CIVIL GOVERNMENT IN THE UNITED STATES

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CHARLES H. MCCARTHY

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By

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USEFUL BOOKS FOR TEACHERS OF CIVIL GOVERN-MENT

ACTUAL GOVERNMENT IN THE UNITED STATES, by A. B. Hart.

THE AMERICAN COMMONWEALTH, 2 Vols., by James Bryce.

THE FEDERALIST, edited by Henry Cabot Lodge.

A Constitutional History of the United States, 3 Vols., by Francis Newton Thorpe.

Journal of the Constitutional Convention, by James Madison.

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND CONSTITUTIONAL LAW, 2 Vols., by J. W. Burgess.

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE, by J. Wilford Garner.

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PREFACE FOR TEACHERS

Perhaps the first point to be noticed by a teacher examining this book will be the number of paragraphs in small print. Though these illustrate the topics concisely treated in larger print, most of them are not intended for the use of the student, but have been retained, from an earlier type-written form, for the convenience of the teacher, who may not always have at hand a good collection in American history.

Another peculiarity of this volume is the treatment of the Federal Constitution before the State constitutions. The author is familiar with the logical system of instruction which introduces boys and girls to their back yards before they explore their lawns and descry the far-off sidewalks, which gives them a peep at adjacent gardens and then makes them acquainted with the wonders of the nearest town. Afterward visits to the county seat, to the State capital, and to the National capital fill out what seems, as well in geography as in civil government, the very scheme of nature itself. This book could have introduced the pupil to the road district, the school district, the township, and so on in the time-honored fashion. The objection to this pseudo-scientific system is that from the point of view of the student it conducts him over a tract that is sterility itself.

Of the merits of the method adopted in this book there is no room for doubt. The experiment, if one chooses so to call it, is, in the knowledge of the author, many years old and in a variety of tests has been singularly successful. It has been tried in high schools, in colleges, and in university work with teachers. Those who have never had a grasp of this science have found it a pleasure, after reading these chapters, to take up more advanced studies.

A simpler style of presentation and an omission of such

topics as require maturity of years should adapt this system to the needs of the grammar school. But no text book on Civil Government can absolve the teacher who uses it from special training in the Constitutional History of the United States. On the part of the pupil as much effort will be required to master the contents of this book as is usually bestowed upon higher arithmetic.

It need hardly be remarked that in a branch of knowledge admittedly so dry as Civil Government it is only the wide reader who can make it interesting and profitable. In this field natural ability is not all in all; perhaps industry is the most desirable gift. These considerations have suggested the preparation, not of a complete bibliography, which few teachers have time to master, but a brief list of useful books on this and on cognate subjects. The proof sheets of the entire volume have had the benefits of a careful reading by Mr. Chas. C. Tansill, A. M.

CHARLES H. McCARTHY.

Washington, D. C., January 20, 1914.

HINTS TO STUDENTS

To get the best results from the use of this book the pupil should, wherever it is practicable to do so, adopt the following plan of study. Read carefully the first five pages and note that each has one or more indented margins with a hint in italics on the subject of each paragraph. For example, when the pupil has read the first page, he is plainly told that he should know his United States History, and that he will not and can not understand this subject unless he learn the meaning of certain important terms that are to be constantly used. These words will be fully explained once, but they will not be taken up a second time. The second page tells something about the branch to be studied. By turning to page 199 and the pages following the student will find "Review Questions" on every chapter in the book. There are two questions asked concerning the matter in the first paragraph of page 2. The second paragraph of page 2 is completed on page 3, where the pupil will find an explanation of the reveiw question, "What is the fundamental idea in the Pages two and three will give the word constitution?" answer. Number 4, of the review questions, is answered on page 3. The remaining pages of chapter I are to be worked out in the same way. Chapter II is to be learned just as United States History lessons have been, for that is precisely what it is, a review of certain topics in American Political History. Our subject proper is American Constitutional History, or Civil Government in the United States. The same remark will do for chapter III. On this matter the student must be reminded that the list of questions on pages 199-205 is by no means complete. His teacher will make up many more. Those in the book are specimen questions.