



GROWTH OF MUNICIPALITIES IN CEYLON

FROM 1865 TO 1900

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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 moulded 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

in the political sphere. In this chapter the factors that influenced and dominated at municipal elections, the manner in which the elections were conducted and the political training afforded by these institutions to the people at large have been dealt with.

The body of data is supplemented and strengthened with maps, tables and a diagram, in the form of Appendices.