

**THE ADMINISTRATION
OF IOWA: A STUDY
IN CENTRALIZATION**

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The Administration of Iowa: A Study in Centralization by Harold Martin Bowman

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HAROLD MARTIN BOWMAN

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SPECIAL ABBREVIATIONS.

- L. = Laws; L. S. B. E. = Laws of the State Board of Education.
D. C. C. = Debates of the Constitutional Convention of 1857.
C. J. = Council Journal; H. J. = House Journal; S. J. = Senate Journal.
S. F. = Senate Files; H. F. = House Files.
S. R. = Reports of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.



CHAPTER I

THE ADMINISTRATION OF IOWA: ITS BASIS AND PROBLEMS

THE problem of administration in Iowa is the universal problem of the American State of to-day, that of the proper apportionment of powers between the State and the local government. Responsibility, efficiency and freedom in administration, this is the triple end sought in the efforts toward improvement of government, an end upon the attainment of which many of the unrealized ideals of democratic society depend.

There is little in the institutions of Iowa to distinguish it markedly from other States. In the years preceding 1850 it had the characteristics common to pioneer government, many that two hundred years before had stamped the seaboard colonies. Penalties for refusal to serve in local offices, meetings of the townfolk to regulate their local affairs, *viva voce* voting not only upon minor matters, but upon the acceptance or rejection of their early Constitutions; through this familiar stage the community, with the laws and traditions that it had inherited, was almost bound to pass. Now and then it devised governmental machinery of its own, such as that embodied in the firm covenant of the Land Claims Associations, but usually its political and social inheritance was found adequate to its needs.

The broad outline of the government of to-day is substantially that of the second year of its independent territorial existence. The territorial government as first organized was modeled upon the Northwest Ordinance of 1787,