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CHICAGO, SEPTEMBER 18TH TO 30TH, 1911**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649741557

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PREFACE

The present compilation owes its inception to the suggestion of the Council for Library and Museum Extension, an alliance of Chicago's educational agencies, to the effect that a printed list showing the literary resources of the libraries of Chicago upon the general subject of Municipal Government would be an appropriate and useful way of participating in the International Municipal Congress and Exposition. It is issued as the joint production of the three public libraries, the expense of publication being shared by them, while the work of compilation was performed by the Chicago Public Library. It is not a bibliography, nor does it aspire to completeness even as a check list, since the whole number of titles here recorded is somewhat less than one thousand, while the total enumeration of all the volumes and pamphlets, in the three libraries, dealing with the subject in all its phases, and including all local material, would make a volume at least five times the size of this list.

Considerations of economy, both of time and space, were paramount in determining the scope and character of the list. It was decided, in the first place, to limit it to the collections of the three free public libraries, properly so-called, thus excluding several smaller but valuable depositories, such as the library of the City Club, and the Bureau of Statistics and Municipal Library, the latter a bureau of the city government; both of which are not, ordinarily, open for use by the general public. It was also imperative to confine the list to a selection, only, of the voluminous material brought together in the three libraries. General treatises upon the theory and practice of municipal administration were, of course, included, while accounts of the systems, methods, experiences and experiments of separate cities were omitted, with the exception of such as related to the city of Chicago, and, less comprehensively, those dealing with the great cities of the world: London, Paris, Berlin and New York. This line of exclusion was somewhat relaxed, however, in the case of several of the special subjects, as Charters, and Commission Form of Government, since under these heads many, or most, of the local reports and documents were

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deemed of primary importance. Under the various departmental subdivisions, on the other hand, it was the intention to admit only those titles which treated of the administrative or official side of the subject; scientific treatises, written for the road or water supply engineer, the food chemist or the lawyer, were regarded as foreign to the scope of the list.

The same exigencies of economy governed in matters of style. Titles were shortened as much as consistent with clarity; bibliographical data, excepting only date of publication, were dispensed with, and annotations were employed in rare cases of apparently absolute necessity. No title is listed more than once, i. e., under its first or most important subject. It is perhaps needless to add that no reference has been made to the vast bulk of contributions to the subject to be found in periodical publications. The absence of some topics, as yet treated only in that ephemeral form, will thus be accounted for.

It is, then, as a selective check list that this compilation goes forth. Intended primarily as an "exhibit," to convey to the visitor to the Municipal Exposition some idea of the wealth of material relating to the field covered by the Exposition, which is available in the libraries of Chicago, it may, perhaps, find a more extended usefulness as a guide and aid to the student and the official.

Check List of Books and Pamphlets on Municipal Government

(The letters C, J, N, affixed to titles, refer to the libraries in which the books are to be found, i. e.: C.—Chicago Public Library; J.—John Crerar Library; N.—Newberry Library.)

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