

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MILWAUKEE  
CONFERENCE FOR GOOD CITY  
GOVERNMENT AND SIXTH ANNUAL  
MEETING OF THE NATIONAL MUNICIPAL  
LEAGUE. HELD SEPTEMBER 19, 20, 21,  
1900 AT MILWAUKEE, WIS.; PP. 1-283**

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**CLINTON ROGERS WOODRUFF**

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OF THE

NATIONAL MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

HELD SEPTEMBER 19, 20, 21, 1900

At Milwaukee, Wis.

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CLINTON ROGERS WOODRUFF, EDITOR

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PHILADELPHIA  
NATIONAL MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

1900

# NATIONAL MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

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## INTRODUCTION.

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In presenting this, the sixth volume of Proceedings, it may not be inappropriate to point out briefly what the National Municipal League has thus far sought to accomplish. In the first place, the Conferences for Good City Government held under its auspices have served as annual reunions of those devoting their time and attention to the solution of municipal problems. Officials, students and public-spirited citizens have met upon common ground to exchange views and experiences. In fact, the National Municipal League grew out of the great need for such interchanges. Previous to the Philadelphia Conference in 1894, each community was working out its local problems as best it might without much, if any, thought as to what was going on elsewhere.

The Municipal League of Philadelphia and the City Club of New York conceived the idea of a conference of municipal reformers about the same time. The result of their joint deliberations was the Philadelphia Conference for Good City Government, the published volume of the Proceedings of which has long been out of print. This meeting was so fruitful of suggestions that the organization of the National Municipal League followed shortly, as a matter of course. Since then its annual meetings have perpetuated the good work auspiciously begun in 1894.

There is now a strong and growing group of men in the United States whose conceptions and ideals of municipal government have been developed and harmonized by the League, and whose activities have been guided to effective ends. Where once there was spasmodic and isolated effort, there is now intelligent co-operation. The figures referred to by the Secretary in his annual address tell the story of the growth of interest and activity in the study of municipal problems.

The several volumes of Proceedings have served as a fruitful means of disseminating and bringing the results of the meet-

ings to the attention of those unable to be present. It may not be inappropriate to quote the words of a prominent city official who has had occasion to read the several volumes as they have appeared from time to time: "In my opinion, a copy of the Proceedings would prove of great value to every public official whose duties have a connection with the administration of municipal affairs."

The work of the Committee on Municipal Program is frequently referred to in the Proceedings of the Indianapolis and Columbus Conferences, and a number of the papers in the present volume relate to it. It is not at all unlikely that it will continue to occupy a very considerable portion of the League's time and attention, in view of the thoroughness and comprehensiveness with which it has covered the whole field of charter reform. The judgment of conservative critics, like *The Engineering News*, to the effect it would have, is being amply justified by the reception accorded to it by students and practical administrators alike.

The cases in which there has been a direct recognition or acknowledgment of the value of the League's work are numerous and gratifying; and there are undoubtedly many more in which it has been of use. It is especially noteworthy that during the past year almost every movement for the improvement of municipal charters has drawn very largely upon the ideas advocated by the National Municipal League.

New lines of investigation were instituted at Milwaukee. First, as to the question of instruction in municipal government in American educational institutions. Second, as to the question of uniform municipal accounting and statistics. Both are most important, and bid fair to occupy a large part of the League's efforts and energy during the coming two years.

The present volume contains all the formal papers read at Milwaukee, and an accurate report of the discussion of them. They constitute an interesting group, and connect past efforts with future endeavors.



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PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
**Sixth Annual Meeting**  
OF THE  
**National Municipal League**  
AND  
**Eighth National Conference for Good City Government**  
HELD AT  
**Milwaukee, September 19, 20 and 21, 1900.**

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Hotel Pfister, Wednesday, September 19, 1900, 2.45 p. m. The meeting was called to order by the First Vice-President, Mr. Charles Richardson, of Philadelphia.

**CHAIRMAN:** I think, in view of the near approach of a national election, it may be well to repeat the statement that the National Municipal League has nothing to do with national parties or national issues. Its sole object is the improvement of municipal government. It is true that the improvement of municipal government must ultimately lead to an improvement in national government, because it tends to develop political intelligence and conscientious citizenship in voters, and because it excludes the unfit from local politics, and in that way prevents them from getting a foothold on the ladder which might otherwise enable them to climb to national prominence and national influence. But these possible effects upon the national government are so desirable in themselves, so indirect and so entirely non-partisan that they can only be regarded as additional reasons for believing that the work of the National Municipal League should receive the careful consideration and the earnest co-operation and support of the members of all parties.

The first number on our program is an address of welcome by Governor Scofield, of Wisconsin. Mr. Butler will make a statement in regard to the unavoidable absence of the Governor and also of the Mayor.

**MR. JOHN A. BUTLER, of Milwaukee:** *Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen.*—I have to say that I have received from the Governor of Wisconsin a most flattering and gratifying letter expressing appreciation and