REVISED CHARTER BILL UP TONIGHT

Provides Single Council and City to Do Own Street Cleaning

NEW FINANCE SYSTEM

Unification of Municipal and County Governments Is Provided Also

The charter revision bill, designed to reshape Philadelphia's government, will be introduced into the Legislature tonight.

Details of the new measure intended to replace the Bullitt bill were made public today. The bill continues concentration of power in the Mayor, but reorganizes Councils into a single chamber, makes several departmental changes, gives the city authority to do its own street cleaning and street repair work and creates a new system of municipal financing.

The revision bill will be introduced in the state Senate tonight either by Senator George Woodward or Senator Augustus F. Daix, Jr.

The charter bill proper is to be supplemented by two additional bills.

The first provides for the creation of the office of purchasing agent in cities of the first class.

The second supplementary bill is designed to improve the civil service of counties having a population of 1,500,000 or more.

United City and County Government

Need for the supplementary bills arises from the distinction between the city and the county governments of Philadelphia. The charter revision committee favors the abolition of this distinction. A constitutional amendment is needed to accomplish it. The committee recommends the appointment of a commission to inquire into the need for a constitutional convention which would be instrumental in making the city and county governments here identical legally as they are in point of boundaries.

While the charter bill proper is proposed as a substitute for the so-called Bullitt bill, which upon passage of the new legislation would be repealed, it deals with many subjects not covered by the Bullitt bill.

Changes Departments

The bill concentrates executive power in the hands of the Mayor. In this it follows the thought of the existing charter, but it proposes, in addition to the elimination of the Department of Supplies, many other changes in the executive departments. It proposes to separate the functions of the Department of Public Health and Charities and to create a new department to be called the Department of Public Welfare. To the latter would be intrusted those duties relating to the supervision of the charitable institutions of the city, including hospitals and reformatory institutions. In this connection the report of the subcommittee which drafted the bill sets forth:

"There is no logical reason why the activities of the city government in the protection of the public health should be joined in one department, with its activities, so far as they relate to the care, management, administration and supervision of charities, almshouses, hospitals and correctional institutions, and the separation is in accordance with the usual practice in other cities. To the Department of Public Welfare will also be delegated the functions previously performed by the Board of Recreation, and it is given general authority over such matters affecting the public welfare as may be provided for by ordinance. This will make it possible for the Council to provide for the supervision and control of any activities in the city which might affect the morals of its inhabitants."

The next important change in the executive department proposed by the bill is that the office of Receiver of Taxes should cease to be a separate office and that the duties of the receiver should be performed by the City Treasurer. The department of the Receiver of Taxes, the report points out, logically should be a bureau under the City Treasurer, and this would further simplify and concentrate authority in the government of the city.

The bill provides that the City Solicitor shall cease to be an elective officer, but shall be appointed by the Mayor.

"This," says the report, "is strictly in line with the practice in the state and nation, and makes it certain that the City Solicitor will be able to work in harmony with the Mayor of the city. The bill also makes it clear, as it has not been hitherto under existing law, that the City Solicitor is to represent not only the Mayor and the executive departments, but also the legislative department of the city government. The provision making the City Solicitor an appointive officer also has the advantage of further shortening the ballot.

"Other and minor changes in the executive departments place under the general department of the Mayor not only the purchasing agent, but a city architect (which position is by law created for the first time, although previously existing in an irregular manner), the Zoning Commission, the City Planning Commission and the Art Jury. Slight changes in regard to these departments have been made upon the advice of persons interested in and especially familiar with their work."

Single Chamber Provided

Probably the most important change provided for in the government is the substitution of a single-chamber Council of twenty-one members for the present bicameral system. It is proposed that the Council shall consist of members elected from the senatorial districts, one Councilman being elected for each 20,000 qualified electors. The bill vests in this Council all the powers and duties now exercised by the Common and Select Councils and prescribes a mode of procedure as to make it more simple and better understood. The Councilmen are to be elected for terms of four years and are to receive salaries of $5000 per year. The act specifically prohibits dual officeholding.

"Under existing law," says the report of the subcommittee, "while City Councilmen cannot hold any other city office, they are not prohibited from holding county offices. The result is that a large number of Councilmen hold such offices, upon which they mainly depend for their livelihood. In consequence, their independence of action is greatly interfered with, if not destroyed, as they find it difficult to resist pressure brought to bear in connection with their duties as Councilmen by those upon whose favor they hold income-producing offices. This evil of dual office-holding has long been recognized and the proposed bill destroys it by making Councilmen ineligible to hold any other office of profit of any kind whatever. It also provides that Councilmen shall be paid salaries of $5000 each, which is reasonable, in view of the fact that they will now be required to give more time than formerly owing to the reduction of their number."

To Reorganize Finances

A new system of municipal finance is proposed in the bill, based upon modern theories of accounting. This section of the measure proposes more freedom in contracting than exists under the present charter and it eliminates the necessity of having cash in hand before contracts can be made. It provides that the Mayor must submit to Council each year a comprehensive budget showing the estimated revenues and that the revenue of the city must equal the expenditures. Under the system which will guide the city's financial policy it is provided that when revenues do not meet expenditures, the resulting deficit will become a first charge against the next year's revenue. The Mayor, the bill provides, must also submit a copy of the budget to the City Controller, who will examine it and return it to Councils with his comments. Council is left entirely free to change the budget in any manner it sees fit.

It is upon the budget that the act declares Council shall fix the tax rate not later than the first day of December next after its presentation. Should Councils fail to act and fix a tax rate, the bill specified that a tax of 110 per cent of the maximum rate existing during any part of the five preceding years shall automatically be imposed by authority of the act.

This provision was included as a means of forcing the Council to perform its duty. As was pointed out at a recent meeting of the charter revision committee, the members of Council would be loth to earn public rebuke which would follow the extra tax of 10 per cent should the body fail to fix a proper rate, based upon the budget. The bill provides that the tax rate shall be such as will provide an amount of estimated revenue, which when added to the estimated budget revenue from all other sources, will produce a total estimated budget revenue for the ensuing year at least equal to the sum of the estimated budget expense of the ensuing year and the estimated budget deficit, if any, of the current year.

Dealing with the matter of keeping expenses within revenues, the act provides as follows:

"The Council may from time to time by ordinance authorize any department, officer, board, commission, committee or other agency to incur liability for such purposes and within such amounts as the said Council shall specify; and it shall not be necessary for the Council to make an appropriation for, or specifically to set apart money for the payment of, any such liability.

"Whenever the Council shall authorize liability to be incurred, and whenever it shall specially authorize the disbursement or transfer of money, the Council shall indicate in such authorization the fund or funds against which such authorization is chargeable.

"At no time shall it be lawful for the Council to make any such authorization in excess of the unencumbered balance of the fund or part of fund against which the same is chargeable. For the purposes of this section the amount of a fund or part of fund, other than loan funds, shall be deemed to be the sum of (a) the cash therein, (b) the investments and securities therein, at the net value at which they are carried on the city's books, and (c) the accounts receivable thereof (including taxes, water rents, interest and other items receivable), payment of which has accrued or is to accrue within the year, at the estimated amount of such payments collectible within two years."

The committee lays stress upon the importance of a new financial policy and it sets forth that one of the greatest difficulties in the administration of the affairs of the city during the last fifty years has been its financial methods.

Ignorant of Conditions

"Large sums of money," says the report, "have been borrowed to meet current expenses, not so much on account of excessive expenditures as because of ignorance as to the actual condition of the city, and the lack of moral courage on the part of persons in control of the city administration who feared to place the tax rate at such a figure as would yield the income they desired to spend.

"Under the existing system contracts must be based upon previous appropriations, and where appropriations have been insufficient large amounts of supplies and material, and even labor, have been delivered to or performed for the city without any appropriation and without any contract, with the necessary result that the work and material have cost the city far more than they would have cost had they been contracted for in a regular and lawful manner.

"In order to avoid this difficulty in the future, the committee proposes more freedom in contracting than has hitherto existed, doing away with the necessity for having cash in hand before contracts can be made. This will make the vicious system of delivering supplies in advance of appropriations unnecessary, and will no doubt save the city a large sum of money annually on that account. The plan proposed involves an improved system of bookkeeping whereby the actual condition of the city, not only as regards income and expense, but also as regards capital expenditures and assets possessed by it, can be easily ascertained and understood at any time. It also contemplates that a comprehensive budget will be presented to the Council each year at the proper time, showing the estimated expenditures, and that the revenue of the city must equal each year the expenses, or, if it does not, the deficit will automatically appear as the first charge on the next year's revenue, and it will be clear to all to what extent such deficit does exist and how it has been created.

"The committee is convinced that under this system the income will at least equal the expense and the business of the city will be placed on a very much more regular and legitimate basis."

The bill contains a section dealing with municipal indebtedness, in which it is provided that in any ordinance authorizing the city to increase its indebtedness to incur new debt provision shall be made for the collection of a tax to pay the interest thereon and the principal. The debt may be increased without submitting the question to the electors. In this connection the bill says:

"Within such limitations in amount as is now or may hereafter be established by the constitution, the Council may authorize new debt to be incurred or an increase of indebtedness without the consent of the electors of the city at a public election; but the Council may, in its discretion, submit to the electors for their consent at a public election the proposal contained in any ordinance authorizing new debt to be incurred or an increase of indebtedness, and any such new debt or increase of indebtedness to which the electors shall have given their consent shall be excluded in computing the amount of the indebtedness of the city incurred without the consent of the electors thereof.

"Any ordinance authorizing new debt to be incurred or an increase of indebtedness, except for temporary loans, without the consent of the electors, shall, prior to its final passage, be published daily for two weeks in two newspapers having a bona fide circulation in such city of at least 30,000 copies per issue."

Assessments Prohibited

The bill provides for a radical change in the Civil Service Commission, for it authorizes the appointment of but one member, this member to be elected by two-thirds of all the members elected to Councils. In this section of the act is included legislation designed to remove all officeholders, including the police and firemen, from politics and to prohibit the payment and collection of political assessments. Discussing the section, the report says that the failure to observe the civil service regulations has been due largely to the fact that the commissioners are appointees of the Mayor, and are therefore unable to resist pressure from him or the executive departments.

The bill continues:

"The difficulty with regard to existing laws intended to prevent political activity of officeholders, including police and firemen, has been much the same, i. e., there has been no adequate method of enforcing them. The penalty has been dismissal from office, but as such penalty could only be inflicted by the superior officer of the offending employe, and as an employe would not engage in political activity unless he did it with the approval of his superior, the penalty was never enforced, for obviously the superior would not remove the employe for having carried out his orders. The result has been that the law has substantially been inoperative. It is now proposed to place the enforcement of these laws in the hands of interested citizens; to make the penalty not only dismissal from office, but ineligibility for appointment to any office within a period of two years, and also to make a violation of the act a misdemeanor punishable by fine and imprisonment. The increase in the penalties, it is believed, will be salutary in effect; but, most important of all, is the provision that interested citizens need not depend upon the superior officers of the offenders to inflict the penalty, but may do so acting directly by appeal to the courts.

"Both the civil service law and the law relating to the political activity of officeholders have been materially strengthened in various particulars other than those mentioned.

"The assessment of officeholders for political contributions has also been a source of great abuse in the past, and is one of the most serious evils to be met in municipal government. Not only is it unfair to the employes, who are often inadequately paid, that they should be compelled to surrender annually a certain percentage of their wages or salary at the demand of political authority, but it has a most unfortunate effect upon the public welfare. The result of such assessment is to create a great corruption fund to be used ostensibly for legitimate political purposes, but often used for purposes which are far from lawful.

"The impropriety of permitting officeholders to engage unrestrictedly in political work and of permitting them to be compelled to subscribe to a corruption fund for the use of the political party which happens to be in power is obvious and requires no discussion. Philadelphia has suffered too much from evils resulting from both these pernicious activities to require any defense by this committee of its action in urging methods to end both.

"The payment of political contributions as well as the collection from city employes is positively forbidden in the proposed act under heavy penalties."

"It is believed that the measures proposed will go far toward a complete eradication of the evil in both particulars."

Observes Principle of Home Rule

The principle of home rule is thoroughly observed in the section of the bill dealing with city contracts. The act provides that the city shall have the power to pave, repair and clean streets, collect waste, rubbish and garbage if it desires to do so. This section of the bill follows:

"Any such city shall have the power to pave, repair and clean the streets, collect waste, rubbish and garbage within the limits of such city, and to dispose of street sweepings and of waste, rubbish and garbage. Any such city shall have the power to lease, acquire, construct or cause to be constructed a plant or plants to be used for or in connection with any of the purposes mentioned in this section, and to lease the same to any person, association or corporation which shall contract to perform such work for the said city. The council of such city shall have the power to authorize any existing department or bureau of such city to perform the work which such city is authorized to do and to lease, purchase, construct, make or cause to be constructed or made such plants and equipment, supplies and materials as shall be necessary and appropriate therefor, or to create such new bureau or new division in any bureau as shall be deemed necessary, and to confer upon such new bureau or division like authority.

"After the 31st day of December, 1919, the repair and cleaning of the streets, the collection of waste, rubbish and garbage within the limits of such city, and the disposal of street sweepings, waste, rubbish and garbage, shall be done directly by the city: Provided, That any such work may be done by contract when authorized by the council by a vote of three-fourths of all the members elected thereto, with the approval of the Mayor. For the purpose of determining whether it is to the best interests of the city to authorize the performance of any such work by contract, the Mayor or the council may, prior to the first day of August of any year, invited bids for such work. Advertisement for such bids shall be made during a period ending not later than the first day of October next ensuing, and a summary of the bids shall be included by the Mayor in the budget: Provided further, That if it is determined in accordance with the provisions of this section to have any such work performed by contract a reasonable time, not exceeding six months, shall be allowed the contractor or contractors thereunder to secure the necessary equipment to perform such contracts and to begin the performance thereof.

"Any such city shall have the power to contract for materials, supplies or work to be supplied to or performed for said city, except as provided in Section 5 of this article, during one or more years, and the City Council may by ordinance authorize such contract without the necessity of making an appropriation therefor or otherwise specifically setting aside money for the payment thereof. When the term of any such contract exceeds three years there shall be inserted in the contract a clause reserving to the city the right to terminate the same at its option at any time after the expiration of three years without liability to the contractor for damages for the loss of profits which would have been realized had the contract not been terminated, but there shall be inserted a provision obligating the city to pay the contractor, in the event of such termination, the loss on equipment or construction especially purchased or erected by the contractor to carry out the terms of the contract with the city. If the term of any such contract exceeds one year a reasonable time, not exceeding six months, shall be allowed the contractor thereunder to secure the necessary equipment to perform such contract and to begin the performance thereof."

It will be noted that the bill ends the vicious one-year contract system now in force.

Features Contained in Revised Charter

Some features of the proposed new charter:

Executive power would still be concentrated in the hands of the Mayor.

The present bicameral system of Councils would be changed to a single chamber Council of twenty-one members.

The Department of Supplies would be abolished and a city purchasing agent would be substituted for that department.

The functions of the Department of Public Health and Charities would be divided, with a new department to be called the Department of Public Welfare. This department would take over the work of the Board of Recreation and would be charged with handling the charitable work of the municipality.

The Department of Receiver of Taxes would become a bureau of the City Treasurer's office.

The City Solicitor would be appointed by the Mayor.

The city would be given authority to do its own street cleaning, street repairs and other municipal work if it desired to do so.

The power to enforce the law prohibiting political activity by officeholders, including police and firemen, would be placed in the hands of interested citizens and penalties for violation of this law would be increased.

The civil service would be administered by one commissioner, who would be elected by Council.

TO END OPIUM MONOPOLY

Japan Plans Action in Chinese Holdings

Tokio, Feb. 21 (delayed)—(By A. P.)—Premier Hara today announced that the government had decided at the earliest possible moment to abolish the opium monopoly in the provinces of Kwangtung and Tsing-Tao, China, and on the Island of Formosa.

The newspapers commend this action as the removal of another source of friction between natives and foreigners in China.

MINNIE SELIGMAN DIES

Actress Expires in Atlantic City at Age of Fifty

Atlantic City, March 3.—Minnie Seligman, for many years a popular actress, in private life Mrs. William Bromwell, the wife of an actor, is dead here of heart disease. She came here about ten days ago to recuperate from a recent illness. Miss Seligman was fifty years old.

Miss Seligman was the daughter of S. J. Seligman, and she made her debut on the stage in the spring of 1887 at Madison Square Theatre, New York, in "Elaine." After her engagement at this theatre she joined a stock company organized by McVicker for his Chicago theatre.

Miss Seligman was thrice married. In 1886 she became the bride of Dr. Eugene J. Kaufmann. Doctor Kaufmann was at one time the editor of the American edition of the London Lancet. Their married life was unhappy and in 1890 she obtained a divorce. The second marriage in 1892 to Robert Livingston Cutting, Jr., member of one of the oldest families in New York, temporarily upset her stage career. She had been engaged to Frank Sanger for five years. After Cutting had been cut off by his father with an income of $3500 a year, because he disproved the marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Cutting tried acting together. Cutting soon went back to a banking house and his wife continued on the stage. In 1900 she obtained a divorce from him in St. Louis, and in June, 1907, she married William Bromwell. She and her husband have been acting in plays in vaudeville.

DRIVER ACCUSED OF THEFT

Employe of A. Salus & Son Missing With Firm's Money, Charge

Police are looking for a driver who was employed by A. Salus & Son, Thirteenth and South streets, who "got away with a few hundred dollars," according to a member of the firm. The police have not made the alleged theft public, but it was admitted at the Salus establishment that the police were "working on the case."

A. Salus, head of the concern, is the father of State Senator Samuel W. Salus.

NORTHERN TRUST COMPANY
INCORPORATED 1871
CAPITAL $500,000.00
SURPLUS (EARNED) $2,000,000.00
Sixth & Spring Garden
PHILADELPHIA

Income Tax

To make it easier for you to obtain information about Income Tax regulations, the Collector of Internal Revenue has assigned Mr. Edward Bennis, Deputy Collector, to the Northern Trust Company, at Sixth and Spring Garden streets, where returns may be prepared and filed and taxes paid to the

Deputy Collector

EL PRODUCTO

If you enjoy the mildness, the mellowness, the fragrant aroma of finely blended Havana, you'll enjoy El Producto. There's distinctive character to El Producto's blend—and it can't be copied.

for real enjoyment

Various shapes and sizes ranging from ten to twenty-five cents

G. H. P. CIGAR CO.
Philadelphia

One day I was a Royal Princess
The next no one wanted me
To-day I am in America

The extraordinary personal story of a dethroned European princess, "before whom the whole world bowed, with royal carriages to drive me about and sumptuous palaces to shelter me." In a day all was changed. Then what? That she tells: how she came to America. "I have found a place here: I am fighting my way joyfully." Where and how? That she explains——

If labor opposes woman's right to do any lawful work by which to earn a living, then women should——

And William Howard Taft, former President, tells exactly what they should do, with "no doubt of the result," either, he says. He tells it plainly, and changes a life-time opinion to advocate his view.

A Secret Service detective
Lets the cat out of the bag

In a handful of true and remarkable detective stories, showing that no criminal can escape if the law wants to catch him, for there never was one who didn't leave a clue behind him. And then he tells in the most fascinating way what those clues are and how men have been caught.

In the March Ladies' Home Journal

8 Radiant Stories
55 Articles
4 Full-Color War Pictures

15 CENTS

The Highest in Quality
The Biggest in Size—156 pages
The Lowest in Price