

WHAT SOME CITIZENS SAY

EX-MAYOR GRISWOLD.

I favor the proposed charter.

1. Because nearly three-fourths of it is made as the present charter.
2. Because every voter will have an opportunity of vote in a legalized primary, a right which has never before been given to all the voters. Previous primaries have been a farce.
3. Because there will always be experienced men on the board.
4. Because there are about eighty or ninety employees in the service of the city, without any one-head to superintend their work, under the present plan.
5. Because each ward will be represented.
6. Because the mayor will be given a vote on all questions.
7. Because five men can better handle the business of the city instead of twelve.
8. BECAUSE I DO NOT THINK WE SHOULD VOTE STREET BONDS UNTIL WE HAVE SOME EXPERIENCED MAN TO PROPERLY SUPERINTEND THE WORK AND PERMANENCY OF PAVEMENT.
9. Because the aldermen will not be able to borrow a large amount of money for purposes not allowed by law.
10. Because common sense suggests that aldermen meeting only two nights a month can't properly superintend and manage the affairs of a \$22,000,000 corporation, without a business-head.

W. J. GRISWOLD.

EX-ALDERMAN JORDAN.

Relative to the new charter question now before the people of Durham for ratification, please permit me to give my humble opinion briefly, as I see it.

My experience as alderman for this city a number of years, and by close observation for a longer time, I have become fully convinced that our present aldermanic government is a failure, in so far as getting practical results is concerned.

I have given considerable study to the subject of municipal affairs for many years in this city, as well as in three other cities in which I have lived, and have long since come to the conclusion that no adequate business system can be evolved under the old plan of running the affairs of this city, nor do I believe that any corporation or business firm could long survive if run as our city affairs have been run.

I have no criticism to make of any aldermanic board, or rather of the city. Every incoming board has been run about like the one that preceded it, and if the present system is continued those to serve in the future will be like those which have preceded it.

We cannot do worse than we have done, so why not try something else? If the new charter is not exactly like each one would like to have, let's all vote for it, and then change it from time to time as conditions may require until we get it perfect.

This is strictly a business proposition, and should be so treated.

Respectfully,

C. A. JORDAN.

PRESIDENT MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION.

Recently I have given the new charter that was drawn by fifteen of our best citizens much consideration. I am convinced in every particular that it is the best government that our people can possibly adopt.

L. B. MARKHAM.

PATTERSON BROS. CO.

The new charter has my approval and will, with the proper man to manage affairs, no doubt result in great good to our city.

W. H. MUSE.

EX-ALDERMAN FULLER.

I believe that the new charter proposed for the city would give us prompt service in the administration of affairs, and would be more efficient and economical in its workings than the one under which we are now operating.

T. B. FULLER.

A. E. LLOYD.

I have given the new charter and the management of city government very careful and earnest thought. From my point of view, it will give us a more economic city administration, and more permanent improvements. I heartily endorse the movement, and will use my influence to help carry it.

A. E. LLOYD.

EX-ALDERMAN HILL.

As an alderman of this city, I am strongly in favor of the new charter. No set of men can handle the city's business successfully by giving five hours a month to same. Durham needs a man on his job all the time.

I. F. HILL.

ALDERMAN CRANFORD.

It strikes me that the two best features of the new charter are the increase in the length of term for aldermen and the plan for a city manager. To see the advantages of this first provision is very easy. In the past,

most of the members of the new boards have been entirely without experience, and, as a rule, the term of service is far spent before a new board can possibly get the business in hand so as to act even with a small degree of intelligence.

But when it comes to the execution of the real work of the city, the plan of having a city manager seems to me the chief merit of the new charter.

At present most matters of improvement are brought up and urged by citizens, so that the hands of the board are usually full and overflow of petty matters brought up by some citizens a little more anxious or insistent on having his special interest looked after, while a hundred others a little more modest or considerate of others' interests never present their cases, for sheer lack of time or opportunity. The only way to dispose of most of these matters is, either to grant them all on the one-sided representation of the personally interested parties, and this would soon come to naught for ten times as many requests would be formally granted as could possibly be executed, or these requests must be referred to appropriate committees for investigation and report. This means delay and then some more delay. To get three men from widely different occupations, and from widely separate parts of the city together with a little leisure at the same time and to get them all on the scene of the matter to be investigated is no small job. The almost invariable result is a great accumulation of such small matters and the continuing from meeting to meeting of such special committees, until the matter dies of slow starvation or a new board comes in and clears the calendar, and begins building a new one for the next board to clear in the same way.

The great weakness of the present plan is its scattered authority and its scattered responsibility. Besides, committees and boards are necessarily slow and cumbersome. They are intended to check and delay. But it seems to me we need rather less than more delay just now in our city's work.

Many a progressive, public spirited citizen has been induced to become an alderman, neither for the money nor for the honor, but with the genuine and sincere hope of doing something for the good of the town. But, as a rule, such have soon seen the hopelessness of the task and have been not only willing but anxious to retire.

I sincerely believe the plan of having a city manager will go a long way toward removing much of this delay and inefficiency.

This new charter creates no new powers, but it simply collects and concentrates a good many that lie scattered and diffused, makes them capable of being applied so they can be made to do actual work.

Our great rivers that run down from the mountains to the sea have recently acquired no new powers; but skilled engineers have recently caught and concentrated powers formerly scattered and wasted and have made them applicable and workable in distant cities.

But we are told that the concentration of power in the hands of one man is a dangerous thing; and so it is. Any concentration of power so as to put it in efficient shape is always a dangerous thing. Any force so concentrated that it can do valuable work can also be applied so as to do damage. So long as we keep forces so scattered that they can do no harm, just so long are they so scattered that they can do little good.

Of course, a bad manager would be a bad thing—a mighty bad thing, if we had one and had to keep him very long. But with five good men to select him and to watch him and to dismiss him when he becomes bad, and with a good sized bond to protect the city against his badness, he ought to be at his worst a very short-lived danger.

But for the same reason that a bad manager would be a mighty bad thing, so a good manager would be a very powerful and therefore a mighty good thing. But, whereas, a bad manager would be a thing of "but few days and full of trouble," a good manager should be of long duration and "a joy forever." True, under the present plan, a bad alderman is not very dangerous just as a good one is largely worthless because both are equally helpless.

But in every other line of business, the factory, the store, the bank as well as in most public institutions, men are putting their power and their money under general managers, and thus making it possible to achieve results with this money and this power that would be impossible so long as these forces are kept scattered. Incidentally they are making it easier for this power to be abused and this money to be stolen. But in everything else we guard against what dangers we can, and for the rest, we take the risk; and while here and there we lose a little, as a rule the work is well done and we win. So in this plan of city government we can have

a minimum risk to run against a maximum of opportunity for success.

W. I. CRANFORD.

A FIRST VOTER.

It gives me the greatest pleasure to be able to cast my first vote for the managerial form of city government. It strikes me that every young man in Durham should take off his coat and go to work in behalf of the new city charter. In years to come the management of the city's affairs will be on our shoulders, and it is to our advantage to have the best form of city government. Let all the first voters rally to the support of this good cause.

A. H. CARR.

EX-ALDERMAN RAWLS.

I have served the city as an alderman—two years. I am thoroughly convinced, from experience, that the adoption of the proposed charter will give the city a more economical administration, and greater results to the benefit of the citizens.

Q. E. RAWLS.

EX-ALDERMAN GORMAN.

As a former alderman, and being somewhat familiar with the present management of the city's affairs, I most heartily endorse the proposed new charter.

THOMAS M. GORMAN.

ATTORNEY GUTHRIE.

I have read the proposed charter. I think it a model document. It has my hearty support, and I think our people should adopt it by a unanimous vote.

W. B. GUTHRIE.

DR. MANNING.

The trend of public thought in municipal government at this time is towards the employment of better business methods, in promoting the material growth of the city, and in distributing her revenues, and more equitably her revenues. In my judgment these ideas can be more successfully applied by adopting the proposed charter than by continuing the present obsolete plan of city government. We need a more compact and a more responsible board of aldermen, and under the advice and control of this board a capable business manager, whose entire time and thought should be given to the best interest of the city, and who should be responsible to this board for his acts of either commission or omission.

J. M. MANNING.

FORMER RECORDER.

We ought not to object to the proposed new city charter simply because it is new, as Durham itself is rather a new community; our splendid office and bank buildings are new; the Presbyterian structure is going to be new and modern; many of our most substantial citizens are new in the community, and even the sacred book says, "old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

The voters of Durham ought to adopt the proposed new charter, because we need some improvement in our city government, and this plan has given the greatest satisfaction in many other communities. Let the city itself at least keep up with the progressive men and women who are furnishing the money, the faith and the grit to make these splendid investments and who are trying to make Durham a better place for business, for health and happiness.

The new charter will, I verily believe, be the greatest factor in accomplishing these things.

R. H. SYKES.

EX-ALDERMAN SEEMAN.

The new proposed charter of the city of Durham, authorized to be drawn by a special committee appointed by a mass meeting of the citizens of Durham, whose report was later endorsed by said mass meeting, will, to my mind, in the event of its passage by popular vote on March 16, prove one of the most progressive steps yet taken by our citizenship for Durham's advancement and progress.

H. E. SEEMAN.

BANK CASHIER.

I favor the adoption of the new city charter, because it promises to give to Durham a compact and modern form of city government with a responsible head. At the same time final authority always rests in the people. It will be up to the voters to select five good men. These men should be capable of selecting a competent manager, and this manager should and will be, a man trained to handle city affairs in the interest of the whole community.

S. W. MINOR.

EX-ALDERMAN BROOKS.

I have been asked to state my reasons for favoring the new charter and especially that feature of it which provides for a city manager. The present board of aldermen has been as progressive and business-like as it is possible for men to be whose regular business is not that of looking after the affairs of the town. The members meet regularly twice a month. When

they assemble the clerk usually has in readiness a batch of petitions of such importance as to take up the entire evening. In addition, citizens of the town, who have any interest at stake, appear to present their claims, and the discussion of these personal claims runs the meeting far past midnight, unless some alderman who is already tired from his private labors, moves to adjourn. What is unfinished may be hastily referred to the next monthly meeting, or a special meeting may be set to act on unfinished business.

In this way the affairs of a rapidly growing town that has already reached the city stage are being conducted. The greater part of the work of the board of aldermen is occupied in considering measures that have been brought before them by citizens who are interested. However, the great mass of people whose interest is even greater than the few, but who never appear at court, are little considered. The mayor's nominal salary is insufficient to claim his entire time. Therefore, his real business is practicing law. The members of the board of aldermen each receive less than \$10 a month, and certainly no member, unless he is very wealthy, can afford to neglect his business to study the needs of the town and plan for the town's welfare. Consequently, it is no one's real business, and public interests suffer.

I am in favor of the city manager plan because it will become the business of some one, an expert, to study the town's needs, and work at the business from day to day, and certainly it is a strong man's job. A good parallel could be found in the management of the public schools of the town. Suppose there were no head to the system save the board of trustees; and suppose once a month they held a meeting for the purpose of considering the interests of the school, and suppose this were all the executive work that was done for the benefit of the schools, it is not difficult to see that inequalities might arise, useless expenditures of funds might result from ignorance of the real needs of the school, and inefficient teachers might be employed. The board alone is not the best judge of the qualifications of a teacher. It meets monthly to consider the needs of the school, but the real executive work is placed in the hands of one competent man, and he is made responsible for the success of the school. The board, however, is the legislative body that passes on his recommendations and serves as a check to autocratic rule, and in this way a great school system is wisely conducted.

Similar results may be obtained in the city government. A wise executive, by making a study of the needs of a town and spending the town's money where the needs are greatest, could so direct the business affairs as to unify all the departments of town government, give a cleaner, a more attractive town, and a more efficient government. By constant watchfulness, he could protect the streets, and in this way save his salary many times over, just as the city superintendent does today by watching school property and having necessary repairs made at the time. He could study the markets and buy labor and supplies and material. In fact, if a smaller business organization thinks it pays to place a general superintendent over the business in order to economize the funds and secure the best results, certainly a much larger organization would profit from the selection of a competent man to superintend the business of a town.

E. C. BROOKS.

EX-ALDERMAN MOREHEAD.

The day of the specialist, the expert and system has come, and the old slipshod, jack-of-all-trades method has passed. From my experience as an alderman, I am convinced that the only method of properly conducting a city's affairs is through a trained expert, who would introduce business methods. The present method through lack of system and through incompetency from lack of knowledge, results in delays, unnecessary expenses, and errors in judgment, and should be abandoned.

J. L. MOREHEAD.

MERCHANT.

In regard to the new plan of carrying on the affairs of the city, I will say that I am very much in favor of the city manager plan. It seems to me to be the proper way to operate the business of this large corporation.

R. L. BALDWIN.

GENERAL CARR.

I commend most heartily the very comprehensive statement of the new city charter matter in the Sun yesterday afternoon by Mr. J. A. Giles. I am thoroughly in sympathy with the proposition that we adopt the proposed new charter. I am free to confess that it does not quite embrace my views, but I yield to the very capable and patriotic and intelligent committee, who, looking at the question from all sides, submitted their report which I think Durham should make a great

mistake not to adopt.

I witnessed the laying of the foundation stones of the town of Durham, and I am very jealous of her welfare, and therefore if I have any friends in the community who would be guided by my advice, I bespeak their loyal support of the new charter. In my judgment, the city would make a great mistake in failing to adopt it. No one would be guilty of charging any intentional wrongdoing in any way on the part of the board of aldermen, but no one can deny that the old system is wastefully extravagant. I was for several terms a member of the board of aldermen myself, and I am thoroughly familiar with the workings of the board, and I don't hesitate to say that I will rejoice to see the day when we can substitute the managerial form of government for the present system.

As to who will be the city manager, let us cross that bridge when we come to it. Let us first adopt the new charter, and then I am satisfied that the community, in its wisdom and good judgment, will select the proper persons for aldermen, and that they in turn will select the proper person for city manager.

I hope the agitation of the question will not cause too much friction, and that the good people of our city will handle the situation without giving offense to each other. Let us have a business form of government, eliminating all politics. I believe the future welfare of our city demands it.

JULIAN S. CARR.

REV. LEYBURN.

When I was placed on the charter committee I was not in favor of the city manager plan, but I was determined to give the whole matter a thorough study. After going into the different plans of city government, as thoroughly as possible, I was convinced that the city manager plan is by far the most business-like of them all, and, therefore, I am very heartily in favor of this plan for Durham.

REV. E. R. LEYBURN.

T. B. TALLY.

I am in favor of the proposed charter because I believe it offers the best method of applying economy and efficiency to the business of the city's affairs.

T. B. TALLY.

CAPTAIN PARRISH.

To have others think well of our city we must think well of it ourselves. We have many live, progressive men, and what Durham needs is to get all her men together with a common object of building up the city.

The new charter submitted for our approval is the result of the work and wisdom of a committee by a mass meeting of our progressive citizens of every class. It was afterwards approved by a second mass meeting. The charter was prepared without reward or hope of reward, looking only to what was thought would work for the best interest of our city. It may not be perfect, but it is the very best the committee could do, and I believe if the voters will approve of it it will rebound to the highest and best interest of our city. If it should be found not to meet our expectation, we can amend it, or even get a new charter at the next legislature. I am interested in the general prosperity of the city. I want to see the voters of Durham get together and vote unanimously for the charter submitted, believing it best for our interest. I want to see Durham lead the progressive cities of the state, and we have to do something more than we are now doing to do this. Let's adopt the charter and see what the result will be.

E. J. PARRISH.

EX-ALDERMAN WILY.

I am heartily in favor of the new city charter, which is to be voted on by our citizens on March 16. It is a great opportunity for an advanced movement in the conduct of municipal affairs.

JOHN F. WILY.

INSURANCE MAN.

The movement for a managerial form of government appeals strongly to me, because I am anxious to see Durham in the forefront of progress in this as in all other respects. Confident the representative men who have formulated the proposed charter have done their work well, and from motives purely patriotic, I will cheerfully vote for its adoption.

J. H. SOUTHGATE.

EX-ALDERMAN HILL.

I strongly favor the proposed new charter for the city of Durham. It is a plain, simple plan for putting affairs of the city upon a more business-like basis. I was a member of the committee that drafted the charter, and I am thoroughly familiar with its provisions. In my opinion it contains

no radical features, and nothing that will invite serious attack. Durham should become a real, up-to-date city, and I confidently believe its rapid development and extensive up-building are results that we may expect in the near future, provided, we get on the job, and have the proper legal machinery for directing our affairs.

Of course we always have good citizens who are "stand-patters" in everything. They have opposed good schools and good streets, and everything else about the city that required any serious expenditure of money and I expect these "stand-patters" to oppose the new charter, but generally speaking I am inclined of the opinion that the great bulk of our progressive citizens thoroughly understand the need of more business-like methods in conducting the great business of running our city, and will join with us in carrying the election. I will gladly join with other citizens in carrying on an active campaign in favor of the new charter until the day of election.

JOHN SPRUNT HILL.

Ex-alderman and Former Chairman of Street Committee.

TOBACCO MAN.

No more important measure has ever been submitted to the voters of Durham than the proposed new charter. A committee of earnest and patriotic citizens, as a labor of love, and looking only to the good of all, has drafted this instrument. They sought to get the views of every citizen that had any opinion to offer, and the charter which they submit should receive our hearty endorsement. This plan of government proposed by the new charter has been tried and found to work. All of us realize the weakness and inadequacy of the aldermanic system. Its faults do not lay so much in the men selected as aldermen as in the system itself. The foremost objection to the present plan is its lack of business methods and division of authority. The new charter proposes to place the management of the city's affairs on some such business basis as that upon which a great factory or railroad is operated. One man will give his entire time, thought and efforts to the work of the city. The board of aldermen remain as the law-making body and as a court of appeal from the actions of the city manager. As far as it has been disclosed, no city or town that has adopted this plan of city government has ever returned to the old system. This seems to me convincing proof that it is better and comes nearer being the ideal form of municipal government. Let us adopt the charter submitted and put Durham in the list of progressive cities not afraid of a new idea when its benefits are so apparent.

W. P. HENRY.

AN OLD RESIDENT.

On the 16th of this month there will be held the most important election in Durham, I think, that has ever held in the city. It is admitted by nearly all of our citizens that the present form of city government is a huge failure. The evidence of this is all around us. What have we got to show where the millions of dollars the people have paid in taxes during the past history of our town. We have a fine school system which we are proud of, nothing else.

We must have a change in our system of government if we keep up with the progress of other cities. No one claims that the people have received more than fifty cents on the dollar for taxes paid. No graft by anybody. No system of business is the trouble and system is as necessary in city government as any other business. This we will never have under our present plan.

The new charter after being carefully considered by a large committee of our best citizens was unanimously adopted by a large mass meeting of our citizens. Many of our largest taxpayers, many of our most successful men today are asking the people to vote for the new charter. If we can't afford to follow such men as these who are paying most of the taxes and who have always been in the front ranks when the interest of our city is at stake, who can we follow? Let's lay aside all the little objections that are being raised and vote unanimously for the new charter. During the next five years there will be spent more than two million dollars for taxes and bond issues. Can we afford to spend this amount of money as we have been doing? No! Then let us adopt the new charter.

A. K. UMSTEAD.