

body to secure the creation of a collectivist state. Yes, it is their utmost desire to secure the transfer to the popularly elected body, not only all public services, but innumerable trades, and all the means of remunerative employment. What do we see at present spread throughout the world by socialists and their co-workers? We see a network of organization. And is it a menace to the public? Yes, for it aims at either the capture of municipalities or the attainment through them of sufficient power to secure "in the interest of socialism" an unlimited expansion of the principles of municipalization and direct employment as a stepping-stone to the socialist programme.

"A glance at the finances of the city of Glasgow will show what this over-indulgence in municipal ownership has done in the way of increasing the funded debt of the city. In the fiscal year 1890-91 the expenditure of the city was \$6,424,600, in 1900-01 the expenditure had increased to \$14,232,210. During the same period the debt of the city had increased from \$27,240,135 to \$64,376,095, an increase of over \$37,060,000. But notwithstanding, municipal ownership is advocated as an economy to communities.

"Another effect of municipal ownership is, that many governing bodies have in their employ large numbers of their electors. It is only too evident that these electors would exert a very baneful influence at town meetings, at elections, and on the conduct of their representatives. Moreover, they form trade unions among themselves, are in association with the general trade union movement, and do all they can to advance trade union interests. This is shown in a treatise on municipal ownership by Wm. Richmond Smith. Concerning the gas system in the City of Glasgow he says: "Moreover, if the city councils and similar bodies are to have the management of extensive plants it will simply mean that the present deplorable graft and corruption which characterizes many of our public bodies, will grow still more rampant, and be furnished with numberless other facilities to enable them to flourish."



"From gas profits alone Belfast turns over to the reduction of the taxes \$100,000, Leeds \$150,000, Salford \$100,000, Rochdale