

**CITY GOVERNMENT IN EUROPE:  
HOUSTON'S INQUIRY INTO MUNICIPAL  
ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION  
IN THE PRINCIPAL CITIES OF GREAT  
BRITAIN AND GERMANY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649508778

City Government in Europe: Houston's Inquiry Into Municipal Organization and  
Administration in the Principal Cities of Great Britain and Germany by Frank Putnam

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

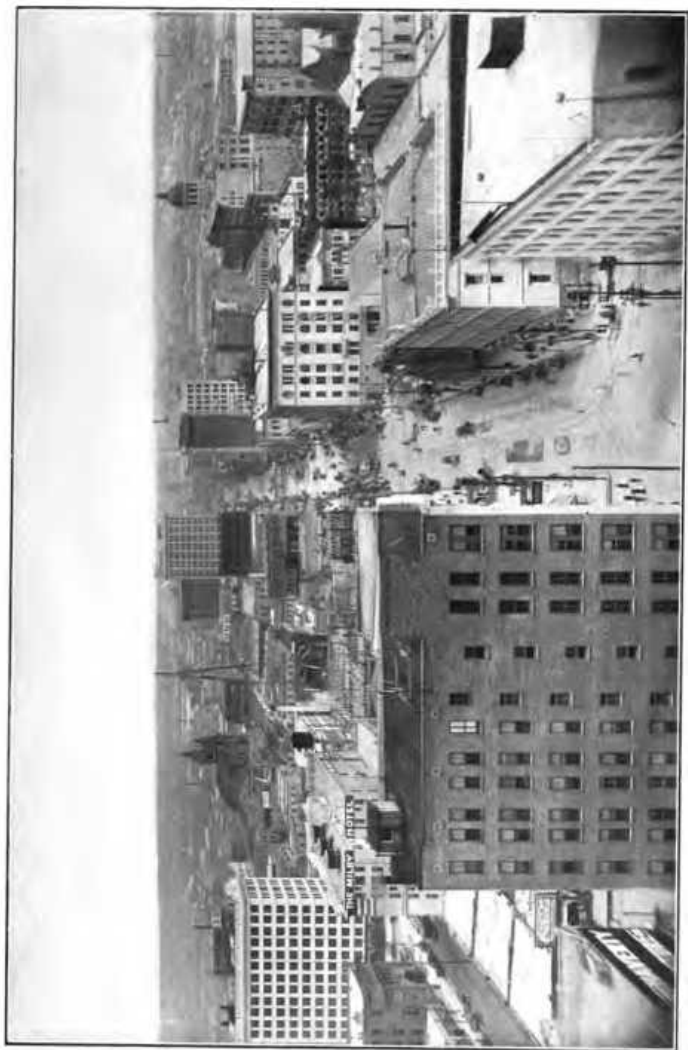
This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**FRANK PUTNAM**

**CITY GOVERNMENT IN EUROPE:  
HOUSTON'S INQUIRY INTO MUNICIPAL  
ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION  
IN THE PRINCIPAL CITIES OF GREAT  
BRITAIN AND GERMANY**





A VIEW OF THE BUSINESS DISTRICT OF HOUSTON, TEXAS, SHOWING SOME OF THE NEWER "SKYSCRAPING" COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

**CITY GOVERNMENT  
IN EUROPE**

**HOUSTON'S INQUIRY INTO**

*Municipal Organization and Administration in the Principal Cities of Great Britain and Germany; with a Report of Findings and Recommendations for Houston's Guidance in Developing a Great Seaport City on the Gulf of Mexico*

By

**FRANK PUTNAM**

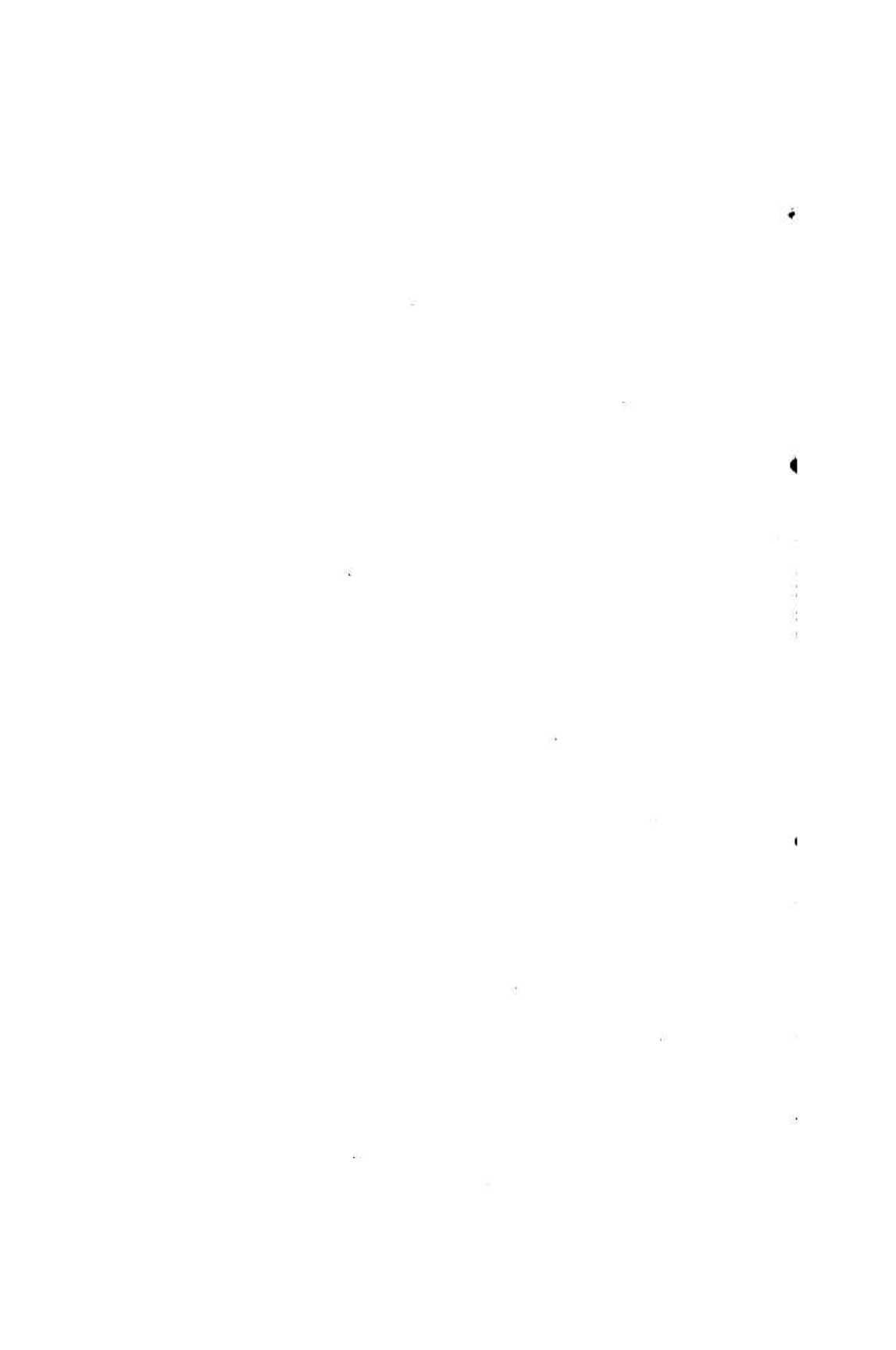
*Special Commissioner of the City of Houston  
to the Cities of Europe*

*Published by*  
**THE CITY OF HOUSTON, TEXAS**  
1913

## THE IDEA

*(Editorial, The Manufacturers Record, August, 1912)*

Mayor Rice and the City Commissioners of Houston have done a very wise thing. Recognizing that Houston is to be a big city, and that in its development many problems will have to be met, they have engaged Mr. Frank Putnam to go to Germany and make a study of the leading municipalities of that country. It is believed that Houston can learn many important lessons in the handling of municipal improvements and the betterment of the city by a study of the methods which have been so successful in many of the most progressive cities of Germany. Every city in the country could well afford to employ a first-class expert to study city improvements in this country and abroad. In this way the mistakes which have been made could be avoided and the successes achieved could be followed. Houston has set a good example.





## FOREWORD

In this book the writer makes no pretense to have done more than afford some glimpses of municipal organization and management in some of the chief cities of Northern Europe. It was the purpose of the city government of Houston to learn by means of this inquiry something about the means by which older cities have acquired good public services and it is the hope of the writer that his report, in the following pages, will to a degree serve that purpose. He has learned, in brief, these main facts:

First—That Houston's location with reference to national and international trade routes insures very large future city growth at this point on the coast of the Gulf of Mexico.

Second—That Houston, in order to afford a suitable foundation for private enterprise which must be depended upon to utilize its advantage of location, must through its city government expend a large amount of money during the next few years laying city foundations and perfecting its public services.

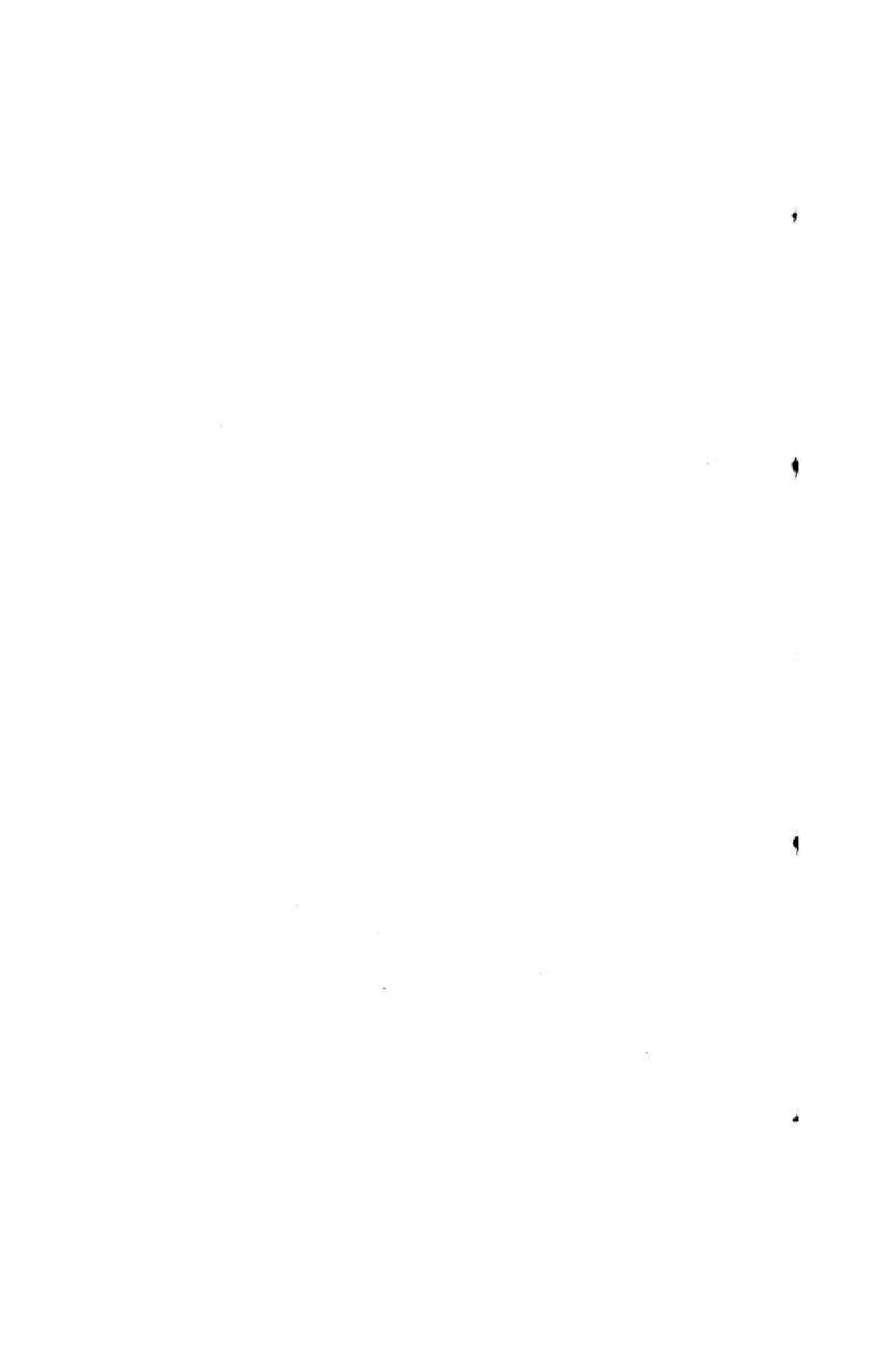
Third—That (accepting the experience of older cities as a guide) the only way the City of Houston can get the money with which to do this work is by issuing bonds and by assessing the cost of improvements against owners of abutting property, enhanced in value by the making of such improvements.

Fourth—That (again accepting as a guide the experience of the older cities) money borrowed by bond issues should, so far as possible, be invested in revenue-producing properties, so that hereafter a substantial portion of the cost of making non-revenue-producing improvements may be borne by the surplus revenues of public properties producing such surplus.

Fifth—That any changes in the form of our city government should be directed to the end of producing more certain continuity of constructive municipal policies, and to the employment, in all responsible positions, of technically trained men, when these can be obtained.

In making up this volume I have placed the final report with summary of findings and recommendations at the fore, to accommodate those readers who want a mere digest of the work. The letters sent home each week for publication in Houston newspapers are given substantially as first written, for those readers who may wish to trace the inquiry in details.

F. P.



## *TABLE OF CONTENTS*

- Chapter I: Report of the City's Special Commissioner to the Mayor and City Commissioners of the City of Houston.
- Chapter II: The Ancient City of Cork.
- Chapter III: The Capital of Ireland.
- Chapter IV: Glasgow's Municipal Philosophy.
- Chapter V: Glasgow's Municipally Owned Public Utilities.
- Chapter VI: Glasgow's Battle With the Slum.
- Chapter VII: London, the World Capital.
- Chapter VIII: The International Municipal Congress in Dusseldorf.
- Chapter IX: Hamburg a Proof of German Initiative.
- Chapter X: Phases of Municipal Administration in Hamburg.
- Chapter XI: Official Statistics of Hamburg.
- Chapter XII: The Land Increment Tax in Hamburg.
- Chapter XIII: Looking Into Houston's Future.
- Chapter XIV: The Appreciation of Art in the German Cities.
- Chapter XV: Facts and Figures From Hanover's Government.
- Chapter XVI: Hanover's Municipal Restaurants.
- Chapter XVII: Munich's Model Municipal Reports.
- Chapter XVIII: German Management of a Difficult Problem.
- Chapter XIX: Dusseldorf, "The Sheffield of Germany."
- Chapter XX: Berlin, the City Magnificent.
- Chapter XXI: Latest Official Data on Berlin.
- Chapter XXII: Humanity Moving to Town.
- Chapter XXIII: Houston's Inland Harbor.
- Chapter XXIV: An Appreciation of the Theme; Editorial From the Dallas-Galveston Daily News.