

**MUNICIPAL PUBLIC
WORKS; THEIR INCEPTION,
CONSTRUCTION AND
MANAGEMENT**

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Municipal public works; their inception, construction and management by S. Whinery

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THEIR INCEPTION, CONSTRUCTION
AND MANAGEMENT

BY

S. WHINERY

CIVIL ENGINEER

New York

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PREFACE

THIS book is intended for the inexperienced city official and for the urban citizen. Numbers of good and earnest men are elected or appointed to official positions in our municipal governments whose interests and previous business experience and training have not been of such a character as to lead them to study the principles controlling, and the problems that will be met with in conducting, municipal public works, and who, upon assuming the duties and responsibilities of office, feel that they are deficient in the special knowledge necessary to enable them to discharge intelligently and efficiently the duties of their new positions. The veteran in municipal service and the student of municipal administration will not find in the book much that is new to them, although they may find that some matters are presented from points of view different from those to which they have been accustomed.

Believing as I do that it is both the privilege and the duty of every citizen to take an active interest and part in municipal government, and particularly in the carrying out of municipal public works, I have thought that a book of this character might help to arouse such an interest in those who have not previously given much attention to the subject, as well as to stimulate further interest and inquiry among those already familiar with it.

Such being the purpose of the book, I have avoided technical treatment of the subjects, and have introduced statistics and details only where they seemed necessary to illustrate or enforce the general statements. The idea has been to deal with *principles* rather than with the details of practice.

If in some matters I have departed from well-worn paths and traditional views, it has been with the conviction that such departures are not only justified by facts and experience, but are essential to a correct conception of municipal business. Whether these views be approved or not by those whose study and experience entitle their opinions to weight, it is hoped that they may have some value in stimulating the discussion of the subjects to which they refer.

Recognizing that the class of persons whose interest it is desired to enlist is composed largely of business men whose time is already closely occupied, I have endeavored to be brief, even at the risk of laying myself open to the charge of inadequate treatment on many points.

A casual examination will suffice to show that I have not attempted to cover in a scholarly or exhaustive manner any of the subjects taken up. The book has been written in the intervals of other employment, as leisure permitted, and with little attempt to read up or consult authorities.

I at first intended to devote a final chapter to a brief bibliography of the subject of municipal government and cognate subjects. But the literature of the subject is so extensive that it was found very difficult to restrict within reasonable limits any list of books and papers without

great danger of omitting much of equal or greater value, since it is quite impossible for one man to say what books will be of most interest and value to another. Besides, there already exists a very full and admirable bibliography of the subject, from which students and general readers can readily select the literature that is likely to supply what they may think best suited to their purpose.¹

S. W.

NEW YORK,
May 1, 1903.

¹ "A Bibliography of Municipal Problems and City Conditions." New York Reform Club Committee on City Affairs, 52 William Street, New York. pp. 346. \$1.50.

