

**Chicago Charter Convention.**

For the second time the charter convention of Chicago (vol. xi, p. 895) has formulated legislation for the city.

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This convention is an outcome of the constitutional amendment of 1904 (vol. vii, pp. 450, 521) empowering the legislature to legislate specially for Chicago, subject to mandatory, as opposed to optional, local referendum. An effort was made (vol. viii, pp. 89, 90) soon after the adoption of that amendment to authorize an elective convention in Chicago for the purpose of formulating a complete charter, and the McGoorty bill for that purpose was passed in the lower House. But it was pigeon-holed in the Senate. The Foreman resolution in the City Council came next. This provided for the appointment of an extra-legal convention, by the Governor (15 appointments), the Legislature (15 appointments), the Mayor (15 appointments), the City Council (15 appointments), and all the city and county Boards (2 appointments each). When those appointments had been made the convention assembled with an overwhelming Republican majority. A large proportion of the Democratic membership were of Republican affiliations in many respects (vol. viii, p. 596).

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After months of work and numerous compromises, a fairly good charter of the antiquated type was adopted by the convention and sent to the Legislature. The legislative representatives in the convention, although they had influenced the compromises as each was made, refused to vote on final adoption. In the Legislature afterwards they participated in so amending the charter as recommended, that it was unrecognizable. As it came out of the Legislature, it was as distinctly as possible a political "bosses'" charter. So evident was its bad character, that at the referendum in 1907 (vol. x, pp. 577, 585, 601) it was defeated by 121,523, to 59,555, in a total of over 50 per cent of the registered vote.

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Once more the charter convention was called together and the work of drafting a charter renewed. A motion to recommend to the legislature the calling of an elective convention in place of the appointive one was almost unanimously voted down, as was also a motion to dissolve and abandon charter making until a new Constitution of the State could be secured. After several weeks of work by a drafting committee, a complete charter was brought into the convention. It was briefly discussed in some respects, when a motion to abandon a complete charter and submit to the legislature separate bills was adopted. The matter was thereupon referred back to the drafting commit-

tee, which at the next meeting of the convention reported 11 separate bills for submission to the legislature in lieu of a new charter. These bills were adopted by the convention seriatim at its recent sessions, the last of which was held on the 15th.

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Following is a resumé of the important features of the bills as proposed by the convention:

1. Consolidation act, providing for consolidation of all local authorities into city departments, and for enlarging municipal powers. It withholds from the Mayor the right to remove members of the Board of Education, and authorizes an increase of the borrowing power of the city from 5 per cent to 20 per cent of tax valuations.

2. Organization act, providing for city council and regulating its powers. It increases the term of aldermen from two years to four years and establishes the "recall" for them and all other elective officers upon a 25 per cent petition.

3. Public utilities, inclusive of traction, lighting and electric service, docks and wharves, limiting franchises to twenty years, and authorizing referendum on all leases and franchises for more than five years upon a 10 per cent petition.

4. Municipal elections. Abolishes the party circle, and requires the voter to vote with reference to each individual candidate, whether by ballot or voting machine. It also requires that Municipal Court judges be nominated by petition and not by party action.

5. Regulating the submission of propositions to popular vote when required or permitted by any law.

6. Corrupt practices act, regulating campaign contributions and expenditures.

7. Civil service regulations, authorizing removals by heads of department, subject to a hearing by or through a civil service commission if the person removed demands it.

8. Department of Education, reducing the number of trustees from 21 to 15, but otherwise making no important change in the present law.

9. Entitling women to vote at all municipal elections in so far as permitted by the Constitution.

10. Municipal Court, requiring election of judges at judicial elections in June.

11. Sunday observance, authorizing the city council to regulate observance of Sunday, especially with regard to "places of business, accommodation or entertainment,"—meaning bar rooms and saloons.

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**Single Tax Movement in British Columbia.**

A recent number of the Vancouver (B. C.) Daily Province, indicates that single tax sentiment in Vancouver has not only grown to the point of making the subject a practical issue in municipal affairs, but that considerable progress has actually been made in the exemption of improvements. In the issue of that paper of February 26 it is stated in a report of city council proceedings that—

when Alderman Morton yesterday afternoon submitted his "hardy annual" resolution before the