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MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT
IN CANADA

EDITED BY

S. MORLEY WICKETT, B.A., Ph.D.

SOMETIME LECTURER IN POLITICAL ECONOMY

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



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EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

Remarkably little has been written on the municipal system of Canada. For a number of years after confederation much of the thought of political writers was given to the constitution, but most of it was devoted to the division of powers *between* the Dominion and the provinces, comparatively little to the distribution of powers *within* the provinces. The explanation is not far to seek. The pre-confederation systems of local government were continued, and as population grew slowly there was little occasion to investigate them. The past ten or twelve years, however, have seen population increasing rapidly, and the sphere of municipal activity widening. The magnitude and the complexity of local interests are at length compelling attention to the field that it was formerly possible to pass lightly over. One might even say that the past unquestioned supremacy of provincial over municipal interests may not long remain unchallenged. Thus it is that many localities are already feeling that the simple organization of the past is unequal to the strain of modern municipal activity. The near future should see many important changes in the system and methods of conducting municipal business.

The present volume passes in review the main features of municipal development in the several provinces. The papers forming it have been contributed during the past five years and have appeared in four separate numbers. In the majority of instances they are written by men personally familiar with local conditions. A few additional notes will be found in the addenda.

The account given is not exhaustive. It is a discussion of those matters on which data are available and which are indigenous or sufficiently important to repay examination. It is necessarily factual. No attempt is made to set up generalizations as to the discovery in local laws or practices of regard for certain traditional political principles. To undertake that would be at present highly venturesome, perhaps fantastic. Canada is a country in the making, and the influences on day-to-day legislation are too chaotic and utilitarian. But it is just this