

"There were about 150 applications, and, as a matter of fact, they did appoint a young engineer from one of the neighbouring States.

"These are the three types of Commission Government; the Galveston idea, the Des Moines plan and the City Manager or Lockport plan.

"In 1908 there were 12 commission governed cities in the United States. At the end of August, 1913, the latest date for which I have a report, there were 290. Among these the largest city of New Orleans with a population of 399,075. There were two cities with over 200,000, such as Jersey City, 20 cities with 100,000, like Oakland, California, besides a good many smaller cities, and the number is growing so rapidly that there may be several more by this time.

"3rd class cities of the State of Pennsylvania were compelled to adopt commission government, with others. Dayton had exactly the same experience with their civic government as they had in Galveston. In August last they voted for the City Manager plan.

"In these cities the details differ considerably. For instance, in the name given to the governing body; sometimes it is a commission, sometimes the mayor and council, sometimes a president-mayor and board. Then there is a difference in the number of commissioners, which varies from three until in one city they have ten. Then, the manner in which they are elected varies; whether they are elected at once, or retire in rotation. The salaries also are different, but where they differ in details the central principle underlying all is exactly the same. That is, a small governing body, the centre of power, etc. This body is elected by the city at large, and there are certain checks provided by which the people can control.

"We might read some of the reports of these cities. The majority have adopted the commission plan so recently that the reports are not of very great value, but we will look at some of the older cities like Galveston, Des Moines and others to see what has been accomplished. The reports I am reading