

pelled in many ways to depart from the first principles of business because of demands made by the whole or some portion of the body of ratepayers which elects the council to office. Nor can it be contended, because these demands are made by the ratepayers in whole or in part, that the council should not be held responsible for any business failure which results. It is quite true that it ought not to be the sole object of a municipality to operate its public services so as to make money, but it certainly ought to be the object of every council to give its ratepayers the best service that can be had at the lowest cost. In order to do that, good business management is just as essential as it is with a private enterprise, the only difference being that the profits are represented in the cheapness and excellence of the service instead of in the payment of dividends.

Over-municipalization is another and serious danger always incident to the launching out of municipal corporations into the conduct of enterprises on their own account. A successfully conducted water, gas or street railway service may justify municipalization, but experience in Great Britain has shown that even a small measure of success in the conduct of essential, or popularly used services has in very many cases resulted in a desire on the part of the public to municipalize everything. There are cases, even among the best governed cities of Great Britain, where, because of this popular demand, municipal corporations have gone extensively into speculative enterprises, invading what in Canada is generally conceded to be the field of private enterprise, and pledged the public credit in the expenditure of large amounts of money the return from which is precarious and the investment itself