

money which has been placed at their disposal for the purposes of their tramways.

---

The great and insurmountable objection to municipal ownership is that it more or less comes into competition with private capital and independent trading. It is contrary to public policy and subversive of the true principles of trade that the vast capital at the disposal of a corporation should be used to enfeeble, to smother or to destroy the enterprise and capital of private citizens. Every country is prosperous in comparison to the extent that such enterprise and capital is in active operation. The wise thought of some of those best able to form a sound opinion on such subjects was in the same direction when the House of Lords, some time ago, prevented the London County Council from running omnibuses in competition with those of the ordinary omnibus proprietors. Our contemporary concludes its article on this subject with the following observation: "If private enterprise is not to be crushed out altogether, it is eminently necessary that a hard-and-fast line be drawn to prohibit these schemes of the various public bodies, who, with the whole of the rates at their backs, can successfully compete with and defeat any private concern."

---

Thinking men in the United States, as here, are beginning to discuss the over-production of law with a special reference to new legislation and the tinkering of statutes. In the United States the grievance is said to be very serious; some 14,000 statutes being enacted yearly as compared with 292 in England. We would present that "horrid example" to our legislatures in the sessions which are rapidly approaching.