

to-day have been compiled by Richard S. Childs, who is the Secretary of what is known as the National Short Ballot Organization in the United States. The Commission in Galveston was able to make decisions and get things accomplished in half the time it took the old board of aldermen to get a resolution referred to a committee. The commission planned and built a sea wall to protect the city against future floods, raised the ground level of a large part of the town, got the city government running again at one-third annual cost, made a number of important improvements and at the same time reduced the debt and the tax rate. After two years, during which the politicians were finding precious little to do, the commission was made entirely elective by popular vote, much to the dismay of many good persons in the town, who feared that the politicians would elect old-style officials and restore the old-time inefficiency and boss rule. Their fears, however, proved groundless, for the people proceeded to elect the same commission and have continued to do so at every election since. Except by death there have been only two changes in the personnel of the commission since the beginning. Galveston claims to be the best governed city in the United States.

In Houston the commission plan was in effect in January, 1906. The credit of the city, which had been worth about 80 cents on the dollar, was restored to par. The tax rate has been reduced from \$2.00 to \$1.70, while assessments are said to be proportionately lower. The old debt of \$400,000 was quickly wiped out. In five years, seventy miles of streets have been repaved, the cost being defrayed out of general revenue. A great auditorium and its site have been paid for from the same source. Schools have been redeemed from politics. Gambling and illicit liquor selling have been stopped. The price of gas has been forced down from \$1.50 to \$1.15 per thousand.

Des Moines, Iowa: The commission plan was in effect in 1907. In its first year the commission saved \$184,000 in running expenses, as compared with the previous year under the old government. It made better bargains for the city in electric