

PREFACE TO NEW EDITION.

It seems now hardly necessary to plead the cause of civics in the schools. On the other hand, there is needed a fuller discussion of the methods of teaching the subject. It is generally agreed that no text-book is required during the early years of the public school course. The child will gain an idea of what government is by examples drawn from the home and the school. As he grows older he can be taught to observe some of the work of government as performed by the municipality. He may see what roads are being made or improved, what side-walks are being put down, and what protects the community from the danger of fire. But beyond the municipal field he cannot very well proceed by direct observation. New principles appear. The whole area of government becomes extraordinarily complex. The discipline of the party system, the solidarity of the cabinet, the parallel activities of parliament and legislature, and the glamour of the monarchical tradition have to be studied definitely like new processes in arithmetic or new chapters in history. It will be seen that the chief aim of this book is to help the pupil at this stage of his progress. The larger part of the text is devoted to an explanation of the federal system and its relation to the provincial system. Topics XII-XIV are added for the purpose of reference and completeness, and for the use of senior pupils and study clubs.