

and the committee was fortunate in having as one of its number, the City Recorder, Col. J. B. M. Baxter, M.P.P., who rendered valuable assistance in preparing the bill, and piloting it through the Legislature. It was passed with slight amendments on March 22, 1912.

The first election was held; the primary or nominating election on April 9th, 1912, and the final election on April 23rd. There was no lack of candidates for commissionerships. Several of the aldermen among others being quite willing to serve the city in a new capacity. Different opinions were expressed as to whether the Citizens' Committee, which had promoted the movement, should, or should not, nominate a ticket for the new council. The consensus of opinion, however, seemed to be that it was incumbent upon them to do so, and they finally selected candidates. Although the committee's candidates were all good men, the city has perhaps suffered no loss in the fact that they were not all elected, for the citizens' ticket did not include anyone who had had previous experience at the Council Board.

THE new council is composed of men above the average under the old system. The Mayor, Dr. J. H. Frink, who declined a nomination by the Citizens' Committee, but was elected independently, is a retired veterinary surgeon, in the prime of life, and brings to the aid of the new commissioners a mature knowledge of civic affairs, derived from several years' previous experience as mayor and alderman. He is also Commissioner of Finance and Public Affairs.

Commissioner R. W. Wigmore is also an ex-alderman, formerly chairman of the Water and Sewage Board, and now commissioner for the same department.

H. R. McLellan, a man of affairs, interested in various business enterprises, headed the poll, and accepted as his own choice the Commissionership of Public Safety, having charge of the Police and Fire Departments.

H. B. Schofield, a prominent business man, and an ex-president of the Board of Trade, who always took an active interest in public affairs, was a Citizens' Committee candidate, and became Commissioner of Harbour and Ferries and Public Lands.

M. E. Agar, the other Citizens' Committee candidate, a wholesale merchant dealing in carriage makers' supplies, was also prominent in business and political circles. He has now become a very efficient Commissioner of Public Works.

They meet every Monday as City Council, to receive and pass upon the reports of the commissioner for each department, and transact general business. These meetings are open to the public. On each of the other five days of the week they meet nominally as boards of the different departments—boards of the different departments—one day as Board of Works, the next as Board of Safety, and so on. But, while the business of each department thus has precedence on a certain day, this does not prevent the business of any other department receiving attention, and, as a matter of fact, there is usually an informal discussion of civic affairs in general at the daily meetings between 12 and 1 o'clock.

Thus the business of the city receives daily attention. Whatever may arise from day to day does not have to wait for the next monthly meeting, and be referred from Board to Council, and Council to Board, with endless delays, as formerly, but, is promptly attended to.

The commissioners, moreover, find business enough in plenty to occupy their whole time, besides keeping the permanent officials more actively employed than they were ever before. In fact, it is no uncommon thing to hold an evening meeting of the Council, to discuss some special matter, or dispose of some business, for which time could not be spared during the day.

So far there has been little or no adverse criticism, partly due, no doubt, to the fact that even opponents, since the new system has been adopted, are willing to give it a fair trial. But, apart from this, there is a prevalent impression that the city's business is being attended to as never before; and, whatever the ultimate results may be, there is undoubtedly at the present time a general feeling of satisfaction throughout the community, with city government by elective commission.



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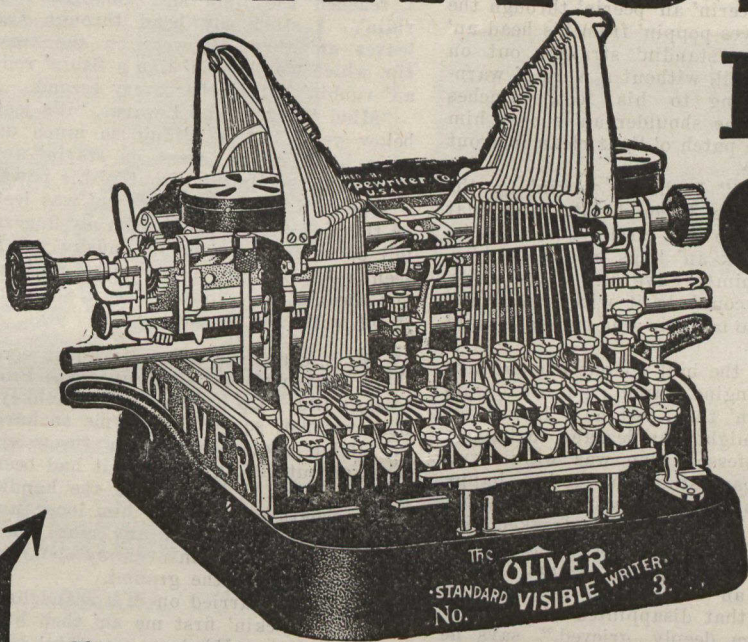
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