

from the steal of a gas franchise worth a fortune — and a special bill to protect the gas company from a steal of gas worth ten cents! A bill to require a citizen to prove himself *innocent* of having tampered with a damaged gas metre — and no bill to allow the citizens the right to prove the gas company *guilty* of having tampered with a franchise election!

The same Legislature defeated a Public Utilities Bill that would have prevented the Gas Company from watering its stocks and bonds twenty-five millions. Twenty-five millions on which the citizens of Denver must pay interest! Money stolen from our homes by a method more refined but none the less criminal than the entry of a "second-story man."

There is no end to it. I might go on in this way to fill a volume with instances of proof that the State of Colorado is exploited and the people robbed by a government by the Beast and for the Beast. A system of corruption that aims to pick the corruptible man for public service, and refuses the honest one an opportunity to serve, has made most of the public life and administration of public affairs in Colorado a gigantic failure, a huge oppression. The functions of government are no longer discharged as against the corporations, except where an error of judgment on the part of the corporations, or an unforeseen frustration of their plans, has permitted an honest