

excellent public record, but who had been dismissed in another town for political reasons.

“Chattanooga, Tenn. Plan in effect May 8, 1911. Population 44,000. On August 7, 1911, the mayor wrote: ‘The financial credit of the city is already evidenced by the fact that our bonds are selling at a better premium. All useless offices have been abolished, partisan politics have been removed, a Civil Service Board has been elected and principles of non-partisan administration of city affairs have been applied in each department. Already the appearance of the streets has been improved, the necessity of enforcement of law is recognized and the general tone of the community has been lifted. There is not only marked efficiency in public service, but a marked interest in such service at the hands of the taxpayer.’

“Birmingham, Alabama. Plan in effect April, 1911. In the first month under the new plan the city borrowed \$500,000 at the lowest rate in its history. The commission cut down the annual running expenses by \$75,000 in the first week.

“Judging from these reports, and a great many others, you will see that the first advantage noticed was that of a better financial condition in the city. The civic credit seems to be better. Then the city's revenue is nearly always increased owing to the fact that back taxes are collected and the tax collection is more rigidly enforced. There seems to be a better enforcement of law, politics seems to be eliminated, and in addition to that there seems to be a better civic spirit developing among the citizens.

“But, of course, there are two sides to every shield, and there are objections raised to this form of government, the chief of which is that it is an untried system. Well, the first Commission Government was appointed in 1903, so that is a very legitimate objection. Then they say the checks provided are not reliable. For instance, by the initiative a commission or council may be compelled to pass a bad law, and by the referendum they may be compelled to repeal a good law, and by the recall they may recall a good commissioner as well as a bad commis-