

WATER NEW YORK CHARTER FOR THE PUBLIC

WATER CITY HEARING NEXT. For Ten Days the Committee Will Listen to Suggestions.

Drafted Chapter on the Police Department to Be First Considered.

Roosevelt, Parker, Andrews, Lauterbach and Senator Lexow Among Those to Be Heard.

CLAUSE OPPOSED. It in the Aldermanic Chamber the Draft Committee report and Adopted a Schedule.

to-morrow afternoon New York Commission the Aldermanic Chamber and will hold ten public hearings the draft of the charter, as already submitted will be devoted to the Police Department those who will appear are President Roosevelt, Senator Lexow, head of the commission of the present at him in close matters. Commission met

ANDREWS WANTS A SINGLE HEADED POLICE FORCE.

COMMISSIONER ANDREWS, of the Police Board, will appear before the Greater New York Commission, at its first public hearing to-morrow, and tell them what he thinks of the draft of the charter pertaining to the department with which he is connected. He said yesterday: "I am much interested in this matter, and I will have many suggestions to make to the Commission. The principal point upon which I shall touch will be the section referring to the bi-partisan character of the Police Board, as contemplated by the commission. As is well known, I am strongly in favor of a single head for the Police Department, for in my opinion it is the only way to properly manage the force.

"That was my idea when I first accepted the Commission. I have served in two boards, my first colleagues being those who were appointed under the Tammany regime. Then came the present Board, and I can say truthfully that my experience has taught me that it would be for the interest of the force, and, therefore, of the city, to have one man at the head of the Department, rather than a board of two, three, four or more men.

"This will be my main contention, but I see that the Commission has decided to give only fifteen minutes to each speaker. That will be a very short time for one to consider such a very important subject, so, in order that my full views may be before the Commission, I have just dictated a statement, which will be filed for the careful attention of the Commission. This, of course, the members may do at their leisure, and in my remarks I will enlarge on the topics which I deem to be the most important. There are several other clauses in the draft with which I disagree, but these are merely matters of routine, and I do not think they are of much interest to the public. There is no necessity of mentioning them. The statement to which I referred will not be made public until I have appeared before the Commission."

Low expressed his regret at being forced to remain from to-morrow's hearing, saying he was "especially sorry to miss that particular hearing." Attorney-General Hancock raised the question as to whether or not a quorum of the Commission would be necessary at such a hearing, and suggested that all the members could attend day after day. He could not be present on Monday, and suggested that three or more members be excused from the hearing.

Ex-Mayor Gilroy suggested that three members were necessary for the purpose, and asked that President Tracy be empowered to select the members to attend the hearing. This was done and then Messrs. Tracy and Dillon announced they would have to leave the city on professional engagements this week, and would be away almost all week. Secretary Finney announced that, as a result of the rule requiring written statements from persons who wanted to be heard, the applications had been cut down to forty. The Commission on Draft went into private session at which the chapters of the charter, dealing with the department of Public Improvements and the Health Department, were given out. It is expected that the next hearing will be the most interesting one, inasmuch as three members of the Police Board will be present. President Roosevelt, with Commissioner Andrews will be present, and strongly against the provision calling for four members of the Police Board of the future. They believe that a single head for the department would be for the interest of the city and for the force.

POSITION TO THE CHARTER.

Defining the Powers of the Greater City Is Not Satisfactory to Everybody.

Reform Club will, so the Secretary states, object to Police Commission. Cause of the Board of Aldermen, as being too large

from the Board of Estimate and Apportionment of estimates. Terms of office for the heads of departments, as of removal should be vested in the Mayor.

Government Clubs Object to Some Things. Good Government Clubs will ask for a changing of relative jurisdiction of the central and local

ent of Education. They think that a good deal of central board ought to be given to the local

Will Oppose Certain of the Features. Committee of the City Club has voted to oppose: character of the Municipal Assembly.

of a clause permitting minority representation. of the Police Department and the Bureau of Elections. is a Police Board.

of any provision for election by general ticket. A vote of four-fifths of the members of the Board of

Ordinances shall be sufficient to pass final estimates.

received the charter also Committee on the presence of the Commission. Later in the chapters public. yesterday morning, Tracy, the President led the Commission public meeting since Mayor Strong, Seth Low, John P. Sanford, Attorney-General C. De Witt Taylor and Gilroy were present. "The draft of the charter," said Mr. "as already present from the Draft the contents of the argued with a committee for the adoption of the report of the table, and that of procedure at the

ch Mr. De Witt re- hearings would be the Charter daily, twice ordered, from the afternoon, from Saturday, January except Sunday. The in the chamber of at the City Hall, in Tuesday afternoon, sed by the Board of Hearings.

of citizens or to be heard were Secretary Finney be- under these rules: use the particular sub- is desired, and is accompanied by a typewritten copy of the matter to be heard, except by

Less than a week ago Banker Otto Wasmendorf killed himself in this city. On Thursday George A. Wilkins, vice-president of the suspended Commercial Bank at Selma, Ala., shot himself in front of the altar in St. Paul's Church in this city.

The two local suicides, following the collapse of seven Chicago banks, following the

the Greater New York Commission and argue in favor of making the new charter

1. Legislative powers should not be vested in a Council and a Board of Aldermen; on body is preferable.

2. Removal of city officials should not be vested in the Governor.

3. Police Department should be under the control of one man, instead of four.

4. The city officers should be elected, instead of appointed by the Mayor.

5. Park police should be under the control of the Board of Parks.

6. The section providing that no city bonds of less denomination than \$500 shall be issued should read, "Not less than \$100,000, in the words, "in gold only."

7. All franchises should be subject to revocation by the people in any manner, and not domain, at any time, say, after ten years, upon the payment of proper compensation.

8. Each existing municipality should retain its present name as a borough, and the greater municipality should have a new and purely American name, preferably "Manhattan."

9. All bonds should run for a period not to exceed twenty years, and there should be a yearly sinking fund sufficient to pay the interest.

10. All commissions should be single-headed and elected by the people.

HERE ARE SIX BOARDS IN ONE

Mayor to Be President of the Board of Public Improvements.

The Board of Public Improvements is to consist of the Commissioner of Water Supply, the Commissioners of Highways, the Commissioner of Street Cleaning, the Commissioner of Sewers, the Commissioner of Public Buildings, Lighting and Supplies, and the Commissioner of Bridges. The Mayor shall, by virtue of his office, be the President of the Board, but it shall not be necessary for him to attend the meetings except as public business may permit. He shall have power to designate one of the members thereof as vice-president of the Board. The president alone shall have power in all cases of difference in the Board concerning the disposition of any matter, and the Mayor shall be notified of more of the departments for execution. The president shall have the power to vote, but no resolution of the Board shall be submitted to him for his approval. The Mayor, with the consent of the Municipal Assembly, may appoint a president of the Board, who shall be elected for a term of not less than one year.

Any public work or improvement within the cognizance and control of any one or more of the departments mentioned above shall be the subject of a contract must first be approved by a resolution of the Board of Public Improvements, and the Mayor, duly certified, when involving the expenditure of more than \$50,000, shall be submitted to the Municipal Assembly, and approved or rejected.

If the Municipal Assembly shall authorize a work or improvement, and the Mayor shall be authorized for the proper department to proceed in the execution thereof.

Among other things, it is prescribed as the duty of the Board to fix the rate of fares on the railroad on the Brooklyn Bridge and all other bridges where a fare is charged, and to prescribe and enforce penalties for the failure to wear and exhibit the same.

He is empowered to grant a license allowing to stand in the streets at night, and on Sundays and holidays, and may seize all unlicensed trucks whose owner has no special permit. He shall have power to enter into contracts with responsible persons and parties for the final disposal, for periods not exceeding five years, of all or any part of the street sweepings, light refuse or rubbish when collected; provided, however, that such contract shall be approved by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment.

He may, with the approval of the Board of Public Improvements and of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, purchase or construct stock or plant, including houses, dumping boards or places or buildings or structures necessary of durable material, to be paid for by the issue and sale of bonds, and the Comptroller shall issue such bonds as may be necessary for such purposes.

The Commissioner of Sewers may appoint deputies for each borough. He shall frame a plan for the sewerage and drainage of the city, and shall have cognizance and control of all questions relating to the public sewers and drainage of the city. He shall initiate the making of all plans for the sewerage and drainage of the city, and shall execute all contracts and specifications relating to the sewers for submission to the Board of Public Improvements, and shall have cognizance and control of such contracts. He shall have in charge the management, care and maintenance of the sewer and drainage system.

Lighting and Supplies, who may also have deputies in each borough, will have charge of the construction, repairs, cleaning and maintenance of the public buildings, including markets, except school houses, almshouses, penitentiaries and the like, and fire and police station houses. Of the making and maintenance of the public streets, gas, electricity or any other illuminant; of the inspecting and testing of gas and electricity used for light, heating and power purposes, and of the public utility lines, electric wires and of all lights furnished to said city; and of the use and transmission of gas, electricity and steam in public places; of the construction, repairs, cleaning and maintenance of the public baths and of the purchase of fuel, furniture, utensils, books, stationery and other articles needed for the public offices.

The Commissioner of Gas of every company shall be inspected at least twice a year, and may be inspected as frequently as the Commissioner may think best, but not oftener than once a week. When the gas of any such company shall be found on three consecutive inspections to be of an illuminating power less than twenty sperm candles per cubic foot, or to contain less than the rate of 120 grains of spermacet per hour, a fine of \$100 shall be paid by the company.

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The annual salaries and compensations of the members of the uniformed force of the Department of Street Cleaning shall be fixed by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment and shall not exceed the following: General superintendent, \$3,000; assistant superintendent, \$2,500; superintendent of day, \$2,000; superintendent of night, \$1,800; superintendent of final disposition, \$1,500; district superintendents, \$1,800; street cleaners, \$2,000; street sweepers, \$1,000; dump inspectors, \$1,000.

body of Church street, half a mile from Dempster street, where the suicide is supposed to have jumped in. The body was dressed in underclothes, a bath robe and a light-colored coat. The body was found by the discoverer and the body was soon recovered, after which it was taken to the Evanston Morgue, where it will lie until after the next week.

LEFT NO WORD BEHIND. So far as is known Mr. Hammond left no word as to his intentions. In the pockets of his trousers, which he left at home, were found only some trinkets and a key to the Metropolitan Safety Deposit vaults, of New York City, bearing the name C. W. Briggs.

He had a fear that he would be criminally prosecuted is given as the main reason for Hammond's suicide. The first open charges against his business integrity were made in the late fall of 1895. The day he was accused of deceiving the directors of the bank and the depositors and of deliberately violating the public trust.

The Independent and Multiple League of the City of New York will appear before the Commission on January 4.

TRACED TO THE LAKE. The bullet notified Himey J. Moore and George S. Lord of the banker's disappearance, and the three began an investigation. Mr. Hammond was traced from his home on Greenwood avenue to Dempster street, and thence to the lake. On the pier, at the foot of Dempster street, they discovered some sheets of water-soaked paper, which the rain had glued to the boards. On these papers the signature of W. A. Hammond could be dimly recognized. Mr. Lord, satisfied by this evidence that his friend had taken his own life, immediately summoned a tug and requested the life-saving crew to accompany the boat with grappling hooks. The bottom of the lake on the pier was gone over with the utmost care, but to no purpose.

Meanwhile W. E. Gebney and B. E. Arthur, two young men, had found the

Parker Doesn't Favor a Single-Headed Commission.

COMMISSIONER PARKER, of the Police Board, is scheduled to present to the Greater New York Commission, at its meeting to-morrow, his views on that portion of the drafted charter relating to the police force of the larger city. He said yesterday:

"I am much interested in the matter of this charter, not only as relating to the Police Department, but in its entirety. I was the attorney for the original Commission, and I propose to attend every hearing if my official duties will permit. I will surely have something to say on the sections relating to the Police Department, and, as I was once connected with the Park Department, it is more than likely that I may speak on that subject as well.

"I am free to say I am not opposed to what is generally called a bi-partisan Board. Let there be a good, sound man as the executive head of a department, and it is the course of wisdom to have a Board as his superior, to drive him when he lags, to hold him back when he is too pushing. That is better, to my mind, than to have the department under the control of one man, who would almost surely be subservient to the man who appointed him, and to the party to which he may belong, and to which he owes his preferment.

"If one man is to be the sole responsible head, it would be better to follow the plan in vogue in some cities in Continental Europe. There they have single heads for the various departments, but each head is a member of the Municipal Assembly, and is responsible to that body for the proper conduct of his department. That, it seems to me, is the sensible plan.

"I have not decided yet on just what topics I will speak, but will do so between now and Monday."

control of the management and maintenance of the New York and Brooklyn Bridge, of the operation of the railroad on the New York and Brooklyn Bridge, of the collection of fares and of tolls on the New York and Brooklyn Bridge, of the construction, repair, maintenance and management (except of the East River Bridge), the repair and maintenance of all other bridges and ferries, and of the operation of all public charge not included in public parks in the city.

He is to make a daily report to the Controller of the money received by him for fares, tolls and other purposes. The act declares the New York and Brooklyn Bridge a public highway, and the collection of fares and tolls on the New York and Brooklyn Bridge certain and safe at all times, subject to such tolls and fares as may be determined by the Municipal Assembly shall adopt and prescribe, provided, however, that the passage-way of the bridge now set apart for foot passengers shall remain open and available to all pedestrians coming or going at all times.

The Commissioner of Street Cleaning shall have power to purchase or hire, or to contract for the purchase or hire, of carts, scoops, boats, vessels, machines, tools and other property, or to contract for the removal of street sweepings by machine, and to contract for the collection or burning of street sweepings, refuse and garbage; or for the melting or removal of snow upon or from streets or avenues.

The Commissioner is authorized and directed to prescribe distinctive uniforms, badges and insignia to be worn and displayed by the members of the uniformed force, and to prescribe and enforce penalties for the failure to wear and exhibit the same.

He is empowered to grant a license allowing to stand in the streets at night, and on Sundays and holidays, and may seize all unlicensed trucks whose owner has no special permit. He shall have power to enter into contracts with responsible persons and parties for the final disposal, for periods not exceeding five years, of all or any part of the street sweepings, light refuse or rubbish when collected; provided, however, that such contract shall be approved by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment.

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IS GERRY'S REIGN ABOUT TO CLOSE?

The Proposed Charter of Greater New York So Promises.

It Gives Commissioners of Charities All Powers of the Society.

Sections Which, if Adopted, Would Render the S. P. C. C.'s Further Existence Unnecessary.

MR. GERRY SILENT ON THE SUBJECT. He Will Not Talk Until He Has Received a Copy of the Charter-It Is Likely, However, That He Will Make a Determined Fight.

Is the Gerry Society to be shorn of a large part of its present power by the charter of Greater New York? A careful reading of Chapter XIII. of the new charter, which relates to the Department of Public Charities, would seem to indicate that its framers have that object in mind.

Section 3 reads as follows: Each Commissioner (of Public Charities) shall have authority, and it shall be his duty to visit and inspect, personally or by his agent, all charitable, eleemosynary and reformatory institutions, wholly or partly under private control which are situated or hereafter established within the borough or boroughs for which he is appointed, or which receive inmates from such borough or boroughs, and which demand or receive payment from the city of New York for the care, support or maintenance of inmates. No payment shall be made to any such last mentioned institution by the city of New York for the care, support or maintenance of any inmate except upon the certificate of said Commissioner, or his deputy, showing that said inmate has been accepted by such Commissioner, pursuant to the rules and regulations established by the State Board of Charities, as a proper public charge for the period for which payment is demanded.

Powers of Commissioners Defined. The powers of the commissioners as to destitute children are defined by section 5, which reads as follows: Each Commissioner shall have power to indenture, place out, discharge, transfer or commit any child for whose care, support or maintenance payment from the city of New York is demanded or received by any of the aforesaid institutions, which are wholly or partly under private control, or who may be in his custody, whenever, in his judgment, it shall be for the best interests of such child so to do, and he and his successors in office shall have power to revoke or cancel any such indenture or agreement, and to make contracts for the maintenance of such child as he shall deem proper. No such child shall be indentured or committed to any institution unless the parents of such child, or transfer or commit it to an institution governed by persons of the same religious faith as the parents of such child.

Provision for Investigations. Section 7 relates to the investigation of the cases of children committed as public charges. It reads: It shall be the duty of the Commissioner to be notified to investigate, formulate and carry out the plan of the investigation of the charge against such child, with a view of determining the bona fides of the same and of the merit of the claim for the support of such child as a public charge at the expense of the borough in which such arrest is made, and the Court or Magistrate before whom such case is presented, or the court or magistrate authorized in its or his discretion, to adjourn such proceeding, from time to time, pending such investigation by the Commissioner on behalf of the Commission, and report, and to examine under oath the person or persons making such investigation, and finally, in regard to the term of commitment and discharge of children, says: Each term of commitment of such child committed in the city of New York, as constituted by this act, under any of the provisions of section 291 of the Penal Code or section 888 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, shall be until such child shall attain the age of sixteen years, or until, with the written consent of the Commissioner, it shall be given over in custody to the institution to which it shall have been committed, or until, with like consent, it shall be given over in custody to the institution to which it shall have been committed, or until upon application by or upon due notice to the Commissioner, any court or magistrate of this city authorized by law to make commitment under section 291 of the Penal Code, shall, upon proof to its satisfaction that the best interests of such child require its immediate discharge from commitment, make an order directing such discharge, or until upon an application by or upon due notice to the Commissioner, any court or magistrate of this city authorized by law to make commitment under section 291 of the Penal Code, shall, upon proof to its satisfaction that the best interests of such child require its immediate discharge from commitment, make an order 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