

REPORT MADE ON DES MOINES PLAN

Committee of Salt Lakers Sent
To Investigate Submits
Its Findings.

NEW FORM OF GOVERNMENT

Men Are Named to Draft Bill to Be
Presented at the Coming
Legislature.

The matter of getting rid of political
rings in the city government of Salt
Lake has now advanced from the point
of studying plans adopted by other
cities to the point of appointing a com-
mittee to draw up a bill to be presented
to the Utah legislature.

At a meeting of the Civic League in
the rooms of the Y. M. C. A. last night
the report of the committee sent to
Des Moines on a trip of inspection
was read. In a discussion of over an
hour's length following the reading of
this report it was decided to name a
committee to prepare a bill for the legis-
lature, on which the commission
system can be authorized for cities at
least of the first class.

This legislative committee consists of
Benjamin K. Smith, James Ingelbrecht,
Carl A. Badger, M. H. Walker, Oscar
L. Cox, William R. Wallace, Frank B.
Stephens, and W. H. King.

The committee of Salt Lakers who
went to Des Moines was composed of
Benjamin K. Smith, Carl A. Badger and
William R. Wallace. In its report it
advocates a city government for Salt
Lake by commission, its governing
body to be composed of five commis-
sioners with salary of \$3,000 each; all
franchise to be approved by the peo-
ple, the initiative, referendum and re-
call to be provided for, and the city
judges still to be elected by the people
as at present.

The report of the committee is as
follows:

TEXT OF REPORT.

Mr. President and Members of Civil
Improvement League of Salt Lake
City: Your committee reached Des
Moines on Friday, noon, Dec. 18, 1907,
and spent three and one-half days
there. We found a city government
that the following statistics are here
given so that comparison can readily
be made between Des Moines and Salt
Lake City as to population and other
conditions.

City's city directory estimates the
population at 19,715.

Assessed valuation, \$74,000,000.

Taxes about the same as Salt Lake
City.

Insurance banks: deposits, \$34,000,000.

Insurance payroll, \$300,000 per month.

Coal mine payroll, \$245,000 per month.

Railroad payroll, \$750,000 per month.

Forty-five home insurance companies.

Thirteen colleges and technical
schools.

Fifty-three school buildings.

The public service corporations, in-
cluding the water system, are all owned
and operated by the city.

Street cleaning, \$100,000.

One hundred twenty-three miles of
paving.

One hundred eighteen miles of water
main.

One hundred thirty-four miles of gas
main.

FORMER CONDITIONS.

Your committee made careful inquiry
concerning the former government
under the old regime. We were in-
formed that 20 years ago Des Moines
was in debt to the legal limit. Since
that time she has lived within her in-
come, reduced her bonded debt by \$200,000
and spent about \$2,000,000 in perma-
nent improvements. The city hall is a
very untidy building of little value,
but Des Moines has, on the other hand,
splendid library building erected by
the city, well equipped, costing about
\$100,000.

The city was formerly governed by a
mayor and nine councilmen, one from
each of seven wards and two at large.
Councilmen were paid \$250 per year
each. The usual undesirable conditions
under the ward system prevailed, and
the city business was characterized by
considerable waste and extravagance;
the streets were unclean and the side-
walks in a bad condition. As respon-
sibility was divided among so many, no
one could be held to account. It is
testimony of all with whom we
talked that city work was poorly done.
We, however, learned of no serious
scandal during this period of the city's
history.

The city is divided by the Des
Moines river, the state capitol and
some other public buildings are upon
the east side, but about 80 per cent of
the business and wealth is upon the
west side. There was, and by some
is claimed there still is, a little rivalry
between the two sides of the river
and a tendency on the part of the east
side to vote together.

CAMPAIGN FOR ADOPTION OF
PLAN.

A knowledge of the great benefit re-
sulting to the city of Galveston by reason
of the adoption of the commission
system led some public spirited citi-
zens of Des Moines to visit Galveston
and make a report upon the system
there. Upon their return meetings
were held and committees appointed
and a campaign inaugurated for the
adoption of a commission plan in Des
Moines.

As in Utah, the first legislature to
which the plan was presented refused
to pass the bill. The Des Moines com-
mittee which drafted the bill that finally
passed took the best features from
several different plans of municipal
government. The system of five com-
missioners was taken from Galveston,
the initiative, referendum and recall
from Los Angeles, the civil service sys-
tem from Iowa. A primary election
law had been in force in Iowa for sev-
eral years.

The citizens of Des Moines had al-
ready for 10 years had an opportunity
to elect a city government, but the
management of the public, corporate
and charitable institutions of the state,
if institutions having been for that
period of time under a board of control,
have full charge of these local voters.
Under the Iowa law the local voters
of the city determine by a majority
vote whether or not they will put the
commission plan into operation.

A business men's committee, consist-
ing of 200 leading business and profes-
sional men, conducted a campaign of
education for the adoption of the plan
about \$100,000 for that purpose.

The plan was supported by three of
the four daily papers, the minutes
most of the lawyers and nine-tenths
of the business men.

The plan was opposed by the local
political machines, the Unionists,
the Des Moines Tribune, and by the
established evening daily.

The issue was debated thoroughly in
public meetings and in the newspapers
and was approved by a very large ma-
jority of the voters cast.

The political editor of the Register

and Leader kindly furnished your com-
mittee with a scrap book containing a
very complete set of clippings of news-
paper articles and arguments for and
against the plan. This book we were
permitted to bring home with us and it
is at the disposal of the league until
we are required to return it.

ELECTION.

When the election of mayor and com-
missioners took place, the citizens' com-
mittee attempted to secure the nomi-
nation of a ticket selected by them-
selves. It is generally conceded that
this was done in a very impolitic
manner; but four of the citizens ticket
succeeded in nomination and all failed
of election. There was great inter-
est taken in the nomination of
mayor and commissioners, there being
14 candidates for commissioners and
17 for mayor presented by petition at
the primary election. The citizens' ticket
was unfortunate in having as its
candidate for mayor a man who had
incurred the hostility of the labor or-
gans, and the chairman of the citi-
zens' committee was a business man
who had fought the unions and insti-
tuted an open shop. There was a feel-
ing generally that the wealthy men of
the town were trying to force a ticket,
and the people revolted and elected
their own candidates by a large majority.

It was conceded by those repre-
senting the successful ticket that had
the citizens ticket been nominated
with more discretion and some recog-
nition been given to the other ele-
ments that it would likely have carried.

The ticket as elected was composed
of the following: Mathias, an elderly gen-
tleman, formerly police judge; MacVicar,
an able man and for a long time in-
terested in municipal affairs, twice mayor
of the city, a keen practical politician,
who favored the adoption of the plan,
and who is secretary and treasurer of
the League of American Municipalities;
Ash, formerly a coal miner, afterwards
a deputy sheriff, an unlettered but hon-
est and vigorous man; Hamery, a real
estate dealer and builder in a small
way, who is secretary of the city assessor;
Schramm, the former city assessor.
The election of this ticket was a
great disappointment to the committee
of business men who made the cam-
paign for the new form of government.

None of the commissioners elected,
with the exception of MacVicar, are re-
garded as men of large business abili-
ty, but are all conceded to be honest.

The feature of the Des Moines plan
regarding public utilities, the ques-
tion of the ownership of the same, has
been the subject of much discussion
at the first election. The highest sum
expended during the campaign by any
candidate was about \$40. One of the
commissioners informed us that he
spent \$20-\$30 in printing and about \$11
in rent for halls, etc.

RECALL.

There have been movements looking
toward the recall of two of the com-
missioners. Mr. Hamery, who was ap-
pointed to the department of public
safety, at once made war upon gam-
bling and caused the removal of the
slot machines from every cigar store
and pool room in the city. It was
claimed by some of the cigar dealers
that he made anti-election promises
of immunity. This Mr. Hamery de-
nied, but the resentment of the own-
ers of slot machines led to the posting
of a petition in each cigar store to
which signatures might be appended,
looking toward the recall of Mr. Ham-
ery. The movement, however, was soon
dropped.

The other movement for recall was
directed toward Commissioner
Schramm. It appears that two of the
commissioners were very friendly to a
certain candidate whom they support-
ed for the office of chief of police. Mr.
Hamery, who had particular charge of
that department, and Mr. MacVicar did
not think the man competent, and also
objected on account of his tendency to
the use of liquor. Schramm first sided
with the commissioners who desired the
appointment of the incompetent, and
there was a movement among the citi-
zens, and considerable talk of recalling
Mr. Schramm by reason of his attitude
upon this question. He, however,
publicly announced that if the chief
of police did not make good he would
vote for his removal, and in a very
short time he was removed and an ef-

fect man, who had been in years in
the service, appointed in his place.

SCOPE OF INQUIRY.

In the many interviews we had dur-
ing our investigation we adopted sub-
stantially the following line of ques-
tions:

1. What is your business? How long
have you lived in Des Moines?

2. What relation, if any, had you
with the old city government? What,
if any, with the new?

3. Were you in favor of adopting the
new plan?

4. Is the new system working well?
If not, in what particulars is it defec-
tive?

5. Have you any objections to the
present form of government? If so,
what are they?

6. What, if either of men have you
been able to afford to do as commis-
sioners, and is their efficiency less or
greater than it would have been under
the former system?

7. What changes in the plan of gov-
ernment, if any, would you suggest?

8. Can you give us the names of citi-
zens who are opposed to the system of
the present plan of government?

Your committee endeavored to inter-
view as many as possible of every class,
and to secure those who were opposed to
adoption of the plan, and especially
such citizens as, through thorough in-
vestigation, might be able to express
convictions based upon mature con-
sideration of the advantages or disad-
vantages of the new system.

OPINIONS OF ALL CLASSES.

We had letters of introduction to
leading business men, but we did not
confine our interviews to that class;
we asked the opinion of every man we
met, and in the course of our stay we
obtained opinions from lawyers, labor-
ers, ministers, street car conductors,
state, county and city officials, and
business men generally, including the
proprietors of what were said to be
the worst and the best saloons in the
city. We found only two persons who
expressed themselves as opposed to the
new system. One was a prominent
business man who felt that it was
getting the government too close to the
people; that the people generally were
not fitted to select their executive of-
ficers, and preferred to retain the old
system rather than adopt the new. The
other was a business man who had for-
merly been a member of the board of
public works and who had very strong
ideas upon the question of civil service
and thought that a form of government
should be devised in which the execu-
tive officers would not be beholden to
citizens generally for their appoint-
ment, but thought all employees of the
city, with the exception of private sec-
retaries, should be under civil service
rules. Both gentlemen conceded the
inefficiency of the former system and
the success of the present plan so far.
We found a few who were indifferent,
some expressed theoretical objections,
but the vast majority were heartily
glad of the change.

Your committee made very full notes
of interviews with the various citizens,
which are at the disposal of your
board if desired.

VISIT TO LINCOLN, NEB.

We were advised that Lincoln, Neb.,
had recently sent a committee to Des
Moines and that there had also been
prepared a new charter for the city
of Lincoln, to be introduced when the
legislature convenes.

We thought it advisable to go to Lin-
coln and obtain a copy of the charter
which the citizens' committee has re-
ported. A vote recently taken in that
city showed a majority of four to one
in favor of the commissioner plan.

ADOPTION BY OTHER CITIES.

We found that many delegations had
visited Des Moines for the purpose of
investigating the commission system;
that it has been established in Cedar
Rapids, Ia.; El Paso, San Antonio,
Fort Worth, Dallas and Houston, Tex.;
that Nashville and Memphis, Tenn.,
had voted in favor of the adoption of
the new plan. Among the visiting dele-
gations was a committee headed by
Eliot of Harvard university and ex-Gov.
John D. Long of Massachusetts. We
were fortunate in obtaining a copy
of the printed report of this committee,
the general recommenda-

tion of which was in favor of the com-
mission system. The committee recom-
mended the plan of Des Moines, with
the exception of the recall provision, and
the recall provision of the plan of Gal-
veston.

One time a man thought it all over and finally decided that he
would rather have his head clear and his mind keen for business
than to "enjoy" the "dumps" half the time.

So he quit the Coffee, even the "one cup a day."

The biliousness quit itself.

So did a certain sick feeling about the heart when he hurried
for a car.

Being fond of a good hot drink for breakfast he took on POSTUM,
the liquid food coffee. It came to his table with the color of the strong-
est French drip coffee, and a little rich cream turned it to a rich golden
brown. The flavor was distinct, but had the soft pleasing "tang" of
mild high grade Java.

So the change was easy.

In a few days he told himself how much fun it is to be well-
brisk, snappy, and keen—"the greatest fun on earth." Of course,
"There's a Reason."

Coffee (with many folks) congests the liver, producing bilious-
ness by keeping in, instead of throwing off, the wastes of the body.
They turn to poisons, and the whole body is more or less affected.
When the cause (coffee) is withdrawn, Nature slowly tries to right
the wrong. It helps, to drink Postum, for it contains in liquid form
certain parts of what which Nature uses to rebuild broken down
nerve centers.

These are truths to those who know dietetics. Every man can
ignore the theories and yet convince himself by personal test. That's
the surest way to find out why

"There's a Reason" for

POSTUM

Made at the pure food factories of the Postum Cereal Co., Ltd.

Battle Creek, Michigan, U. S. A.

To be safe confine yourself to
the use of such flavors as your
experience and judgment tell
you are of the purest quality.

DR. PRICE'S Flavoring Extracts

are just as they are represented
to be. If not the cheapest they
are the best, and no puddings,
cakes, creams, or other table deli-
cacies, are spoiled by their use.

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the Des Moines plan: one member, how-
ever, making a minority report in
which he favored a supervising commis-
sioner, elected one from each of a number
of small districts in the city.

PRESENT CONDITIONS.

The commissioners entered upon their
duties on April 8, 1908, and we feel that
we are conservative in the statement
that almost the universal verdict of
the citizens is that they have far ex-
ceeded expectations. The city is more
efficiently governed; complaints receive
prompt attention; the streets are fair-
ly clean; there has been so far no no-
ticeable reduction in expense, but a
very noticeable change for the better
in service.

The alert citizen can intelligently
watch the city's affairs if he cares to do
so. The local political rings are broken
up; skillful men are selected by the civil
service commission and receive perma-
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Des Moines plan is a well thought out
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CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT.

We found that the citizens generally
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All proceedings of the board of com-
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of the proceedings of the commission
from the time of its organization.

The members of the civil service com-
mission serve without salary, and as a
matter of economy, but to make the
holding of that office without financial
inducement and thus greatly reduce
the possibility of partiality and unfair-
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We have before referred to the fact
that there was some disappointment in
the personnel of the commission. The
citizens' ticket of leading business men
was not elected. We were very much
impressed with the fact that, notwith-
standing the disappointment of the
business men's committee in the
result of the election, every
member of the committee whom we in-
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government as at present conducted.

It should be mentioned that the com-
missioners were handicapped by reason
of the fact that the former city officials
loaded on to the incoming administra-
tion every possible expense, anticipat-
ing the revenue and forcing an issue
of bonds.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMEN-
DATIONS.

Your committee has reached the
unanimous conclusion that the com-
missioner system of municipal govern-
ment, substantially along the lines
operating in Des Moines, will be rapidly
adopted by municipalities in the
United States and should be institut-
ed in Salt Lake City. We, however,
have some suggestions to make in
reference to minor changes to suit
conditions here.

The Des Moines plan seems to be
the most democratic form of munici-
pal government yet devised. The
initiative, referendum and recall pro-
visions enable the citizens at any time
to grasp in their own hands the reins
of government. By the initiative, the
citizens can enact needed legislation;
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No franchise or other valuable pub-
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city council. The granting, renewal
and extension on all franchises must
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The commissioners are elected at
large and not from precincts. Each
citizen votes for the full number of
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under our present system in Salt Lake.
The commissioners have to depend
upon votes from all parts of the city
and will consider the needs of the
whole city rather than the needs of
the particular precinct from which
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FIXES RESPONSIBILITY.

The new plan fixes responsibility
by dividing the work of the city into
five departments and placing one
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One man is ultimately responsible for
the doing or failure to do each item
of work of the city, and that man is
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The commissioners are paid for and
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the present officers and employees are
prohibited from receiving any special
favor, pass or reduced price from any
public service corporation, thus re-
moving a fruitful source of suspicion,
complaint, and, too often, undue in-
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All candidates for office are selected
at a non-partisan primary.

A severe punishment is prescribed
for city officials, officers or employees
attempting to form political combina-
tions or for using directly or indirect-
ly, political influence in the interest
of any person or measure. This makes
machine politics impossible.

STATEMENT OF EXPENSES.

All officials must, after election, pub-
lish a sworn itemized statement of their
campaign expenses. All persons are
prohibited from accepting money or
other compensation for services ren-
dered any candidate.

In Des Moines all other city officers
are appointed by the commissioners, in-
cluding the assessor, police judge and
auditor. We would recommend no
change in our present system of hav-
ing the county assessor a named city
property, and we believe that the city
judges should remain elective, as at

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