

## DAILY DEMOCRAT

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## WHY THE CARNIVAL?

Several times each season, this city as well as every community, is burdened and bothered by visits from so called carnival companies, usually consisting of a lot of "fake" gambling devices, painted ladies and bun shows. They injure a community and so far as we can see, do not even provide decent entertainment. We don't believe in being too serious; neither do we believe in catering to those things which unquestionably give the wrong ideas to the boys and girls. These "fakes" take up the streets, are a nuisance to business and to those who reside near the scene of their "lay out" and often the attaches parade up and down the streets, using vile language and otherwise making people wonder why they are permitted to run at large.

A number of cities are starting a campaign now to prevent their reappearance and in this connection the Anderson Herald says:

"We approve the action of the women of Anderson who are connected with the various clubs in moving early in the effort to prevent the recurrence of the annual carnival nuisance."

"The Woman's Council, which is the general clearing house of local club activities, will be asked to consider the protest of the women of the city against the street carnival at its meeting Friday afternoon.

"The indignation caused by the outrageous occupation of the streets of the city by a carnival last summer still exists and the women of the city are determined to protest the recurrence of such disgraceful and insidious exhibitions."

"The women are now in possession of the full powers of citizenship and they should be able to make their protest effective. There is a certain militant air about Anderson women in connection with their views of civic affairs that we heartily approve. We believe they will exhibit more courage than men when it comes to dealing with various matters pertaining to local affairs."

"The carnival season is approaching and the women of the city are moving at the proper time to prevent annoyance from such questionable amusements as the average carnival presents."

The farmers of the country are Monday night.

getting much the greatest loss in the reorganization of business now being conducted by the big business men of the country. They raised their crops on the high market and are now selling, if they can sell at all, at a great loss. The trouble is that the future doesn't look very bright for with land that cost from \$200 to \$300 per acre, it's hard to figure how the farmer will get pay for his labor. About the only bright spot is that few of them will have to pay income tax this year, but they will sure have to make up for it on state levies.

The poultry and pigeon show which closes here today is one of the best ever held in this section, according to those able to judge. One man who recently attended the greatest show in the world of this kind held in Madison Square Garden, New York City, told us that the show held here compared favorably with that one, except as to size. The quality of poultry exhibited here and the program was high class and the men who devoted their time and ability to this event, deserve due praise and congratulations.

Another week in which you can renew your paper if you are in the first fifty mile zone and get the Daily Democrat by mail, for \$3.50, about a penny a day. We want to help you every way we can and we will be glad to have your advice. We are for the farmer, the laboring man, the merchant, the manufacturer and every one else and we believe the results will be better for every one.

Senator J. Ham Lewis, wittiest toastmaster in the United States, will be the headliner at the Democratic Editorial Association's annual banquet to be held at the Claypool hotel next Tuesday night. There are a number of other speakers, men and women and the event will be a delightful and interesting one.

The mother of a fourteen year old boy at Bluffton has written Mrs. Earley, community secretary, asking them to "please let her boy have to tobacco as he has used it since he was four years old and stopping it will effect his heart." The mother evidently needs some attention from the board as well as the boy.

The Decatur Industrial association will meet Monday night. You are invited and urged to attend. This is an association to help this county and city and the laboring men, farmers, every citizen should help make it a success. There are many ways we can help but we won't get far if we don't try. Come to the library

on the first floor of the library.

The farmers of the country are Monday night.

## TREND OF LEGISLATION

By George W. Stout, Indiana State Chamber of Commerce.

(By George W. Stout, Indiana State Chamber of Commerce).

Indianapolis, Feb. 5. — (Special to the Decatur Daily Democrat) — (Special to the Decatur Daily Democrat) —

comparatively early in the session; with the earnest support of influential elements and demands from many cities, and with the momentum gained two years ago in an educational and legislative way, the option bill for commission form or the commission manager plan for Indiana cities apparently is well on the way to enactment.

Any possible opposition is pretty effectually forestalled by the fact that the law proposed merely gives the city a chance to vote on the question whether it wishes to change from existing form of government to the commission or commission-manager method of handling local affairs.

It is a home rule bill appealing strongly to the sense of fairness of the citizenship. No change is to be made in city government until, under this law the people themselves have voted in favor of such a change.

If the people say "no" there will be no change in any city.

At the same time, as the friends of the measure point out, it does give the people of each city covered by the bill a fair opportunity to say whether or not they will try the plan which is known to be working well in more than 125 American cities.

Where there may be dissatisfaction with the existing system this law will give the citizenship a means for voicing their aspiration and asserting themselves in an effective manner.

Under the bill now pending, House

bill No. 164 introduced by Mr. Knapp of Wayne county, cities adopting either plan of local government proposed would elect a commission from the city at large, the number of members to be five. On the ballots there will be no party emblems or designations to indicate the party politics of aspirants.

Here is a plan to get away from the locality narrowness and selfish trading back and forth of the system of ward representation in city councils. Each commissioner, voted upon by citizens in all sections, would stand for the city as a whole rather than for a ward, and would be responsible to all the city instead of being beholden to an assertive and insistent ward or neighborhood.

Here also is a method of getting away from partisan politics in city elections. The basic principles upon which political parties divide and align themselves are national in their essentials and have to do with the large policies, international, national and state, touching not at all upon the things that directly and vitally affect the city and its well-being. So it is planned to do away with party emblems in city elections and to seek the selection of members of the proposed city commission on the issue of fitness, capacity and potential service without regard to the stand of the individual aspirant on the league of nations, on the tariff or on irrigation of arid government lands.

The bill puts all manner of safeguards for fairness about the election of the commissioners. It provides for an October election, with members of the commission elected by majority vote. A plurality is not sufficient to put the aspirant over for a seat on the city commission.

Where in the October test candidates in sufficient number to fill the entire commission do not get a majority vote, a November election is to be held to fill the remaining places. Those elected by majority vote in October are "all set." Those voted for in October who receive the next highest vote after those elected will have their names placed on the November ballot to a number double the number of places yet to be filled at the November election.

It is understood the Indiana law is not to carry the recall feature.

There seems to be a feeling that by making the law optional and by omitting the recall the measure is strengthened for enactment with the probability that it may gain support in quarters otherwise more or less indifferent.

The law would provide for the filling of vacancies, other than those due to the recall by the remaining members of the commission, the person selected to serve only until the next election. Methods are provided for making the terms of commissioners of various lengths.

The commission would name one of its members to serve as mayor, act as chairman and to perform duties fixed by law and by the commission. The commission would choose a city clerk. Meetings of the commission must be held every week.

The commission would appoint a city judge and a city attorney.

In cities of the first class they would receive \$5,000 a year, giving bond each for \$10,000. Salaries of commissioners would be graded

to \$3,000 annually in cities of the second class, \$2,000 in cities of the third; \$1,500 in cities of the fourth class and \$1,000 in cities of the fifth class. Under the commission plan the mayor would get an amount equal to 20 percent of the commissioner's pay in addition to that salary. In all cases the commissioner would give a bond of \$5,000 except in Indianapolis where the bond would be double that sum.

The commission plan assigns different lines of responsibility and work to the several commissioners. The executive departments thus apportioned would be: Public safety, finance, public utilities, public works and parks. The commission would have the power not only to assign its members to this or that department, but to change the assignments for the good of the service. The mayor, however, would be director of the department of public safety. No other executive department could be created under the law as planned. Five secretaries may be named and assigned one each to the heads of the various executive departments.

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