

\$65,000, Nottingham \$100,000, Southport \$56,000, and Manchester the enormous sum of \$300,000. The report of the Commissioner of Labor in the United States shows that where there are between 5,000,000 and 10,000,000 cubic feet of gas produced the average price per 1,000 cubic feet under private companies was \$2.17, under municipalities \$1.18, and where there are between 15 and 20 million cubic feet produced the average price per 1,000 cubic feet under private companies is \$1.52, under the municipalities only 96 cents. In the manufacture of gas European cities have gone ahead of the others. In Germany 50 per cent of the cities own their own gas works, and the charges are in every case less than for private services. Berlin clears \$1,200,000 a year on her municipal gas and sells it for \$1.00 a thousand cubic feet. New York with something the same population pays to a private company \$1.25 a thousand.

"It is generally admitted that the consumption of gas with public ownership is much smaller in proportion to the number of consumers than with private ownership, showing therefore that the municipality serves the poorer classes, as the decreased rates and the granting of metres free of charge enables the poor man to possess such a valuable commodity. In England with public works the number of consumers is 15 per cent of the population, and with private works it is only 8½ per cent. The city of Wheeling, Ohio, with a population of 35,000 sells gas for 75 cents a 1,000 cubic feet to private consumers, furnishes free gas to the city and last year gave \$28,000 towards the reduction of the taxes.

"Undertakings which are owned by the municipality have in addition to a purely business side an important social aspect, and municipal ownership in almost every case means better facilities for the general public and better compensation for the employees. This improvement in social conditions cannot justly be balanced against diminished profits, councillors unlike directors will not be guided by profit alone, and will therefore be more prompt to remedy grievances involving expenditure, and will be ready to undertake various services necessary for the health, morals and general convenience of the community. As a result of his study of the condition of municipal ownership Mayor Dunne of Chicago, arrives at the conclusion, that the cost of the utility to the public is reduced, that the efficiency of the service is increased, that wages are augmented; that labor is