

A Notable Centennial

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SPHEX Paper

September 10, 2020

For nearly 100 years after it became a city in 1805 Lynchburg was governed by a unicameral council and a mayor. The Constitution of 1902, infamous for disenfranchising African American voters, also had a significant influence on how Lynchburg was governed. It required cities with a population of over 10,000 to have a bicameral council, *“composed of two branches having a different number of members,”* and a mayor who, *“shall see that the duties of the various city officers, members of the police and fire departments, whether elected or appointed, in and for such city, are faithfully performed.”* The 1902 Constitution also gave the mayor veto power over acts of the council, which could be overturned by a two-thirds vote of each branch.

In 1904 Lynchburg’s bicameral council, representing three wards, took over the reins of city government. It consisted of a nine-member Board of Aldermen and a fifteen-member Common Council.

Although the mayor was the “chief executive officer” of the municipal corporation, in practice, he was unable to fulfill that responsibility because he had no real authority to do so. The administration of some city departments was in the hands of various standing committees; nine committees, with six members each, in each branch. In addition, there were six administrative boards with citizen appointees.

To give you an idea of the breadth of responsibility of the standing committees, here is a list of them:

- Light, Fire, & Electricity
- Streets & Sewers
- Public Institutions & Charities
- Finance & Claims
- Police & Public Safety
- Ordinances & Rules
- Sanitation & Street Cleaning
- Water
- Parks, Public Buildings & Cemeteries

Special “joint conference committees” were also created from time to time to tackle particularly challenging projects, such as, for example, paving Main Street.

A 1939 report on the government in Lynchburg stated:

The organization of Lynchburg's government ...was ridiculously intricate. It was so full of checks, checks upon checks, and checks upon checks upon checks, that it resembled the fleas upon fleas upon fleas upon the dog's back. There was collective responsibility imposed by law upon many independent individuals who determined courses of action without coming together, and after a decision was made, the task was often given to an independent operating board. No single person was in charge. It was a headless government, with many feet and hands but without a central nervous system to coordinate their movements. (Stone, et al.)

The same report found that Lynchburg had forty-four different subdivisions of the government prescribed by state law, city charter, or ordinance. This included the two councils and their committees, the constitutional officers, the courts, appointed boards and appointed positions. With all of these moving parts, it took an intricate parliamentary procedure to accomplish the city's business. Matters were considered by both branches of council and were often referred to the standing committees for recommendations. If the results from the bicameral processes were different, the matter would be sent back to committee or even to a joint committee of both branches. When both the Common Council and Board of Aldermen finally agreed on a matter, it was subject to the veto of the Mayor.

Even routine decisions were a challenge.

"Each ordinance appropriating more than \$100 required the vote of the majority of the elective members of each house. One attorney told the Legal Club that it has taken ten months of procedure to build a \$500 sidewalk, although twenty-one of the twenty-four aldermen and councilmen had approved the project from the beginning. There were enough checks and balances on the machinery of the municipal government to slow it down almost to a standstill, even though the most influential men in the community were regularly taking an active interest in it." (ibid.)

There was another story about the erection of a building in 1918 that *"was delayed for want of a few pieces of timber and a couple of pounds of nails. 'It two weeks,' said the park superintendent, 'before the council could meet and authorize this purchase amounting to about five dollars.'" (ibid.)*

This arrangement of local government proved so unwieldy that in cities across the Commonwealth a new form of city government arose. The movement started in Staunton, which, as a result of a 1905 annexation, had achieved a population of over 10,000 inhabitants and was forced to adopt a bi-cameral council in 1906. Staunton had eight members on the Board of Aldermen and fourteen on the Common Council, but each branch had fifteen standing committees. Chaos ensued. According to a publication by the City of Staunton, *"Conscientious and civic-minded as many of the*

councilmen were, they did not have the time to administer the city's affairs, and the results of committee control could only be poor operation and ultimate loss of control over municipal activities." (Origin, Staunton)

Frustration over an inability to get streets paved in a timely and cost effective manner boiled over in Staunton and in 1908 a "General Manager" was hired *"to take over from the council committees the direction of the city's administrative affairs."*(*ibid.*) As a result, Staunton is recognized as originating what ultimately became the city manager form of municipal government.

The 1916 session of the Virginia General Assembly (Chap. 392) adopted legislation amending an act originally adopted in 1914, *"to provide for a change in the form of government of cities having a population of less than one hundred thousand, and of towns, and to provide in what matter such cities and towns may adopt such form of government..."* The acts authorized the "City Manager Plan" of municipal government, with a single council of five to eleven members which would elect a president who would serve as "ex-officio mayor," *"but having the same powers and duties as other members of the council with a vote but no veto; and he shall be the official head of the city."* (Sec. 6-c)

The acts further provided, *"The administrative and executive powers of the city, including the power of appointment of officers and employees, are vested in an official to be known as the city manager, who shall be appointed by the council...and hold office during the pleasure of the council..."* The general duties of the city manager were listed as follows:

- (1) The city manager shall see that within the city the laws, ordinances, resolutions and by-laws of the council are faithfully executed.*
- (2) Attend all meetings of the council, and recommend for adoption such measures as he shall deem expedient.*
- (3) Make reports to the council from time to time upon the affairs of the city; keep the council fully advised of the city's financial condition and its future financial needs.*
- (4) Prepare and submit to the council a tentative budget for the next fiscal year.*
- (5) He shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the council not in conflict with the foregoing, and shall be bonded as the council may deem necessary."*

Finally, *"Such city officials and employees as the council shall determine are necessary for the proper administration of the city shall be appointed, and may be removed by the city manager, except those in the financial, legal, and judicial departments and the clerical and other attendants of the council."*

The idea for this presentation arose when I was researching my last SPHEX paper on Confederate memorials in Lynchburg. I stumbled on a September 16, 1919

article in *The News*, Lynchburg's daily newspaper at the time, that provided information on "The City Manager Plan." I was intrigued, but also on a deadline, so I set the reference aside to be picked up later for my next paper, on the centennial of the city manager form of government in Lynchburg. I was curious about how this form of government came about here and wondered how controversial it was. That process, which only took about five months, is the focus of the rest of this presentation. My information comes from the pages of *The News*; and I am grateful to the leadership and staff of Jones Memorial Library for giving me access to its files.

Although struggling with the complexities of government by committee, Lynchburg was not a pioneer in adopting the city manager plan. In addition to Staunton, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Petersburg, Roanoke, and Bristol adopted the plan before Lynchburg. Across the nation, over 400 hundred cities had adopted the city manager plan by 1919 when Lynchburg took up the issue.

I examined the minute books of Lynchburg's Board of Aldermen and Common Council from 1912 to 1919 in search of expressions of dissatisfaction with the then current form of government. The minutes, however, generally only reflect actions taken by the two bodies and are lacking in any discussion or debate. I did find one clue; on June 6, 1918 the Board of Aldermen took up a resolution "*authorizing appointment of a special committee to look into the administration [of the] affairs of the City, etc.*" That resolution was laid on the table until September 5, 1918 and then tabled again on September 5th. I found no further reference to any such study.

The push for a new form of municipal government in Lynchburg came from the same group of individuals who had traditionally provided political leadership on council and boards; the first families and business leaders of the community. The 1939 report on City Manager government in Lynchburg said that advocates for change based their arguments on two main ideas,

"The first was that the new plan, by eliminating the cumbersome machinery of the bicameral council and its many boards and committees, would fix responsibility more clearly, provide more efficient administration, and save time for themselves and everyone else concerned. The second was that it would make possible an expansion of the public works program of the city." (Stone, et al.)

There was never any accusation that the individuals serving in the bi-cameral council were not competent, were dishonest, or didn't have the best interests of the city in mind. According to an editorial in *The News*, "*They are enmeshed in a system, however, which is wholly unsuited to the present needs of any modern city.*" (*The News*, Sep. 24, 1919) There was simply too much work to be done and no pay to do it. The desires of those pushing for the city manager plan were to modernize government processes and operate in a more business-like fashion.

On July 1, 1919, *The News* reported, “*The campaign for the adoption of the city manager plan of government in Lynchburg was formally launched last night at the Elks Club, when the City Manager Campaign Club was organized following the adoption of the report of the special committee provided for several weeks ago at a mass meeting in the rooms of the chamber of commerce.*” The chairman of the special committee was Lynchburg Mayor Royston Jester, Jr., whose frequent and verbose vetoes of council actions had helped to build frustration with the system.

According to the paper, “*The object of this organization is to promote the cause of good and efficient government in the city of Lynchburg and particularly to do all things necessary towards arranging for and having an election in the said city, at which election the plan known as the city manager plan shall be voted upon by the citizens of Lynchburg.*” Walker Pettyjohn, a prominent banker, was elected president of the campaign club. Other leaders in the movement were Fred Harper, a former candidate for mayor, his law partner Leon Goodman, a former councilman, E.F. Sheffey, president of the board of aldermen, John W. Craddock, “the city’s most prominent manufacturer;” and C.M. Guggenheimer, “the most prominent retail merchant in the city.” (Stone, et al.)

The next day, at the annual Chautauqua, speaker Carlton Chamberlayne, of Schenectady, NY, paused in his prepared remarks to endorse the city manager plan. In his remarks he also endorsed universal suffrage and the League of Nations, and called for “the Americanization of America.”

On Thursday, July 10, 1919 *The News* reported on the busy agenda for an upcoming common council meeting. “*The joint committee on finance and claims met yesterday and went through the usual monthly routine. Alderman D.A. Payne, chairman of the committee, stated after the meeting that nothing of especial interest had been done. The farm board also met yesterday, approved the monthly bills and made requisitions for what will be needed next month.*”

In order to place the question regarding the city manager plan on the ballot, a petition bearing the names of ten percent (10%) of the qualified voters of the city was required. In 1919, this was about 400 names. Lynchburg, a city of over 40,000 residents, only had 4,000 qualified voters. Of course, women did not yet have the vote and African Americans were dis-enfranchised. The July 11 *News* reported that over 300 had signed the petitions. At a campaign committee meeting on July 15th, held in the Chamber of Commerce, it was reported that 600 signatures had been obtained. The July 22nd *News* reported that nearly 1000 signatures had been obtained, including those of all 13 qualified voters at the Thornhill Wagon Works.

Things were pretty quiet in August. *The News* was doing its homework, however. An article on August 10th reported on Norfolk’s experience with a city manager. Charles E. Ashburner, the original city manager in Staunton, had become manager in Norfolk on September 1, 1918 and was a strong advocate of the form. Mr. Ashburner was an interesting character. He was a civil engineer, born in India, educated in Germany and France, who had lived in the United States for a long time,

and for some time in Lynchburg. The paper reported that, with less than a year of experience, reactions to the city manager form were varied. Mr. Ashburner was later to claim, on November 2nd right before the election, that Norfolk had saved \$200,000 in the first year of city manager administration.

On Friday, Sep 12th *The News* reported that the City Manager Club would present a petition to Circuit Court Judge William R. Barksdale bearing 1100 names and asking that the election on the City Manager Plan be set for November 4th. It was noted that about 20% of those who signed the petition were not qualified voters, still providing about twice the number of names required to get on the ballot. Subsequently, the judge set the date for the election as requested.

On September 14th *The News* published its first article on "*The City Manager Plan: Expressions of Opinion Upon the Proposed Change in the Form of Municipal Government*" The paper said that "from time to time" it would publish the views of the people of Lynchburg on the proposed change in the form of municipal government. It welcomed communications of opinion, "if confined to reasonable length." In that column Mr. Mayo C. Brown expressed support for the election of the council at large. He said that by doing away with ward lines the best men of the city would be elected and they would have "*at heart the interests of the city at large.*" Mr. Brown stated, "*...under the present councilmanic system it is almost impossible to place responsibility,*" and he mentioned the number of boards that would be abolished; the farm board, the board of police commissioners, the board of fire commissioners, the overseers of the poor, the park and forestry commission, and the board of health.

Opposition to the plan was expressed by Mr. C.M. Mays, a member of the board of aldermen and a retired railroad man. He posed no objection to appointment of the city manager by the present board of aldermen and common council. He was, however, opposed to abolishing ward lines because of the potential of electing all five councilmen from one section of the city. He questioned if five men could be found who would be willing to do all of the work involved (noting that all of the committee work was presently divided between 24 members) for only \$600 a year.

Mr. George M. Bell, deputy city treasurer, was also "*decidedly opposed.*" He spoke to the checks and balances of the bicameral system with a mayoral veto and was concerned that there would be no appeal of a council decision.

In a September 17th article on the City Manager Plan Chief of Police John M. Seay opined, "*The plan is all right, if you get the right man, but you can not get the right man for nothing.*" "*You have to pay him,*" he added. This sentiment was echoed on September 19th by banker G.E. Vaughan, a supporter of the plan who stated that its success would depend on having the right man, "*...who would be hard to get and hard to keep after you get him. Furthermore, even if he were conscientious, half the city would be against him in six months simply because he was trying to do his duty.*"

The speculation during the campaign was that it would cost \$5,000 to \$7,500 for “the right man.” At that time the annual city budget was about \$750,000 to \$800,000. Today the annual operating budget is approximately \$150 million, and the most recent City Manager was paid a little more than \$200,000. You do the math.

The newspaper was a strong supporter of changing to the city manager plan. In an editorial on September 19th it stated:

“Under existing conditions, Lynchburg is functioning through a government that represents too much diffusion in obligation and responsibility – too much delay and lost motion – too much cumbersomeness and restraint.... Its business cannot be satisfactorily conducted until and unless these obstacles are removed and supplanted by an administration which proceeds upon sound principles of wise economy, of substantial progress, and above all, of real efficiency.” [Noting that every successful business keeps that in mind as a “first essential.”]

“...unhappily, the business of government is too often transacted under conditions which accounts efficiency the least important instead the most vital test of its usefulness, and, of its fidelity to the tax-paying public which supports it. The Commission plan of government recognizes the force of this truth – it is predicated upon the idea of eliminating waste – of reducing the number of those in authority – of employing an executive, subject to reasonable restraints, who shall be an expert in the science of municipal administration, and who may be held responsible for the manner in which the affairs of the city are conducted.”

That same editorial warned of overconfidence in the election results, predicting, “opposition will form.” And it did. According to the 1939 report,

The opposition to the plan was led by men of equal business and professional prominence and social standing [as the proponents]. Among them were John Victor, a bank president who had been president of the common council since 1910.... There were also Randolph Harrison, an alderman since 1914, and the most brilliant orator in the city; Royston Jester, Jr., the mayor; and N.C. Manson, Jr., city attorney since 1909, member of the council from 1892 to 1896, and son of a former mayor.” (Stone, et al.)

Opposition to the City Manager Plan focused not so much on the manager position itself, but on the system that would surround it. There was a concern that the move to a unicameral council of five members elected at large would be too great a concentration of power and that only one part of the city would be represented, that of the first families and business elite who had been moving out to the Rivermont area.

The loss of checks and balances provided by the bicameral system and the mayoral veto were also lamented. Finally, there was a strong feeling among some that citizens should be willing to serve on council without remuneration, out of a sense of duty.

The September 21, 1919 column on the City Manager Plan provided “a catechism” of questions and answers regarding the plan. It covered the powers of council and the manager and the duties of the manager, with the answers apparently provided by the City Manager Campaign Club. The catechism continued on September 23rd informing that 460 cities across the nation had adopted the city manager plan and only one had abandoned it, New Rochelle, NY. The column added Fredericksburg, Suffolk, Charlottesville, Farmville and Winchester to the list of Virginia cities that had adopted the plan. It noted that the plan was favored, *“Because it established the city on a business basis and under it the city is operated as any large corporation would be. Because it centralizes responsibility so it cannot be evaded.”*

Mr. E. Goodman, a member of the common council predicted the plan *“will win five to one.”* But the, *“City office holders will vote against it.”* Mr. Mosby Ryland, secretary of the Retail Merchants Association, was in favor.

On September 25th, *The News* published the plan as laid out in the 1916 Acts of Assembly and the campaign committee made its case for the plan.

In the September 30th column on the City Manager Plan, Mr. John D. Oglesby, a member of the board of aldermen and cashier at the Lynchburg Tobacco Warehouse Company, expressed his opposition to the plan, *“because centralization of power is not democratic.”* He favored appointment of a city manager by the present council and expressed the concern, *“when elected at large a majority [of the Council] might be residents of Rivermont and might not be familiar with the needs of White Rock Hill.”* Retired businessman James I. Lee was also opposed, stating, *“It is easier to pass what we do not want through a council of five than through a city council of 24. We have a city manager now in the city engineer.”* A third individual, Mr. E. Crump, also expressed his opposition noting that there had never been a charge of graft with the present council. He did call for a central purchasing agent for the city, however.

In October, the back and forth debate continued through the pages of the newspaper. On October 5th real estate agent John Stewart Walker stated his support:

“...the only thing worth while in business is results obtained for capital invested. Nothing can be worse than our present city government in obtaining unsatisfactory results for capital invested.”

John L. Caskie, Vice President of Watts Brothers' Company, Inc., John Witt, with the Lynchburg Shoe Company, and brokers Owen & Barker expressed their support. Attorney A.R. Long was opposed, saying:

"I think it would be a mistake for Lynchburg to abandon a representative form of government under which it has been exceptionally well governed, and adopt in place of it a bureaucratic form of government with all power centralized in a committee of five, any three of whom would have control."

Mr. Long also noted that he appreciated the unpaid services of the current councilmen. Mr. E.L. Akers, of Akers Lumber Co., stated that he was in favor of a city manager appointed by the present council.

In the October 8th edition of *The News* Mr. E.A. Watson, of Watson Sales Corporation, said that the success of the plan depended on who was elected to council, *"If business men of the highest quality are put in control of the business affairs of the city it is ideal, but if it is to go into the hands of politicians then God help Lynchburg."*

Mr. S.B. Hammer, overseer at Lynchburg Cotton Mills, advocated for a city manager but felt that the proposed plan was not democratic enough; it was too autocratic, putting too much power into the hands of three men. Among those in favor of the plan were James M. McLaughlin, R.P. Beasley, of the Beasley Shoe Co., and attorney H.C. Featherstone. All mentioned the need to get good men to serve, on council and as the manager. Mr. O.B. Barker, of the Barker-Jennings Hardware Co, added that the present system was out of date and that the city should be run "like a business." We still hear that sentiment today.

An October 9th letter to the editor from "Citizen" suggested choosing a man to act both as president and city manager, like the United States and Virginia governments. He said, *"The tendency of the present age is towards democracy, however, we are at present considering making a retrograde movement,"* and expressed concern about a concentration of power and the threat of graft. Mr. Citizen supported the current councilmanic bodies, arguing, *"It undoubtedly is the best collection of brain, of patriotism and of unselfishness that could be found, and yet it is proposed to do away with such valuable gratuitous services."*

Weighing in in favor of the plan on October 12th were John W. Craddock, of the Craddock-Terry Shoe Company, attorney T. Gibson Hobbs, and Clinton DeWitt, Jr., with The Chesapeake & Virginia Coal Company. Frank P. Christian, judge of the city corporation court, was opposed, stating:

"I think our trouble is not the form of government for our city, but the lack of public spirit or interest on the part of the citizenship.... I believe the tendency to shift our social obligations is tending largely to selfish individualism, which is the basis of our present unrest."

October 14th offered more opinions. Manufacturer A.G. Barrow was for the plan. Judge J. Singleton Diggs expressed his support for two small legislative bodies and one

executive head. Mr. Emmanuel Goodman, a city councilman, blasted the current arrangement, saying:

"...ten years' active connection with our government as a member of the board of aldermen and as a member of the common council have shown me that irrespective of the form instituted it could be no more extravagant, indifferent, unresponsive, careless, and wasteful than the government now in force."

Mr. John D. Oglesby, another city councilman, was not in favor of an at large election, stating:

"I do not believe in centralization of government. The people should not be willing to stand aside and let any man or set of men run the city for them. It is the people's city and every man in it should shoulder the responsibility and make the city's government a people's government."

October 15th found druggist W.M. McCorkle in favor and capitalist Ernest Williams in favor of a city manager but opposed to a small legislative body (of which he would later become vice president). That day's editorial continued the newspaper's support for the plan:

"...municipal authority as now obtaining in the city government breeds tardiness in action, diffusion of responsibility and a waste in official energy.... In the last analysis we hold that the more nearly administration of municipal affairs can be predicated upon sound business methods, the better – and that the application of sound business methods becomes the more difficult with wide diffusion of authority and responsibility as at present exists in Lynchburg."

An October 16th letter to the editor from City Attorney N.C. Manson, Jr., previously identified as a prominent opponent of the plan, noted that the city charter already granted the authority to hire a city manager without changing the size of council. That same day the paper contained comments from physician J.H. Bugg, merchant George T. McDaniel, and undertaker W. J. Merchant, all in favor of the city manager plan. Attorney F.W. Whitaker was opposed due to the elimination of ward lines and the loss of appointment power over boards.

The October 19th column on the City Manager Plan included comments from physician G.P. Hammer in favor, with the suggestion that there would be savings of \$30-50,000 a year in the annual budget. Manufacturer A. P. Craddock, physician Samuel Lee, department store proprietor C.H. Almond, Jr., contractor D.F. Burnett, and automobile dealer G.O. Lee, all indicated their support for the plan.

On October 24th, in a letter to the editor, Mr. Volney E. Howard expressed his opposition to the concentration of power in so small a council, where a majority of three

could make decisions, with no veto or appeal. Mr. Howard said that a city manager would not be accountable to the people. He argued:

“Let it be understood that the entire future of the city, in respect to its laws, policies and aspirations, will be in the hands of the three men who will constitute the majority of the council, who may determine her fate around a council table two feet square unseen and unheard until the thing is accomplished.... The liberties of this people could not be more entirely surrendered and no form of dictatorship could be more complete, nor more difficult to be rid of after being once established. I urge the electorate to vote down this radical and dangerous proposition.”

Mr. Howard favored appointment of a city manager by the present council.

On October 26th *The News* published a letter to the editor defending the city manager plan from Fred Harper, member of the City Manager Campaign Club (and future mayor under the new plan). The letter said, in part:

“With a city manager who is trained in municipal administration, an expert in his profession (for such it is) and with a council of five intelligent, honest and capable men, elected from the city at large and paid a reasonable compensation for their services, I feel confident that the affairs of the city will be administered in a way that will prove more economical, more efficient, more progressive, more business like, more satisfactory to the whole people than has been the case under any form of government the city has ever enjoyed or endured.”

A news story on the same day reported:

*“So far the campaign for and against the proposed change has been a quiet one, making it extremely difficult to gauge the sentiment of the people, though letters published in *The News* would indicate that the large majority of voters are either for the change or still in doubt with a minority in vigorous opposition.”*

That day's column on the City Manager Plan included endorsements from chambers of commerce in Kalamazoo, MI, Norfolk, Wichita, KS, Waltham MA, Wheeling, WV, Auburn, ME, Niagara Falls, NY; all having the city manager form of government.

Things started heating up in the last days of the campaign. On October 30th *The News* published a letter to the editor from Mr. W.G. Moss opposing the new form and favoring the bicameral council with an executive holding veto power, similar to the state and federal governments. He likened the proposed new council to “absolutism, autocracy, and imperialism,”

“...the same imperialism that rang the bells of St. Bartholomew, ...that caused the French Revolution...[and] led to WWI.... Yet in the face of all this the people of Lynchburg say in substance with the Isrealites, “Give us a King to rule over us,” and they will get all the evils which befell the Isrealites of old and very many more, which this complex age will bring under such imperialism....To say that the people of Lynchburg will be better governed than under our present system is an insult to both their intelligence and their patriotism.”

The editorial of the same day trusted the voters to not be guided by unfounded fears:

“When they are told that the City Manager Plan will produce a condition of dread autocracy, of government tyranny, of oppression and disaster, they ask whether it has produced this condition in any of the four hundred towns and cities in which it is being applied, and the answer is: ‘No.’”

The editorial went on to point out that the voters could replace the council members every four years if they wished, that the power stayed with the people and urged them *“to take counsel of their faith, not of their fears...of a faith in themselves and in their fellow men...”*

On November 1st, Mr. Leon Goodman, in a letter to the editor in support of the new plan, pointed to the example of doing away with bi-cameral councils in other cities, stating:

“If there has been any massacre comparable with that of St. Bartholomew’s Eve or any reign of terror like unto that of the French revolution, in the cities of Boston, Detroit, Cleveland and Pittsburg, and St. Louis, a “servile press” has, no doubt suppressed the facts. I am told upon good authority that citizens may safely walk the streets of these cities and that no autocratic and law defying official of either of these cities has ever been assassinated or banished by an outraged and angry citizenry. I am advised, too, that the people of Portsmouth, Petersburg, Bristol, Roanoke, Farmville, Staunton, Charlottesville, Suffolk, Norfolk, and Fredericksburg have not found the new plan of city government so undemocratic as to seek its repudiation. The occasion calls for the exercise of “horse sense.” Hysteria, with its concomitants of disturbed dreams and weird imagination, will never solve any problem, municipal or otherwise.”

Also on November 1st, to counter the praises of the Roanoke City Attorney, Judge R.C. Jackson, who had spoken at a mass meeting on October 28th extolling the benefits of the city manager form, the opposition brought in Mr. John M. Hart of

Roanoke, former state senator and collector of United States internal revenue, to speak at the YMCA auditorium against the city manager form. It was reported that Mr. Hart said he was the only one in Roanoke who was against the plan when it was introduced and that it was “a disaster.” He claimed consequences such as higher salaries, the hiring of unqualified individuals, questionable purchases of land and services, bad streets, and the public being kept out of council meetings. All of these accusations were quickly and roundly repudiated by Roanoke officials and the Roanoke newspaper. Mr. Hart’s rebuttal, published on November 6th, came too late.

On November 2nd *The News* reported, “*The outcome of the election is considered doubtful, if a small vote is the case, but advocates are confident of a majority for the simplified form of government for Lynchburg if a good vote is polled.*” There was also an advertisement in opposition to the plan published in the paper that day. It was one of only two advertisements regarding the election that I saw in my review of the newspaper.

The second advertisement, in favor of the plan, appeared on November 4th. Note the interesting way to mark the ballot. If one wanted to vote in favor of the City Manager Plan, he would mark through the word “against.”

The editorial of November 4th urged a vote in favor, to overcome “*the handicaps to progressive government*” under which the city operated.

Mr. R.D. Yancey gets the last word in this debate. His letter to the editor, published on election day, argued for representative government:

“We are asked to abolish a representative form of government in a sub-division of the state in Lynchburg and embrace in our arms a bureaucratic government of three unknown men, to get a manager. The present council can give a manager, who would be “properly hedged in” by those representatives of the people, but they did not ask this of the council, they fire us into an election while everybody is asleep or thinking about something else.”

That day, about 1200 citizens awoke from their slumber, or their musings, and voted. Although the election of November 4th had a light turnout, the City Manager Plan was adopted by a vote of 774 to 434 (out of about 4000 registered voters), winning in all three wards.

The editorial in *The News* on November 5th commented on the victory:

“The result is in no way interpretable as a reflection upon the fidelity and the unselfish patriotic service of those who are now vested with the responsibility of shaping local public policies and administering the city’s affairs. It simply indicates that in the estimation of a large majority of the people the existing government machinery is not

adjustable to the needs of progressive government – that it is so antiquated, cumbersome and top-heavy as to deserve to be junked, and replaced by a new modern sensibly designed and simply constructed machine of proved adaptability and success.”

Almost immediately there was a move to contest the election. The argument, as reported in the November 6th edition of *The News*, was that the 774 votes cast in favor of the new plan did not constitute “a majority vote of the qualified electors” of the city as required by the State Constitution. Similar challenges had been made in Roanoke and Bristol but had been dismissed.

The same edition reported on a possible initiative to adopt a recall provision. (It didn't take long for “buyer's remorse” to set in did it?) Adding a recall provision would have required another petition, signed by 20% of the qualified electors, and another election. That initiative fizzled out and it was not until 1982 that a recall provision was added to the City charter.

The challenge regarding the majority vote proceeded and, on January 7, 1920 Judge Barksdale ordered that, *“said change in the form of municipal government is adopted by a majority vote of the qualified electors of the said City of Lynchburg.”* The judge ruled that, *“[it] is of the opinion that said votes so cast in favor of the change in the form of municipal government constitute in contemplation of law a majority of the qualified electors of said City...”* (*The News*, Jan. 8, 1920)

On the second Tuesday in June of 1920 elections were held for the new City Council and Fred Harper, E.E. Menefee, Walker Pettyjohn, Ernest Williams, and P.B. Winfree were chosen as the first governing body under the new form of municipal government.

In July 1920 both branches of the still sitting council adopted the following resolution:

“Whereas a new plan of government has been adopted for the City of Lynchburg at the recent election and a Council of five will become the governing body, effective September 1st, 1920. In order to perfect the plan and cooperate therewith to make it effective September 1st, 1920. Be it resolved; The Council for the City of Lynchburg assure to the new body of five its full cooperation and support, and that the officers and various departments are hereby requested and instructed to give the members of their representatives free access and full information as to all matters pertaining to city government during the interval between now and September 1st, to enable the new body to perfect its new organization September 1st when it assumes office.”

Lest you get the idea that government in Lynchburg was at a standstill during and after the campaign and vote on the City Manager Plan, my review of the daily

newspaper during that time reflects a different reality. There were many issues being addressed including the condition of the city's streets, in particular the need to pave Church Street, a tax equalization debate in the state legislature, water rates for city residents, sewerage for the city and the suburbs, a dispute with the Treasurer, calls for a new "colored" high school and an elementary school in Rivermont, fund raising for a new hospital that it was hoped would be run by the Baptist Association, preliminary discussion on annexing the Peakland and Fairview Heights areas, and my favorite, a proposal to tunnel Ninth Street under Courthouse Hill. One of the last acts of the council was to extend the authority of the Mayor, Royston Jester, Jr., to sign an option agreement for over 400 acres of land in Amherst County for a water supply reservoir.

Both the Board of Aldermen and the Common Council met on August 30, 1920 to approve the minutes of their last meetings, held on August 26th and August 28th, respectively, and then they adjourned for ever. The last act of each body at those aforementioned meetings was to appropriate \$500 "from the Contingent Expense to pay E.F. Fortune for the use of his blood hounds in tracing and aiding in the capture of Robert Williams, alias Alabama Red."

On September 1, 1920, the new City Council met for the first time. It elected Fred Harper as its President and Ernest Williams as Vice President. After adopting an ordinance repealing and re-ordaining Chapter 1 of the City Code of 1916, the newly constituted governing body's next official act was to "elect" Mr. Edward A. Beck as the first City Manager of Lynchburg.

The News editorialized on the installation of the new government in Lynchburg:

"Today is born a new era in the governmental life of Lynchburg. The old order gives way to the new. Instead of the cumbersome bi-cameral form of government which Lynchburg has long since outgrown, a modern, carefully thought-out, progressive, and up-to-date administration is to hereafter deal with the city's affairs. The result has been wrought by the people themselves. . . . The News takes occasion to wish the city manager and the new council the abundant measure of success which is hoped for at their hands."

This month, September 2020, marks the centennial of that event.

Sources

"Acts of the Assembly," Virginia General Assembly, 1916, Chapter 392.

"City Manager Government in Lynchburg (Virginia)," by Harold A. Stone, Don K. Price, and Kathryn H. Stone for the Committee on Public Administration of the Social Science Research Council, Public Administration Service, Chicago, 1939.

"The Constitution of Virginia," 1902

"The News," daily newspaper, Lynchburg, Virginia, microfilm records in Jones Memorial Library.

"The Origin of the City Manager Plan in Staunton, Virginia," Published by the City of Staunton, Virginia, 1954.

A NOTABLE CENTENNIAL

SPHEX PRESENTATION
SEPTEMBER 10, 2020

City Manager Drive Started

A Campaign Club Formed at Mass Meeting Held Last Night.

OFFICERS ARE SELECTED

Walker Pettyjohn Made Chairman—

Object to Arrange for Special Election and to Work for Adoption of City Manager Plan Here.

The campaign for the adoption of the city manager plan of government in Lynchburg was formally launched last night at the Elks Club, when the City Manager Campaign Club was organized following the adoption of the report of the special committee provided for several weeks ago at a mass meeting in the rooms of the chamber of commerce:

The report of the committee of

The Bride's Silver

Will be examined with scrutiny, and should be selected with great care, as it will doubtless be an article of adornment and utility in the new home.

Knives, Forks, Spoons, Dishes, Trays, Bowls and Servers are among the many useful gifts.

Our designs are new and exclusive.

Buckingham & Flippin

Jewelry and Optician
613 MAIN ST.

A Good Crowd Both Are Out First Day Better

The Chautauqua Gets Under Way With Address of Van Ormer

TWO CONCERTS ARE GIVEN

Splendid Program Presented by The should want to "stay in" as a reward, terday Afternoon and Last Night— Overseas Quartet Today.

The Lynchburg Chautauqua opened yesterday with a representative attendance, and a program thoroughly keeping with the precedent established here during the several years that the "League of Neighbors" has been conducting the series of lectures and other features of entertainment in Lynchburg. The chautauqua superintendent is A. B. Van Ormer, and for his initial speech in his second an-

Rare, However, O Suffrage, While Favors

With the democratic scheduled for 8:30 o'clock the armory, for the democratic candidate-inspired term of Preston I. house of delegates as a tive of Lynchburg, man expressed a desire to forms of the two men nounced their candidac ocratic nomination; sa Brown and William A.

Although the legisla in special session prim sider appropriations fo other propositions are taken up. Among these ations for schools, the suffrage amendment, fi tion legislation, and th

More Than 300 Sign Petition

But City Manager Campaign Club
Wants 1,000 Signatures
Before Acting.

MAY HOLD A MEETING SOON.

Plans Expected To Be Formulated for
Systematic Canvass of City to Se-
cure Two or Three Times the Num-
ber of Signatures Needed.

The City Manager Campaign Club, which is circulating petitions calling for submission to the people of the question of changing the city's form of government so as to provide for a small unicameral council and a business manager, is making good progress, but will not rest until at least twice the requisite number of signatures to the petition have been secured.

H. E. Steptoe, of the Real Estate Dealers' Association, one of the origi-

The Bride's Silver

Will be examined with scrutiny, and should be selected with great care, as it will doubtless be an article of adornment and utility in the new home.

Knives, Forks, Spoons, Dishes, Trays, Bowls and Servers are among the many useful gifts.

Our designs are new and exclusive.

Buckingham & Flippin
Jewelry and Opticians
619 MAIN ST.

Water Of City Pure As Any

State Health Board Engineer
Praises Filtration Plant
of Lynchburg.

NOW HAS MODERN SYSTEM

Richard Messer and Councilmen In-
spect Plant—Dinner Given the
Party at the Virginian Hotel—
Make Formal Report Later.

"Lynchburg has as modern, up-to-date filtration system, capable of working 365 days in the year, and turning out as clear, sparkling, pure water as any city in the United States," declared Richard Messer, sanitation engineer of the Virginia state board of health, at a dinner yesterday evening at the Virginian Hotel. Present at the dinner were members of the water committee, E. E. Menefee, chairman; E. Goodman and Thomas B. Tamm.

Wood, J. T. Owen, Sergeant P. Cox, N. A. Samouse, J. Harry A. Davis, John D. F. Everitt, Walter C. Garrome Morrisson, George W. Samouce, Walter E. Jesse E. Perdue, Willie L. nie S. Candler, Otis Rice, risett, Frank J. Fazzi, H. Sanford Cox.

The committee to draw laws consists of Colonel Lieutenant Gannaway, Lie Nick, Sergeant Owen, Ser-

MEMBERSHIP GR

Good Increase Since Occ
Now Y. W. C. A. Bell

The material increase in of members since going in building was one feature at the meeting of the Y. board of directors yesterday additional members having to the 1900 that the associa into the present quarters. was used by a total of 6 during June.

The report of the house was a tribute to the hou and house-keeper, Mrs. C. There are 48 permanen there, and during June the transients.

spect

Bell

and Mrs. C. R. Moor-

ne, Mary and Margaret sheville, N. C., are visit- in Lynchburg.

Flanagan and daughter, Huntington, W. V., are the home of Mrs. W. T. Vermont.

Camp, the Misses Camp and Lydia McAllister have left for the Beach.

Burford, of Lawrence- guest of Miss Louise at the tenth street.

Switzer, of Lexington, is at the Virginian hotel.

ington, of Richmond, is

Nearly 1,000 Names Signed

Ten Other Special Election Petitions To Be Turned in Today.

With 10 petitions not yet turned in, H. E. Steptoe, secretary of the city manager campaign club, had in his office last evening more than 800 names signed to the petitions for a special election to let the citizens vote on the city manager plan of government. The 10 petitions that will be turned in today are expected to make the total

names on his sheet, principally on Commerce street.

RURAL RETREAT PERSONALS.

(Special to The News.)

Rural Retreat, July 21.—Miss Gladys Painter, of Tazewell, spent a few days here last week with Mrs. L. D. Hayes.

Misses Ora Walters and Grace Baughman have returned from Ocean View.

Mrs. Hugh Robinson and baby, of Roanoke, are visiting in town.

Mrs. G. S. Baumgardner and Mrs. W. F. Gammon spent Wednesday at Max Meadows.

Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Cormany are visiting at Eggleston and Bluefield.

The Misses Cassell are entertaining a house party at their home near town.

The visitors are Misses Virginia

ters
slature

High Water Does Damage

Crops on Islands and Low Grounds Along River "Drowned" by Floods.

CITY GARDENS INJURED.

Orchards and Tobacco Also Suffer from St. Swithin's Rains—Precipitation Records, However, are Not Broken.

High water has done much damage along the river, the crops on the islands and on low grounds along the banks having been "drowned" by the standing water, according to information obtained from farmers and from J. M. Proffit, who lives at the boat house and cultivates an island above the dam.

The river has been only 12 feet

Roanoke jewelers were honored by being elected to a number of the leading offices of the association, the full list of officers being as follows: President, M. Harrison, Roanoke; Vice-Presidents, Joe Allen, Richmond; C. F. Lauterback, Petersburg; R. J. Martin, Farmville; W. C. H. Wildt, Alexandria, and H. W. Pobst, Tazewell; Secretary, O. F. Russow, Roanoke; Treasurer, J. S. James, Richmond; to be members of the executive committee, L. G. Voigt and Leo Henebrey, both of Roanoke. President Harrison was chosen as delegate to the national convention of the retail jewelers at Chicago, with Edward S. Green, of Roanoke, as alternate.

During the morning the session was devoted to a discussion of many matters of interest to the jewelers of the state. One of the features was the presentation of a handsome sterling silver pitcher to Colonel J. L. Shepherd, of New York, who, according to the members of the association, has done more than any other man in the country for the retail jewelers. The pitcher bore the inscription: "A token of appreciation to Colonel J. L. Shepherd from the jewelers of Virginia, 1919." Colonel Shepherd responded in fitting manner and also addressed the jewelers on other matters of interest.

More Than 1,000 Signatures Secured

Exact Number Favoring Charter Election is 1005 With Some Not Heard From

Signatures to the number of 1,005 had been turned in to the office of H. E. Steptoe, secretary of the city manager campaign club, up to last evening, on the petitions to Judge W. R. Barksdale, of the circuit court, for a special election to enable the citizens to vote on the adoption of the city manager plan of government. Six or seven petitions had not been returned last night, but are expected to be received by Mr. Steptoe this morning.

Mr. Steptoe said last night that he did not expect that the petitions would be presented to Judge Barksdale at the special session of the court, but that they could be given to him during vacation. The brief delay will be due to the intention of the committee in charge to index and check

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Hold Election November 4

Petition to Be Presented Judge
Barksdale by City Man-
ager Club Monday

800 VOTERS HAVE SIGNED

Total Number of Names Attached to
Petition 1,100, of Which About 20
Per Cent Were Not Qualified Voters
—But 400 Signers Needed.

The petition for a special election
to decide on the adoption of the
city manager plan of government will
be presented to Judge William R.
Barksdale in the circuit court Monday
afternoon by Leon Goodman, general
counsel for the campaign organiza-
tion. November 4 is the date which
the organization will request Judge
Barksdale to set for the election.

This date was selected by the ex-
ecutive committee of the City Man-
ager Club at a meeting held yester-

Select a Watch Bracelet for Her

Not the cheap kind,
but a Real Watch,
that may be depended
upon. We are showing
these in different
styles and makes with
either ribbon or metal
bracelet.

Call by and look
these over.

Buckingham & Flippin

Jewelers and Opticians,
318 Main Street.

Baptists Plan For Big Drive

J. Calvin Moss Strawberry Dis-
trict Organizer for \$75,000,
000 Campaign

J. A. RUCKER IN BEDFORD

Will Have Charge in That County—
Quota For the District Is \$300,000
Of Which Amount Lynchburg Must
Raise \$245,000.

The Strawberry district campaign of
the southern Baptist \$75,000,000 drive
is being launched under the guidance
of J. Calvin Moss as district organizer.
Dr. Joseph A. Rucker, of Bedford
City, is assistant organizer for Bed-
ford county and Chesby Byland is dis-
trict publicity director.

Other officers in the organization are
Mrs. W. A. Woodroof, women's mis-
sionary union director, and Thomas W.
Gilliam, 2nd, office secretary. These
leaders are in possession of all infor-
mation about the drive, which is to
be conducted intensively during the
days from November 13 to Decem-

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THE CITY MANAGER PLAN

Expressions of Opinion Upon the Proposed Change in the Form of Municipal Government

The News will publish from time to time the views of the people of Lynchburg on the proposed change in the form of municipal government. The election will take place within a few weeks, probably November 4. Communications setting forth the views of the writer will be welcome, if confined to reasonable length.

A variety of opinions in regard to the city manager plan of government as expressed on the street may be taken as evidence, there is likely to be some opposition to the plan in the campaign preceding the election, which Judge W. H. Barkdale is expected to call for November 4.

Mayo C. Brown, member of the House of delegates, announced that

the circuit court, both elected by the legislature; superintendent of schools, elected by the state board of education; city coroner, appointed by the judge of the corporation court; the judicial board, appointed by the judge of the corporation court, and the registrars, judges and clerks for election, appointed by the electoral board.

Mays Is Opposed.

Opposition to the city manager plan was expressed by C. M. Mays, member of the board of aldermen and a retired railroad man, who said, however, that he would not object to having a city manager appointed by the present board of aldermen and common council. Mr. Mays declared that the present system of mayor and city council should be retained and that he is opposed to abolishing ward lines, because a majority of a council of five may be

Honor Charter Of Freedom

Constitution Day Will Be Celebrated at the City Auditorium Wednesday

HARRY TUCKER TO SPEAK

Student of Great Document Will Make Principal Address at Meeting and May Speak to High School Students —Purpose of Celebration.

The program for the celebration of Constitution Day next Wednesday is almost completed.

It is proposed by the patriotic bodies having the matter in charge to make the celebration of Constitution Day on September 17, an annual event, in order to combat the insidious propaganda which is being conducted against the constitution and against

VITAL STATISTICS

Eight white births and six colored were reported to the local health department during last week. Two sets of twins are included in the list, which follows:

- White.
- September 4, W. B. and W. Taylor Biggle, a son.
- September 4, A. F. and Myrtle Aricks Howell, a daughter.
- September 4, Cornelius B. and Maddox Tyree, a daughter.
- September 10, Edwin and Sheppard Stone, a daughter.
- September 7, Edgar E. and Smith Wilkerson, twins, a daughter and a son.
- August 19, Ward Heuten and Patterson Johnson, a daughter.
- August 21, Ewell A. and Childress Harvey, a daughter.
- Colored.
- September 4, William and J.

Slipover Sweaters



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Main Street.

November 4 Set As Date Of City Manager Election

A special election to decide on the adoption of the city manager plan of government will be held Tuesday, November 4. Judge William H. Barksdale, of the circuit court, yesterday ordered the city sergeant to notify the proper election officials, following the presentation of petitions for an election by Walker Pettyjohn and others. The petition, which was divided into 21 parts, was in accordance with the provisions of the acts of the assembly of 1916, chapter 232. There were more than 1,100 names on the petitions of which about 75 per cent were those of qualified voters. Only 400 signatures of qualified voters were necessary.

The executive committee of the City Manager Club met last night and received the report of Leon Goodman, who announced that Judge Barksdale has ordered a special election November 4.

A publicity committee was appointed with Leon Goodman chairman. The other members are Mayo C. Brown and C. M. Guggenheimer.

This committee will arrange for speakers, advertising and will issue statements for the press.

It was announced last night that it was anxious to bring out a large vote, but that it wanted the people to vote intelligently. If anyone has any questions to ask, the committee would like to have the questions published and the answers also.

Decrees in four divorce cases were pronounced yesterday by Judge W. H. Barksdale. The cases were as follows:

- Walter Scott Bass against Elizabeth Edna D. Bass.
- Bettie Ann Farmer against Grant Farmer.
- Daniel Winkey against Jane Winkey.
- Nellie Toller Griggs against John Lee Griggs.

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THE CITY MANAGER PLAN

Expressions of Opinion Upon the Proposed Change in the Form of Municipal Government

Harry R. Brown, florist and member of the common council, believes the simplification of the city government might be an advantage and it might not. Things that the people would not want, might be railroaded through a council or commission of five more easily than through a city council with two branches and over the mayor's veto, he thought. Mr. Brown said he had heard unfavorable reports of the city manager government in Norfolk and Portsmouth, but

spector, said, "When you come to think about it the city manager plan is the only thing."

BEDFORD PERSONALS

(Special to The News)

Bedford, Sept. 15. — Miss Caroline Schindler, who is teaching in Roanoke, spent the week end with her sister, Mrs. W. P. Pearman.

Mrs. J. L. Elliott and Miss Nelle Fitzpatrick, who have been in Roa-

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 give prizes to public
 city, for the best essays
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 Hills" has sprung,—was
 presented to the city,
 was unveiled by Misses
 Elizabeth Jennings, des-
 cendant Lynch.

most recently in con-

THE CITY MANAGER PLAN

Expressions of Opinion Upon the Proposed Change in the Form of Municipal Government

A Catechism.

Q. What is the city manager plan upon which the people of this city are soon to vote?

A. The plan proposed is a council of five, elected at large, whose functions will be legislative. The council will elect a city manager, whose functions will be administrative and executive.

Q. What will be the powers of the council under this plan?

A. The council will pass ordinances, levy taxes, appropriate money, authorize issuance of bonds and perform similar functions.

Q. What will be the powers of the city manager?

A. He will be authorized to employ the heads of departments and other minor employes, have general supervision of practically all the city's work and affairs. Generally speaking, the

city manager may be likened to a general manager of a corporation, the council to the board of directors.

Q. What are the duties of the city manager?

A. "The city manager shall see that within the city the laws, ordinances, resolutions and by-laws of the council are faithfully executed. Attend all meetings of the council, and recommend for adoption such measures as he shall deem expedient. Make reports to the council from time to time upon the affairs of the city; keep the council fully advised of the city's financial condition and its future needs. Prepare and submit to the council a tentative budget for the next fiscal year. He shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the council not in conflict with the foregoing, and shall be bonded as the council may deem necessary."

chapter for 1919-20 are: Mrs. P. G. Cosby, Jr., regent; Miss Mary Larkin,

Miss Maude Larkin, registrar; Miss Edith Winfree, historian; Miss Eliza-

\$2.00 SH
 HOSE
 \$1.50
 All Colo
 and Size

OPEN
 No Co

You s
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NEWS SUBSCRIBERS NOTICE.
Watch the label on your paper. It carries date your paper cut free. Send in your renewal on or before date of expiration. The government requires all newspapers to discontinue sending papers on expiration date.

The



News.



THE WEATHER
Virginia: Fair Thursday; Friday and probably Saturday, little change in temperature.

ESTABLISHED JANUARY, 1866

LYNCHBURG, VA., THURSDAY MORNING SEPTEMBER 25, 1919

PRICE, THREE CENTS

Inquiry Into Steel Strike To Begin Today; Wilson Warns Senate, In Cheyenne Address

Proposed Reservation Article X Not Be Accepted

Mean Defeat Of The Treaty

President Declares Adoption of It Would Oblige Him "As Chief Executive" To Regard Such Action as Rejection of The Pact

FRENCH SKEPTICAL

(By the Associated Press)
Paris, Sept. 24. — In an explanation to the chamber of deputies today Premier Clemenceau, after declaring that the league of nations could exist even though rejected by the United States...

Hero Prelate Of Belgium Visits Ryan

Cardinal Mercier at Oak Ridge For Brief Stay, Coming From Washington

SERBIAN GIRLS ON SAME TRAIN GO TO R. M. W. C.

One to Attend Sweet Briar College—Twenty Days on Long Journey From War Stricken Little Country to Be Educated In Virginia.

Cardinal Mercier, the hero-prelate of Belgium, whose defiance of the invading Germans and his courageous stand for his country and for civilization has aroused the admiration of the world, and who is now on tour to...

City Manager Plan Success Declares C. E. Ashburner

Norfolk's Manager Tells League of Municipalities of Operation in Seaport City Giving Concrete Examples—Mayor Jester Will Speak on Tax Equalization—Next Meeting in Roanoke

(Special to The News)

Danville, Sept. 24.—The fourteenth annual convention of the League of Virginia Municipalities closed tonight with two rousing addresses at the Country Club. In one of these, Dico R. Anderson, of Richmond, said that the city government of Richmond was moving to better things, and assailed the bi-cameral form of government in any city.

Resolutions adopted before the close included a memorial to the legislature that the constitution be so changed that communities can make special assessments for street improvements. It passed through by a majority of one vote. Another, designed to keep a committee of the league in Richmond while the legislature meets, was not adopted, but one appealing for the redistricting of the state was adopted.

Colonel C. R. Kelley this afternoon deplored the appointment of doctors...

which has followed the adoption of the city manager form of government in Norfolk.

Ashburner Explains.

As expounded by him, it is nothing more than a concentrated municipal government plan where the best business talent is enlisted in the administration and important civic matters dealt with more expeditiously than by the older forms of government. Galveston, Texas, was the first city to adopt the manager plan, immediately after the tidal wave and Staunton was the next with Mr. Ashburner as the manager. Since the Staunton experiment, the Virginia constitution has been so amended and liberalized as to make the plan far more feasible. Even now, however, some of its warmest advocates, Mr. Ashburner said, are not making extravagant claims for it because it has been prejudiced by the old theory that it was revolutionary and dangerous.

No Aparent Gains By Either Side Yesterday

Reports Still Contradictory

Conflicting Claims Put Forth By Capital And Labor Leaves Exact Situation in Doubt—A Marked Decrease in Violence

The third day of the great steel strike passed without either capital or labor having made any apparent material gains. Last night attention was being focused on Washington, where the inquiry into the industrial struggle by the senate labor committee is to open today.

All Birmingham Plants In Operation

Birmingham, Ala., Sept. 24.—All plants in the Birmingham district are in full operation, and officials of the company declared they had ample forces of men at work in all the steel mills and blast furnaces. Strike leaders asserted they were satisfied with the situation, and that within the next few days workmen in practically all the skilled crafts in this district will lay down their tools and join the ranks of the steel strikers.

While the report that the electrical workers had declared their strike off was denied today, it is reported that a number of electrical workers who walked out at the American Steel and Wire Company plant Monday returned to work today.

Strike Necessary Declares Gompers

John Fitzpatrick Will Present Labor Side

To Get Facts Before Public

This is Primary Object of Investigation—Senator Thomas of Colorado Criticises Strike in Bitter Terms—Almost Civil War

Washington, Sept. 24.—Arrangements were completed tonight for the beginning tomorrow of the senate labor committee's investigation of the nation-wide steel strike.

The



News.

RECEIVED
NOV 4 1919
VIRGINIA

THE WEAT
Virginia, rain Sunday morning
followed by fair cooler; Monday
fair.

NEWS SUBSCRIBERS NOTICE
Watch the label on your paper. It carries date your paper expires. Send in your renewal on or before date of expiration. The government requires all newspapers to discontinue sending papers on expiration date.

ESTABLISHED JANUARY, 1866

LYNCHBURG, VA., SUNDAY MORNING NOVEMBER 2, 1919

PRICE, THREE CENTS

Federal Attorneys Told To Be On Alert; West Virginia Output Is Half Of Normal

Union Mines Closed While Others Are Working

Statements In Conflict

Strike in Full Swing, Declare Leaders of United Mine Workers—Coal Association Claims 224 Plants Are in Full Operation

Charleston, W. Va., Nov. 1.—“The strike is in full swing,” declared the leaders of the United Mine Workers here today.

“Coal production in West Virginia today was 50 per cent of normal,” said the West Virginia Coal Operators’ Association.

“Between the conflicting statements of the men in the street decided that

Above Daily Average

Birmingham, Ala., Nov. 1.—The Acmar division mines of the Alabama Fuel and Iron Company today turned out 4,762 tons of coal as compared with a daily average of 2,852 for the month of October.

Birmingham, Ala., Nov. 1.—Figures compiled by Alabama coal operators tonight showed a coal production today in this field of approximately 20,000 tons.

Knoxville, Tenn., Nov. 1.—Reports tonight from all sections of the Tennessee-southeastern Kentucky coal fields, show that the union miners of district 19 responded unanimously to the strike order, leaving on duty only enough men to operate the pumps. About 18,000 men are affected. Three hundred non-union men in a mine at Harlan, Ky., remained at work and more than 2,000 non-union miners continued work at Benham and Lynch, Ky. No disorder was reported at any point in this district.

Many Non-Union Miners Working

Miners Who Wish To Work To Be Protected

Disorder Will Be Suppressed

Sheriff of Allegheny County, Penn., Warns Strikers That The Full Power of Commonwealth Will Be Used Where Necessary

Pittsburg, Nov. 1.—Sheriff William S. Haddock tonight, by proclamation, notified the striking miners of Allegheny county that the “full power of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, through all of its agencies, will be used to protect those who desire to continue to work, and to suppress disorder whenever and wherever it occurs.”

Lynchburg Voters Tuesday Pass On City Manager Plan

Result in Doubt if Light Vote is Cast, But Advocates of Change Expect Large Attendance at Polls to Help Cause—Many Contests For House And Senate in Piedmont, Valley And South-west Virginia

Lynchburg voters Tuesday will pass on the question of a change in the form of government which has obtained for a generation, but which cities all over the country are rapidly discarding for the simpler city manager plan. The question at the polls will be whether or not the city is to retain the two council-mayor plan or adopt the proposed single council city manager plan. Those favoring the change will scratch the line on the ballot beginning “against” and those opposing will scratch the line beginning “for.”

The campaign has been a quiet one, but two meetings being held, one by the advocates of the proposed change Tuesday night, when City Attorney R. C. Jackson, spoke at the Y. M. C. A. auditorium and the other by the opponents of change, held at the same place last night and addressed by John M. Hart, of Roanoke.

The outcome of the election is con-

senate. Both candidates have announced their opposition to the proposed amendment to the state constitution to authorize the legislature to issue bonds for road purposes and both favor the retention of the office of prohibition commissioner. For the house of delegates in the Rockingham district there are five candidates, G. F. Holsinger and J. R. Breneman, being the democratic candidates and J. A. Garber and Captain W. H. Ruebush are the republican candidates. C. D. Harnsberger, of Grottoes, is running as an independent.

In the district composed of the counties of Shenandoah and Frederick and the city of Winchester, Harry F. Byrd, incumbent, has no opposition, but Richard L. Omps, the democratic nominee for the house from Winchester and Frederick county, will be opposed by Hugh O. Pierce, of Winchester, independent, and in Shenandoah

No Political Tinge To War On The Strike

All Departments of Government United in One Determined Purpose

GOSSIPS IN THE CAPITAL HOWEVER ARE SPECULATING

Some of Palmer's Friends Fear He May Injure Himself as a Candidate for President—Others Say He Will Better His Chances

(By DAVID LAWRENCE)
(Copyright 1919 by The News)
Washington, Nov. 1.—President Wilson is getting better in health, congress is still dawdling along on the peace treaty, the international labor

Instructions Sent Out Yesterday By Palmer

Watch Closely The Situation

Any Concerted Action by “Two or More Persons” to Interfere With Coal Distribution is to be Promptly Reported, He Says

Washington, Nov. 1.—Instructions were issued today by Attorney General Palmer to all United States attorneys to keep closely in touch with the coal situation in their districts and to report promptly any concerted action “by any two or more persons” to limit facilities for

... reported working today, he are produced in the blood. Distributor the Dr. A. L. Reuster Laboratories, Akron, Ohio.

Voters of Lynchburg

The City Manager Campaign Club stands for a more simplified and business-like form of municipal government.

It is not supporting any man or set of men who may desire office.

It is interested in securing for Lynchburg the best, most economical and efficient form of city government.

If you are interested in securing this better form of city government, vote this ballot TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH.

If you are in favor of the City Manager Plan mark out the line beginning with AGAINST.

ELECTION, LYNCHBURG, VA.
Tuesday, November 4th, 1919.

For change in form of Municipal
Government.

Against change in form of
Municipal Government.

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The



News.

RECEIVED
 NOV 5 1919
 VIRGINIA
 LYNCHBURG

THE WEATHER
 Virginia: Fair, cold Wednesday and Wednesday night, Thursday fair.

ESTABLISHED JANUARY, 1866

LYNCHBURG, VA., WEDNESDAY MORNING NOVEMBER 5, 1919

PRICE, THREE CENTS

Miners Negotiate If Injunction Withdrawn; City Manager Plan Adopted By 774 To 434

Lynchburg Voters Endorse Change In Charter

Every Precinct Gives Majority

Third Ward Close. While Plan Carries By Large Margin in Second And First—Extremely Light Vote Cast Everywhere in City

By a vote of 774 to 434 the city manager plan was adopted by the citizens of Lynchburg yesterday, the plan winning a majority of the votes in every precinct.

Vote By Wards And Precincts

	—City Charter—		FIRST WARD			—Commission—	
	For	Against	Senate	House	Adams	Rhea	
First	233	100	327	328	329	323	
Second	51	45	89	86	87	90	
SECOND WARD							
First	112	67	181	180	180	180	
Second	143	60	200	199	197	201	
Third	69	30	87	87	86	83	
THIRD WARD							
First	102	69	168	169	166	160	
Second	56	51	107	107	107	107	
Third	17	12	28	27	25	27	
Total for change in form of government, 774.							
Total against change, 434.							

G. O. P. Gains In This State

Two And Possibly Four Seats Won In The Senate

Caldwell 68; house, Barger 53, Flanagan 71.
Appomattox County
 In Appomattox county all the democratic nominees except S. L. Ferguson, for the senate, had republican opponents, but the county was fully aroused, the full democratic ticket was elected and the largest vote was polled in the county of any in recent years. S. L. Ferguson with no op-

Coolidge Is Reelected In Massachusetts

Democratic Candidate For Governor Concedes Victory to Opponent

REPUBLICAN IS CHOSEN GOVERNOR OF KENTUCKY

Edwin P. Morrow Defeats Governor James B. Black by a Majority Estimated at More Than 15,000—Close Race in Maryland.

Boston, Nov. 4.—Governor Calvin Coolidge, republican, was re-elected by an overwhelming plurality today over Richard H. Long, democrat. Last year

Dry Fight in Ohio
 Columbus, Ohio, Nov. 4.—Ohio voters, early returns show, voted consistently wet or dry on all four prohibition proposals, despite predictions that the vote would be split. At 8 o'clock, scattering returns showed the dries leading in rural communities by as much as 3 to 1, while in Cleveland and some of the other larger cities the wets were leading by 2 to 1.

Tammany Hall Is Loser In New York

All Three Candidates For Supreme Court Bench Are Defeated

New York, Nov. 4.—Tammany hall apparently went down to defeat in the municipal election here today. All three of its candidates for the supreme court bench seem to have lost.

Radicals Are Now Trying To Arouse Blacks

Government Reports Show Determined Effort in This Direction

CONCERTED MOVEMENT SEEN BY TRAINED INVESTIGATOR

Certain Class of Negro Leaders Attempting to Prey Upon Minds of Ignorant Members of Their Race—Against Government.

(BY DAVID LAWRENCE) (Special to The News.) Washington, Nov. 4.—Government

Gompers' Proposal
 Proposed By John Lewis

Garfield In The Capital

Fuel Administrator Takes Active Charge of Situation And Makes Ready to Fix Prices at The First Signs of Profiteering

Indianapolis, Ind., Nov. 4.—Acting President John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers of America tonight stated that the miners will be willing to resume negotiations with the over-

Designs Jewelry

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latinum, green
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Move To Contest Manager Election Tuesday Lagging

Some Opponents of New Form of Government Talk of Taking Question to Court But No Move Made Yet—Several Lynchburg Citizens Mentioned For City Manager—Recall Feature is Discussed

Whether a majority of the vote cast or a majority of the qualified vote was necessary for the adoption of the city manager plan of government Tuesday, is a question that has been raised and may be carried to the supreme court of appeals.

F. W. Whitaker said yesterday that though he had opposed the adoption of the plan, he was willing to cooperate with friends of the new form and test the question in the supreme court in a friendly suit, so that if the new government wants to issue bonds there will be no question of the legality of such action.

Volney Howard, an opponent of the plan, said that he did not know of any movement to contest the election in the courts and that it was up to the advocates of the plan to complete their job.

The same question was raised in connection with the adoption of the plan in Roanoke and Bristol and the circuit courts having jurisdiction in those cities decided that a majority of the vote cast was sufficient. The supreme court, however, has never given a decision in the matter.

No steps are likely to be taken, it is said, until Judge W. R. Barksdale is ready to make an order certifying the facts to the city council preliminary to a change in government. Then a motion may be made against the entry of such an order and opportunity found for an appeal to the supreme court.

If the supreme court decides that a majority of the vote cast will be sufficient, there will probably be a democratic primary in April for the nomination of candidates for the new city council of five. F. W. Whitaker, chairman of the city democratic committee, said that he would use all his influence in favor of having one.

The election commissioners will meet at the clerk's office of the corporation court today to canvass the votes in the regular and special election.

The certificates as to the special election will go to the circuit court November 17. If there is a contest, it may develop as soon as the court enters an order for naming a commission to fix the salaries of five members of the commission.

A special election in June has been suggested to decide on the adoption of a provision in the new plan by which any member of the new commission of five may be recalled by popular vote. This plan has been adopted in Norfolk. Though some citizens favor the recall, no movement for its adoption has been made, or is likely to be made until after the settlement of the question of majority in the supreme court.

Among the men mentioned for the office of city manager are John M. Otey and John P. Pettyjohn. Some citizens favor following the example of Roanoke and Norfolk in getting a city manager from some other city.

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 Watch the label on your paper. It
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 ing papers on expiration date.

The



News.

RECEIVED
 SEPT 1 1920
 VIRGINIA
 LIBRARY
 THE WEATHER
 Virginia: Fair and cooler
 today; Thursday: fair
 moderate temperature.

ESTABLISHED JANUARY, 1886

LYNCHBURG, VA., WEDNESDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 1 1920

PRICE, THREE CENTS

Upham Doesn't Know How Much City Quotas Totaled Lynchburg's New Government To Be Installed Today

**Beck In Conference
 With New Council
 Last Night**
**Install New
 Regime Today**
 City Manager Will Be Elected, Ma-
 yor Chosen And Other Prelimi-
 nary Work Done At Organized
 Meeting This Afternoon

Edward M. Beck, former city manager of Auburn, Maine, who will be elected city manager of Lynchburg today, reached the city last night and was in conference in the committee room in the Kriese building with the new city council until a late hour. The discussion which took place during the meeting was said to have been regarding the plans for the organization session that has been called for this afternoon at 3:30 o'clock. John M. Orey, city auditor, and clerk of the outgoing council, was present at the meeting.

**Cork Mayor
 Still Alive
 But Weaker**

MacSwiney Spends Peaceful
 Night, His Sister Remaining
 Near

**ASK ITALIAN GOVERNMENT
 TO USE ITS INFLUENCE**

Premier Giolitti Receives Telegram—
 Nine Persons Dead As Result of
 Continuous Rioting in City of Bel-
 fast

Cork, Aug. 31.—Several of the hunger striking prisoners in the Cork jail are declared to be at the point of death. Today the hunger strikers received the following message from Lord Mayor MacSwiney from Brixton jail:
 "Greeting to all my comrades in Cork jail. I am with them in spirit. Thinking of you."

**Strike By British
 Coal Miners Nearer**

London, Aug. 31.—A strike by the British coal miners seemingly was brought nearer today by a resolution passed by the "triple alliance," comprising the railway men, the transport workers and the miners, supporting the claims of the miners. It was decided by the meeting to reassemble tomorrow and consider the further policy of the alliance. The miners by a majority of 367,917 voted in favor of a strike. It was announced officially today. There were 606,782 votes for the strike and 238,865 against.

**Tennessee House
 Reconsiders Action**
 Attempts To Undo Work Of Rati-
 fication Of Suffrage
 Amendment

Nashville, Tenn., Aug. 31.—The Tennessee house of representatives with a quorum present for the first time since August 26, expunged from its journal this afternoon all record of ratification of the suffrage amendment and voted, 47 to 24, with 29 not voting to reorganize the house.

**Poles Claim
 More Gains;
 Retake Town**

Bolsheviki Continue To Give Way
 Before Pressure—Says
 Official Statement

**SOVIET WIRELESS SAYS
 REDS OCCUPY VILLAGES**

Heavy Fighting Continues In Vicinity
 Of Lemberg—Letvia Agrees To Use
 Of Riga For Renewal Of Peace
 Conferences

(By The Associated Press)
 Warsaw, Aug. 31.—Further gains on the northern front are reported in the Polish official communique today. Polish troops occupied Augustowo, west of Grodno, where they were enthusiastically received by the population. Lithuanian detachments encountered by the Poles have been

**Governor Cox Publishes Letter To Show
 Effort To Secure Big Contributions**

COLUMBUS, OHIO, Aug. 31.—Governor Cox's statement follows:
 "I have read Will Hays' statement before the senatorial committee. For months he has said to the public that the campaign funds were to be raised through individual subscriptions exceeding one thousand dollars. In other words, it was to be a 'popular' movement. In the face of accumulating evidence, he admits now that in a number of instances subscriptions were made running as high as \$5,000, but in the same breath he says that it was not the fixed policy of the national committee to secure the money in allotments exceeding \$1,000. This is absolutely untrue and again I call into evidence a document from the republican national committee."

Two days after Senator Harding was nominated a communication was sent to the men whom Chairman Upham himself characterizes as the "money diggers." The document is headed "CAMPAIGN PLAN LARGER CITIES."

The very first advice is this:
 "Secure as chairman for the campaign a man widely known and of commanding influence. Have him appoint a strong, representative executive committee of at least 12 men. It may require two or three days to secure such a committee, but it must be hand picked * * * have the date set for an executive committee luncheon that will be held within about three days. At this luncheon an inspirational speaker should awaken this committee to the necessities of the situation. This will get the 'sights' of every one of the committeemen 'high' as to the amounts to be asked from big business men. The time has arrived when some prospects should be asked for subscriptions ranging from \$5,000 and upward. In any case, it is absolutely necessary, first of all, to 'sell' to this committee the quota and the campaign plans."

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, August 31.—"Candidate Cox runs true to form and his statements again are false," said Will Hays, republican national chairman, when shown Governor Cox's statement made at Columbus. "The same committee has the authority to set the quota and the campaign plans."

**Total For States
 exceeds Four
 Millions**

**Add \$700,000
 To Hays Fund**

Senator Reed Brings Out
 Contributions Republican
 man Had Overlooked—
 Admits He Has No Part
 In His Charges

Chicago, August 31.—Reed's finances were again under scrutiny as the senate committee investigated campaign expenditures today. H. Hays, Fred Upham, and other party leaders found occasion to deny the charges that a \$15,000 charge was being raised.

The



News.

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LYNCHBURG, VA., THURSDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 2, 1920

PRICE, THREE CENTS

Cox Evidence To Department Of Justice; Reply Satisfactory To U. S. State Department

Mayor
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Says Secretary
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quickly

CONDITION
BE UNCHANGED

is Anxious About
xion Jail—Eight
Streets of Belfast.

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city with Premier
MacSwiney, who
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New Council Of Five Organizes, Elects Harper Mayor And Beck City Manager

Office Of Engineer Abolished, John
M. Otey Made City Auditor
At \$5,000

Council Will Hold Meetings Weekly

City Ordinances And Council Rules
Amended To Meet Changed
Conditions

The council of the city of Lynchburg, as the new city manager council is to be officially designated, took over the government of the municipality yesterday and before and after the organization session of the council yesterday morning the city department were undergoing a process of re-organization.

Fred Allperer was chosen president of the council at the session held in the city committee room of the Kriss building yesterday morning and became mayor for a term of four years. E. M. Beck, formerly city manager of Auburn, Maine, was chosen city manager, and John M. Otey was named as city auditor, which office was combined with that of clerk of the council.

All the municipal boards were abolished as were the offices of the city engineer and the city surveyor. Weekly meetings to be held each Monday afternoon in the Kriss building were decided upon and the rules of the council and the city ordinances were so amended as to allow the new government to function properly.

New Accounting System

The new system of accounting which went into effect yesterday morning will not be noticed by those outside the city offices, but considerable changes were necessary in several departments, especially in the offices of the city treasurer and the city collector. The system had been explained to the officials in charge of the city books by the accountants from the bureau of municipal research of New York under whose direction the system is being installed. The new books date from September 1, but the accountants have been keeping a set of records since July 1.

President Of City Council



Admit G.O.P. al Exceeds Five Million

What Several States May Have
Set As Quotas Not Known To
Treasurer Upham

DEMOCRATS CLAIM TOTAL WILL EXCEED \$8,000,000

Both Parties Ashamed of Some Things
Brought Out In Senate Investiga-
tion — Republican And Democrats
Chastise Britten

(BY DAVID LAWRENCE)
(Copyright 1920, by The News.)

Chicago, Sept. 1.—Governor Cox says Will Hays' statements are false and Will Hays says Governor Cox's charges are false. And that's about as far as the senatorial investigation has gone toward settling the controversy about the \$15,000,000 slush fund though a careful examination of all the testimony thus far will show that the burden of proof now rests with the democratic nominee. The republican treasurer, Fred W. Upham, has admitted on the stand that the republican goal was about \$5,665,000, though he did not expect to raise much more than half of it. Mr. Upham further says he has no knowledge of what the several states may have set for themselves as quotas. Governor Cox insists that there's where the difference would be made up between the \$5,665,000 admitted as a goal and the \$8,000,000 which he claims was once fixed as the republican quota by state and national committees.

Proof Yet to Come.

But the democratic nominee has as yet furnished no proof to warrant the assumption that a larger fund was being planned beyond a typewritten list of quotas the authenticity of which is denied by the republicans. Senator

Moore Re
Ohio Gov
At Chic

Kenyon S Law Vic

Barnes Book Subsc

Whom Cox Has,
ate Testimony—
lated They Shot
Says Republican

May Supten

Chicago, Sept. 1.—The committee meeting tomorrow session, so you asked newspaper Governor Cox would care on the trip we advised that it was expected Sunday if he would be an appear Monday, I said: "The committee holding on that. If we announce it."

Columbus, Ohio, 8 Moore, of Youngstown convention manager, Cox, will leave for Chi the "personal" report democratic president be ready to present a committee investigating penditures data to an error's charge that committee is collecting fund of \$15,000,000.

This announcement evening by both Mr. Moore and Senator At participated in by the Moore and Senator At democratic member of the committee.