

Hon. Robt P. Porter -
- Capt Census -

Dear Sir: Your letter with enclosure received.

The schedules you send touch so little upon the ground of any letter and embrace so many other things that I hardly feel competent to make any suggestions. Indeed, I think the details of the government of municipalities - that is chartered municipalities - is of less interest and importance than the methods of county, township and state government.

Corporate municipalities are all exceptions. Nobody looks for general principles of government to be carried out or illustrated by them. But the American people generally labor under the egregious mistake of supposing that substantially all state governments are alike - and so they are, down to the counties; below that

their administration differs totally. Some appoint some elect: some appoint directly and some indirectly.

Schedules A and B - seem to me as complete as they can be made.

As an addition to Schedule Section B of Schedule C ^{Interrogatories} I would suggest some thing of the following character.

- (a) Is your city divided into legislative wards or districts and if so how are they designated?
- (b) Are the members of one or both houses branches of the legislative body chosen by wards or districts.
- (c) What is the number of wards or districts and the Representation of each?
- (d) What was the number of registered voters in each ward or district according to the last registration?

These inquiries are useful and interesting. Indeed, I think them the most important from a socio-political point of view that pertain to the corporate municipality.

You will find some curious things: as for instance in one city you will find 2900 votes in one ward choosing one councilman and 800 in another ward choosing three councilmen. In another city you will find that a voter in one ward exercises about four and a half times the power of one in another ward.

These things will make a pretty study. It is Township and County governments however, that vary most and most interestingly, in cost and character. Well tabulated these will make a genuine sensation.

The number and character of the appointments made by the chief Executive of each State and by his appointees should also be ascertained. Also what off offices are chosen by the legislatures and what appointments of the Governor have to be confirmed by the legislature or ~~are~~ either branch of it.

These inquiries, coupled with the inquiries to county officers will give results from which one having some knowledge of such things can make up a remarkably instructive set of ~~but~~ governmental tables.