

powers. They were able to bring about new laws and regulations by a majority vote, to appoint officials and dismiss them, to state the qualifications and salaries of the city officials and employees, and finally they were to grant all the franchises. The only check that the charter provided, by which the people could control this Commission, was publicity. That, too, is familiar to us. All the meetings of the Commission were to be open to the public and the press. The minutes of the meetings were to be available to the ratepayers at any time, whenever they wished to see them. In addition to that, however, later there grew what was known as the Citizens' League, which noticed in what way the Commissioners performed their duties, and if they merited it saw, when the time came for re-election, that they were elected again. They took upon themselves all the difficulty of looking after the commission literature, and so on. The Commissioners had very great success. They did great things during the two years, so much so that at the end of that time it became the permanent form of government in Galveston.

Then Houston, not very far from Galveston, noticing the wonderful strides that Galveston had made, decided they would adopt this form, which they did in 1905, with a difference in some of the details. The Mayor had the right of veto as well as of vote, and in the checks there was not only publicity, but a referendum for appointments and the granting of franchises.

In 1907 the city of Des Moines in Iowa found the condition of their civic government such that something had to be done. They had watched the above two cities with great interest, and adopted the commission form of government, adding further checks which are known as the initiative, referendum, recall and non-partisan primary. The initiative provides that on presenting a petition to the council, signed by a certain number of people, demanding a certain law, if the commission refuse the matter should be settled by popular vote. The referendum provides that an ordinance can be held up by a protest signed by a certain number of citizens, and must be rescinded by the