

# How British Cities Manage Public Utilities

An American Attends a Town Meeting of the Free Voters of Manchester—Liverpool's Public Baths and Washhouses

By FREDERICK UPHAM ADAMS

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IV.  
**I**n all save outer form the cities of Great Britain are much more democratic in their methods of government than are ours. With them the citizen exercises a direct interest in public affairs. The city council is truly the representative of the mass of the electorate. It is impossible for the members of a council to go far astray even if they were so disposed. The manner in which they do these things on the other side may best be illustrated by an instance which came under my personal observation.

The city of Manchester owns and operates its street railways, and it is also a large stockholder in the Manchester Ship Canal company. For some time it has been deemed necessary to raise more money for the enlargement and improvement of both of these great enterprises, and for months prior to my visit to Manchester special committees of the council had been working on ways and means to authorize and complete these improvements. A bill was finally drawn petitioning parliament for power to issue bonds amounting to a total of about \$7,500,000 to raise funds for these purposes. The council adopted the measure. My attention was first directed to the matter by reading huge posters displayed in various parts of the city announcing a town meeting of the free voters of Manchester for the purpose of taking final action in the matter of the proposed bond issue.

It was then that I learned that in this, as in all other important matters, the voters had the right of a referendum. William Henry Talbot, for a generation the town clerk of Manchester, invited me to a seat on the platform, and I had opportunity to witness the workings of a democracy in a country classed as a monarchy.

The huge gothic hall in which the free and independent burghesses of Manchester assembled to pass on the recommendations of their common council is capable of seating four or five thousand persons, but it was not half filled when we entered. To the right of the platform was a large map of Manchester and Salford showing the plan of the proposed street railway extensions and the enlargement of the docking facilities.

"Suppose," I asked Town Clerk Talbot, "that a majority of those present vote against this measure. Does that defeat all chance of its passage?"

"It would for the time being," responded Mr. Talbot. "The council would hesitate to broach the matter again, for a long while at least."

"Is there any decided opposition to the bill?" I asked. "Are there no private interests whose profits will be imperiled by the passage of this act?"

"Certainly there are," was the reply. "It authorizes the construction of tenement houses and cottages which will compete with those owned by members of the landlords' association, and some of them are here, and others are represented by their attorneys. Then many ratepayers are opposed to the building of more trams or improving the ship canal. They are here and will be heard."

"There are more than 100,000 voters in Manchester, and not more than 3,000 of them were in the hall when Lord Mayor Shann took his chair and adjusted the official chain which was suspended around his neck. I was mystified by the lack of attendance on the part of the electorate of Manchester."

"What is there to prevent the opposing interests to this bill from packing the hall with their partisans?" I asked, my mind wandering back to Chicago, New York and other centers of civilization with which I was familiar.

"No one would dare attempt such a thing," said the astounded and doubtful town clerk.

"But suppose they dared do it and succeeded," I insisted. "What would happen then?"

"There would be a bloody riot, don't you know," said Mr. Talbot, with a bland smile, and before I could question him further the lord mayor motioned him to open the meeting. From other sources equally reliable I have learned that Mr. Talbot's prediction of violence in the event of a packed meeting was entirely justifiable.

The town clerk read the proposed bill, and it was voted to take it up and discuss it by sections. The lord mayor moved the passage of each section and called on some member of the council to second his motion. The question was then open to general debate, and any citizen of Manchester could speak for or against it. Many speeches were made, and as a result some unimportant amendments were agreed to, and when every one had had his say the motion to indorse the action of the council was put and passed without a dissenting vote.

What struck me as extraordinary was this: Here was a measure which combined in itself all that is radical in the movement for public ownership. It committed the city to a closer partnership with a private business corporation. It authorized a large expenditure for horses which would compete with those owned by landlords. It proposed an extension of municipal tramways beyond the corporate limits of Manchester, thereby establishing a new

precedent which may gridiron Great Britain with steel railways owned and operated by municipalities. It bestowed other powers of a constructive nature on the officers of the council, and yet not a citizen of Manchester nor an accredited attorney of any vested interest uttered one sentence or expressed one sentiment against the general principle of the establishment and extension of municipal enterprises.

One of the distinctive features of the modern British city is its system of public baths and laundries. The latter are termed "washhouses." Liverpool and Manchester are especially progressive in these institutions. Liverpool has expended or appropriated more than a million dollars on its public baths. The Cornwallis street baths of Liverpool compare favorably with any public or private establishment, no matter where located, save perhaps in the matter of useless adornments. Liverpool has a comprehensive system of public bathhouses, and it is its proud boast that no citizen is more than a few minutes' walk from a public bathing establishment.

The Cornwallis street baths cost about \$125,000, and Liverpool has begun the construction of buildings at Pier Head which will demand an expenditure of \$375,000. I made a careful inspection of some of these establishments. The swimming pools are large, and the temperature of the water is automatically regulated. There are several classes of baths with varying prices, and one can have a plain tub bath with hot and cold water, soap, sponge and towels, all for the sum of 2 cents in our money or a penny in theirs. Two days in the week this price is cut in half. You could not get as good a bath in the best hotel in Liverpool or London for fifty times the money.

The average price of a plunge bath with the use of the pool as long as desired, is less than 6 cents. But the free open baths of Liverpool are more interesting and hardly less attractive. Whenever it is possible to secure an open space the baths department constructs a pool, provides warm water and erects shelters for the little ones. One day last summer 5,500 lads used one of these open baths.

While the receipts from Liverpool's baths are large, there is, of course, an annual deficit. Last year's receipts were about \$40,000, and the deficit was not far from the same amount. But this is one of the enterprises conducted without hope of financial gain. The city is fortunate in its baths engineer and chief superintendent, W. R. Court, a man who has been connected with bathing establishments for years and to whose energy and forethought is due the planning and success of the "slum baths."

"We believe," said Mr. Court in the course of a thorough inspection of these baths, "that it is as important to teach the children to bathe as it is to teach them to read and write. The boy who acquires an ambition to have a clean body will find a way to an education. If I have any criticism to make concerning our system as it stands today it is that we have paid too much attention to first class baths and not enough to those within absolute touch of the mass of our working classes. We shall accomplish that in a very few years from now."

A picturesque and practical adjunct to many of these bathing establishments is the system of washhouses, or public laundries. The average tenement house dweller in Liverpool and in other large cities has no adequate means of doing the regular week's washing. Hot water is expensive, and even the most primitive tools are beyond the means of many of these women toilers. Again the municipality comes to the rescue. Scattered all over Great Britain are hundreds of public washhouses. To these the housewife takes her bundle of soiled clothes. There are placed at her disposal the machinery and appliances of a modern steam laundry.

Instead of spending hours over a tub in the cramped living quarters of her tenement she is privileged to wash her clothes by means of hot water and steam, rinse them in a flood of pure running water, dry them in a hydro-extractor by centrifugal force and complete the process by hanging them for a few minutes in a steam heated room where they are exposed to superheated air in motion. She then takes them to the mangling and ironing room and by the aid of the best of appliances speedily completes the task of washing and ironing.

Two hours is the usual time consumed by a woman in washing, drying and ironing the clothes for the average family. The rate in most of the washhouses is a penny an hour, though in some of them an extra halfpenny is charged after the first or second hour. At the most it costs the average patron of these remarkable establishments 5 cents to do a week's washing and ironing, and the work which once took the best part of two weary days is now ended in two hours or less. And all this is in practical operation and has been tested for years, with the result that the washhouses are not only self sustaining, but actually yield a revenue to the city of Liverpool.

## WOODMAR-ON-LAKE-WEIR.

Water has always had a charm for the lovers of the beautiful and wonderful in nature. Byron's "Apostrophe to the Ocean" stands alone as a masterpiece. Other poets have sung of the ocean in language almost as sublime and smaller bodies of water have fired the poetic fancy to some of the most beautiful literary efforts in our language.

Lake Leman and Lake Como and the beautiful lakes of Ireland and Scotland have been made immortal by Byron, Shelley, Burns and Scott and have a fixed place in English verse.

We doubt if any of these lakes can surpass Lake Weir in loveliness and in beautiful surroundings. It is hugged in like a gem by precipitous cliffs and gently sloping hills and added to its natural scenery, the beautiful orange groves now in full leaf and flower, and many handsome homes with lovely grounds and gardens, give to it a beauty that attracts even the eye of the unpoetic and unromantic.

It was our good fortune, in company with Mr. David S. Woodrow, to visit this charming retreat last Thursday, stopping with him at Blair Villa, which overlooks the lake from the east.

Mr. Woodrow after purchasing Blair Villa became so enraptured with the beauties of the lake that he bought a large tract of land adjoining and has divided same into lots, avenues and lanes and expects to make an attractive and popular retreat for his friends. Some of these lots are as many as sixty-eight feet above the level of the lake and it seems to us that "Woodmar" is destined to become an ideal summer outing place for Ocala people and also equally attractive as a winter resort for the northern tourists.

Though living so near, we were surprised to find whole groves untouched by our recent cold weather and oranges and grapefruit are still hanging in clusters on many of the trees, not on isolated ones, but on entire acres and we can state with positiveness there was less injury done on Lake Weir by the freeze than on groves a hundred miles further south.

The "proof of the pudding is in chewing the strings" and we plucked with our own hands from the trees both grapefruit and oranges.

Mr. Woodrow has a boulevard skirting his property and has twelve hundred feet of lake front. He is grubbing every root and stump from the lanes and avenues and on both sides is planting a row of peach trees. One of the most beautiful lots he has reserved for a hotel site and expects in the no-distant future to make Woodmar as famous a watering resort as Ormond, Palm Beach or Miami.

Through the kindness of Mr. A. W. Allan we took a drive about a portion of the lake and like Mr. Woodrow and many others we were entranced with its surpassing loveliness.

We visited the beautiful home of Judge Wynne, which is "set upon a hill" a hundred feet above the lake level and has a beautiful and commanding view of the water.

Mr. George E. Snow has a nineteen acre grove which was unhurt. Mrs. Nancy K. Brown, Mr. Henry Spooner, Mr. N. H. DeLane, Mr. Frank Lytle, Mr. Fred Buffman, Mr. A. W. Allan, Capt. E. L. Carney, Mr. E. L. Stafford, Mr. B. F. Saxton and many others have lovely homes and beautiful groves on the margin of the lake.

Mr. F. E. Haskell, a retired merchant from Shanghai, China, having traveled over a large part of the world, selected Lake Weir as the most delightful spot he had seen in all his wanderings and is erecting upon its shores a palatial home and expects to spend the balance of his life there in charming ease remote from the "madding crowd" and face to face with nature in her most exquisite loveliness. He has a boat, gun and dogs, rod and reel and if he doesn't find happiness it will be because it is not to be found this side the celestial river.

Judge W. S. Bullock was the first to purchase a lot at Woodmar and Mr. Woodrow is confident that his

example will be very quickly followed by every prominent family of Ocala.

We had a thoroughly delightful outing and are truly sorry that it is not ordained by the fates for us to spend our declining years in a locality so beautiful in everything that charms the fancy and appeals to the imagination.

## The Flagler Railroad to Key West.

This stupendous enterprise is forming definite shape and is no longer believed to be beyond the scope of the impossible.

The Manufacturers' Record says that a much more extensive trestle has been erected across a part of Great Salt Lake in Utah. There the bridge is twenty-three miles long and some of the piers are sunk in water from thirty to thirty-four feet deep.

Mr. Flagler would hardly have undertaken this work had he any doubt that it was impossible of fulfillment, so it may safely be asserted that we will soon see this railroad and the iron horse puffing along the Florida keys and lessening the distance to Havana more than an hundred miles.

The completion of this road will make Key West two hundred and fifty miles nearer the Panama canal than any other city on this continent and the island on which Key West is located may become a second Manhattan.

The extension of the East Coast railway to Key West and the digging of the Panama canal will mean more to Florida than to any other state in the union and will give an activity to trade little now dreamed of and the people who are now born into the world, or at least in this part of it, will witness wonderful and stupendous results.

**Airtight HOLEPROOF SOCKS**  
 Guaranteed Against Holes for Six Months.  
 Black, Tan (light and dark), Navy, Navy Blue and Black legs with white feet. Fast colors. Sizes 9 to 12. Two grades: (1) Merino (medium or heavy). Sold only in lots of 4 pairs for \$2.00. A six month guarantee ticket with each pair. (2) Cotton. Sold only in lots of six pairs for \$2.00. A six month guarantee ticket with each pair. For sale by M. FISHEL.

# HOARSE COUGHS STUFFY COLDS QUICKLY CURED BY Foley's Honey and Tar

There is no case on record of a cold resulting in Pneumonia, or other serious lung trouble, after Foley's Honey and Tar had been taken.

It will cure the most obstinate racking cough, and heals and strengthens the lungs. **Foley's Honey and Tar** has cured many cases of incipient Consumption and even in the last stages will always give comfort and relief.

**Foley's Honey and Tar** gives quick relief to Asthma sufferers, as it relieves the difficult breathing at once.

Remember the name—**Foley's Honey and Tar**—and refuse substitutes that cost you the same as the genuine. Do not take chances with some unknown preparation.

Contains no opiates. **Cured of Terrible Cough on Lungs.** N. Jackson of Danville, Ill., writes: "My daughter had a severe attack of La Grippe and a terrible cough on her lungs. We tried a great many remedies without relief. She tried Foley's Honey and Tar, which cured her. She has never been troubled with a cough since."

**Consumption Cured.** Foley & Co., Chicago, Dana, Ind. Gentlemen:—Foley's Honey and Tar cured me of Consumption after I had suffered two years and was almost desperate. Three physicians failed to give me any relief and the last one said he could do me no good. I tried almost every medicine I heard tell of without benefit, until Foley's Honey and Tar was recommended to me. Its effect right from the start was magical. I improved steadily from the first dose and am now sound and well, and think Foley's Honey and Tar is a God-send to people with Throat and Lung Trouble. Yours very truly, MRS. MARY AMBROSE.

Three sizes—25c, 50c, \$1.00. The 50 cent size contains two and one-half times as much as the small size and the \$1.00 bottle almost six times as much.

**SOLD AND RECOMMENDED BY** Postoffice Drug Store

# MIGHT AND WILL VS GRIP

Let us illustrate vividly the difference in meaning of the words **might** and **will**—the child **might** live; the child **will** live. **Might** implies doubt; **will** means certainty. **Might** live means **might** die; **will** live means **will** not die.

These two words aptly illustrate the difference between Johnson's Tonic and the horde of commercial remedies on the market, and that vast horde of inert professional remedies which only bear the sanction of the High Priests of medicine.

**USE JOHNSON'S TONIC** in a bad case of Grip and you will live! Use inert, or commercial products, and you might live.

Johnson's Tonic quickly drives out every trace and taint of Grip. It is not simply good, it is supremely good—not good as anything, but better than everything—a genuine life-saver. Those who believe in it are safe—doubtless are in danger and jeopardize their lives. Summed up, Johnson's Chill and Fever Tonic is the best Grip medicine on earth. This is the sober, serious, earnest truth.

**JOHNSON'S CHILL & FEVER TONIC CO.**  
 At all druggists. Savannah, Ga. Take no substitutes.

GRIP GERMS MAGNIFIED 1000 TIMES

# THE CHAMBERS SHOE COMPANY.

We have just received a complete line of **Trunks** \$2 to \$25.00  
**Suit Cases** \$3.00 to \$15.00  
**Hand Satchels** \$1.25 to \$15.00

Come in and see them,

# THE CHAMBERS SHOE COMPANY.

Opera House Block. Ocala, Fla.

# Strauss' Royal Reserve.

OCALA MINING LABORATORY.  
 F. T. SCHREIBER.  
 Consulting and Analytical Chemist. Member of the Society of Chemical Industry, London, Eng. Member of the American Chemical Society.  
 P. O. Box 703.

OCALA, FLA., Oct. 22, 1904.  
 Messrs. Strauss & Co., Wholesale Whisky Merchants, Ocala, Fla.,  
 Gentlemen.— In accordance with your instructions, I visited your warehouse on the 19th, instant, and personally selected from your stock a sample of

"Strauss' Royal Reserve" whisky, the analysis of which shows it to contain:

Alcohol (by weight), per cent.....	36.66
Alcohol (by volume), per cent.....	43.61
Degree proof, per cent.....	87.10
Residue on evaporation, p cent.....	0.660
Ash, per cent.....	0.011
Reducing sugar, per cent.....	0.235
Volatile acids, per cent.....	0.027
Amyl alcohol (fusel oil), per cent.....	0.073

The above results show the whisky to be a carefully blended brand of high grade and that it has been distilled from a clean, pure grain mash. The amount of fusel oil and of volatile acids is very low.

Respectfully,  
 F. T. SCHREIBER, Chemist.

FOUR FULL QUARTS \$3.50 EXPRESS PREPAID.

# STRAUSS & CO.

Sole Owners and Distributors.  
 OCALA, FLORIDA.

# THE VEHICLE AND HARNESS CO.

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA.  
 Cor. Forsyth and Cedar St.

Everything Used by the Carriage and Wagon and Blacksmith.  
 Celebrated Davis Wagons for Sale.  
 Our Specialties: Log Cart Wagons, Buggies, Surries, Dog Wagons, Saddlery, Harness, Etc. We solicit your business and Guarantee Satisfactory Service.