CILLICIUM SOAP OINT. PILLS Complete Cure For Every Humor From Pimples to Scrofula

Paper by Victor Rosewater at National Municipal Ownership Convention.

ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST THE CITY

More Political Demoralization in Grants of Private Franchises Than in a Service by Responsible Public Servants.

Part II. Rightly or wrongly, the first question asked when the question of municipal ownership is broached is, "Will it pay?" municipal ownership meant a heavier burden on the taxp. yers of the city no other argument could command attention. But insist that it is more economical for the city to sublet the task of supplying its electric lighting to a franchised corporation, the answer is that the results of investigation into comparative cost under private and public regimes contradict their assertion. In all candor I ask, why should a private corporation be able to supply electric light more cheaply than a public corporation? Would it be rational believe, entirely apart from the facts and figures we have already examined, that the elements entering into the production of electricity for lighting purposes would

the cold. That is one reason why there are so many people with "deep-scated," stubborn coughs, and so many more with "lung trouble."

short, quick way to cure a cough is to use Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. The quicker this remedy is used the quicker the cure. But even when neglect has let disease fasten on the lungs, "Golden Medical Discovery" may be relied on to cure in princts. cure in ninetyeight cases out of
every hundred.
The only motive
for substitution is to permit the dealer to make the little extra profit paid on the sale of less meritorious medi-cines. He gains. You lose.

Therefore accept no substi-tute for "Golden Medical Discovery." tute for "Golden Medical Discovery."

"I am feeling quite well," writes Miss Dorcas A. Lewis, of No. 1199 sath St. Washington, D. C. My cough is wery much better, and I owe it all to Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. I cannot say too numb in prause of the modicine, I had been quite a sufferer for a long time, and after reading Doctor Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser thought I would try his 'Golden Medical Discovery.' I commenced taking it in May, itso. Had not been sierping well for a long time. Took one teaspoonful of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery and slept nearly all night without coughing, so I continued taking it. I am in great sympathy with awavybody who seedens with a cough. I had been a sufferer is most than ten years. I tried loss of different most than ten years. I tried loss of different medicines and different dectors but did not feel much better. I coughed until I commenced spitting blood, but now I feel much stronger and am entirely well. Dr. Pierce's Quiden Medical Discovery is the best medicine I have ever taken. My home is in Williamsburg, Virginia."

Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets are a la-dies' laxative. No other medicine equals

MUNICIPAL LIGHTING PLANTS come more expensive to a municipal ecome ecome

(2) expenses of maintenance and operation. Will any one contend that private cor- for the municipality alone. porations can borrow money as cheaply as capital investment, the municipality can sell its bonds at better rates than the private corporation. In the city of Omaha, where I live, municipal bonds bring a premium that reduces the interest rate down to approximately 4 per cent, while the public service corporations have to float their securities on a 6 per cent basis and often at a discount, and I have reason to believe the same is true generally throughout the country. It is sometimes contended that the municipal corporation will have to pay more for its building sites and construction work and that it cannot buy its machinery and installation materials as cheaply the beneficiaries of private franchises still the private corporation. There is nothing, however, to support this assertion, nor is it plausible unless we assume that the public officers are recreant to their trust and that private corporations are not as liable to suffer from dishonest or scheming employes as the municipal corporation. The manufacturers of electrical machinery certainly stand as ready to sell to municipal corporations as to private corporations without discrimination as to prices.

Of the expense for maintenance and operation, the principal items are those for supplies and fuel, for wages and salaries, for depreciation and repairs. What I have machinery applies with reference to sup-There is no good reason why the effectively as any one on the market. These purchases are usually made by contract awarded on competitive bids whether they affect a municipality or a private corpora-

Question of Comparative Salaries.

When it comes to the question of comparative salaries and wages, we can cite estimony in the report of the commissioner of labor, already referred to, which contains a table covering these points within the respective groups into which the plants are classified, with this comment:

So far as salaries are concerned the average cost in municipal plants is smaller in every group presented, in some cases being less than half the average cost in private plants. As regards wage costs, it is seen that in seven of the groups shown the average cost in the municipal plant exceeds that in the private plants, while in eight of the groups this cost in the private plants is greater than in those municipally owned and controlled.

fine itself to supplying street illumination

In his notable investigation Labor Comto raising the necessary funds for the plain that in many cases his table (of comparative cost of production) shows that: In municipal plants the income from private users during the year exceeded the cost of production and that apparently the city not only obtained free electricity for its own use, but made a profit besides, while in other cases, mainly in the smaller its own use, but made a profit besides, while in other cases, mainly in the smaller plants, the cost of electricity used by the city was extremely high. In the former cases the prices charged consumers by the municipal works was sufficiently high to reduce the cost to the city of its own electricity to a very small sum, and indeed in many cases to nothing in addition to showing a large profit on the service. In the latter cases, in which the cost to the city was apparently large, the condition may be due to one or more of a variety of causes. In some instances the high cost may be accounted for by the fact that a small price is charged to the private consumers and the income from this source being very small, the proportion of cost to be borne by the municipality and chargeable against the electricity used for public service becomes correspondingly large; further in small towns and citles where the service is limited the cost of operation is almost as great as would be demanded by a greater amount of service.

In analyzing the table I have constructed In analyzing the table I have constructed

from the annual compilations of the statistics of cities already referred to, I have noted that of the thirteen cities of over pect. 30,000 population two, namely, Tacoma, Wash., and Taunton, Mass., are apparcommercial basis. For the year covered by same period were \$69,251, so that the city plant. According to the same source of penses of maintenance were \$29,247, leaving strength. difference of \$500 in addition to the use of offset against interest charges. To show that this result is not simply an extraordinary condition of a single year. I have compiled from the Labor Bureau's annual bulleting the following tables to show the financial operations of these two municipally owned plants for a period of three years:

TACOMA-Pop. 37,714. 1909. 1901. Total number arc

In another place the commissioner refers to the fact that by far the greater number of private plants show a good profit, the municipal corporations? When it comes missioner Wright feels called upon to ex- per cent reaching as high as 60.45 in one instance. That such profits are incompatible with reasonable rates to the public goes without saying

The Cry of Politics.

But we are told that even if it were possible for the municipality to effect a large financial saving for its taxpayers and private consumers of electric light, and to secure for them the increment accruing from the steady growth of population and business, which for the private corporation is absorbed in the franchise value, political exigencies would stand in the way. The bug-a-boo of politics is always handy for use upon timid people or those who merely seek for an excuse. Establish municipal ownership by the acquisition of an electric lighting plant, declare its opponents, and it is at once dragged into politics. That with proper civil service regulations the plant can be operated without undue political interference is certainly a possibility, and that the acquisition of such a plant would exert the strongest influence for protecting the public service from the bane of politics it is more than reasonable to ex-

On the other hand, who will deny that the private electric lighting corporations ently unique in doing business on a strictly are constantly in politics? The regularly recurring necessity of securing new fransaid with reference to the purchase of the September, 1902, report, the city of chise grants, of barring out competitors or Tacoma is credited with receipts from sales heading off holdups, of renewing contracts of electric light aggregating \$80,845 for the for street illumination, almost compel each nunicipality cannot buy as cheaply and year. Its expenses of maintenance for the privileged corporation to be active in polities in order to claim favors from the powsecured all of its 335 street lamps without ers that be. In every city of any pretencash outlay and had besides a surplus of sions in this country the franchised cornearly \$10,000 to offset the interest on its porations constitute the most peralclous nvestment and the depreciation of its factor in local politics. They have a community of political interest that draws information, the plant at Taunton took them together, and they exert themselves in a yearly revenue amounting to \$29,747 as a rule in political contests on one side paid for commercial lights, while its ex- or on the other with their consolidated

Not content with manipulating local poli-247 arc lamps for street illumination as an tics, these privileged corporations have great national organizations through which they operate in larger fields. If we would know what the electric lighting interests have undertaken from time to time, we have only to refer to the report made to the National Electric Lighting association by Alian R. Foote as chairman of its committee on legislation the first year after that committee had been constituted:

TACOMA—Pop. 27.14. 1800. 1901. 1902.

Tacoma must be and controlled.

The groups this cost in the private plants and control of one class are to disadvantage.

At or possess, wear and tear, and deprediction. At the convention of the other actions of the plant will make the possess of the plant will mak

far as my observation has gone there has been no disposition at all to hold back in the matter of finances. * * In my work I have to spend money and then get it ap-propriated afterward, so they have a pretty good hold on me. I always bring in a bill for what I spend.

While this program was promulgated a dozen years ago, and I have no means of knowing to what extent the committee on legislation is still active. Mr. Foote's explanation by itself is enough to controvert the assertion that municipalization of electrie lighting would drag it into politics. If needed, the evidence could be multiplied many times. So long as electric lighting is given over to private corporations it will remain in politics while municipal ownership offers the only avenue for taking it out of politics. It is well to bear in mind, too, that in all the stories of municipal corruption that we hear from different sectionsfrom St. Louis to Minneapolis and from San Francisco to New York-we have numerous examples of bribe-giving and bribetaking, arising out of special franchise grants to private parties, but none of notable importance chargeable to dishonest management of municipal lighting plants once acquired. We will admit that the municipal corporation runs a risk of loss by dishonest officers and employes, but so also does the private corporation which more often covers up embezzlement by compounding the offense. But all such crookedness pales into significance beside the demoralizing and debauching influence of the constant corruption of public servants by the paid agents of avaricious franchised corporations

The real question then is whether it better for the municipality to operate its own electric lighting plant or to reserve to itself only the right to regulate with compensation for the franchise either by fixed money payment or profit-sharing arrange If financial considerations alone were to govern, the answer would depend upon the terms agreed to, although it is hard to see how, if the city may rightfully claim part of the profit on the percentage plan, it may not with equal propriety and ustice do the work itself and take it all But other considerations ought to weigh as well. The city owes it to its citizens, who may be private consumers of electric light to protect them against exorbitant charges and it can do this best when it is alone in terested as owner and operator. Again, the promotion of civic virtue would strongly ounsel the removal, or at least the minimizing of the festering sore of political corruption invariably produced by the barter and trade of valuable franchise privileges Municipal ownership of electric lighting may have to wait its turn among the many demands urgently pressing upon the resources of our American cities, yet no progressive program of contemporary municipal reform will without it meet the requirements of current popular thought.

This is the conclusion of the paper writ-ten by Victor Rosewater for the national convention on municipal ownership and public franchises held under the auspices of the Reform club of New York.

Facetious with the Wrong Man. When Buck Kilgore was in congress a constituent of his from Texas loomed up in the main doorway of the house and asked:

"No." replied the doorkeeper. "Kunnel Kilgonh is not on de floh. He went out dis doh a minute ago and won't he back no The next day that doorkeeper was ready

to accept a responsible position with the

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having Cook's Imperial Extra Dry Cham



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