

are 2,000 lights under the public management and the operating expenses which under private companies was \$102 per year for each lamp, has been decreased to \$66.45, comprising 4 per cent. on cost, 3 per cent. for depreciation and a proper amount for taxes. Aurora, Ill., paid \$325 a year per arc lamp to a private company, but when the municipality took the electric plant over it expended only \$72 per year on each lamp, and when the people completely owned the plant and there was no interest to pay the cost per lamp was reduced to \$61, showing a saving of \$264 per lamp per year under municipal ownership. In the same way Elgin reduced the yearly cost of an arc lamp from \$228 to \$56; Fairfield from \$375 to \$80, and Lewiston, Me., from \$182 to \$52. The decreases are almost incredible, but the figures are official, and verified by numerous reports.

#### THE CONVICTIONS OF T. M. COSTELLO, '09.

From Mr. Costello's attacks on municipal ownership we take the following :

"Municipal ownership must always remain a live question, so long as there is even one feature which appeals to us. Whole volumes have been written on the subject, select committees have wrestled with it, and given us lengthy reports, but we are still far from understanding the problem. And why? Because of its comprehensive nature, the conditions we must grant, and the limitations which we must put on the words "public utilities." Many there are who think that certain utilities should be owned by municipalities, but only a pronounced Socialist will argue that such utilities as bread, meat and coal should be directly owned by the municipality. The complications arising from such a system are so evident as to require no explanation, but as this is a very important point, I will illustrate by an example.

"We will suppose that a council owns all the coal in a municipality, and sells it at a higher rate than actual cost. Then the users of coal are taxed for the benefit of those who do not use it. On the other hand, if sold lower than cost, then the non-users would be taxed for the benefit of those who use coal. And so with all commodities.

"Another grave danger to municipal interference in the field of commerce lies in the temptation to expand, to make investments in