



City of Chicago

COUNCIL CHAMBER

CHARLES ALLING
Alderman Second Ward
Office 706 Tacoma Bldg.
Telephone Main 2576

Charles Alling
W. R. Harper



December 12, 1901. 190

W. R. Harper, L.L.D.,

President University of Chicago.

Dear Dr. Harper:--

When we studied the teaching of civics in the public schools we were all struck with the fact that the teaching concerning the municipal civics was utterly deficient. The children all know the branches of the National government, the names of the President and his Cabinet, but know practically nothing about their own election precincts, ward, legislative and congressional boundaries.

They cannot be taught properly until some text book shall be prepared which will give the teachers the information. I enclose herewith the first book that has ever been published in Chicago, as far as I know, which gives the information which every teacher should possess. It is a homely little pamphlet compiled by a lawyer who used to be employed in the Election Commissioners' office. He put \$100 into the work but will not publish such books concerning the other towns of Chicago until the demand shall be felt.

City of Chicago



CHARLES ALLEN
Address: Room 710
Office: 725 Madison St.
Telephone: Main 1010

December 12, 1901.

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President University of Chicago.

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There is no doubt a need for a book covering the whole city of Chicago and giving the practical information in civics which the children should know. It will be felt, not only in the next generation of voters, but a great many parents will be reached by such practical information which will be brought into the homes by the children.

I believe that you are in a position to have a textbook of this kind prepared, and I enclose the pamphlet merely as a suggestion to you as to the kind of information which should be contained in such a book. Such a textbook should contain an enumeration of all the various departments of the city and county government, and pictures of the city and county institutions, a simple statement as to how the taxes are raised and in what amounts and how they are expended. Although the sums raised and expended would differ from year to year, still the proportions would remain substantially the same.

I addressed an audience at the First Baptist Church composed of the men of the congregation on December 10th. I gave each person present one of these handbooks of information, and

City of Chicago



CHARLES ALLING
Address Second Ward
Office 306 Jackson St.
Telephone Main 1315

Harper 2

There is no doubt a need for a book covering the whole
city of Chicago and giving the practical information in cities
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Harper 3

the men were very much pleased to receive them.

Within the past year the ward legislative and congressional boundaries of the entire city have been completely recast and will in all probability remain as they are for ten years to come. These changes have rendered necessary the dissemination of information as to the new boundaries. We cannot get a good representation in the State legislature from Chicago until the citizens understand the districts in which they live. I have addressed at least twenty-five audiences in which I offered luncheons to any one person present who would name his senator and three representatives. Not a soul in all these audiences has ever gotten even the soup of the luncheon. There is a dense and absolute ignorance among our citizens on civic matters. They are ready to be informed if this can be done in an attractive way.

I have sent this Handbook of Information to the principals of all the schools in the neighborhood of my ward including Armour Institute, De Lasalle Institute, the parochial school of St. James Catholic Church and others.

City of Chicago



CHARLES ALLING
Albion School West
Over the Town Hall
Telephone Room 127

Harper 3

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Harper 4

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In addition to such a handbook as I have suggested to you there should be supplementary reading lessons prepared covering the local history of Chicago, but that can come later. What is needed is a basis from which teachers can intelligently train their children in civic duties around their doors.

The Sunday Schools have taken up the idea of having at least one Sunday and probably two, each year, devoted to lessons on municipal patriotism and the practical duties of local citizenship. I hope that through the channels of the great University of Chicago such publications as are absolutely needed will be prepared for the public.

Yours very truly,

Charles Alling

Alderman 2nd ward.

Enc.

City of Chicago



CHARLES ALLING
Albion 2nd Ward
Office 706 Jackson St.
Telephone Main 1576

Chicago, Ill.

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Yours very truly,

Albion 2nd Ward.

Enc.

THE FACULTIES OF
ARTS, LITERATURE, AND SCIENCE

—
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

The University of Chicago
FOUNDED BY JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER

CHICAGO Dec. 20, 1907

My dear President:

Mr. Albiny may be interested
in these two books. I should think
that Mr. James might prepare such a
manual as is suggested.

Very truly,
Yours,

H. C. F. Adams

THE FACULTY OF
WRIT. LITERATURE AND SCIENCE
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

The University of Chicago
FOUNDED BY JOHN F. WOODSWORTH

CHICAGO Dec. 20, 1907

My dear Professor
The Chicago story in reference
to that the book. I should like
to see the first part of the book
and will be as soon as possible
Very truly
Yours
H. J. Woodworth