

United States or in Canada to embark in expensive scientific enterprises, such as electric lighting, while the streets are unpaved or badly paved,¹ while so-called grade crossings endanger life,² and while the streets and alley-ways are the breeding places of disease,³ while the sewage system is defective⁴ or where the water supply is inadequate,⁵ seems, on the face of it, a futile proceeding.

New municipalities are anxious to emulate rapidly the older cities, where the slowly accumulated results of centuries of labor constitutes an inheritance which can only be rivaled at immense cost to the generation that attempts the rivalry.

4. While many of the criticisms which may be urged against the extension of municipal activity into the industrial field, apply with equal force to municipal activity in Europe as well as in America, there are certain noticeable differences in conditions which must be taken into account. On the continent of Europe the Central Government exercises a very stringent (perhaps too stringent) control over the municipalities. During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, local self-government was seriously diminished, in France especially in the eighteenth century, and in Germany in the nineteenth; in Great Britain local self-government was invaded in the nineteenth century, but later has been to some extent reestablished. Thus, on the Continent, the municipality finds its policy largely prescribed for it. In Great Britain the municipal government is in very many cities in the hands of the same persons who constitute the boards of directors of companies, or who are otherwise in the daily habit of transacting business on a large scale. It is therefore

¹As in Chicago and St. Louis.

²As in many Eastern cities.

³As in Chicago.

⁴As in Baltimore.

⁵As in Cincinnati.