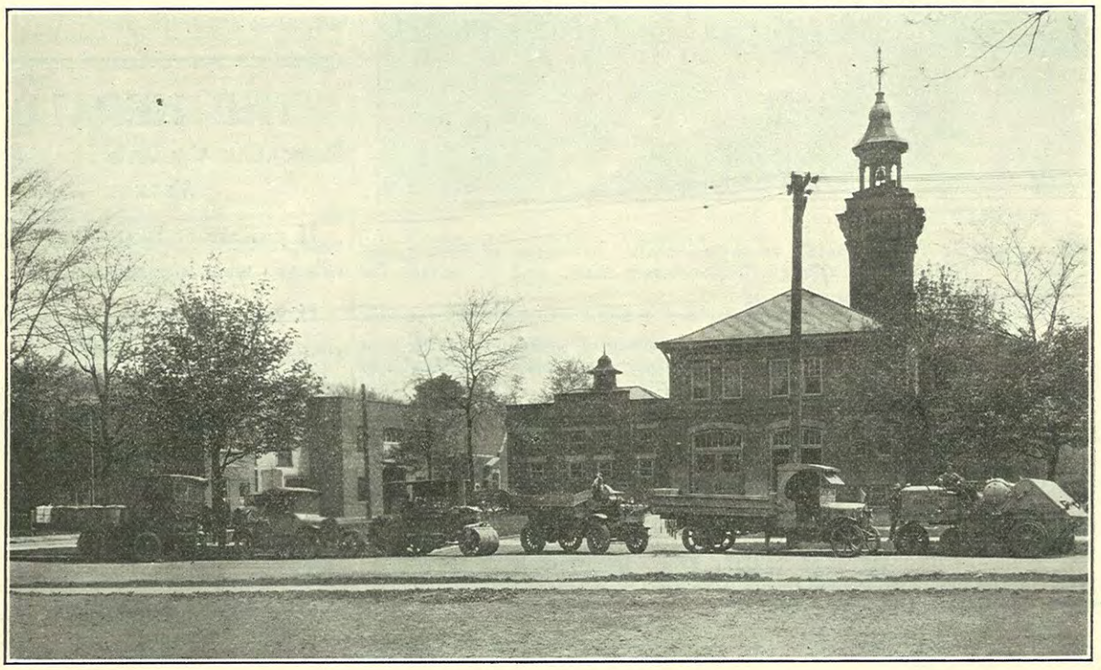
Municipal Review

AUTHORIZED BY BOROUGH COUNCIL EDITED BY BOROUGH MANAGER

Believing that the public is entitled to full knowledge of the Borough business affairs, this Review is one of a series that will be issued every month in an effort to acquaint the citizens and taxpayers not only with the facts pertaining to municipal government, but with the problems as well

Vol. I. No. 3 SEWICKLEY, PA. May, 1926



Motorized Equipment of the Street, Street Cleaning and Garbage Departments

These departments have all been motorized since 1921, before that time both Street and Garbage equipment was horse drawn. The 5 Ton Gasoline Roller was delivered May 1, and is equipped with scarifier and scraping blade which will prove valuable in the maintenance of outlying unimproved streets.

THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT PLAN

With Explanatory Remarks as Prepared by the League of Boroughs and Townships

(Continued from April Issue)

5. For the transfer to the Consolidated City of the property and indebtedness of the County of Allegheny and the poor districts thereof and of such property and indebtedness of the cities, boroughs and townships thereof as relates to the powers and duties of said Consolidated City, and to provide for an equitable adjustment and payment of such indebtedness, and for this purpose any taxation therein shall be uniform taxation within the meaning and intent of other provisions of this Constitution.

The purpose of this clause is that it shall leave the bulk of the present indebtedness of each municipality within the Consolidated City and county to be borne in the future by the municipality that created it and which received the benefit thereof specially and locally, and yet make it possible for a reasonable and equitable adjustment in the various functions which must take place hereafter between existing units of government and the new Consolidated City, and to make provision for the transfer of property of the local constituent units to the greater city which should be transferred thereto and become a part of the great municipal scheme and when property properly belonging to the Consolidated City is transferred it is reasonable and proper that to the greater municipality shall also be transferred the debt creating that property to the end that the greater municipality, when it receives the property, must also receive the debt thereof, and the smaller municipality transferring the property would be relieved of that portion of the debt as represented by the property transferred to the greater city. This may work so that when a municipality transferring a large amount of property comes to levy taxation for its maintenance, that taxation may not necessarily and possibly will not be equal to another community within the city and adjacent thereto, because the first community giving up a large amount of its property will be able to decrease its local debt by the value of the property surrendered so that the local taxation in one community will

(Continued on Page 7)

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

May 11, 1926.

The following members of Council were present at this meeting: Ellerton, Chapin, Rose, Kuhn, Miller, Cunningham, Bevington, Hutchinson, Burgess Richardson, Solicitor Woods and Manager Hiteshew.

Thomas Curcio appeared before Council requesting a sanitary sewer on Walnut street, south of Bank street, for his brother. Mr. Curcio is building a house below the colored church on Walnut street and has no sewer facilities. The Manager explained that the proper location for the sewer would be connecting with the Chadwick street sewer and running north to Bank street, rather than the extension asked for by Mr. Curcio in connecting with the Bank street sewer fifty feet west of Walnut street, and construction of sewer under the railroad tracks would be very expensive, until tracks are removed and there is more demand for sewers.

Council decided that Mr. Curcio would have to bear the expense of a connection with the Bank street sewer if he desired to connect with the sewer system or otherwise install a septic tank on his property.

New Automatic Traffic Control recently installed at corner of Beaver and Broad Streets. 34 seconds is allowed Beaver Street Traffic and 15 seconds for Broad Street.

Squire James M. Stinson appeared before Council representing the Fire Department and stated that the Firemen would like to consult with Council concerning the purchase of equipment consisting of boats, grappling hooks, ropes and torches to be used in case of drownings along the Ohio River, as in a recent drowning trouble was experienced in securing boats and hooks and much time lost. A committee of firemen would be in charge of the equipment at all times and be responsible for its care, equipment to be kept in the apparatus room in the Municipal Building.

Council referred the matter of securing this equipment to the Fire Committee with power to act.

Clifford Doughty, spokesman for a committee of the Fire Department appeared before Council asking that Council rule on the matter of answering fire alarms on Sewickley Heights. If the Fire Department is to answer any or all calls to the Heights his committee feels that the charge should be $200.00 for each call.

It was decided that the Fire Committee of Council meet wiith a committee representing Sewickley Heights Township in order that some arrangement may be worked out concerning the answering of calls from the Heights.

An Ordinance was passed prohibiting the passing of stop signal either of an officer or an automatic traffic control by drivers of vehicles of all descriptiions.

The only law covering this practice is under Reckless Driving and is a State Law, and it was thought that a local ordinance should be passed for the violation of this traffic condition. (A copy of this ordinance is printed in the Herald May 15.)

An Ordinance regulating the installatiion of electric signs over the sidewalks was passed third reading. (Copy of this Ordinance is also printed in the Herald of May 15.) And becomes effective ten days after publication and posting, on May 27th.

The Finance Committee was authorized to borrow $10,500.00 for current bills and payrolls, also incuding the new Motor Pickup Sweeper which cost $6,500.00, and paid for at this meeting. As 1926 taxes begin to come in in the middle of June no further loans will be needed this year.

Tax Collector Sands submitted his annual report for 1925 as approved by the auditors, which was ordered received and filed.

Mr. Sands report as of May 1, 1926, was as follows: 1925 taxes uncolected $4,992.99, 1924 taxes uncollected $1,028.84.

Mr. W. C. Bower who proposes building a service station on Broad street near Thorn, appeared before Council asking that Council construct a storm

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sewer along the sidewalk on Broad street, connecting with the storm sewer on Thorn street, to take care of roof and surface water in connection with his new building. Cost of sewer to be borne by Mr. Bowers.

The Borough Auditors stated that a number of improvements could be made in the presentation of figres for the audit by treasrer, and tax collector and ask that a committee of Council meet with them to discuss the matter.

The finance committee will meet with the auditors to consider their recommendations.

The question of the resurfacing of Beaver street was discussed at length, and the Borough Manager instructed to proceed with the resurfacing of Beaver street from Boundary to Logan street and from Academy to Blackburn avenue, with asphalt secured from Allegheny County at their Sewickley Bridge Plant. The Borough to haul, lay and roll the material on the street.

The sidewalks at the corner of Beaver street and Pine avenue are to be rounded to eliminate right angle turn necessary at that point on account of narrow width of Pine avenue.

Council is very anxious to have the corner rounded on Kramer Way and Bridge approach and the County will again be asked to round this corner, as they have promised for the past several years to do this work.

The matter of grading an alley rear of Nevin avenue, between Hill street and Hopkins street, and the construction of a roadway on the upper level of Hopkins street at the easterly end was referred to the Street Committee.

In the matter of widening Graham street 17 feet as dedicated to the Borough by the School Board, Council agreed to do the necessary grading to the new property line, the School Board to reset curbing and lay concrete sidewalk from Harbaugh street to Bank street, and pay their share of paving of the street when it is permanently improved.

The Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs meets at Stroudsburg on June 22-24, and Council named Burgess Richardson, President Ellerton, Solicitor Woods and Manager Hiteshew to represent Sewickley.

"Watch Your Dog."

A dog pound has been secured by the Police Department, and all dogs found running at large whether licensed or unlicensed will be impounded. Unlicensed dogs will be shot at once and licensed dogs must be held for ten days and then either shot or otherwise disposed of. In claiming a licensed dog within the ten days an impounding charge as well as a charge for feeding must be paid.

Chief of Police McFarland issued a warning to all owners of dogs several weeks ago through the columns of the Herald, stating that a State Representative of the Department of Agriculture would be in this neighborhood shortly so that if any heavy fines are imposed by him upon owners of unlicensed dogs or dogs running at large, they will have only themselves to blame.

There are many lovers of dogs who believe dogs are all right in their place, there are others who do not like the sight of a dog, and between these two classes of citizens they object strenuously to having dogs running over their property, destroying their gardens, etc., so that it really is an unneighborly act as well as a violation of a state law to let your dog run at large.

NOTICE

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Borough of Sewickley

A meeting of the Board of Adjustment to consider the appeal of J. W. Marlatt & Son, a corporation, to the Board of Adjustment from the decision of the Building Inspector in refusing under Section II of Zoning Ordinance No. 530 of the Borough of Sewickley to issue a permit for alteratios and additions to its building at the corner of Beaver and Logan streets, Sewickley, will be held in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building, Sewickley on Wednesday evening, June 2, 1926, at 8 o'clock P. M. at which parties interested may be heard.

(Mrs.) Margaret S. Chester,
Frank A. Hegner,
Frank W. Jarvis,
Board of Adjustment.

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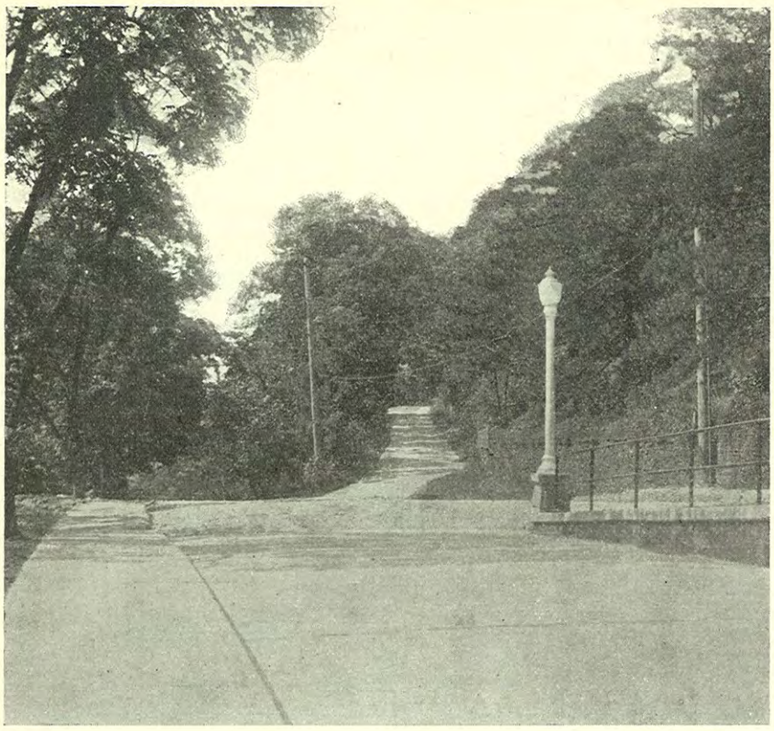


View of cemetery entrance from westerly end of Hopkins street improvement

The Memorial Day Parade

The newly improved Hopkins street between Nevin avenue and the Cemetery entrance, will be used officially for the first time for the Memorial Day parade.

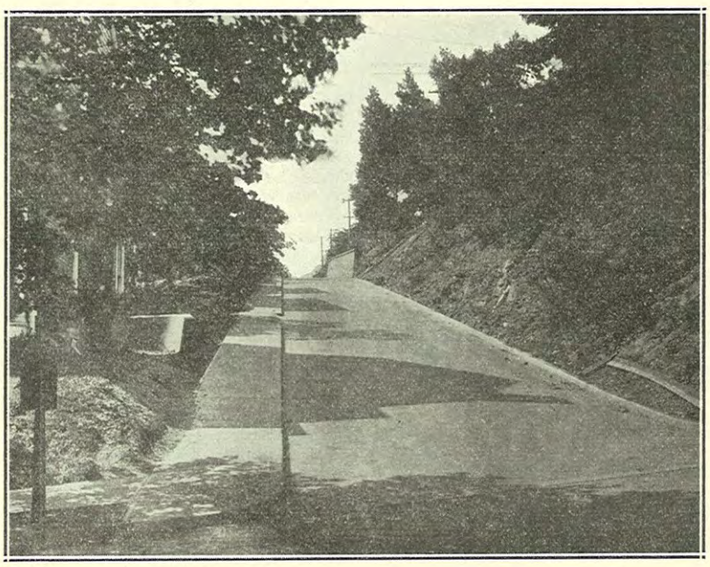
The new route of the parade will be as follows: Form on Bank street, march up Broad to Beaver, up Beaver to Nevin avenue, up Nevin avenue to Hopkins street and up Hopkins street to cemetery.

The hard pull up Broad street to the Cemetery and the dangerous turn at the Cemetery entrance are no more, and the new entrance to the Cemetery by way of Hopkins street will afford a safer and easier approach for vehicles and a more pleasant walk for pedestrians.

Councils from Other Towns Visit Sewickley.

Hardly a week goes by that we do not have a delegation of visiting Councilmen from other towns inspecting our new street sweeper. Woodlawn, Kittanning and Washington delegations having been here within the past several weeks, and in each case they were so pleased with the machine that they have since each purchased an Elgin.

Since our new garbage plant has been completed there have been dozens of such inspections, in one case having come from West Palm Beach, Florida, on an inspection of garbage plants, stopping off to see our plant.



View of easterly end of Hopkins street at Nevin avenue.

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PHONE SEWICKLEY 1233.
MARGARET M. MORGAN
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
REAL ESTATE, INSURANCE
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Ward and Precinct Boundaries

We have received a number of requests to print the Ward and Precinct Boundaries of Sewickley. Here they are:

First Ward, First Precinct.

Borough limits on the North, Blackburn Avenue on West. Beaver street on South, on the East up Straight street, Beaver to Centennial, Centennial to Fountain, Fountain to Hill. Hill street to Alley West of Nevin avenue, up Alley to Hopkins street, Hopkins street to Gray line. Gray lane to Borough limits.

First Ward, 2nd Precinct.

Last described lines on West, Beaver street on the South. Borough lines North and East.

Second Ward, 1st Precinct.

Section West of Walnut street and South of Beaver street.

Second Ward, 2nd Precinct.

Section North of Beaver street and West of Blackburn avenue.

Third Ward, 1st Precinct.

Beaver street on the North, Borough lines on East, River on the South, on the West Chestnut street, Beaver to Thorn, Thorn to Logan, Logan to Harbaugh, Harbaugh to Chestnut, Chestnut to River.

Third Ward, 2nd Precinct.

Last described line on the East, River on the South, Walnut Street on the West, Beaver street on the North.

Report of Bacteriological Examination of Milk sold in Sewickley, May 1926

Dealer	Bacteria per cubic centimeter
Harmony Creamery Co.	78,500
Rieck-McJunkin Dairy Co.	2,200
Sewickley Sanitary Milk Co.	4,150
Wintermantel, C. V.	2,000
Worthley, C. W.	16,300

Maximum number of bacteria per cubic centimeter allowed by Borough Ordinance, 100,000.

Harold L. Lang,
Bacteriologist.

Giving Garbage a Keen Edge

The garbage collector of Westport, Conn., has refused to renew his contract; last year more than $100 worth of his pigs were killed by eating safety-razor blades thrown into the garbage.

Publicists have wondered what becomes of old razor blades; we have thought of garbage disposal in that connection, but we have always put it sternly out of mind, with the reflection that blade-eating hogs must be confined to the razorbacks of the South.—Collier's.

A Question

Clifford Harmon said at a dinner in New York:

"Children should never be barred from apartment houses. Wouldn't it, though, be better for the children's health if their parents would sacrifice the fascinations of city life for the duller but more wholesome existence of the suburbs?

"A woman looking for an apartment, said to a janitor one day:

" 'I hope there are no barking dogs in any of the adjoining flats?'

" 'Oh, no, ma'am,' said the janitor. 'Not on your life, ma'em.'

" 'I guess I'll take the place then,' said the woman, with a sigh of relief. 'You see, I've got two dogs of my own that bark like fury, and I really couldn't stand any more.' "

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A. H. DIEHL

MONTHLY HEALTH TALK

By Harold L. Lang. Professor of Biology and Public Health. Carnegie Institute of Technology, Secretary and Bacteriologist of the Sewickley Board of Health

Typhoid fever is a serious disease caused by a bacterial parasite or "germ" which is taken into the body through the mouth in polluted water, in dirty raw milk or in infected food. The typhoid bacteria lodge in the intestines and multiply there, finally entering the blood stream and causing the fever and other symptoms of the disease. During illness and sometimes for a time after recovery, the typhoid bacteria are present in large numbers in the bowel and urinary discharges of the patient, and hence are likely to be present in sewage and in human wastes. Formerly the public water supplies of many cities and towns were badly polluted with sewage and thousands of deaths occurred everp year from typhoid fever which was caused by drinking polluted water. Now, public water supplies in most communities are filtered or sterilized with chlorine, and epidemics of typhoid fever caused by polluted drinking water are not very common.

There are a great many wells and springs located in rural districts and in small towns which are polluted by seepage from privy vaults or cesspools, and in still a few cases public water supplies may ge polluted with sewage, so that typhoid fever is still a menace in some places. Many tourists and campers have developed typhoid fever by drinking polluted water while on a vacation. Swimming in polluted rivers and bays has also been the means of contracting the disease. In selecting a summer cottage or camp it is a necessary precaution to make sure that the water supply is safe and if there is any doubt as to its safety all drinking water should be boiled.

People who continue to discharye typhoid bacteria after recovery are known as "typhoid carriers." If employed in handling milk, or as cooks, "carriers" may infect milk or food and have fresuently been the cause of typhoid outbreaks among the patrons of the dairy or restaurant where they are employed. Pasteurization and sanitary inspection have made most milk supplies safe, and the employment of "carriers" in food handling is forbidden in some places, as in Pennsylvania. However, in some instances it is impossible to detect "carriers" until after they have caused an outbreak of typhoid fever. Probably the majority of cases at the present time are caused by milk or other foods infected by careless handling by carriers.

Fortunately the science of preventive medicine has developed a means for the prevention of typhoid fever through vaccination. Just as small pox may be prevented by the simple and safe method of vaccination, so can one be protected by vaccination against typhoid fever. Experience with typhoid vaccination in the United States Army has shown it to be a safe and sure preventive against the disease, and the protection given by the vaccination lasts for about three years and possibly longer. Anyone planning a camping tour or spending their summer vacation in a place where there is any doubt as to the safety of the water, milk or food, should consult with their family physician as to the advisability of being vaccinated against typhoid fever.

The water supply of Sewickley is made safe through sterilization by chlorine, and its quality insured by daily bacteriological examination. Ninety per cent of all the milk sold in Sewickley has been rendered safe by pasteurization, and the remainder comes from dairies where the cows are free from disease and the employees have been required to pass a medical examination to make sure that they are not carriers of typhoid fever.

Are You Using the Streets of Sewickley for a Parking Place for Your Automobile at Night.

If you are you are violating Ordinance No. 518, a part of which is as follows: * * * it shall be unlawful for any one, owner, chauffeur, or in charge of any automobile, truck, wagon or any vehicle of any description whatsoever, to park or allow the same to remain, from twelve o'clock midnight until six o'clock a. m., continuously, upon any of the public streets, lanes or alleys of said borough, except automobiles of physicians actually in attendance of the sick.

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THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT PLAN

(Continued from Page 1)

be less or maybe greater than an adjoining unit in the greater municipality, and for the further reason that there are certain phrases in the present Constitution, making it obligatory that all local taxation within a municipality be the same; therefore, this provision and adjustment must be made for this new sort of municipal government and which for the purpose of distinction is now being called the Consolidated City.

6. For the assessment of property for taxation, the levying and collection of taxes, and the payment of the cost of any public improvement in whole or in part, by special assessment upon abutting and non-abutting property materially benefitted thereby, and for this purpose real estate so charged shall be classified as urban, suburban and rural and assessments made in accordance with such classification.

The purpose of this clause for the district plan is to defray the cost of public improvements within the special district particularly benefitted thereby and adjacent thereto not so specially benefited, yet improved thereby. As it is at present this is not possible. At this time the Pennsylvania Law limits the power of special assessment to that particular property immediately abutting on a particular improvement. This is fair enough in case of pavement of ordinary streets and yet where larger works are undertaken such as rapid transit lines which increase the value of property over a wide area it is only fair and just that the cost of construction should be distributed by zones over the same area that is benefited and in strict accordance with the principle that property abutting the improvement should bear a higher assessment of benefit than property distant therefrom. This paragraph is also to remind the Legislature of the necessity of distinguishing in any method of assessment provided for the Consolidated City and county between the various classes of property namely, urban, suburban and rural. It would be unfair to apply the same rule with regard to special assessment to farm and waste land as is applied to built-up property and crowded parts of the cities, boroughs and townships and, in addition to that, it would be a great injustice and to a large degree amount practically to confiscation. It is the duty and necessity of the higher-valued, closely built, densely populated districts, by reason of their large valuations, to bear the greater part of the assessment burden for improvements that their very existence make necessary.

7. For the creation by the board of commissioners of districts for the purpurpose of regulating the location, height, area, bulk and use of buildings and premises.

This clause puts beyond peradventure of doubt ordinances which are based only upon enabling acts of the Legislature. The authority of the Legislature to pass such ordinances is now in dispute and cases are now pending in the courts. The whole zoning idea may be overthrown, notwithstanding it is recognized today as the only means of building cities as they should be built. This clause will place zoning in Allegheny County beyond danger of attack and make the future development with-

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in the boundaries of the proposed Consolidated City certain and safe.

8. For the creation by the board of commissioners of special districts for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, maintaining, operating or contracting for any public property, work, improvement, utility or service, not for the exclusive benefit of any municipal division, and for the payment of the costs and maintenance of such property, work, improvement, utility or service, there may be special taxes levied throughout such special districts respectively separate and apart from the general city tax.

The foregoing clause is included for the purpose of enabling the government of the Consolidated City and county to provide for important public improvements by the creation of districts to be served by them. For example, the drainage area which can properly and efficiently use a single sewage disposal plant often consists of the whole or parts of several units of government. Such a natural drainage area should be the district charged with the expense of erecting a sewage disposal plant and the necessary trunk line sewers in connection therewith. Similar other districts, by reason of location, would be formed for the purpose of garbage and refuse collection and disposal, for park development, or for any other general purposes as desired by the inhabitants thereof.

Provided, however, That it is the intent of this section that substantial powers be reserved to the cities, boroughs and townships situated in Allegheny County.

It is the purpose of this amendment to carry out the announced purpose of the Commission to Study Municipal Consolidation in counties of the second class, namely, to preserve the identities and existence of the present units of government and to allow them to control and continue in the exercise of their local government in local matters; to prevent their unwilling absorption by large units of government without their express permission; to develop and make inherent in them a proper civic spirit and consciousness to the end that a citizenry may be developed in the future having a greater and keener interest in their own communities and their welfare.

To this end the charter shall provide for the continued existence of the said cities, boroughs and townships as municipal divisions of the Consolidated City under their present names and forms of government, subject to the laws provided for government of municipalities of their respective forms and classes, except as provided in the charter, and with their present boundaries, provided that the city of Pittsburgh may be designated by a term other than city and may be divided into two or more municipal divisions and that any two or more municipal divisions of the Consolidated City may, with the consent of a majority of the electors voting thereon in each of such divisions at any general or special election, be united to form a single municipal division.

This clause provides for the above mentioned continued existence of every city, borough and township in Allegheny County, except as each may from time to time by vote of their own people voluntarily decide to join some other city, borough or township, or surrender their full powers, or a part of their powers, to the greater municipality. It preserves their present names and present boundaries intact. It preserves their present forms of government, except as later may necessarily be altered in the formation of the Consolidated City and county government, and then only with their expressed consent through vote on the charter. It is not to be questioned that in this form of charter, after further study, the present governments may possibly be reformed and improved with new and up-to-date developments and knowledge to the end that there may be better functioning and greater efficiency and the units be made even more responsive and responsible to the necessities of their citizens. The only existing municipality that can be divided is the City of Pittsburgh and then only divided as the citizens thereof may see fit, and think best as evidenced by their own vote. This is suggested as at some future time it might be found possible and desirable to give more local government in local matters to the several grand districts of that city, or municipalities that desire to unite with and make a new grand division of that city. The three natural divisions of Pittsburgh now being the Southside, Northside and East End. It is not in any sense obligatory but simply makes it possible. This clause also provides that any two or more municipal divisions of the Consolidated City may, upon vote of their people affect such union, provided the electors in each unit so voting, each voting separately, and that those voting to unite will then form a new municipal division for their local self government and development.

(To be continued in June Issue.)

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