

**CITY GOVERNMENT FOR YOUNG
PEOPLE: A STUDY OF THE
AMERICAN CITY ADAPTED FOR
SCHOOL USE AND FOR HOME
READING FOR CHILDREN**

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City Government for Young People: A Study of the American City Adapted for School Use and for Home Reading for Children by Charles Dwight Willard

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•The M Co.

CITY GOVERNMENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

*A STUDY OF THE AMERICAN CITY
ADAPTED FOR SCHOOL USE AND FOR HOME
READING FOR CHILDREN*

BY

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PREFACE

THIS work is not intended as an addition to the already overburdened curriculum of the High School, but is offered to educators as a substitute, in schools located in cities, for the course on "Civics" or "Civil Government." The avowed purpose of that course is to teach citizenship. It will scarcely be contended that the recital of facts about the general government and the state and county governments can be of great value in itself. These, like many other things taught in our schools, are likely to be quite forgotten before the pupil reaches the age where they can be put to practical use. Moreover, the essential facts about the national government and the states are fairly well covered in the study of American History. But the lessons of citizenship are of great and lasting value.

The National Municipal League and many writers on municipal topics have repeatedly urged that a study of *city* government rather than that of the *national* and *state* governments be used as the basis of the teaching in citizenship.

Very excellent practical reasons are offered in defense

of this view. The city is the first official government with which the child comes in direct personal contact — often the only government. It is possible for him to study it in action, as a reality, and not merely as a matter of book learning. The value of personal research, of physical contact with the article to be studied, does not need to be argued to the experienced educator. Furthermore, city citizenship has been too long neglected in the (apparent interest) of national citizenship. The city is a great and vital problem that needs to be studied and worked upon. Why should not our schools do their share?

A committee of the National Municipal League recently sent inquiries to the school authorities of all the larger cities of the Union, asking what was being done with the study of city government. One answer was peculiarly illuminating, "We regard our city government as too bad to be studied." What would be thought of a Health Officer who would say, "Our food products are too bad to be investigated."

This book is designed for a place in the High School course; but with a teacher who feels a genuine interest in the topic, it can be used in the latter years of the grammar grades. It may also be used for supplementary reading anywhere in the course. A chapter of suggestions entitled "To the Instructor" will be found at the end of the volume, pages 154 to 159. As this

is, for the most part, an entrance into a new field, these suggestions should be carefully considered and followed as far as they are adapted to local conditions.

CHARLES DWIGHT WILLARD.

LOS ANGELES,
September, 1905.