

monopolist has found it impossible to gain a hold. The experiment has been a success wherever tried. Public franchises, owned and operated by the public, have paid their way, and in many cases with handsome profits. In contrast with this: "Private ownership of public utilities in America has assumed the magnitude of a scandal that threatens to become a national crime."

Considerable publicity is being given nowadays to the methods and operations of the combines in the United States. With some of these, such as the Paper Trust referred to in a preceding paragraph, the municipality has no immediate concern, but the public utilities, such as water and light, belong essentially to the civic body. In Mr. Burns' testimony to the value and practicability of municipal ownership there is encouragement for Canada to continue in that direction.

A Nation that has Learned Quickly

LITTLE island Japan continues to surprise the world. It is frankly acknowledged now that she has shown how modern war should be conducted. Bravery and ingenuity have been known before, but every new war nowadays brings new problems, and the clever Japs have proved singularly successful in meeting these modern conditions. In doing so they have fur-

nished a valuable object-lesson to other nations, which may now find it necessary to completely revise their military and naval methods. It needs the actual processes of a great war campaign to show how much a theory or system is worth, and the Russo-Japanese conflict has already given some startling evidence of this kind. This in itself is not remarkable, but that it should be Japan, a country so recently come into new life, is what surprises us all. Even now England, Germany, the United States, are discussing army reform, and it may be assumed that Russia is taking some of the lessons very seriously to heart.

But another respect in which Japan has surprised the world is her humaneness. She has learned within a decade not only skill but mercy. Ten years ago, when she won Port Arthur in the war with China, her victory was followed by a carnival of barbarity. According to her ideals then, a massacre was the fitting celebration of her triumph, and at that celebration the rest of the world shuddered. But when Japan took Port Arthur for the second time, a month or two ago, she was as humane as England herself could have been. Instead of massacre for the defeated there were honors of war, and instead of a barbarous victor was now a generous victor. And this in ten years—a significant evidence of Japan's progress. She deserves to keep Port Arthur this time.
