

PREFATORY NOTE.

THIS little volume is intended to present such a succinct review of the public institutions of Canada as will be easily understood by all classes of her people. The first duty of citizens in every country is to make themselves thoroughly acquainted with the nature and operation of the system of government under which they live. Without such a knowledge, a man is very imperfectly equipped for the performance of the serious responsibilities which devolve upon him in a country where the people rule. No amount of so-called "practical experience" can compensate a man for ignorance of the elementary principles of political science, and of the origin, development and methods of his own government.

I have kept steadily in view the requirements of that great mass of people, old and young, men and women, who have few opportunities of obtaining special knowledge of institutions of government. I have avoided all technical language wherever it is possible, and in every case have explained such words and phrases which, although in general use, are not always understood even by those on whose lips they are most frequent.

I have attempted to make this citizen's manual as complete as possible within the limited space at my disposal. I have borne in mind the fact that a Canadian is not merely a citizen