

EARLY ROSE WATER ON THE ISSUES OF THE LOCAL CAMPAIGN

Stenographic Report of Address Delivered Last Thursday at the Meeting of the Fifth Ward Republican Club Reviewing Questions Now Before the Voters of Omaha.

Mr. Chairman, Fellow Republicans and Fellow Citizens: I have come tonight to bid you goodnight for a while and also to say a few words concerning a very important event that is now before us. I refer to the triennial election of a new municipal government. The city of Omaha, as has been said here tonight, as the years go by, will become more and more cosmopolitan.

Thousands of our citizens were born in different sections of the world. They have come to this country to better their condition—to become Americanized. All these people aspire to become American citizens and are anxious to secure not only a betterment of their own condition, but also to help their fellow citizens in making good government. All these people necessarily must submit to our system of government as it may be administered, but as American sovereigns they have a right to choose for themselves who shall administer the government.

It has become the custom in Omaha prior to every local election to indulge in a great deal of grandstand play, and a large quantity of dust is thrown to confuse and mislead the voters. Men who have made records that are not square up with their professions come before the people as champions of particular reforms, and they join in the popular clamor, in the hope to have themselves carried into office on the wave of public sentiment.

Now, I have been in favor of every measure I believed to be for the upbuilding of Omaha from the day I set foot in this city, and so far as has been within my power I have endeavored to assist in improving our municipal government and making it as economical and honest as it can be made by turning the searchlight of publicity upon all reckless expenditures of public funds and all lawless and corrupt or improper transactions in public office, but I take no stock in sham reform. I take no stock in those who go upon the platform professing to have been suddenly converted to some popular movement or issue, when their records in the past do not square up with their professions.

Matter of Municipal Ownership.

For more than thirty years I have been an advocate of municipal ownership, and have not changed my views a particle, but, on the contrary, as today more than ever convinced that sooner or later the city of Omaha must own and operate its own public utilities if it is to have a government by the people for the people. It is utterly impossible under existing conditions to expect honest, faithful and efficient municipal government so long as our municipal public utilities are owned and operated by private corporations for private gain.

Three years ago we elected a municipal government on the platform of municipal ownership, but looking backward we find that the men who talked municipal ownership before election did not mean a bit of it. They simply talked it. When it came to action they tried to mislead and bamboozle the people. You remember that only a little more than a year ago a proposition was submitted to the voters of Omaha for the acquisition of a municipal electric light plant. The ordinance was introduced by Mr. Zimmerman, the president of the council, but when election day came Mr. Zimmerman was in the front rank with other members of the council to defeat the proposition and to return to the status quo.

Dollar Gas Bill.

The same gentlemen who defeated a municipal lighting plant fifteen months ago now want to give us dollar gas. They voted a five-year contract with the electric light company, and they have the honor of an electric light plant any sooner, while at the same time the general manager of Mr. Benson's campaign, Mr. Howell, who is also a sham reformer, assured us that the city would have the water works within twelve months. If the municipal light proposition was voted down, the true inwardness of that fight fifteen months ago was that the electric light company spent over \$20,000 to corrupt the voters of Omaha and furnished the campaign fund to elect Howell as member of the Water board. How much it will contribute to Mr. Benson's campaign now I cannot even guess, but Mr. Howell and his adjutant, Tom Blackburn, know how to reach the general manager of the city, and this humbug and bunco game about the water works will be re-enacted for you before this campaign is over.

It is now three years since the Howell water purchase bill passed the legislature. When it was enacted the pretense was that the mayor and city council were not willing to act promptly in having the water works appraised and purchased. The Howell bill was to be a step for the immediate acquisition of the water works. It was introduced the first day of the session and railroaded through without friction into the governor's hands, and was by him signed almost before the ink was dry. It had sixty-seven typewritten pages and, as I remember, read about that but but will do it next time." (Laughter.) So the bill became a law.

Corporations Always Win.

You who have lived in Omaha these last twenty or thirty years, and you who have lived here less, have never yet heard of a proposition affecting the moneyed interests of one of the public utility corporations in any proposition that would reduce their income. I mean any proposition that would reduce their income or be injurious to their interests, you never yet have known of their keeping still and letting such a bill or ordinance pass through. They always have their representatives at the council chamber, they have them on the floors and in the corridors, and even down town at the Merchants hotel bar room. They have them everywhere any councilman or member of the legislature is likely to go. In this instance the water works bill was sent to Lincoln and Mr. Hunt, the manager, was sent to California. The water works bill was logrolled through as easily and quietly as the crime of 1873, like the tread of a cat in the night-time—not a ripple. It went through without the slightest opposition on the part of the water company, and yet Howell pretended all the time that it was done for the water company to turn over its profitable plant to the city.

As soon as that bill had been put through the legislature the city council, by inspiration, suddenly became convinced that it had to obey the law to the letter. Many of the laws they do not care to obey at all (laughter), but this particular law they had to obey instantly. Under the law they had thirty days to consider, but, no, they had to do it instantly. They met and resolved that it was necessary for the city to acquire the works on the three-appraiser plan. They at once notified the water board to name one appraiser, the water company the second one, so that the two might choose the third, and it was done almost in a jiffy. By this act the city was handcuffed, in fact, bound hand and foot and delivered over to the water company.

Sham Reformer's Promise.

The great champion of sham reform, who is now managing the Benson campaign for his bill would result in the ownership of the works in a few months. Thirty-six months have now passed since the law passed and we are no nearer to the ownership than we were three years ago, and the bunco game has continued. We have had a junior water bill, as well as a senior water bill, to make sure that it would stick. Oh, yes, they have accompanied three or two creditable things, in their own satisfaction. They have ordered a slight reduction in the water rates and have hung up the claim of the water company for hydrant rent.

I am not a prophet of the son of a prophet, but I venture the prediction that the water company in the long run will be able to collect their rental from those who have received a rebate. Of course, those who are out of town and those who are irresponsible will save their money, but every man and woman who is able to pay will

man was in the front rank with other members of the council to defeat the proposition and to return to the status quo. The water rent paid by the city for hydrants amounts to about \$30,000 a year. The tax for this rental has been levied and collected from most of the taxpayers, and is presumed to be in the city treasury, but in reality it is in banks, deposited at 2 per cent. When judgment is rendered by the courts against the city, we will have to pay 7 per cent for the time while the water rent has been in the banks at 2 per cent. That is the way the money and about four or five decisions of the federal court already that the contract made with the water company in 1881 is valid and binding, and that we are obliged to pay the rent, but we repeat and repeat these costly law suits just in order to enable the speculator from inside the board to rear thousands of dollars in fees.

City Bound by Contract.

I am sure of those old-fashioned people who believe that a city is in honor bound to observe and live up to all its contract obligations just the same as any private individual—just the same as any private corporation. When the city of Omaha made the contract with the water company in 1881 it bound itself to pay the hydrant rental for the period for which that contract runs, and until that contract expires two years from next September—until we acquire the works by purchase, the city is bound by the conditions of that contract as much as the water company.

Had we done what we had a right to do without the intervention of Howell and his compulsory purchase bill we would have appointed appraisers for these works and could have taken possession of them under our charter, three years, two years or even one year ago. All that was necessary was for the mayor and council to appoint seven appraisers to appraise the works and if that appraisement was not deemed satisfactory for the city, it could have been rejected and a new set of appraisers appointed, and whenever it was satisfactory the city would have had the right to vote the bonds and to tender the purchase price to the water company, and if the tender was rejected by the water company the city had the right to take the works and operate them and the company would have been compelled to seek redress in the courts, but under the present arrangement we are tied hand and foot. The appraisers can take their own time, and they are taking time so beautifully, and eventually they will be around by their appraisement unless we can show fraud or corruption. The result will be that we may be compelled to pay from \$1,000,000 to \$3,000,000 or even \$4,000,000 more than the works are worth. (A voice: "That's it.") And if we refuse to vote the bonds they will simply ask the court to render judgment against the city. That is Omaha will be in the same fix that Elizabeth, N. J., and Memphis were at one time. There will be a judgment hanging over Omaha so large that it practically would be a bankrupt debt—its credit would be nothing and eventually it would have to come to terms with the water company, precisely the condition in which Benson's campaign manager, Howell, has put us.

Pale of Gas Franchise.

Now, let us go back to the gas business because there is an awful amount of gas to be let loose in town and we may as well deal with that question fairly and without equivocation. Fourteen years ago we signed the gas franchise of the Omaha gas company and United Gas company, each swallowed the other like Aaron's snakes and swallowed those other snakes. (Laughter.) Their franchise was deliberately run out and the city council deliberately and recklessly voted a new franchise to the company for fifty years, at \$1.35 per 1,000 feet without any royalty. That is, just think of it—fifty years! In order to thwart this high-handed scheme I engaged John L. Kennedy and William S. Poppleton to institute proceedings and enjoin this action before it was consummated. A desperate effort was made by the gas company to carry off this fifty-year contract through, but we firmly refused to give in the position that the franchise should be reduced from fifty to twenty-five years; second, that the company should reduce its rate of gas from \$1.35 to \$1.25; third, that it should pay a royalty of 5 cents for every 1,000 cubic feet of gas sold to private consumers with a royalty of 10 cents for every franchise at \$1.35 per 1,000 feet. (A voice: "Billy Saunders of the Fifth ward.") Billy Saunders, the assistant general manager and the guide, philosopher and friend for Mr. Benson. Billy is an ideal manager. He is opposed to all graft and grafters. You can think of the name of a man in Omaha and you will find a name nearly everybody that has served in the city council, that was a worse grafter. (Applause and laughter.) If the people of Omaha would just look back and see what happened when he was playing watchdog of the city treasury they would realize that what we may expect the water reform with Billy as chief steerer.

Westberg as a Watch Dog.

That brings us squarely in front of another candidate on the Bensonian ticket, who also is planted on the anti-graft platform and for a strictly honest and economical government. That gentleman was acting as controller of the city of Omaha at the time when the biggest defalcation that we ever had in the city treasury occurred, and he insisted before the investigating committee that the defalcation would not exceed \$6,000. When my investigation was concluded it was discovered that it amounted to \$135,000. The name of the gentleman was John Westberg. (A voice: "Don't tell about it. He is a safe man.") Now, I always admit that a man is liable to error, but \$135,000 of an error in the comptroller's office is a pretty big error to make. In the final settlement made some years later that error cost the city \$85,000 clear. All we got back of the \$135,000 was \$55,000.

Now, going back to this dollar gas, let me say that I want 50-cent gas and I would like to have 30-cent gas if we can only get it. Kansas City is going to have 30-cent gas, but do you know the reason why? It is because they have a pipe line running into the Kansas gas fields and are supplied with natural gas. If you really want dollar gas you cannot get it under the contract we have made with the gas company, but you may get it by granting a franchise to

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I will pay \$1,000.00 to any one that can prove that the Hoosac Tunnel and Mining Company is not all that I claim for it.

I am offering an opportunity whereby you may assure yourself of an income for life. An investment in this stock should pay enormous dividends all the days of your mortal life—and your children and your children's children should continue to enjoy the same benefits.

Take advantage of your real opportunity and be a partner in this enterprise on terms that cannot prove a cause of inconvenience. Buy this stock today for 70 cents a share cash, or 75 cents a share on installments, and pay for it 10 per cent down and 10 per cent a month for nine months. But act today, for the issue is limited and the price will continue to increase. It has increased in price more than 50 per cent since January 1st, and I believe that it will be selling for from \$2.00 to \$4.00 within a year.

I prefer to deal directly with the people, and therefore offer to you the cream of the profits usually given to a syndicate of underwriters. You will never receive a penny of the money until you are rich. Invest your money where it pays you dividends, and be independent of the time clocks. Seek where you may, you will seldom find another proposition of equal merit nor a better investment for your money. Mining, Manufacturing, and Transportation—three of the greatest dividend paying enterprises of the world—are combined under one management, and this management is absolutely honest. AS PROOF OF THIS, THE BOOKS OF THIS COMPANY WILL BE EXAMINED SEMI-ANNUALLY BY A FIRM OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS, AND THE RESULTS PUBLISHED, so that our stockholders may each and every one know where every dollar is expended. Can you ask for further proof? Here it is—The Hoosac Tunnel & Mining Co. refers by special permission, to Mr. Geo. Armstrong, Cashier Capital City National Bank, Denver, Colo.; First National Bank of Idaho Springs, Colo.; C. S. Birkins, President Merchants' and Miners' National Bank, Idaho Springs, Colo.; John T. Mallison, Secretary Chamber of Commerce, Idaho Springs, Colo.; Geo. W. Dutton, Mining Editor Sifting-News, Idaho Springs, Colo., and many others, who will vouch for the genuine worth and integrity of character of the officers of this company. I have employed the most reliable experts to assist me in determining the safety and profit value of this enterprise, before I recommended it to the public. I make a business of finding safe and profitable investments for money savers, and I can't afford to endorse anything which isn't sound. I could not remain in business if I did. I can't deal in "prospects," nor can I permit my clients to do so through me. I won't speculate with my own money, nor will I with yours. I am not selling "Blue Sky" nor "Gold Bricks."

What I am offering is a splendid opportunity for investment in an honorably managed and exceedingly meritorious enterprise, where the price of your stock should double within a few months. Two months ago you could have bought this stock for 35 cents a share; today it sells for 70 cents.

Go to the nearest news stand and get the February 22nd issue of Leslie's Weekly, the White House Wedding Number, and read that masterly article, "Tunneling Under Gold-Ribbed Mountains," written by Henry Shedd Beardsley, associate editor and regular staff correspondent of that paper, who has personally visited the great Clear Creek County mines, and who tells you the truth about the Hoosac Tunnel & Mining Co. If you can't get it, write to me today and I will send you a copy free of charge, and I will also give you further details, including government map of the property and the Idaho Springs District, Mining Engineers' reports and abundant references, both in behalf of the company and every one of its officers. Every possible aid will be given that you may learn for yourself why this is your opportunity of a lifetime.

But I cannot guarantee you against another rise in the price of this stock within a short time, so ACT TODAY.

PIERCE UNDERWOOD, Specialist in Profitable Investments.

This company is wholly responsible, and is engaged in a legitimate and definite enterprise, and must not be confused with the many wildcat mining speculations in which investors are offered stock.

The officers of this company are men of exceptional ability, strength of character and genuine worth. They are not Wall street speculators engaged in a jobbing scheme. They are pledged to carry this great enterprise to the greatest possible success, and in the quickest manner, with all regard to safety, economy and business prudence.

THREE DISTINCT PROFIT EARNING FEATURES

THE GREAT HOOSAC MINES.

This company owns 62 acres of placer ground and five miles of vein, and is engaged in reducing 4,500 feet of the great Hoosac vein, from which the company takes its name.

The Hoosac vein, has produced millions on each side of this property, and the ore bodies within its boundaries are of such magnitude as to justify an estimate of \$1,000,000 to the company, after deducting all costs of mining and milling ore. 100 feet of development work has been completed upon this vein, and the ore is being mined. The ore has been shipped which returned profits of \$40,000 net, and the main ore body is even richer than this and will be reached within the next two hundred feet by the tunnel.

HOOSAC CONCENTRATING MILLS.

A large concentrating mill, with a daily capacity sufficient to reduce one hundred tons of ore, is being erected at once at the mouth of the Hoosac Tunnel.

This mill will not alone reduce the ore from the Hoosac mines, but will also do custom work for the other mines of the district. The earnings from this source alone should be from \$200,000 to \$500,000 a year in clear profits. The milling and refining of ore is one of the great industries of which Eastern people know but little—but consult Bradstreet and other authorities, and learn of the almost countless millions acquired by the Guggenheim, the American Smelting & Refining Co. solely in the reduction of ores and refining of metals.

HOOSAC TRANSPORTATION TUNNEL.

This tunnel is equipped with a powerful plant of machinery, and is in prospecting night and day. It has already been driven 750 feet and is being extended to run through eighty active mines which have up to date produced more than \$100,000,000 by means of expensive shaft workings. Several of these mines will cut this year.

Any one of them can send enough ore through this tunnel to earn for the company from this source alone more than \$1,000,000 in annual profits, after all operating expenses have been deducted. This tunnel will be a producer of profits for more than your natural lifetime, and every year will see it extended further under the mountains through mine after mine, constantly yielding increased dividends.

WHAT YOUR MONEY SHOULD EARN.

\$7.00 cash or \$7.50 payable \$1.50 down and \$1.50 a month for four months will buy 10 shares of stock, par value \$100.00, estimated value within one year \$25.00, within two years \$50.00.

\$14.00 cash or \$15.00 payable 10 per cent down and 10 per cent a month for nine months will buy 20 shares of stock, par value \$200.00, estimated value within one year \$50.00, within two years \$100.00.

\$21.00 cash or \$20.00 payable 10 per cent down and 10 per cent a month for nine months will buy 30 shares of stock, par value \$300.00, estimated value within one year \$75.00, within two years \$150.00.

\$28.00 cash or \$26.00 payable 10 per cent down and 10 per cent a month for nine months will buy 40 shares of stock, par value \$400.00, estimated value within one year \$100.00, within two years \$200.00.

\$35.00 cash or \$30.00 payable 10 per cent down and 10 per cent a month for nine months will buy 50 shares of stock, par value \$500.00, estimated value within one year \$125.00, within two years \$250.00.

\$42.00 cash or \$36.00 payable 10 per cent down and 10 per cent a month for nine months will buy 60 shares of stock, par value \$600.00, estimated value within one year \$150.00, within two years \$300.00.

\$49.00 cash or \$42.00 payable 10 per cent down and 10 per cent a month for nine months will buy 70 shares of stock, par value \$700.00, estimated value within one year \$175.00, within two years \$350.00.

\$56.00 cash or \$48.00 payable 10 per cent down and 10 per cent a month for nine months will buy 80 shares of stock, par value \$800.00, estimated value within one year \$200.00, within two years \$400.00.

Grasp Your Opportunity

Fill Out, Cut Off and Mail the Coupon Today to PIERCE UNDERWOOD, Specialist in Profitable Investments, Financial Agent, 140 Dearborn St., Chicago.

COUPON O. B. U.

PIERCE UNDERWOOD, Hartford Bldg., Chicago.

Dear Sir: I hereby subscribe for _____ Shares of the capital stock of the Hoosac Tunnel & Mining Co., Idaho Springs, Colorado, and agree to pay you _____ per share (20c per share if your remittance pays your subscription in full, or 75c if you pay on installments of 10 per cent now and 10 per cent per month.)

I enclose herewith my remittance for _____

Please acknowledge receipt. Yours truly,

Name _____

Address _____

Note:—No subscription for less than ten shares will be accepted. If you have \$7.00, or can save \$1.50 a month for five months you can own ten shares in the company. More if you can pay for them. Don't delay. Subscribe or all you can pay for, either at once or on monthly installments. YOU WON'T REGRET IT. This stock is fully paid and non-assessable. HOOSAC TUNNEL & MINING CO.

You have had plenty of time to verify all my statements and make inquiries of the banks and distinguished individuals whom I refer you to in order that you might learn for yourself that all that I have told you about the Hoosac Tunnel & Mining Co. is true—every word of it.

another gas company. If the contract we made thirteen years ago is not valid, it is high time we should find it out. If the contract is valid, it would give us a right to charge what they are charging and we have no right to complain unless they give us bad measure and bad gas.

Some months ago the promoters of a new gas company, which had no bottom anywhere, came to Omaha and offered to give us a franchise if we would vote them a forty-three-year franchise, with certain concessions, including, of course, the right to dig ditches through our paved streets, to lay mains and pipes, and ruin our pavements generally. The city council very wisely, in my judgment, declined to entertain the proposition. A forty-three-year gas contract at a dollar would have been an imposition on the people. I doubt very much ten years hence whether Omaha will be paying 15 cents for gas. Under our contract the price of gas will decrease as the consumption increases. If we are going to save a city of 200,000 or 300,000 people, we will consume vastly more gas than we do now, and we will have a corresponding reduction, but that is not all. The probabilities are that Omaha, like Kansas City, will have a pipe line to the gas fields and to the oil fields of Kansas and Wyoming.

Opposes New Franchises.

On new broad gauge lines I am opposed from now on to voting any new franchises to any public utility corporation. I have become convinced that self-preservation of the city of Omaha requires that public utilities and for that reason no franchises should be granted to any public service corporation hereafter. (Applause.) If we are going to buy out the gas company, or the water company, or the telephone company, or the street railway company, we must pay for their plants and the value of their franchises in most cases. If we have to buy out two companies instead of one we will have to pay twice as much, or, in any event, hundreds of thousands of dollars or even millions more than we would pay out if we have only to buy one.

It will take many years, for example, to create the street railway. For example, but Omaha should own its municipal government. That is a very nice saying. The city must own its own government, but Mr. Benson has not yet projected his remedy. He has not said just how he is going to do it. He is not in favor of municipal ownership, every public utility corporation is bound to own or control the city council whether you like it or not. They are subject either to raids that are made upon them by popular clamor or by holdups by public officials and they are bound, therefore, to ward off these raids by getting into politics, clearly always have been in every campaign, and so long as they exist they will continue to be because they are subject to regulation.

There is only one way to put an end to this corrupting and demoralizing influence and that is for the city to own the public utility plants in every case. That has been the experience of other cities, and it is going to be our experience, and the larger we grow the worse the evil will grow. Periodically there will be a revolt and for a short time there may be relief, but only for a short time. The great light

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\$42.00 cash or \$36.00 payable 10 per cent down and 10 per cent a month for nine months will buy 60 shares of stock, par value \$600.00, estimated value within one year \$150.00, within two years \$300.00.

\$49.00 cash or \$42.00 payable 10 per cent down and 10 per cent a month for nine months will buy 70 shares of stock, par value \$700.00, estimated value within one year \$175.00, within two years \$350.00.

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another gas company. If the contract we made thirteen years ago is not valid, it is high time we should find it out. If the contract is valid, it would give us a right to charge what they are charging and we have no right to complain unless they give us bad measure and bad gas.

Some months ago the promoters of a new gas company, which had no bottom anywhere, came to Omaha and offered to give us a franchise if we would vote them a forty-three-year franchise, with certain concessions, including, of course, the right to dig ditches through our paved streets, to lay mains and pipes, and ruin our pavements generally. The city council very wisely, in my judgment, declined to entertain the proposition. A forty-three-year gas contract at a dollar would have been an imposition on the people. I doubt very much ten years hence whether Omaha will be paying 15 cents for gas. Under our contract the price of gas will decrease as the consumption increases. If we are going to save a city of 200,000 or 300,000 people, we will consume vastly more gas than we do now, and we will have a corresponding reduction, but that is not all. The probabilities are that Omaha, like Kansas City, will have a pipe line to the gas fields and to the oil fields of Kansas and Wyoming.

Opposes New Franchises.

On new broad gauge lines I am opposed from now on to voting any new franchises to any public utility corporation. I have become convinced that self-preservation of the city of Omaha requires that public utilities and for that reason no franchises should be granted to any public service corporation hereafter. (Applause.) If we are going to buy out the gas company, or the water company, or the telephone company, or the street railway company, we must pay for their plants and the value of their franchises in most cases. If we have to buy out two companies instead of one we will have to pay twice as much, or, in any event, hundreds of thousands of dollars or even millions more than we would pay out if we have only to buy one.

It will take many years, for example, to create the street railway. For example, but Omaha should own its municipal government. That is a very nice saying. The city must own its own government, but Mr. Benson has not yet projected his remedy. He has not said just how he is going to do it. He is not in favor of municipal ownership, every public utility corporation is bound to own or control the city council whether you like it or not. They are subject either to raids that are made upon them by popular clamor or by holdups by public officials and they are bound, therefore, to ward off these raids by getting into politics, clearly always have been in every campaign, and so long as they exist they will continue to be because they are subject to regulation.

There is only one way to put an end to this corrupting and demoralizing influence and that is for the city to own the public utility plants in every case. That has been the experience of other cities, and it is going to be our experience, and the larger we grow the worse the evil will grow. Periodically there will be a revolt and for a short time there may be relief, but only for a short time. The great light

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in Philadelphia that tore up that city last year from center to circumference was due to interference of public utility corporations with the machinery of municipal government, but I doubt very much whether the revolution that freed Philadelphia from corrupt rule will oust the present municipal government.

Content of Years.

It stands to reason that we cannot acquire all the public utilities in a year or two years, ten years or even twenty years. It will take many years before we can operate the street railway, for example, but Omaha should own its municipal government. That is a very nice saying. The city must own its own government, but Mr. Benson has not yet projected his remedy. He has not said just how he is going to do it. He is not in favor of municipal ownership, every public utility corporation is bound to own or control the city council whether you like it or not. They are subject either to raids that are made upon them by popular clamor or by holdups by public