days.
42. Alabama--108.5 days.
43. Arizona--105.0 days.
44. Florida--100.1 days.
46. Arkansas--98.0 days.
47. South Carolina--94.5 days.
47. North Carolina--93.3 days.
48. New Mexico--90.1 days.

vote for the adoption of said charter will use a printed or written ballot, upon which the following words shall appear, "For Adoption of New Charter For City of Hickory," and all electors wishing to vote against the said proposed charter becoming law, shall vote a printed or written Ballot, upon which shall appear the words, "Against Adoption of New Charter, For City of Hickory."

It was further ordered that the registrar, shall keep open the registration books for at least fourteen (14) days prior to said date of March 17th, 1913, the registration to be had as law directs.

J. A. LENTZ,  
Mayor of the City of Hickory,  
G. R. WOOTTEN,  
Acting Secretary and Treasurer.  
A. A. WHITENER,  
City Attorney.

#### HIDES.

Prices paid at the Hickory Tannery:  
Green Hides 10c per pound.  
Partly cured hides 11c. " "  
Green Salted Hides 12c. " "  
Dry Flint Hides 13c. " "  
Dry Salted Hides 17c. " "  
Tallow 6c. " "  
Rye Straw 50c per 100 lb  
Baled and delivered.

#### A Knock-Out.

Dr. King's New Medicine for colds, Cold Breaker, is now getting in some fine work. It is speedy, safe and sure. The price is only 25c. Convenient package. Find it at all medicine dealers.

#### Catawba Items.

Miss Johnnie Lowrance is visiting her sister Mrs. Will Paisley in Greensboro. She will also visit in Richmond, Va. before returning home.

Miss Maude Smith is visiting her sister Mrs. Joe Price in Lenoir.

Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Perry spent Sunday in Newton the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Socke Kale.

Mr. George Lowrance of Beaufort, Miss. is visiting Mrs. Lowrance at Mr. J. R. Cline's.

Death entered the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. U. Kale Friday night and claimed for its victim Clyde their fourteen year old son. He had been ill for several weeks but his condition had not been considered serious until about a week ago. The funeral was conducted at the Methodist church Saturday afternoon by Rev. B. Wilson. The choir sang Clyde's favorite song "Sweet Hour of Prayer". Six of his school mates, Dan Sherrill, Frank Abernethy, Schley Wilson, Tom Gilleland, Charlie and Grady Moore, acted as pall bearers and Chomner Leonard carried the flowers. He is survived by his parents, three sisters, three brothers, and a large number of friends.

#### Did Johnson Leave a Quorum?

Charlotte Observer.  
One thing Archibald Johnson left us in doubt about. Waving the sheep to his right and the goats to his left, did he leave sheep enough to make a quorum

#### Seaboard Air Line Railway.

Schedule Effective Jan. 1, 1912

Leave Lenoir, N. C.  
East Bound  
Train No. 46, 8:52 a. m., daily  
" 132, 5:58 p. m., "  
West Bound  
Train No. 133, 11:20 a. m., daily  
" 47, 5:55 p. m., "  
For further information apply  
JAS. KER, JR., H. B. LEARD,  
T. P. A., D. P. A.  
Charlotte, N. C. Raleigh

#### MAYOR GIBBS OF COLUMBIA

Drops a Few Gems of Thought on Municipal Government that is Applicable Just Now.

After all, I believe that the picturesque law-breaker is a more important figure than the colorless and passive peon of submissive righteousness who imagines that his chief sphere of usefulness is at his money making desk, and who quakes lest political activity shall destroy his profits, while the civic good is trampled in the dust.

As for me, I place no value upon the office of Mayor as a personal perquisite, and, having tasted the honor, I say solemnly to the people that if they will conscript another to take up the fight for them at the end of this term I shall gladly retire to work a while for myself.

Let us arouse ourselves and get a man who will always be on guard to resist the attacks of the enemies of the public good, as well as the insidious approaches of friends who would use influence for favor.