

JOURNEW CHARTER

Shall We Have Commission Form of Government, or Not? Voters Please Read The Following

Birmingham, Oct. 16, 1917.

To the Editor:

The meetings called to consider Birmingham's proposed charter have not been largely attended, and we ask some of your valuable space for a short review of this matter which is of great importance to this community. Although the charter has been published in full, many voters will neglect to read so lengthy an instrument, and we feel that its most essential features should be well understood by our citizens.

The charter provides for the election of a President and two Commissioners, these three forming the Village Commission, which becomes the governing body of the village. In place of the Board of Trustees or Common Council. The members of the Commission will receive as full compensation—five dollars each for each regular meeting actually attended. Two regular meetings are required to be held each month on the first and third Monday evenings. The President's term is one year, and each Commissioner will serve for two years. The first election will be held on the second Monday in March, 1918. Annually thereafter a President and one Commissioner will be elected. A Village Clerk will also be elected annually, his salary to be \$1,000 per annum. The Clerk is not a member of the Commission, but is required to attend its meetings and to keep the village records—including a full set of books kept under a modern legal system.

The Treasurer, Assessor, Health Officer, and other necessary and usual officials will be appointed by the commission, and will perform the duties usual to their respective offices as at present. Interest on tax money deposited in banks shall belong to the village.

A new official will be the Village Manager, "to be selected solely because of fitness to perform the duties of his office, and to hold office at the will of the Commission. Under the direction and management of the Commission, he shall be the chief administrative officer of the village government." His salary will be fixed by the Commission. The result of this innovation will be that village work and improvements will be done under the supervision of one competent man who must devote all his time to his duties and will be held responsible for his acts. Of course he will have all necessary assistance through other employees, but they will be subject to his control. This radical change is designed to produce a more systematic way of handling the many departments of public work, and to bring about public improvements in closer relation and with greater economy.

The charter necessarily contains many other provisions, some old some new, but all based upon the laws of Michigan as found in the general laws relating to villages, or as contained in charters of other Michigan villages already in force. Among new features are the initiative, referendum, and the recall, providing respectively that the voters themselves may propose new laws for adoption by their vote, may require popular vote on measures proposed by the Commission, and may for cause recall and remove the very officials they have elected. Provisions sought for public utility projects must be submitted to popular vote. And the charter can be easily and speedily amended by the people at any time.

Much time has been spent in compiling the charter for submission to the voters. It has been submitted to and approved by the Attorney General and the Governor. Probably it has faults, for a perfect charter has never yet been produced, but as we know, it has expected criticism, which is the privilege of every citizen, and since publication of the charter have been ready to explain any features not readily understood or interpreted. Some information has lately been made that Birmingham may lose its Public Library through adoption of the charter, because no provision is made for election of trustees of a library. If such a claim had any foundation, it would be a serious matter, for the Public Library is an institution dear to the hearts of the people here. Whatever the terms and conditions on which the library property, land and building, were originally turned over to the village, the same have been met through resolutions or ordinances made by the Village Board, which will not be disturbed by the charter. Section 22, Chapter XXVII, provides that "the ordinances of the village, and the rules, regulations of the Village Board heretofore in force, and not inconsistent with this Charter or with the laws of the State of Michigan, shall remain in force after the adoption of this Charter, and are hereby declared to be re-enacted by virtue of and under the powers conferred by this Charter, until altered, amended or repealed by the Commission." Furthermore, in Chapter XXII, Section 11, paragraph 8, the Charter gives the Commission power to establish and maintain a public library. It should therefore be plain to any fair-minded person that the Birmingham Public Library will not be in any way prejudiced by the Charter, but is actually recognized and protected by it. And it may be presumed that the Commission hereafter will be as attentive to the library as our Village Board has been in the past.

We believe this charter will be found to be entirely workable for Birmingham, and we predict that it tried out earnestly and intelligently, it will give

the people more and better improvements for the taxes paid. We ask the fair attention of the voters, so that, on election day, Thursday, October 25, a large vote will be polled on the question of its adoption. We recommend its adoption, but having performed our duty as Charter Commissioners in framing the charter, we realize it is for the people to decide. In reply to our enquiry on the subject, the Attorney General advises us that women may not vote on this question.

If the charter is adopted, it will take effect February 15, next, and in the meantime the present village officials will remain in office until their successors shall be elected under the charter on the spring election in March, next.

D. M. JOHNSON,
WILEY BELL,
C. J. SHAIN,
T. L. LUBCOMB,
Charter Commissioners.

CHORAL SOCIETY

For Birmingham and Royal Oak Under the Leadership of Miss Clara E. Starr.

The first meeting of the Inter-Community Choral Society will be held on Thursday evening, October 25, in the Auditorium of the Royal Oak High School at 7:30 o'clock. The object of this organization is to bring together all those people of the communities of Royal Oak and Birmingham and environs who enjoy choral singing. A series of concerts will be given in both communities and work will be begun immediately upon Handel's "Messiah" which will be given at Christmas time.

This is to be an open community in the broadest sense, in that all of the musical organizations of the two communities are co-operating in the work of assembling the voices to make up the big chorus. The leaders of the choirs of the various churches, the teachers of music in the schools and the musicians of both towns are giving their active support and encouragement to this movement.

The chorus will be under the direction of Miss Clara Ellen Starr, head of the music department of the Northwestern High School, Detroit. Miss Starr has conducted similar organizations in this community. Many will remember the choral concert given in the past, which included such works as Haydn's "Creation," Beethoven's "Hymn," Brahms' "Fair Elfen," and the light operas, "The Pirates of Penzance" and "The Chimes of Normandy."

A full and varied program of choral work is outlined for the coming season, and a series of interesting concerts will be given. It is very important that all interested in this movement be present at the first meeting for enrollment as it may be necessary to establish a waiting list for some of the four parts, in order to have a well balanced ensemble. Everyone is urged to enroll on Thursday evening, October 25, and bring with you your musical friends.

The spread of the community chorus in the last few years has been very rapid in the United States. One of the great directors of such a chorus in Philadelphia has said, "There is joy, an inspiration and a spiritual uplift in chorus singing that nothing else can give. There is no doubt that the opportunity to sing afforded by the many community choruses will alleviate to a wonderful degree the mental and nervous tension of the people in these terrible times of war and distress. Music is an indispensable force in the development of that ideal democracy toward which our great leaders are ever pointing." Do your bit by adding your voice to the chorus, that it may present all the more creditably the masterpieces of music literature.

Cut This Out—It Is Worth Money.

Don't miss this. Cut out this slip, insert 5 cents to Foley & Co., 2835 Sheffield Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. Writing your name and address on the slip. You will receive in return a trial package containing Foley's Honey and Tar Compound, for coughs, colds and croup; Foley Kidney Pills, and Foley Cathartic Tablets. Sold everywhere.—Adv.

"Bounty Jumpers."

The term "bounty jumper" was applied to a class of mercenary and worthless fellows during the Civil war who enlisted to get the bounty offered for recruits and then deserted and enlisted again for another bounty.

Practice prevailed even during the revolutionary war, and at one time it was so prevalent that Washington issued an order against those who practiced it. They were warned by Washington that "whoever is convicted thereof and sentenced to die may consider his execution certain and inevitable." During the Civil war they were shot without mercy.

At the beginning music was very simple, the Greek music being but the melodic accompaniment to the recitation of poetry.

The oldest artesian well in Europe is found at Eilers, France. From its mouth water has flowed uninterruptedly for over 750 years.

A pinch of sugar dropped into the tea when it is set to steep will cause the leaves to open in about half the time usually required for steeping.

Why is bacon an economical food? Because it is very easily assimilated and is all food value. Then the drippings make splendid shortening.

Being a good fellow downtown is all right enough in its way, but save a little of your good nature for use when you get home.—Detroit Free Press.

Fried hominy is very nice around a dish of fried chicken or roast gammon, and instead of slicing it may be cut into fancy shapes with a cookie cutter.

The Chalybees of the Pontus were celebrated as workers in iron. The produce of their labor is alluded to in Jeremiah ix, 12, as being of superior quality.

ORDER FOR PUBLICATION—Appointment of Administrator.

State of Michigan. The Probate Court for the County of Oakland. At a session of said Court held at the City of Detroit, this 15th day of October, 1917. In and to all whom these presents shall come, I, the said Judge of Probate, do hereby certify that the following is a true and correct copy of the order of said Court, as the same is entered on the minutes of said Court, and is hereby published for the information of all concerned.

It is ordered, that the 27th day of October, A. D. 1917, at 10:30 o'clock in the forenoon, at the Probate office, be and is hereby appointed for hearing and decision, the determination of the bequest of said deceased, the distribution of the assets of said estate, and the discharge of said administrator.

It is further ordered that public notice of this order, for three consecutive weeks previous to said day of hearing, in the Birmingham News, a newspaper printed and circulated in said county, be and is hereby published for the information of all concerned.

Attest my hand and the seal of said Court, this 15th day of October, A. D. 1917.

CLARA E. STARR, Judge of Probate.

JOHN A. FARRINGTON, Register of Probate.

ORDER FOR PUBLICATION—General.

State of Michigan. The Probate Court for the County of Oakland. At a session of said Court held at the City of Detroit, this 15th day of October, 1917. In and to all whom these presents shall come, I, the said Judge of Probate, do hereby certify that the following is a true and correct copy of the order of said Court, as the same is entered on the minutes of said Court, and is hereby published for the information of all concerned.

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CLARA E. STARR, Judge of Probate.

JOHN A. FARRINGTON, Register of Probate.

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Buys Her Meat at

Our Cash Market

A. R. WALTERS

110 South Woodward

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PREPARE FOR ONE IN A PROSPEROUS DETROIT BY ATTENDING AN ACCREDITED SCHOOL—THE

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SEND FOR FREE BULLETIN. 41-423 EAST 10th WEST GRAND RIVER AVE.

Grinnell Bros. Annual Sale Brings the Brightness of Music to Thousands of Homes



Never Easier to Make the Cheer and Enjoyment of Music a Part of Your Home Life Than Right Now

HUNDREDS OF HOMES HAVE ALREADY BEEN GLADDENED THROUGH OUR MAMMOTH

14th Annual Summer Resort Piano Sale

So great are its advantages as to surely deserve the earnest consideration of every careful buyer. The instruments are going fast! Note those mentioned and you'll surely realize that you've no time to lose. Our floors must be completely cleared of the rental, exchanged, sample and showpiano Pianos and Player-Pianos in the very shortest possible time to allow for the proper display and handling of our vast stock of new instruments ordered for Fall and early Winter business—hundreds of which have already arrived.

Never before in our history was there so great a stock on our floors. Extreme measures are necessary. We've made prices that set a new mark in saving and values.

On the Rental Instruments We Deduct Every Dollar We Have Received—and More in Many Cases.

Half, and Less Than 'Half Original Price, Buys a Good Exchanged Piano or Player-Piano.

If you've some particular make of Piano in mind you'll undoubtedly find it here. Those mentioned are but a suggestion of the assortment—and if you have set some definite price as the amount you want to pay, you'll find an instrument at that price.

\$350 STUYVESANT	Full Size, Fumed Oak, Modern, 7 1/3 Octaves	\$131
\$550 STEINWAY	Full Size, Fumed Oak, Modern, 7 1/3 Octaves	\$350
\$400 STERLING	Full Size, Fumed Oak, Modern, 7 1/3 Octaves	\$272
\$500 SOHMER	Full Size, Fumed Oak, Modern, 7 1/3 Octaves	\$198
\$400 VOSE	Full Size, 7 1/3 Octaves	\$222
\$400 H. F. MILLER	Full Size, Rosewood, Modern, 7 1/3 Octaves	\$165
\$350 EVERETT	Full Size, Rosewood, Modern, 7 1/3 Octaves	\$188
\$300 GERHARD	Full Size, Mahogany, Modern, 7 1/3 Octaves	\$177
\$350 BEHR BROS.	Full Size, Mahogany, Modern, 7 1/3 Octaves	\$150
\$250 SIMPSON	Full Size, Mahogany, Modern, 7 1/3 Octaves	\$83
\$400 GRINNELL BROS.	Full Size, Mahogany, Modern, 7 1/3 Octaves	\$298
\$550 KNABE	Full Size, Mahogany, Modern, 7 1/3 Octaves	\$242
\$350 WESER	Full Size, Mahogany, Modern, 7 1/3 Octaves	\$188
\$300 LUTTINGTON	Full Size, Mahogany, Modern, 7 1/3 Octaves	\$222
\$350 WEGMAN	Full Size, Mahogany, Modern, 7 1/3 Octaves	\$212
\$300 BENNETT	Full Size, Mahogany, Modern, 7 1/3 Octaves	\$148

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Our Free Exchange Trial protects you in fullest possible measure. You take no chances here! Show in the splendid savings of this greatest sale—Prompt Action is Necessary! Brighten YOUR home with a Piano or Player-Piano before another day has passed!

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