

**MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS AND HOW TO FIGHT
THEM: A PRACTICAL HANDBOOK FOR
CANDIDATES AND WORKERS AT ELECTIONS
FOR COUNTY COUNCILS, TOWN COUNCILS,
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCILS, BOARDS OF
GUARDIANS, RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILS,
PARISH COUNCILS**

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Municipal Elections and How to Fight Them: A Practical Handbook for Candidates and Workers at Elections for County Councils, Town Councils, Urban District Councils, Boards of Guardians, Rural District Councils, Parish Councils by J. Hall Seymour Lloyd

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J. HALL SEYMOUR LLOYD

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PARISH COUNCILS**

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

AND

HOW TO FIGHT THEM.

BY

J. SEYMOUR LLOYD,

Of the Middle Temple, Barrister-at-Law,

(Author of "ELECTIONS AND HOW TO FIGHT THEM").

**A PRACTICAL HANDBOOK for Candidates and
Workers at Elections for**

**County Councils,
Town Councils,
Urban District Councils,
Boards of Guardians,
Rural District Councils,
Parish Councils, and
Metropolitan Borough Councils.**

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PREFACE.

There are in England and Wales alone about 10,000 Councils elected to manage local affairs. When it is remembered that our annual expenditure for Local Government purposes now exceeds that of the National Exchequer, the importance of Local Government can hardly be gainsaid. The powers entrusted to local bodies are extensive and increasing. Their duties are onerous, and upon the faithful performance of them the health and happiness of the whole population to no small extent depends.

The choice of Councillors involves a large number of elections, many of which are keenly contested. In the following pages an attempt is made to smooth the path for candidates by dealing in a simple way, first with the practical work of municipal elections, and secondly, with the restrictions placed by Parliament on the procedure of those who fight them. If it thus succeeds in assisting persons who interest themselves in the problem, of local administration, this little book will have achieved its aim.

J. SEYMOUR LLOYD.

4, Brick Court, Temple.

September, 1906.

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MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

AND

HOW TO FIGHT THEM.

ELECTED LOCAL COUNCILS.

SYNOPSIS.

Attitude towards Local Government.

Ladder of Local Government.

Parish Council.—Election of Parish Councillors.—Powers and Duties.

Rural District Council.—Powers and Duties.—Election of Councillors.—Councillors also Guardians.

County Council.—Committee Work.—Powers and Duties.—Elections.

Urban District Council.—Elections.

Municipal Boroughs.—Town Council.—Boroughs of Different Degrees.

Boards of Guardians.

London Government.—What is London.—Administrative County.—Growth of London Government.—Duality.

London County Council.—Powers and Duties.—Constitution.

Metropolitan Borough Councils.—Vestrydom.—London Government Act, 1899.—Powers and Duties.—Elections.

City of London Common Council.

London Boards of Guardians.

There was a time, even now not remotely distant, when it was the fashion to hold in contempt the work of municipal bodies, as savouring chiefly of drains and dustbins. That day has passed, and the manifold duties carried out by the various local councils offer scope to the activities of all those who interest themselves in the public affairs of the district where they reside, and the election of representatives for local government purposes becomes every day of greater importance. The ladder of local government, indeed, is a tolerably long one. It stretches from the parish or town to the district, rural or urban as the case may be, and thence to the county. A sketch in broadest outline of the duties laid upon councillors must here suffice to indicate the various opportunities that present themselves to true-born Britons to fight the electoral battles of their country—let us hope for their country's good.

THE PARISH COUNCIL.

Taking a rural view of things to begin with, we have first the Parish Council, to which every rural parish having a population exceeding 300 is entitled. Smaller parishes may be combined by order of their County Council to form a Parish Council, or they can demand a Council of their own, but usually they content themselves with a Parish Meeting, which must assemble at least twice a year, when every elector has the privilege of representing himself. Big parishes also have their Parish Meeting on or about the 25th March of each year, and once in three years parish councillors to the number of from five to fifteen