GROWTH OF MUNICIPALITIES IN CEYLON

FROM 1865 TO 1900

H.S. Gamage

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Gaminiy Candra

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ABSTRACT

In this study an attempt is made to examine the growth, development, and the history, of the municipal councils in Ceylon, from their origin in 1865 to the end of the nineteenth century, covering a period of roughly thirty-five years. In Chapter I the introduction sets out some of the problems and circumstances that led to the introduction of a municipal system in Ceylon. Chapter II goes on to deal with the aims and motives in establishing these institutions. Here the ideas and intentions of those immediately responsible for the measure have been examined, followed by an attempt to examine the real underlying factors that operated. Chapters III and IV are devoted to a discussion of the development and growth of the municipal constitution during the period. These two chapters deal with the merits and shortcomings of the two principal municipal ordinances belonging to this period. Chapter V brings out certain major limitations and shortcomings that hindered the successful working of the municipal system. A major part of this chapter is devoted to an examination of the financial problems of the municipal councils which happened to be the crux of most of the municipal problems. Chapter VI discusses the financial policy and practice of the municipal councils. Besides examining the factors that explain the financial policy and practice of the municipal councils in general, the financial relations between the Colombo Municipal Council and the central government are traced in detail. Finally the last two chapters, Chapters VII and VIII, are devoted to an examination of the achievements of the municipal administration in the nineteenth century. In Chapter VII the achievements of the municipal councils in their task of local improvements have been examined while Chapter VIII is devoted to discussing the outcome of this administration.
abstract

acronyms

contents


I

urban problems of an emerging colonial society

II

The formation of municipal councils in Canada

III

The growth of municipal councils and the constitution from 1663 to 1757

IV

The growth of the constitution and 1767 to 1960

V

Municipal politics in Canada 1767 to 1960

VI

bids for revision

VII

Introduction

VIII

Introduction to the city politics in Canada

Conclusions

Appendices

Appendix A

growth of urbanization within Canada, 1663 to 1960

Appendix B

growth of urbanization in Canada, 1767 to 1960

Appendix C

growth of urbanization in Canada, 1663 to 1757

Appendix D

chart showing the boundaries of municipalities

Appendix E

chart showing the boundaries of wards of the county

Appendix F

chart showing the boundaries of wards of the county