

**MUNICIPAL FREEDOM; A
STUDY
OF THE COMMISSION
GOVERNMENT**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649360338

Municipal freedom; a study of the commission government by Oswald Ryan

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
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OSWALD RYAN

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Municipal Freedom

A Study of the Commission
Government

By OSWALD RYAN

of the Indiana Bar

*Formerly of the Department of Government,
Harvard University*



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WITH AN INTRODUCTION

BY

A. LAWRENCE LOWELL

President of Harvard University

GARDEN CITY NEW YORK
DOUBLEDAY, PAGE & COMPANY

1915

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To
EDWARD C. TONER
OF INDIANA

WHOSE POLITICAL ACTS HAVE
BEEN IMBUEE WITH HIS OWN
INTELLECTUAL HONESTY AND
HIGH PERSONAL INTEGRITY

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Although he writes this volume at the age of twenty-six, Oswald Ryan is already entitled to speak authoritatively on municipal problems. He was educated in the common schools of Anderson, Indiana, Butler College, Harvard College, and the Harvard Law School. While an undergraduate at Harvard he was awarded in 1910 the Baldwin Prize by the National Municipal League for his "Commission Plan of City Government," which was published by the *American Political Science Review*. In 1911 he became a joint contributor to "City Government by Commission" (New York, 1911) under the editorship of Clinton Rogers Woodruff. In the same year he was appointed assistant to Albert Bushnell Hart, head of the department of government at Harvard, and entered upon the work of teaching at Harvard and Radcliffe colleges. During the years 1911-13 he took an active part as a writer and speaker in the movement for charter reform in Massachusetts, and in 1911 he participated in the fight for the passage through the Massachusetts Legislature of a permissive commission government act which he had drafted. He left Cambridge in June, 1913, to take up the practice of law at Anderson, Indiana, and in the following fall waged a vigorous campaign

for the mayoralty of that city as the nominee of one of the leading parties. This was the first municipal battle to be waged in Indiana on a constructive program of municipal advance, and it had a far-reaching educative effect. Mr. Ryan was defeated by a small margin, but one year later the same city gave him a record-breaking plurality as candidate for state's attorney of the fiftieth Indiana Judicial District. He is now recognized as one of the practical leaders in the municipal movement in Indiana.

Mr. Ryan is known as a contributor to several national periodicals, including *Harper's Weekly*, the *American Political Science Review*, the *Popular Science Monthly*, and the *New England Magazine*. The present volume is based largely on personal investigations by the writer in progressive cities in various parts of the United States since 1910.