

**A CONSTITUTIONAL LAWYER ON THE AMENDMENT**

Former Judge Thomas A. Moran, known far beyond the boundaries of the state for his legal attainments, says he has advocated such a scheme of government as is contemplated in the proposed new charter for which the pending constitutional amendment is required for nearly a generation. Twenty-five years ago he introduced a resolution in a local convention, providing for the consolidation of the taxing bodies and a different system of minor courts. The need for such changes has been constantly growing until the whole community has at last become aroused. Mr. Moran spoke on the subject Wednesday night before the Credit Men's Association, and in referring to the difficulty of getting a majority of the votes cast at the November election for the enabling constitutional amendment he said: "It is not a mountain of antagonism that we have to overcome, it is the necessity of starting a current in the dead sea of indifference."

**CANDIDATES FAVOR AMENDMENT**

State Senator Lawrence B. Stringer, Democratic candidate for governor, is the son of a Baptist minister. Charles S. Deneen, state's attorney in Chicago, and Republican candidate for governor, is the son of a professor in a small Illinois college. Both are natives of the state and know conditions, political and industrial, in all parts of the commonwealth. Although Mr. Stringer lives in Lincoln he talks about municipal affairs in Chicago with pretty near the same fluency as Mr. Deneen, a resident of that city, does. This is accounted for by the fact that he lived in Chicago five years, and studied law there. Both are advocating the adoption of the constitutional amendment to be voted on in November, which it is hoped will provide Chicago with a much-needed charter. Senator Stringer agrees with Judge Sherman that it is not only a real necessity for Chicago, but that it is good policy for all the state to vote for the amendment, as it will save the legislature in the future a great deal of work; also that much of the clashing between representatives from the city and those from other parts of the state in the legislature in the future will be avoided if Chicago is given broader powers to manage her own local concerns. This is the object of the amendment.

**A TALE OF ONE CITY**

**The Illinois Metropolis—Her Troubles, Hopes and Governmental Necessities.**

Chicago has nearly twice as many miles of streets as any other city in the Union. That is because it is built on a level prairie with no hindrance to its extending out almost illimitably in three directions. But this has not been a blessing in all respects as will be seen by the following figures. Greater New York has 2,527 miles of streets, Philadelphia 1,540 miles, St. Louis 878 miles, Chicago 4,163 miles. Disparaging comparisons appear, however, in the miles of unpaved streets of these leading cities. New York has only 761 miles of streets that lack paving, Philadelphia 413, St. Louis 432, while Chicago has 2,816 miles of unpaved streets. Most of these unpaved streets are also without proper lighting and with no policing. The

trouble is that Chicago has spread out over so much territory that it is a much more expensive city to maintain properly than others that are more compactly built. Another trouble lies in Chicago being deprived of the power, by the restrictions of the state constitution, of using her credit to make permanent improvements. Such permanent improvements of absolute necessity have been made out of the current tax levy and other funds that should have been devoted to operation and maintenance. The bonded debt of the city has not been increased for twenty-five years. Bad streets and sad lack of police protection have been the inevitable consequence.

Now, what Chicago is trying to do is to get rid of the constitutional restrictions so that she can extend her debt limit to a reasonable extent and place the expense of permanent betterment partly on succeeding generations. To do this it is necessary to get an amendment to the constitution. It has been a very difficult thing. Having failed in three or four attempts, prominent organizations of that city induced the last legislature to submit such an amendment to the people. It will be voted on in November. Being a constitutional measure, it must have a majority of all the votes of the whole state, hence it is that voters in the southern counties have a say about local affairs in Chicago. That may be right, but it is hoped that they will vote affirmatively. Should this amendment be adopted Chicago will go to the next legislature with the draft of a new charter and ask its adoption by that body. Then under the terms of the amendment such charter will have to be voted on by the people of Chicago. When all this is accomplished Chicago will be able to pave more streets, light more alleys, and employ more policemen. That means less robbery and house-breaking and murder. It means cleaner streets and a better city in every way. It will not necessarily mean higher taxes for the residents of the city, and the amendment, if adopted, can not possibly affect any other part of the state. Chicago is asking every voter in Illinois to help her out of her trouble by marking his special ballot for the amendment. There is no apparent reason why the voters should not respond.

**CANDIDATE SHERMAN FAVORS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT**

Judge Lawrence Y. Sherman, Republican candidate for lieutenant governor, is said to understand municipal conditions in Chicago remarkably well for a man living in the central part of the state. In the legislature Judge Sherman has usually favored legislation, asked by Chicago, which he regarded reasonable. In some instances, however, he has scored that city in severe terms. He advocates the adoption of the pending constitutional amendment, designed to give Chicago a new charter on the ground that it will relieve the legislature in the future of a great deal of trouble, which, if the amendment is defeated, Chicago will be sure to give that body. No doubt Judge Sherman's position is logical. He knows also that Chicago needs a broader charter, and that it is the right thing for the state to assist her in getting it.

It is much less for a man's honor to distrust his friends than to be deceived by them.

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