Figures that Alarm Taxpayers in England Just New.

HIGHER MUNICIPAL TAXES ONE RESULT

Proves to Be Less Economical Than Private Owner-

ship.

LONDON, Feb. 2 - (Special Correspondence.)-A local campaign of world-wide interest and importance will culminate in the London county council election on March 2. Great Britain has been for fifteen years or more the pioneer in experiments in municipal trading and the time is at hand when the country will take stock of and pass judgment upon the record which has

The believers in the principle of municipal management of certain forms of trade and industry have had a remarkably free hand in London and the principal large cities of England and Scotland. The public purse has been open to them almost without restriction; their control of the large enterprises in which they have embarked has been absolute and their reports of the results of their stewardship have been such as they chose to make.

The effect of all this has been that until very recently the popular impression has been that municipal trading is, as a whole, successful from the points of view of econmy and efficiency. A marked change has taken place within the last year in the attitude of the general public toward these interprises and the reasons for it are a matter of direct concern to all dwellers in

Patience is Exhausted.

The English people are among the most satient in the world in bearing their public burdens. They have endured with little grumbling the heavy increases in national taxation made necessary by the Boer war. Like the American people, they pay greater attention to the management of national than of local affairs, and this tendency has been emphasized during the crisis of the last six years.

But the situation has been suddenly reversed. The fact has been forced upon their attention that local taxation has been increasing in even larger proportion than national, and it has come upon them with the force of a sudden revelation that municipal indebtedness in Great Britain is growing at an appalling rate.

The debt of the municipalities of Great Britain has increased from \$965,000,000 in 1884 to \$2,345,000,000 in 1984. The amount of ocal government expenditure in Great Britain in 1892 was \$380,000,000; in 1902, the last complete year available, it had increased to \$720,000,000. The explanation alcipal indebtedness has been that it was incurred for remunerative purposes

But Englishmen have found that the rate per head of local taxation in the country has increased no less that 62 per cent. This, of course, is entirely inconsistent with the explanation offered, and the public is now demanding that the explanation be explained. The results of some careful investigations by highly competent authorities are now being placed before the public, and they are of a very disconcerting, even amazing, character.

Sir John Lubbock's Carelessness. position of the situation is that which has politan Gas company of London (private Lubbock.) No public man in England is though the price of coal in London is conbetter qualified to speak on this subject siderable higher than in Manchester,

Parliament for the working classes of the gas works. If the London company charged in a fraction of time it will be ready for community than any other man. He was the same price as Manchester its customfor a considerable time the chairman of ers would have to pay \$1,040,000 more a the London County council and he devoted year for gas. If Manchester charged the himself for some years almost exclusively same price as the London company their sun, make astronomical and geometric to the arduous duties which fell upon him. customers would pay \$395,000 a year less and signs, lines and angles, "write" ship curves But he now feels himself compelled to give the so-called profit would be turned into and do other stunts that are astounding grave warning of the dangers of the policy a loss of \$65,000. of municipal trading upon which the council has embarked.

whole British record of municipal trading city. ago, and he reached these conclusions:

me. Secondly, it has involved and will in-plye an immense increase in municipal

debt.

Thirdly, it will involve municipalities in labor disputes.

Fourthly, as there will not be the same stimulus to economy and attention, there will be a great probability, not to say certainty, that one of two things will happen—either there will be a loss or the certice will cost more. The working classes will, of course, be the greatest sufferers.

Fifthly, it is a serious check to progress and discovery.

It is hardly possible in the limits of a single article to discuss all the points made by Lord Avebury in his remarkable

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the First Dose.

OZOMULSION LABORATORIES,

COST OF PUBLIC OWNERSHIP to the single question of the economy lack of trading enterprises.

Erroneous Impression Corrected. The impression generally prevails in this country and abroad that municipally controlled tram lines, gas and electric supply. water works, etc., in Glasgow, London and other important cities show a considerable

improvement in the matter of economy and efficiency over privately managed enter-prises of the same nature. It will be a considerable surprise to the general public to learn that the exact contrary is the case. Lord Avebury puts the matter as gently as possible, but he says in effect that the public has been humbugged by methods of

keeping accounts which will not bear investigation. This is a very serious charge to make, but he produces indisputable evidence in support of his indictiment. "My fourth objection," he says, "is often contested. It is alleged that profits fare made. Of where municipalities have monopolies and can charge what they like this is in one sense the case. They take what

they choose out of the profits of the ratepayers and call it a profit. I doubt whether they ever make a profit where they have not a monopoly. We who are engaged in commerce know that success depends on close attention to details, on watching the turn of the market, on glying mind and thought to business. It is impossible for members of municipalities to do this, and consequently municipal management cannot be

management. "But it is said that, as a matter of fact, profits are made. In many cases, at any rate, the profits are imaginary. Too little is allowed for depreciation, for rent, for legal and cierical expenses.

so economical or so successful as private

Experience in Lighting. "In many cases in electric lighting an undue amount is charged to street lighting; in tramways too much is charged to street improvements; in housing schemes the cost of the land is sometimes taken below the cost price, and so on.

"Still, taking the accounts as given, the number of electric light undertakings which have been working for twelve months is 190. The capital expenditure has been £12,500,000, on which a loss is admitted of £11,707.

"The amount put to depreciation, moreover, was only £20,000, which is absurd; if we add the amount of capital repaid-£205,000-the amount is still under 2 per cent, which is certainly too little to write off in such a business.

"The acounts of forty-eight municipalities working tramways show that only thirteen make any contribution to the rates, seventeen make no depreciation allowance and only eleven over 2 per cent We all know how disastrous the steamers of the London county council have been and continue to be. "It is no answer to say that private

companies also make mistakes and lose money. No doubt they do; it is inevitable and is an aditional argument, not for, ways given of the vast growth of muni- but against municipal trading; but the difference is that in one case they are losing their own money, in the other that of the ratepayers."

"It will be supposed that in the matter of gas supply, if in nothing else, municipal management would be able to compare favorably with private or company an accurate record of what he says, reproenterprise. Comparative returns without exception show the contrary.

Cost of Gas to Consumer. It is necessary in fairness to make due allowance in making comparisons for nearness to coal fields and the consequent local price of coal. We find that in Manchester (municipalized) the price of gas is The most thorough and fair minded ex- 58 cents per 1,000 feet. The South Metrojust been made by Lord Avebury (Sir John | company) charges 50 cents per 1,000, al-

The Manchester municipality reports an

In Salford, a great suburb of Manchester, gas is supplied by a private company for He analyzes briefly but thoroughly the 6 cents per 1,000 less than in the larger

in a small volume published a few days | Nottingham and Sheffield are identically situated as regards coal supply. In Not-The undertaking by municipalities of commercial undertakings is undesirable mainly on five grounds:

Firstly, the legitimate functions and dules of our municipalities are already enough, if not, indeed, more than enough, to tax all their energies and fill up all their time. in both cities. In Nottingham the price an operator sits down to write a message, has gone up; in Sheffield it has gone down, it not only transcribes that message on until now it is 62 cents per 1,000 in the former and 34 cents in the latter.

> 'Rates on Tramway. It is in the management of tramways that most credit is claimed for municipal trading experiments in Great Britain. Lord Avebury analyzes the so-called successes, and the result becomes quite an-

There are in London two tramway systems, one north of the Thames, the other south of the river, The county council become possessed of both in 1900.

The capital value was approximately the same, \$4,250,000 on the north, \$4,480,000 on book and the article is therefore confined the south. The council leased the northern lines to a company and worked the south-

> During the period, the council has electrified the southern lines, which has slightly interfered with their working, but the result of five years operations is instructive. The fares have been the same on both. the same period the lessess of the northern to the fair sex exclusively.

bear examination. The auditor of the Local Government cost of street widening for tramways is charged to tramway account. The sum set aside for depreciation is only 1.1 per cent. The sinking fund amounts to only per cent., so the total allowance for renewals and depreciation is only 3 per cent. a totally inadequate allowance according to

ordinary business standards. Moreover, nothing at all has been debited for central office charges, these expenses having been charged to the council's ordi-nary expenditure. If these proper deductions had been made, Lord Avebury points out, the imaginary profit would have been turned into a loss. But after this lamentable experience the council has decided not lease the southern lines to a company, but to take over the working of the north-

ern lines themselves. The foregoing forms a very small part of the revelations which have recently been made in the matter of municipal trading in Great Britian. It need hardly be said that the effect, combined with the heavy increase in local taxation, has been to cause Excellence," the Additional Life-giving a sharp repulsion in public feeling on the

It is the writer's purpose to discuss other phases of the matter in future articles, and meantime the development of the London municipal campaign will be well worth H. R. C.

Mexico After Camblers. nayor of Cananea. Mex., his brother and forty Americans have been lodged in jail by the prefect of Hermosille for gambling and permitting gambling in Cananea after Governor Ysabel had ordered it closed. The mayor's brother was operating a gambling house, it is charged.

WIZARDS OF MECHANICAL ART

Seeing 'Phones and Beokkeeping Devices Without Books, Pens or Ink.

SENDING OUT RECEIVING TYPEWRITERS

All These Wonders and More Will Be on Exhibition at the National Business Show at Collseum.

Bookkeeping without books, without pens and lnk, without even a bookkeeper, yet with more accurate results and a better understanding all around, seems a bit visionary, but this is exactly what will be shown at the National Business show to be held at the Collseum, Chicago, during the week of March 16 to 28. Mechanical bookkeeping, long talked of and scoffed at by many as impossible, is at least a reality, and a demonstration of the efficiency of the idea will be given at the national show, detailing and explaining how the books may be kept, records made, balances arrived at, and the entire transactions of a huge institution or a bank may be kept accurately and perfectly, entirely by ma-chine and without the stroke of a pen or a single bit of manual work being done. The work of fifty bookkeepers will be done by one machine with the supervision of one man who will be skilled in mechanics rather than figures. This is but one of the wonders to be shown at the exposition.

Another startling thing that will be on exhibition is a machine that will work wonders in correspondence. By means of this machine it will be possible for every business man to have an automatic stenographer, office boy and mailing clerk. All he will have to do is to press a button, take up a tube and begin to talk. The machine will make a record of what he has said, typewrite it, and make a press copy, fold, insert, seal and stamp it ready for the mail man, thus doing away with stenoraphers, typewriters, office boys, with a multiplicity of grandmothers in the base ball season, and many other details of the office. This is not a dream, but a reality.

Seeing Telephone. The "seeing telephone" is another twentieth century wonder that will be shown. By means of this device it is possible to see the features of the person you are talking to. Colors and facial expressions will be distinguishable at any distance. This machine is known as the "Tellvue" and makes it possible to see while talking.

A machine that stores telephone conversation and reproduces it afterward upon demand in legible characters is still another wonder worker that will be shown. This device, it is claimed, can be attached to any telephone, so that when one person calls up another over the 'phone both sides of the conversation will be accurately recorded so that it may be placed in the files or called up later on to settle disputes or for use in court. The inventor of the machine says he will do wonderful things with it and says he will do a great deal for the modern newspapers, A reporter calling up his office will tell his story to the telephone, which will make duce it ready for setting, thus saving great annoyance and loss of time.

Still another invention to be seen is the justifying typewriter, which will make a matrix from which printing plates may be made at once. According to the exhibitor, any size or style of type can be used in connection with it and one writing does the whole thing. Linotype machines and typesetting machines will become memories of the past when this comes into general use. Newspapers will be produced on typewriters, he says, for all a man will have to do then is to write the story once, send

tures, write in any language under the will be shown to the public here for the first time. This machine will literally produce a picture in colors and then explain or describe it in every known language and

Freak Typewriters. Sending and receiving typewriters are other things to be seen here. A machine will be on exhibition that to all appearances is a typewriter, pure and simple. When paper, but telegraphs it letter for letter as it is written. At the other end is the reverse of this machine, which receives the message letter for letter and writes it down exactly as the original is being written. As many machines can be connected on a line as are desired, and a man writing a telegram in New York may simultaneously write the same message in every city all the way to San Francisco.

Interest in the show is centering around the various speed contests to be held and so far women have outstripped the men in making entries for prizes. Last year there were a number of men entered, but the were beaten by the girls. This year few men are entering and the number of young ladies desiring to compete is in excess of the number last year. Miss Rose L. Fritz, undisputed champion typewriter operator of the world, will defend her title and from present indications all of her competitors will be young women. Women The council figures out a profit for the have also excelled in all other tests, and five years on its lines of \$119,500. During this year the contests have narrowed down

lines have paid the city \$68,000. But, as Lord Avebury points out, even the claims by foreign governments regarding the show of the ocuncil to a profit of \$119,500 will not and as this is the great national event of the business world it is attracting more than a usual amount of attention. Space Board has objected to the insufficiency of has been taken rapidly and when the doors the sum set aside for renewals, etc., and to open they will open on the largest show the method by which only one-third of the of its kind ever held in business history.

> Humphreys' Seventy-Seven Cures Colds and

First aid to the injured is not more important than the first and especially the prompt treatment of Grip; "Seventy-Seven" taken early, it outs, it short; taken during an epidemic, it pre-occupies the system and repels the invasion; taken while suffering, quick relief is given. The long continued weakness and despondency caused by the Grip, finds no better remedy than

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