

The Minister of Justice spoke as a statesman when he said on the floor of the House recently that "it would be a calamity to this country for municipalities to undertake the business which is being done by private corporations." It has been said that we Canadians are perhaps too much in the habit of taking up some subject or phase of thought and "running it to death." The cry for public ownership is the one which at present occupies, as we think, an undue share of the attention of a certain section of the press. It is, for obvious reasons, very attractive to municipal councillors and officials, who as a class are scarcely in a position to take either a fair or a far-sighted view of this important subject. We do not propose to discuss the objections to, and evils sure to result from important enterprises being under the management of the average alderman or municipal councillor; all we desire at present is to draw attention to that aspect of the question which was touched upon by Mr. Fitzpatrick in his statement in regard to the matter then in hand (and his remarks are of general application) when he said that "he was a believer in the private enterprise that had developed the resources of the country. Neither the supplying of power nor electric lighting would have amounted to anything but for the enterprise of private individuals and the duty of Parliament is to protect the individual investors who have put their money into these enterprises in good faith." The encouragement of private enterprise should be the aim of every Government. Anything which would tend to check that or to drive capital elsewhere should be studiously avoided as distinctly injurious to the public welfare. This surely is so important that it should be emphasized on every occasion, and we are glad that the Minister of Justice had the courage, in the face of the clamour of a certain section of the public, to speak as he did.

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There have been "wigs on the green" in the Provincial Parliament of British Columbia; the occasion being the discussion of a Bill to abolish the wearing of wigs in Court. On one occasion the writer travelled from England to the Pacific Coast, following the setting sun. Before leaving conservative England he visited the Law Courts; and, as he viewed Bench and Bar arrayed in their horse-hair helmets, was duly impressed with the