



# Pacific Municipalities and Counties Volume 34-35

League of California Municipalities



This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1920 Excerpt: ...ample opportunity for officials to indulge in that well-known pastime commonly known as passing the buck. The policies of the city should be determined by the peoples representatives elected as members of the city council, but the execution of those policies should be handled by men who are qualified Detraining and experience. A man elected to the city council for his personal popularity will probably make a good councilman, but that same man will be likely to prove a dismal failure when placed in charge of some important function of administration such as the head of the health department or the street department. The greatest objection to the mixing of legislative and administrative functions in one and the same set of officials is the fact that, as administrative officers they have appointments to make and employes to hire, and this is the rock upon which the commission plan of government usually splits. The legislative department must be kept entirely free from matters of patronage, in order to retain peace and harmony. The commission plan of government may be likened to an industrial corporation, each of the directors of which serves as foreman of one of the departments. Is a director of a corporation usually qualified by training or experience to serve as a foreman in the plant as well as a director? No, and yet that is exactly how a city is run under the commission plan of government. City-manager Plan The other kind of municipal government which we have here in California, and which is receiving the most favorable attention at the present time throughout the country, is known as the city-manager plan. The leading authorities regard this plan as the most promising plan which has yet been devised for the government of cities, ...

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