

ernment ownership of railroads in Canada is that it would give rate regulation. But this already belongs to the Government and is exercised through the Railroad Commission.

Government ownership of highways, harbors and canals is justified. These can be owned by the Government and operated by the persons who wish to use them. In the case of railroads it is different, though where it is necessary to concentrate traffic, as in large cities, it is possible for the Government to own the terminals and allow different companies to use them.

Reformatories, penitentiaries, gaols, &c., must be under Government control. Here the public interest predominates, and the end is not economic.

The success or failure of public ownership must depend to a great extent upon the character of the Government in the country where it is attempted. Where the Government is strongly centralized the people are educated to rely upon it. They have not the same degree of enterprise and push as in countries where the Government is more democratic. Government ownership in such countries can be made a success. But where private enterprise predominates, where the Government itself is run largely by private enterprise the opportunity for public ownership is less.

Then in public ownership the powers behind the throne, the manipulators, the organizers, the machinemakers, have all to be reckoned with. In America there is a large class of professional politicians, men who live by manipulating governments and government offices. These men have too much influence already, and it requires a political revolution every few

years to clean them out. But if government ownership were adopted as a principle, the power of these men would be multiplied by 2, perhaps by 3 or 4. With such strength they could defy all attempts at reform. There are utilities which must necessarily be public. On these the manipulators levy their tribute, but there is no reason for bringing more public utilities under their influence and gorging them with pabulum at the expense of the people. In Canada this must be the deciding condition against public ownership.

If you have private ownership and public regulation you have balance and success. But if both ownership and regulation be in the hands of the Government there is one-sidedness, confusion and failure.

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The following is the programme of the Club for this season:

Dec. 14—Debate. Resolved that education decreases crime. Affirmative taken by G. L. Fraser and W. W. Kennedy; negative by R. Summer-ville and J. A. Donnell.

Jan. 18.—Resolved, that the Canadian Government system of encouraging immigration is detrimental to the best interests of our country. Affirmative taken by W. Stott and M. Matheson, negative by J. M. McGil-livray and W. D. McIntosh.

Feb. 8.—Resolved, that it is opposed to the best interests of the community to allow mining limits to be appropriated and held without being worked. Affirmative taken by T. Williams and M. Williams, negative by W. E. Hanna and H. MacDonnell.

A number of lectures by prominent Canadians will also be given during the session.