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Charter Changes Suggested By Mayor

***His Honor Will Have Amendments Offered at Annapolis
Before the Special Session Ends—
Points Wherein He Thinks There Is Room for Improvement***

Like a new play, a municipal charter is never perfect until it has been tried and variously reconstructed.

Baltimore's new charter, in the production of which Mayor Hayes had a large share, has been found wanting in minor details, and to remedy these defects the mayor has prepared amendments. These he will submit to the lawmakers at Annapolis as soon as their docket is cleared of the business which brought them together in extra session

Five Amendments

So far the mayor has decided upon five amendments. None of these will materially change the structure of the charter. In substance they are as follows:

1. An amendment providing that the city's funds shall be deposited in the banks offering the highest rates of interest.
2. An amendment giving the mayor the power to remove departmental heads at any time.
3. An amendment providing that the yearly departmental surplus shall be turned into the city treasury instead of into the sinking fund, as at present.
4. An amendment providing that no deed for the transfer of property shall be valid unless there is attached to it a certificate from the Appeal Tax Court that all back taxes upon the property have been paid.
5. An amendment modifying section 840, which provides that no street shall be opened unless it is defined in the Douglass topographical survey, so that the Cedar avenue bridge may be accepted from the United Railways Company.

Purposes of the Changes

The first names amendment is designed to "freeze out" the five original city depositories, which recently refused to pay more than 2 per cent, on city deposits. The mayor's efforts to have them supplanted by banks offering 2 ½ per cent, have been partially frustrated by the finance commission.

Amendment No.2, it is rumored, is intended to pave the way for the downfall of several department heads whose appointments the mayor rues. The charter, at present, provides that

removals may not be made later than six months after the date of appointment without the filing of specific charges and a hearing of both sides.

Amendment No. 3 will save much money for the city. January 1 last a surplus of \$380,000 was turned into the sinking fund. As the latter is well protected by the charter the money was not needed. The city treasury, however, needed it badly—so badly, in fact, that the city register was compelled to politely abstract it from the finance commissioners' strong box.

The fourth and fifth amendments explain themselves.

“All of these changes in the charter” said the mayor last night, “are for the good of the city. I see no reason why any one should fail of passage. Structurally, they will not modify the instrument at all. Its fundamental principles were upheld by the Court of Appeals' recent decision. With the minor improvements I have outlined I think that it will work smoothly.”