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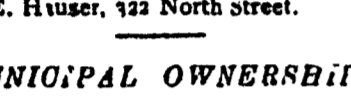
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MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP

It is plainly evident that one of the
municipal problems to be grappled
with in the near future is that of municipal
ownership of street railways
and of gas and electric plants. The
principle that municipalities should
control these corporations prevails in
theory in that the consent of the munici-
pality must be obtained before
rails can be laid by street railway
companies, pipes and mains by gas
companies and wires by electric light
companies. It is also a popular
theory that these corporations pay a
certain equivalent in return for these
privileges into the municipal treasury.
This is only in theory, however.
The sum agreed upon to be
paid is usually a certain percentage
upon the net receipts, that is after
the interest upon fixed charges, operating
expenses, etc., are paid. By
reason of padded interest and debt
rolls, excessive capitalization and
other means the net receipts are usually
so small that the sum paid into the
municipal treasury is infinitesimally
small, and so the agreement is evaded
and the taxpayers, the people, are
swindled.

Were the municipalities to control
their street railway systems, gas and
electric plants, either to operate them
themselves or to lease them to private
corporations at a rental proportionate
to value received, there is no question
but that the taxpayers would be ben-
efitted. They would certainly be able
to dictate better service and better
treatment, because they would have it
in their power either to revoke the
lease or, at the ballot box, to sweep
out of office the derelict municipal
officials in charge of that particular
branch of the government.

It may be urged that to do this
would be socialistic. If that be true
then the city of Rochester has already
taken a step in the direction of social-
ism in that it already owns, controls
and operates its own waterworks system.
The United States government
is to a certain extent socialistic in that
it operates the federal postal service.
The Greater New York must have
taken a step in socialism when it voted
for a municipal rapid transit (the
constitutionality of which the court
of Appeals has upheld), for Brooklyn
bridges, which is operated by the munici-
pality and to retain control of the
ferry system.

One of the arguments most strongly
urged against municipal ownership is
that it would be a political menace in
that it would increase the number of
city officials and thus add to the power
of the politicians. It has not worked
so badly in the postal service or in the
water works department. It has not
prevented the opposite party from the
control succeeding in the elec-
tion. But can it be said that street
cars and electric light corpo-
rations have not made their influence

felt in municipal politics? Can it be
denied that they have and do control
common councils and other legislative
bodies which have the authority to
increase or restrain the powers of cor-
porations? Are not the employees of
these corporations supposed to work
and vote at municipal elections for
the men whom their employers favor?
Are not our municipal governments in
the clutches of these rapacious, never
satisfied corporations? Bryce in his
"American Commonwealth," volume
2, page 420, says: "Perhaps the
most menacing power is that wielded
by the great local corporations, in-
cluding the railroad and street car
companies. Whether by the use of
money, or, as is thought more proba-
ble, by influencing the votes of their
employees, or by both methods, these
corporations seem to hold the councils
in the hollow of their hands." Rich-
ard T. Ely, in "Problems of To-
day," page 129, says: "Nothing has
so corrupted and debased our political
life as private corporations in control
of natural monopolies. We have got
so used to municipal corruption that it
seems to us something inevitable, but
such is not the case. * * * It is
idle for us to say 'We must wait
until we become morally better.' I
believe we are as moral a people to-
day as the English or the Germans.
Our terrible corruption in cities dates
from the rise of private corporations
in control of natural monopolies, and
when we abolish them we do away
with the chief cause of corruption."
Are not these pretty fair argu-
ments in favor of municipal owner-
ship?

NOTABLE G A R POST

It is one of the stock arguments
of the non-Catholic bigots that Catho-
lics cannot be good American citizens,
because they owe allegiance to the
Pope, "a foreign potentate" in the
eyes of those narrow-minded
persons. They cannot understand
that Catholics take their religion
from Rome, their politics
wherever they please. They cannot
understand that the better Catholic
one is the better citizen he necessarily
must be. These bigots are fond of
sneering at the services performed by
Catholics in the late civil war, for-
getting that in so doing they are bel-
ittling some of the bravest and most
distinguished generals of the war.

For the benefit of these and also
for the information of those of our
own faith, we call to mind again the
fact that last month there was organ-
ized in Notre Dame, Ind., a post of
the Grand Army of the Republic, com-
posed entirely of priests who saw ser-
vice in the War of the Rebellion. The
officers and members are:

- Very Rev. William Corby, C. S. C.,
chaplain Eighty-eighth New York Volun-
teers, Irish Brigade.
- Rev. Peter P. Cooney, C. S. C., chaplain
Thirty-fifth Indiana Infantry.
- James McLain, Brother Leander, C. S. C.,
Company B, Twenty-fourth United
States Infantry.
- William A. Olmsted, C. S. C., captain
and lieutenant colonel Second Infantry,
New York Volunteers, colonel Fifty-ninth
New York Veteran Volunteers, brigadier
general by brevet, commander First Bri-
gade, Second Division, Second Army Corps,
Army of the Potomac.
- Mark A. Wells, Brother John Chryso-
stom, C. S. C., Company I, Fifty-fourth
Pennsylvania Volunteers.
- Nicholas A. Bath, Brother Cosmos, C. S. C.,
Company D, Second United States Ar-
tillery.
- James Mantle, Brother Benedict, C. S. C.,
Company A, First Pennsylvania Heavy Ar-
tillery and Sixth United States Cavalry.
- John McInerney, Brother Eustachius, C. S. C.,
Company H, Eighty-third Ohio Volun-
teers.
- Joseph Staley, Brother Agathos, C. S. C.,
Eighth Indiana Regulars.
- Ignatus Mayer, Brother Ignatius, C. S. C.,
Company C, Seventy-fifth Pennsylvania
Volunteers.
- James C. Malloy, Brother Raphael, C. S. C.,
Company B, One Hundred and Thirty-
third Pennsylvania Volunteers.
- Father Corby was installed as post com-
mander, Brother Leander senior vice-com-
mander, Father Cooney, chaplain, General
Olmsted, surgeon and adjutant, as the prin-
cipal officers.

Is there another post in the coun-
try with a more distinguished roster?

The absurd feeling against the sign
of the cross has not entirely died out
among the non-Catholics. Recently in
St. George's Presbyterian church in
Sunderland, England, a harvest
festival was held. The church was
decorated profusely. Among the
decorations was a banner upon
which was displayed a cross. On the
following Sunday evening the pastor
discovered that the banner had been
removed by order of an elder who said
that its presence was a serious offense
as it suggested "Romish" practices.

JUST A FEW ERRORS

Secular papers perpetrate some ri-
diculous errors in describing Catho-
lic ceremonies. Not long ago a
Chicago daily described Archbishop
Feehan's entrance into the sanctuary
with a "tossure on his arm." To
another western bishop was attributed
the feat of carrying "a Cossack on his
shoulders." Then another paper
spoke of an acolyte who "advanced
bearing in his hands a thurifer and
chasuble."

Here in Rochester we have recently
read in the secular press of priests who
have passed to their last reward at-
tending church ceremonies; have read
of mass being celebrated in the after-
noon; of "solemn high mass being
sung" by one priest; of "pontifical"
high mass, etc., etc.

It is not alone in the American
press that such absurdities creep in.
They are also to be found in the Eng-
lish papers, so widely advertised as
pluperfect. The London "Stand-
ard" described a chaplain in a
"black" surplice, and the "Times"
described the "cathedral chapters in
ermine-trimmed copes of purple." The
perpetrator of the worst of all is
lost to posterity. He would have had
it believed that "Cardinal Vaughan
conducted the mass, but the consecra-
tion and elevation were performed by
Cardinal Perraud."

All these instances go to show that
the secular press cannot be relied
upon for correct accounts of Catholic
ceremonies. Catholics certainly do
not wish their children to be incor-
rectly informed on matters pertaining
to the church, hence the only way
they can place in their children's
hands correct accounts is to subscribe
for a Catholic paper.

From statistics furnished by Hon.
Edward A. Mosely, secretary of the
interstate commerce commission, it
appears that during the year ending
June 30, 1896, 1,861 passengers were
killed in railroad accidents, and 29,
969 were injured. The official sta-
tistics for Great Britain for precisely
the same period show that 22 persons
were killed and 224 injured. It
would be interesting to know the
relative percentage of total deaths to
total number of passengers carried.
We trust that some of our English or
Irish contemporaries will take the of-
ficial statistics and ascertain whether
America or Great Britain shows the
better record for care in operating
their roads and providing against casu-
alties.

Mugwumps and civil service re-
formers will find little consolation in
the announcement of Mayor-elect
VanWyck of New York that in mak-
ing official appointments "none but
democrats will be put on guard." That's
pretty nearly reaffirming the old
doctrine, "To the victor belong the
spoils."

It is sincerely to be hoped that
Rochester will never be called upon to
go through another such a cam-
paign of mudslinging, vicious per-
sonalities and general vilification as the
one just closed.

It is quite possible that no inde-
pendent body of men, however pure,
imaginary or otherwise, will again
undertake to defeat Charles B. Ernst
for police justice.

Things were just reversed in Roch-
ester and New York. Here the suc-
cessful candidates made dozens of
speeches. In New York the mayor-
elect made but one speech, and that
consisted of but thirty-four words.

Mark Hanna found it easier to boss
the United States last year than the
one state of Ohio this year.

The people are evidently making
up their minds to boss the bosses in-
stead of allowing the bosses to boss
the people.

There'll be a few municipal offi-
cials out of job after January 1st,
1898.

To the incoming administration:
Go slow. Be sure you are right be-
fore going ahead.

Post mortems are the rule now
when politicians meet.

THE GOSPELS.

GOSPEL: St. Matthew ix. 18-
26: At that time: "As Jesus was
speaking these things unto them, be-
hold a certain ruler came up, and
adored Him, saying: Lord, my daugh-
ter is even now dead; but come, lay
Thy hands upon her, and she shall
live. And Jesus rising up followed
him with His disciples. And behold
a woman who was troubled with an
issue of blood twelve years came
behind Him, and touched the hem
of His garment. For she
said within herself: If I shall
touch only His garment, I shall be
healed. But Jesus turning and seeing
her, said: 'Be of good heart, daugh-
ter, thy faith hath made thee whole.
And the woman was made whole from
that hour. And when Jesus was come
into the house of the ruler, and saw the
minstrels and the multitude making a
rout He said: Give place, for the girl
is not dead, but sleeth. And they
laughed Him to scorn. And when
the multitude was put forth, He went
in and took her by the hand. And
the maid arose. And the fame hereof
went abroad into all that country."

We see in this woman the sad image
of a woman grown old in sin—a soul
to which the services of the priest,
good or terrible examples, and expe-
rience, whether prosperous or unfor-
tunate, have been for a long time of
no benefit.

Weekly Church Calendar

Sunday November 14—Twenty third Sun-
day after Pentecost—Patronage of the
B. V. M. St. Stanislaus Kostka, confes-
sor. Less. Eccles. xxiv 14-16. Gosp.
Luke xii. 27-28. Last Gosp. Matt. ix. 18-
26.

Monday, 15—St. Gertrude, virgin
Tuesday, 16—St. Joseph, Bishop and
martyr.

Wednesday, 17—St. Gregory of Thaumaturgus, Bishop and confessor.

Thursday, 18—Dedication of the Basilica
of St. Peter and Paul.

Friday, 19—St. Elizabeth of Hungary,
widow St. Pontian, Pope and martyr.

Saturday, 20—St. Felix of Valois, confes-
sor.

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FEATHERS MUST GO.

CONSCIENTIOUS WOMEN URGED TO DISCARD THEM AS ORNAMENTS.

The Crusade Carried on by Vegetarians—Those Who Subscribe to This Doctrine Urged Not to Use Clothing Made of Animals—Furs Also Tabooed.

The question of vegetarianism is causing a good deal of agitation among women in certain parts of Europe just now, and an attempt is being made to interest persons in this country in the same subject. The headquarters of the movement is in London, and the leader of the European vegetarians is Mme. Alexandrine Viegele. She is president of the Vegetarian society and a woman of considerable prominence.

For years there have been vegetarians in England, but not until quite recently did they make much effort to gain converts or to bring themselves into public notice. They ate their vegetable dinners, they held their monthly dinners, they abstained firmly from all flesh food and they flattered themselves that in doing so they were gaining both physically, morally and mentally. They never tried to thrust their views upon others, and they were sufficiently happy if none of the elect relapsed into the vicious habit of eating flesh.

Into this quiet community, which is, by the way, mainly composed of women, came Mme. Alexandrine Viegele. She saw the necessity of more strenuous work—indeed, of a vigorous crusade—and straightway she called a meeting for the avowed purpose of propagating the doctrines of vegetarianism. This meeting was largely attended, most of those present being women.

Mme. Viegele acted as president and when the preliminary proceedings were over she made a proposition which fairly took the breath away from her audience. It was highly desirable, she said, to abstain from flesh food, but that was not enough. All self-respecting and humane persons, she insisted, and especially women, should abstain from the use of any article composed of animal material. Thus, according to her, women should not use silk garments, because the material in them is the work of insects; neither should they use kid gloves nor kid shoes, for the reason that they are fashioned of the skins of animals. Feathers are to be discarded from hats, for the reason that many birds are sacrificed in order to obtain them. Of course, all fur garments are also to be discarded, and for a similar humane reason.

Naturally a lively discussion ensued as to the feasibility of organizing a crusade on these lines. Some thought the idea excellent; others, on the contrary, insisted that it was too extreme, and could never be carried into practice, and still others, while admitting that it might be desirable theoretically, vigorously pointed out that many reputable persons would be ruined if it were carried out. They argued that among the vegetarians are many women who make their living as milliners and that they would be driven

Mrs. ily re on T held hous chur band Peter Nelli lovin Ja ing a stree sides Jame three and Nola born forty ter, to th M the year the l Glen at 8 o'clock W dence Fah awa the Chri who ter v ele w featu ence only child derly Sh est with but f the l when seem Sit nine in the ening cheer heart ory ory lon Th resid morn at 10 McD at Bi Letti maid brot man, an e Fr ret a died the h Came year in po sever deriv He v trust Comj Call of ex positio blow him Donr Thur o'clock Patri were: Mad Hen O'Re Th are to at Ca Nove elabo senta Hugi one seen Davi Thon Fran O'Ne Chris Keen Th 4th s The c fine t more previ M. A All y vited assur Th have memb direct Club opera Hart Harry