

F. N. Thorpe's *Essentials of American Government* (Putnam's, pp. 190) is an outline of the principles upon which American government rests. These principles, the author believes, are few in number, but their applications are various. "That person understands American government who knows the principle exemplified by any operation of it." The book is intended for use as a college text, supplemented, of course, by additional readings which are suggested at the conclusion of each chapter.

*Our Changing Constitution* by Charles W. Pierson (Doubleday, Page and Co., pp. 181) is a series of thirteen essays on various topics in American constitutional law. Together these essays attempt to show that the progress of federal encroachment upon the sphere of the states is bringing about a profound change in the whole American system of government.

The last two volumes of the *Centennial History of Illinois* (published for the Illinois Centennial Commission by A. C. McClurg and Company) contain an unusual amount of material which should be of interest to students of economics, state history and government. Volume IV, entitled *The Industrial State, 1870-1893* (pp. 553) is by Ernest L. Bogart and Charles M. Thompson. This book traces the far-reaching economic changes, together with the political and social results, which marks the transformation of Illinois from a purely agricultural state to one with a highly diversified system of industries. Volume V, by Ernest L. Bogart and John Mabry Mathews under the title of *The Modern Commonwealth 1893-1918* (pp. 544), is concerned with the recent history and the present government of Illinois. The latter part of this volume, which is devoted to such topics as constitutional amendment and revision, the governor, administrative service, civil service, the state legislature, suffrage, parties, elections, enforcement of state law and state finances, constitutes what is perhaps the most complete and scholarly description of the government of a particular state. It is unfortunate that there are not authoritative works of this nature for each of the forty-eight states instead of the usual poorly-written, inadequate and inaccurate accounts.

*The Reorganization of State Government in Nebraska* by Luella Gettys is the subject of one of the most recent bulletins issued by the Nebraska Legislative Reference Bureau (Bulletin, No. 11, July 1922, pp. 56).

Miss Gettys not only describes the reorganization in Nebraska under the Civil Administrative Code adopted in 1919 and its results, but also gives a very accurate and thorough survey of the general state reorganization movement throughout the United States. Like most other students of the subject the author points out that constitutional changes are necessary for a further reconstruction of state government.

*The Disruption of Virginia*, by James C. McGregor (Macmillan's, pp. 328) is a comprehensive, careful and interesting study of the episode indicated in its title. The author is convinced that the formation of the new state was unconstitutional and that it was desired by only a small minority of the people immediately concerned.

R. G. Cleland's *California: The American Period* (Macmillan's, pp. 512) is a continuation of Dr. Charles E. Chapman's volume on the Spanish period of California's history. The book is scholarly, the outcome of patient research; but it is also replete with local color and written in interesting style. The author has been successful in avoiding the provincial or localized point of view which is so commonly characteristic of sectional histories.

The Bureau for Research in Government of the University of Minnesota has issued a booklet entitled *Charter Making in Minnesota* (pp. ix, 198) by Professor William Anderson. This work contains much sound and practical advice and although intended as a manual for citizens of Minnesota, it should also be of interest and usefulness to students of government and charter commissions in other states. Of special value are the chapters on the principles of charter making and the appendix containing a model charter drafted by the author.

The C. A. Nichols Publishing Company has issued the second volume of *The New Larned History for Ready Reference, Reading and Research* (Vol. II, Balkh—Chont, pp. vii, 839–1734). The general features of this work were described in the *Review* for November, 1922 (p. 728).

*Our Republic* by S. E. Forman (Century Co., pp. 852) is the latest addition to the already considerable array of textbooks on the history of the United States available for use in colleges. This history, the author explains, however, is "not one of the drum and trumpet kind," nor is it one in which the politician always holds the center of the stage.