

STATEMENT OF THE CHARTER COMMISSION.

To the Voters of the City of Columbus:

We herewith submit for your serious consideration the charter proposed for the government of your city. It is drawn in accordance with the home rule provisions of the Constitution of the State of Ohio.

In addition to many important improvements as to details in the city's work the following advantages are provided for, a brief outline of which is here given:—

1. **Home Rule for Columbus.** With the adoption of this charter, Columbus will forever pass from under the domination of the state legislature in so far as the management of its own local affairs is concerned. No longer will members of the General Assembly, elected from outside districts, having no particular interest in, or knowledge of the needs of your city, be permitted to dictate how it shall administer to its own necessities, or solve its own local problems.

2. **The Non-Partisan Ballot.** The removal of party emblems from the ballot will tend to eliminate, from local elections, national party issues and contests. These issues and contests have no proper bearing on local administrative questions; they have always acted as diverting influences, drawing the attention of the voter from pertinent and vital home problems to waste it on false issues. The spoils system and many of the evils that today beset municipal government throughout the United States are directly traceable to the party elections of the past.

3. **The Elimination of Ward Lines.** By providing for the election of councilmen-at-large rather than from wards, every voter is given the right and opportunity of casting his vote for or against each and every candidate who presents his name for election to this office. A councilman, whether elected from wards or at large, is charged with the duty of administering the affairs of the city as a whole. The most democratic form of government is certainly that which secures to each individual citizen the right of voting for or against any candidate for an office in which, if elected, he would be invested with the power of imposing a tax on, and regulating the conduct of, all citizens.

4. **The Short Ballot.** Under the prevailing code each voter is called upon to cast his vote at each election for the filling of nine offices. Under this charter and after the first election the number of offices to be filled will be reduced to five.

5. **Preferential Voting.** (Section 210.) Under this system the voter is given the opportunity of expressing his first, second and third choice in the election of the mayor, city attorney and auditor. For the filling of these offices under this method primary elections are abandoned. Acting upon the ad-