

ager cannot be determined at this time. It is possible, however, that the selection will be made after advertisement, as was the case in Sumter.

Under the plan in use in these cities, the city manager is expected to be a good general executive and to have a general knowledge of engineering. The new Hickory charter makes the following specific provisions in regard to its city manager:

"Sec. 9. He shall have power to revoke licenses pending the action of the City Council.

"Sec. 10. He shall have authority and charge over all public works, the erection of buildings for the city, the making and construction of all improvements, paving, curbing, sidewalks, streets, bridges, viaducts, and the repair thereof; he shall approve all estimates of the cost of public works, and recommend to the City Council the acceptance and rejection of the work done or improvements made; he shall have control, management and direction of all public grounds, bridges, viaducts and public buildings; he shall have control of the location of street car tracks, telephone and telegraph poles and wires; he shall have charge of the water sheds from which the city takes its supply of water, pumping stations, pipe lines, filtering apparatus, and all other things connected with or incident to the proper supply of water for the city; and shall secure all rights of way and easements connected with the water works or sewerage systems or the extension of the streets, etc.

"All the powers enumerated, however, shall be exercised subject to the supervision and control of the City Council."



The Houston Tax System Endorsed by the Voters

The municipal election in Houston, Texas, on March 4, was a striking endorsement of the method of taxation adopted for that city by Commissioner J. J. Pastoriza (see *THE AMERICAN CITY* for September, 1912, page 241). In his campaign for reelection, Mr. Pastoriza said that he was "willing to stand or fall on the Houston plan of taxation, particularly that part of it which exempts personal property, such as cash and household furniture, entirely from taxation, and that part of it which taxes buildings at from 25 to 33 1/3 per cent of their reproductive cost." He was returned to office by the largest vote given to any of the candidates for commissioner, and nearly double that cast for any defeated candidate.

Civic and Social Tours of Europe for 1913

To any who are considering the study of civic or social conditions in Europe during the coming summer, a booklet just issued by the International Civic Bureau will be of interest. The booklet contains the itinerary of four towns planned by the Bureau and a list of well-known authorities whose coöperation is promised in Germany, Austria, Belgium, Holland, France and England. The European leaders of the main civic tour will be Henry R. Aldridge, Secretary of the National Housing and Town Planning Reform Council of Great Britain; Edwin E. Slosson, Associate Editor of *The Independent*, New York, and Frederick M. Eliot of the Bureau of Research in Municipal Government, Harvard University. The Chairman of the Committee on Arrangements is Royal R. Miller, 1 Madison Avenue, New York.



A Uniform Municipal Bond Statute

In accordance with suggestions made by Robert R. Reed at the 1912 convention of the Investment Bankers' Association of America,* a proposed municipal bond statute was drawn for introduction in New Jersey, and has been put in general form and issued as a pamphlet for careful reading. The proposed statute does not repeal existing statutes, but gives to municipalities an enabling act under which they may proceed without unreasonable delays or serious legal difficulties. It is believed that the simplicity of the proceedings and the business-like manner of issue will appeal to every municipal official who is in any way responsible for the proper issue of bonds, as well as to public-spirited citizens. Every reader of the bill is asked to make note of desirable suggestions in regard to the adoption of the act in his state, and then to communicate with Park Terrell, Manager Municipal Department, Columbia-Knickerbocker Trust Company, 60 Broadway, New York City, asking for a revised copy adapted to the conditions in the particular state. Such revised copy will be furnished, and then the matter should go to the proper committee of the legislature, with the strongest possible backing.

* See *THE AMERICAN CITY* for December, 1912, page 569.