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—and Sun-Telegram

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W. H. Morgan, Secretary.

## INDIANAPOLIS, TOO.

The Palladium announced some little time ago its policy in regard to the commission form of government. The Indianapolis Star of yesterday carried an editorial article which we herewith reproduce. We are particularly glad to see a coincidence of opinion on this matter.

"A recent article in these columns on the subject of departyizing municipal elections seems to have attracted considerable attention. Among independent papers especially the desire to see mayors chosen somehow by citizens and not by national party organizations meets with earnest response.

"The answer some papers in the West and Southwest made to The Star's argument is that under the commission plan of city government this nonpartisan arrangement is secured. This end is achieved by having candidates for the five commissioners named by nonpartisan petitions without any reference or mention whatever of their national politics.

"Perhaps this is an important reason why the commission plan is growing in favor. Originally starting at Galveston as an outgrowth of the emergency incident to the great flood, the example has spread, first to Iowa, then to Kansas. From the Kansas City Star, itself an able champion of the movement as well as of all efforts toward municipal independence, we learn that Coffeyville has just voted to adopt the commission plan. It goes on to say:

"Leavenworth, the first city in Kansas to adopt the new rule, is now in good company indeed. Wichita, Kansas City, Kas.; Independence, Hutchinson, Anthony and Coffeyville have already adopted the 'Leavenworth plan.' Elections have been called, also, in Topeka and Parsons, and Ottawa is preparing to vote upon the new rule before the time for electing the new government in 1910.

The Star would like to see this commission plan tried in Indianapolis. Where it has been put to the test it appears to supersede the scramble of ambitious politicians for office with a circumspect casting about on the part of the citizens for five able men to handle the city's affairs, exactly as the stockholders of a corporation select a board of directors. The arrangement really amounts to the choice by the municipal corporation's stockholders of a board of directors to run the corporation's business. Incidentally much good is accomplished by lopping off a good many elective offices that now encumber the ballots, confuse the voters and perpetuate party machines in power.

The commission plan has been tried long enough now to be out of the realm of experiment. In actual practice it produces a situation in which five able business men are selected, without reference to national politics, to manage the city's affairs. No city that we know of, once having tried the plan, has abandoned it; but many, observing its workings in neighboring places, have adopted it. Surely there is no place more fitted by prevalence of independent municipal sentiment to take hold of a plan like this and bring it to pass. If our civic organizations will press the matter upon the next legislature there need be little doubt that the commission system would be given us in time for use at the expiration of the mayor's term for which Mr. Shank or Mr. Gauss is about to be elected."

## Items Gathered in From Far and Near

## Marvelous!

From the Boston Transcript.—The world moves rapidly in these times, and within a few days has passed quite a series of records and caught up with a number of novelties. Orville Wright made the highest airplane flight, 765 feet; a White Star liner, steaming sixteen knots an hour, stopped, backed and rescued in twenty minutes a seaman who had fallen overboard in mid-ocean; on a bare plot of ground in St. Louis a one-thousand-three-hundred-dollar cottage was "completed" in eight and a half hours, sixty-one mechanics being employed; the first aerial Masonic lodge" was formed in a Massachusetts balloon floating at an elevation of some 7,000 feet; a New York coroner's physician

## COMMISSION GOVERNMENT FOR RICHMOND.

Editors' Note.—This is the first of a series of editorial articles on the commission form of city government. The Palladium has at hand a considerable amount of data on this subject. Tomorrow it will publish an analysis of the charter of the city of Des Moines.

"Till now we have assured ourselves: A city is a business corporation—and run it with a legislature."

Commission government is at the same time the oldest and the newest thing in municipal government in this country. On the one hand you have the selected men of the old New England towns and the ratification of their acts in town meetings; on the other you see Des Moines with the commission form of city government with the checks of initiative, referendum, and recall in operation to guard the almost supreme power which has been delegated to the five men who manage the city's affairs.

Five men about a table—each the manager of a department, a president and four others—they make the whole government of this new form of municipal management. The whole government? No. The people are the real government. That is where the initiative, the referendum and the recall come in.

For if the managers of the city affairs refuse to pass any matter which the citizens desire, a petition of a certain percent of the voters forces them to take action.

No franchise grant may be made without a vote of approval of the citizens.

Even an ordinance may be protested by a certain percent of the voters. If it is protested it must receive its ratification from the citizens before it becomes effective.

But the greatest thing which has to do with this new form of government is that any or all city officials may be recalled from office as it shall appear that they are incompetent or have turned against the interests of the people in any way which makes them unsatisfactory.

Thus with the initiative and the referendum and the recall the details are left to the five commissioners who do their work without red tape and freed from the inertia of the usual city government. The people know exactly who is responsible. There is no hiding of one behind another. If this is attempted it is easy enough to recall the whole lot of them.

And they know it.

It therefore is possible even with incompetent and dishonest men in office to have good city government—for it is only when the people are callous to their rights and interests that there can be any corruption and mismanagement.

The fear of the recall makes men do the bidding of their constituents.

The referendum prevents commissioners from working hardships on the town and granting away valuable franchises.

The initiative makes possible anything which the commissioners may not desire to do.

There is no other plan which simplifies the actual working of the government and grants to the city officials so much power while they are in sympathy with the wishes of the people, and takes all that power back when the city officials have turned their ears to others than the people.

This is the best cure for graft, corruption, franchise stealing, incompetency, and mismanagement that has yet been found.

Furthermore the commission plan we have outlined does away with the present party system. It says to the people: "Here is your chance to elect men because they will do the work well and not because they wear a party collar." The day has passed when a man's views on the tariff should make him eligible for the city building. But there will always be party government until some other form of city government than our present one is adopted. For it is impossible to get men to step over their party allegiance to any great extent except on the most extraordinary occasions. For this reason, in this plan, there is no such thing as party. Even the primary has no such thing as party. There is no party emblem on any ticket. What you vote for is the man.

Hence it is that there is more likelihood of getting men in office for their own fitness and qualifications.

And when it is remembered that in addition to this the features of initiative, referendum, and recall are added it will be seen that unless the whole people of any town are corrupted there will be good government in that town.

It is for this reason that the Palladium is in favor of the commission form of government with the addition of the recall, the referendum and the initiative for Richmond. It has worked well in numerous places. Notably in Des Moines and Galveston. We believe that if all the citizens of Richmond, with the aid of the newspapers, the commercial organizations, the business and professional men will take this matter up they will in the end secure the best form of city government for Richmond. This will stamp Richmond as the most progressive city in the state. The co-operation of the commercial clubs all over the state may be necessary and will be desirable. In this way a general law may soon be passed in the state legislature permitting those cities desiring this form of government to obtain it.

performed an autopsy upon an armless man whose kidneys had been practically non-existent from birth, and whose heart had for fifteen years been eaten by a cancer, yet who died of old age; New Jersey farmers experienced chicken thief who travels in an automobile and sends a collie dog to rob the roosters and fetch out the poultry without killing it; also in New Jersey, four trees yielded eight bushels of plums. Does the reader protest that these occurrences have no natural sequence or normal relation? Let him remember that "it takes all kinds of people"—and events "to make a world."

A Vacation's Advantages. From the Detroit News.—One of the benefits accruing from a vacation trip is a renewed relish for home.

Has Helped Some. From the Chicago Tribune.—Perhaps it is Dr. Cook's mission in life to make Brooklyn famous.

Children Demand Proof. From the Brooklyn Standard-Union.—The children, of course, will demand from any claimant an authentic interview with Santa Claus.

Cook is a Democrat. From the Houston Post.—The indications now are that Texas will give Dr. Cook's side of the controversy \$78,000 majority.

"Tain' much use o' arguin'," said Uncle Ebene. "If you's talkin' to a man dat has mo' sense dan you has, de bes' thing you kin do is to keep quiet an' listen. An' if you's talkin' to one dat ain' got as much sense as you has, you's wastin' yore time tryin' to pass around amachure education."

## ARE BURNING OIL; WHIP COAL TRUST

## Kansas Farmers Find an Escape From the Executions of Miners.

## NEW FUEL IN FACTORIES

## GREAT ECONOMY IN OPERATION HAS BEEN REPORTED AS A RESULT OF THE CHANGE—OIL RATES ARE LOW.

Topeka, Kans., Sept. 25.—Kansas farmers are using the Standard oil to hammer the coal operators. They are installing oil stoves for cooking purposes and hundreds of them are even putting in oil furnaces for heating purposes.

Notwithstanding that Kansas has some of the largest coal mines in the central west in its eastern border countries and the Colorado mines are only a short distance from its western boundary, the price of coal is regarded as excessive, especially in central and western Kansas. From Hutchinson and Salina west the people pay as much for soft lump coal as eastern people pay for anthracite.

Two years ago suit was brought before the interstate commerce commission to reduce coal rates, and after a hearing a 50 cent per ton reduction was ordered on Colorado coal. The railroads put in the rate, but the state railroad board says it has information from the western farmers that the coal companies have now lifted the price of coal to 50 cents a ton, which simply absorbs the amount the freight rate was reduced. It also contends that the coal mines are owned by the railroads although operated by independent companies and it is investigating the matter with a view of laying the facts before the interstate commerce commission.

## Oil Company Well Satisfied.

In the meantime the farmers are switching from coal to oil for fuel. This is satisfactory to the oil trust. Kansas has extremely low freight rates on oil, both crude and refined. They were fixed by a legislative enactment some years ago, when the agitation against the oil trust was at its height and when the railroads were believed to be in cahoots with the trust. The rates bring little profit, but the roads never have taken them into the courts.

Since the advent of the automobile, and of gasoline street lighting lamps, the oil trust has had trouble supplying the demand for gasoline. At the same time the kerosene had been piling up at its western refineries until it hadn't any more space to store it in. What to do with kerosene had become a problem, with the trust. It had evolved all sorts of schemes, patent lamps, patent stoves and patent everything else, that would tend to increase the consumption of oil.

It had hammered long and hard to sell its oil. And it was meeting with only indifferent success until the coal operators lifted their prices, especially in the western half of Kansas. That solved the question in a large measure. The farmers began to buy oil stoves and ranges and the coal business was dull.

## Crude Oil Largely Used.

"The crude oil trade is developing even faster than the refined oil," said State Oil Inspector Joseph Longshore today. "The farmers are using oil burners in their homes, which consume refined oil, but the manufacturers are using crude oil in their factories. One factory alone, the Garden City sugar mill, reports that it is making a net saving of \$250 a day during its campaign by using crude oil as a fuel instead of coal.

The big flour mills are installing crude oil burners. With the new avenues for trade opening up the oil trust should soon be able to get rid of its surplus products stored in the oil fields of Kansas and Oklahoma, and when this happens, oil operators ought to receive an advance for their output."

## throat

When fortune, always fickle, has been more than ever rude, And the study of your wardrobe brings dismay, As you take an inventory and reluctantly conclude You must wear your Sunday clothes for every day.

Oh, the tatter past all trimming and the shine that won't come off And the break that now defies the needle's art

Confront you with a picture that's pathetically grim:

A picture of old friends compelled to part.

The tailor, as you seek his shop and carelessly walk through, Has nothing that's encouraging to say.

And you know that he is thinking of that little balance due— You must wear your Sunday clothes for every day.

This gala raiment, once the garb of laughter and of song, Becomes a mournful uniform at last.

Oh, better far were sackcloth and the penitential thong Than this mockery so sleek of pleasure past.

Ah, what will be the next relief when this has had its prime, And seam by seam it finally gives way?

You know that fate's toboggan has you scheduled for a climb When you wear your Sunday clothes for every day.

A Crisis in Affairs. There's a time of subtle sorrow for the ordinary man That the poets somehow never paused to note.

A mist of melancholy gathers o'er this earthly plan

And the shadow of a sob is in your

## FORUM OF THE PEOPLE

Articles Contributed for This Column Must Not Be in Excess of 400 Words. The Identity of All Contributors Must Be Known to the Editor. Articles Will Be Printed in the Order Received.

The following article concerning the late Rev. Dr. Wakefield was printed in a San Jose, Calif., exchange:

Dr. J. B. Wakefield, rector emeritus of Trinity church, passed peacefully to his eternal reward yesterday, after an illness which has extended more or less continuously over a period of three years. This announcement will bring to hundreds of people in this community, and in other parts of the county, where Dr. Wakefield labored lovingly and faithfully to those entrusted to his care, a sense of deep personal loss.

The deceased was the active rector of Trinity church for fifteen years, beginning in 1884. Since his relinquishment of the rectorship he has been held in highest esteem as rector emeritus, and while he has not, a great deal of time, been able to enter very actively into the work of the parish, his earnest life has been an inspiration and his efforts have always been on the side of what was inspiring and uplifting and helpful.

Dr. J. B. Wakefield was born at Greenmount Place, the home of his parents, in the suburbs of Boston, Ireland, December 7, 1823. His parents were persons of culture and wealth; his mother greatly interested in philanthropic works.

## His Education.

At the age of 9 Mr. Wakefield was sent to school in England where he continued his studies until at the age of 17, as a result of overwork, his health broke down. The three succeeding years Mr. Wakefield and his mother, his father having died when he was an infant, spent in travel on the Continent.

In 1849 and after the death of Mr. Wakefield's mother, he came to America, journeying by stage and canal boat to Cincinnati, O. While he became intimate with a most godly man, the Rev. George Fliske, through whose influence he entered the ministry and in 1855 was ordained priest. His first parish was St. Paul's Richmond, Ind., of which he was rector until 1884, a total of 20 years.

Upon his resignation from St. Paul's he became rector of Trinity church, this city, and continued so until failing health decided him to give up active duty. So on September 1, 1888, he resigned the rectorship and soon thereafter the vestry of Trinity church conferred on him the honorary title, rector emeritus of Trinity church, San Jose.

For several years after giving up active work Dr. Wakefield and his daughter, Miss Wakefield and one son, George F., who was recently married in the East to the daughter of an old friend of the family.

The tale of Dr. Wakefield's ministry in this city is a story of progress in the church, of a faithful and earnest ministry, and of the attainment of a secure place in the love and esteem not only of his parish but of all the people in this city who came in contact with him.

During his rectorship important improvements were made in the church building itself and the furnishings of it. The somewhat barren interior was fitted with most of the present beautiful habiliments of the Empire.

## Vested Choir Organized.

It was during his rectorship also that the vested choir was organized. This has come to be a most important part of the beautiful service of Trinity church. A debt of \$4,000 was paid during this period.

One of the most helpful workers in all departments of the church during the incumbency of Dr. Wakefield was his wife, Mrs. Isabella Wakefield. She was especially felt as a helpful influence in the teaching of the bible and in the work among the young people and the women of the church. Mrs. Wakefield preceded her husband to the grave.

## HELP TO BUSINESS

New York, Sept.