How British Cities Manage Public Utilities

Glasgow Was the First City to Challenge the Supremacy of the Telephone Trust—A Glance at Edinburgh

By FREDERICK UPHAM ADAMS

[Copyright, 1904, by Frederick Upham Adams.]

XI.

GLASGOW'S experience with telephones should be of interest to those citizens of this country who are complaining of extortionate rates for inferior service. As usual, the Scotch metropolis was the first city in the kingdom to challenge the supremacy of the telephone trust, which in Great Britain goes by the name of the National Telephone company.

The fight for a municipal franchise was a complicated and interesting one. In 1911 the imperial government through its postoffice department proposes to take over the control of the telephone system of the United Kingdom. At that time the National Telephone company will be compelled to surrender its property at its actual market value without a penny additional for good will or franchises. The municipalities expect to arrive at some agreement with the general government by which they will be left in partial control of their plants and to share in its profits. Be this as it may, the last privately owned telephone will disappear in about six years from this date.

It is more than ten years ago since Glasgow proclaimed revolt against the high charges and bad service of the private telephone company. A committee of the city council reported in favor of establishing a municipal plant, and, without going into details, it may be stated that on March 1, 1900, Glasgow obtained the first license ever granted to a city for the purpose of constructing and operating a telephone system.

The work of construction was begun in July, 1900, and up to the present time Glasgow has expended $1,350,000 on its telephone plant. While the city contains only twenty square miles of territory, the telephone wires reach out over nearly ten times that large a district.

Under the old telephone company no effort was made to reach the suburban area. The private company catered only to the congested district and imagined that it would lose money if it improved the service, extended the scope or lowered the rates. Under its management the average annual cost of a telephone was $60 or more. It took from one to ten minutes to make a connection.

The Glasgow telephone service is the best I have ever inspected. I was informed that statistics showed that the average time required to make a connection was less than fifteen seconds. I made a test on my own account and called up ten subscribers. Of the nine who responded the average time from unhooking the receiver to answers from those addressed was fourteen seconds. It should be explained that the telephone booth is practically unknown in the office of a Glasgow business man. The instrument is on the edge of his desk, and the receiver and transmitter are in one piece.

The rate to a subscriber for a service with an unlimited number of calls over the entire system is $25.50 a year. There is no installation charge and no dues of any kind other than the annual payment of this amount. A toll service is rendered for $17 a year, with an additional charge of a penny for each outward message, with unlimited inward calls free. On a party line with more than four subscribers the rate is $6 per annum, with an unlimited number of calls.

There are 11,000 subscribers to the municipal telephone system of Glasgow. The private company predicted that the insanity of the management in reducing rates and giving decent service would result in financial ruin, but the investment showed a profit of $100,000 a year.

The cleansing department of Glasgow is an interesting institution. It owns thousands of acres of farm lands where once were nothing but bogs and marshes. To these farms are conveyed the refuse products of the streets. On them are stone quarries and brickyards owned and operated by the city. There are also great factories. Connecting the factories and the farms is a system of steam railway, the city owning more than 700 railway cars and a large number of locomotives.

In 1892 Glasgow purchased the small private electrical plant for about $75,000. From this modest beginning it has developed a comprehensive system modern in every particular. It now represents an investment exceeding $5,000,000, and the profits last year amounted to $340,000. This does not include $30,000 paid for taxes. As has been stated before, all public enterprises in Great Britain pay taxes and are thus on the same footing for purposes of comparison as private industries. Even a fire department pays taxes on every dollar of its assets. After marking off $185,000 for depreciation—a most liberal allowance for a new plant—the department placed the balance to its credit.

Glasgow purchased the private gas plants in 1869 and has made profit on the investment every year since then. This great industry now has a capital account exceeding $10,000,000, and the gross profits last year passed the $1,000,000 mark for the first time in the history of the enterprise. When the original purchase was made it was arranged that the owners should receive in perpetuity annuities and stock valued at more than $2,000,000. The city has now adopted the policy of purchasing at a premium these annuities and last year wiped out more than one-third of the amount. Under private management gas cost consumers from $1.25 to $1.50 a thousand feet, but this has been steadily reduced until the rates now stand at 48 cents for motive power and 54 cents for lighting. When the plant is fully paid for, which will not be many years at the present rate of profits, the citizens of Glasgow will pay not more than 30 cents for gas, though it costs much more for oil and coal in Scotland than in any part of the United States.

It is nearly forty years since Glasgow startled Great Britain by declaring war on the slums and tenements which disgraced the city. The property owners refused to remedy conditions and the city took radical steps. It pushed through parliament a bill giving it power to condemn and purchase insanitary property. Armed with this act, the city authorities of Glasgow wiped out whole districts of insanitary property, and the city started by constructing several model tenement houses.

Glasgow now owns millions and millions of dollars' worth of dwellings and is one of the world's greatest landlords. Its competition with private landlords is friendly, but wonderfully effective. The city fixes a rate of rents beyond which others cannot go. It rigidly enforces building and sanitary laws which have greatly reduced the death rate.

Glasgow has municipalized all the common services with the exception of cemeteries. It is the owner of profitable markets and slaughter houses; it maintains a splendid system of baths and washhouses; it possesses a magnificent art gallery and has built a "people's palace" which combines a winter garden, art gallery, museum, reading rooms, theater and concert hall; it furnishes hydraulic power at cost; it spends vast amounts on parks, music and entertainments. These and other functions are financed and managed by the elected representatives of the city.

Party lines are absolutely ignored when it comes to the election of members of the city council. The man who has served his people faithfully seldom is opposed when election day arrives.

The city hall of Glasgow does not remind the visitor of any civic structure in the United States. No swarms of loafers, ward heelers and office brokers or seekers hang about its entrance or lounge in its halls. You are not permitted to smoke or carry a lighted cigar. One sees business men, architects, engineers, bankers and others who have occasion to visit the various departments. The atmosphere is that of a well regulated bank or great mercantile establishment. It is the business office of a municipal estate worth more than $90,000,000.

There is no army of parasites drawing salaries for work which is not performed. There is no line of citizens ready to commit perjury in order that they may escape their fair share of the burdens of taxation. There are no go betweens employed by dishonest wealth to extort by bribery favors from those who have taken an oath to faithfully serve their city and community. Aldermen meet in public to devise ways and means which shall promote the public good. There are no ward leaders. There is no gang. There is no pull. There is no graft. The men at the head of affairs would no sooner think of robbing their city than they would of stealing from their church or their club.

Just a glance at Edinburgh, the most beautiful city in Great Britain. Edinburgh owns its street railways, but instead of operating them has leased them for a term of twenty-one years to a company which pays a rental of 7 per cent on the capital outlay of $6,500,000. After paying interest, sinking fund and other expenses the city had a clear revenue of about $27,500. This does not compare favorably with the record of cities which operate their plants, and there is much dissatisfaction.

Edinburgh owns a fine system of baths. Its electric light plant paid last year a net profit of $300,000. In the construction of houses for the working classes Edinburgh has spent nearly $1,000,000, and, while maintaining low rent rates, there is a steady annual profit to the city. The technical and public schools of Edinburgh are famous. Like most Scotch cities, it owns its markets and slaughtering houses and has adopted modern methods for the disposal of sewage and street sweepings.

The Elks' Convention.

The annual meeting of the Florida Elks association will take place May 17 and 18 with Ocala lodge No. 851, in this city.

The following are the state officers:

M. B. Macfarlane, president, No. 708.

Rev. H. W. Little, vice president, No. 851.

G. D. Ackerly, secretary, No. 221.

G. L. Baltzell, treasurer, No. 795.

G. O. Palmer, sergeant at arms, No. 893.

The program is as follows:

WEDNESDY, MAY 17.

Delegates will assemble at Elks' hall at 10 a. m.

1. Call to order by M. B. Macfarlane, president.

2. Invocation by Dr. W. C. Lindsay.

3. Address of Welcome by Rev. H. W. Little.

4. Response by the President.

5. Appointment of Committee on Credentials.

Adjournment.

2:30 p. m.—Report of committees.

Election of officers.

Appointment of committees.

Selection of place for next annual meeting.

Adjournment.

THURSDAY, 9:30 A. M.

Addresses of newly elected officers.

Good of the order.

New business.

Unfinished business.

Adjournment.

Trip to Silver Springs and trip down the run.

The committes appointed are as follows:

Arrangements—E. P. Thagard, E. W. Davis, C. V. Miller, Geo. H. Ford.

Invitation—D. S. Williams, E. J. Crook, W. J. Chambers.

Decoration — M. Strauss, Stephen Jewett, Geo. K. Robinson.

Reception—D. S. Williams, Dr. H. W. Little, Edward Holder, H. L. Hough, Henry Gordon, Dr. W. C. Lindsay, R. L. Anderson, A. Hardaker, C. V. Miller, M. E. Robinson.

Entertainment — S. A. Rawls, M. Strauss, G. K. Robinson.

Press—Dr. W. C. Lindsay, D. S. Williams, D. S. Woodrow, S. A. Rawls.

All Rail Line to Key West.

The Birmingham Age-Herald of Thursday comments as follows upon the proposed extension of the Florida East Coast railway to Key West:

The Florida legislature has passed an act authorizing the construction of a railroad to Key West, and a strong company stands ready to undertake the task. Bridges of almost unprecedented length are to built from key to key until Key West is reached. Key West would thus become the utmost southern railroad terminal of the United States. It is distant from Havana but three hours, fast steamers being employed, and another sea voyage of three hours from Cape San Antonio across the month of the gulf brings the traveler to Yucatan. When through express trains are put on between Buenos Ayres and New York many passengers will prefer the route via Havana and Key West as being shorter and pleasanter. The ferriage would not exceed six hours, and sleeping cars could be transported across the two ferries.

Saved by Dynamite.

Sometimes, a flaming city is saved by dynamiting a space that the fire can't cross. Sometimes, a cough hangs on so long, you feel as if nothing but dynamite would cure it. Z. T. Gray, of Calhoun, Ga., writes: "My wife had a very aggravated cough, which kept her awake nights. Two physicians could not help her; so she took Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds, which eased her cough, gave her sleep, and finally cured her." Strictly scientific cure for bronchitis and Lagrippe. At Tydings Co., druggist. price 50c and $1.00; guaranteed. Trial bottle free. m

"Not what a man does for himself, but what he does for others, is the standard by which a man will be judged," says Andrew Carnegie. President Roosevelt himself could not have said it more epigramatically.—Tampa Tribune.

Bamboo porch screens to you at a special price. Ocala Furniture Co. x

Rev. Robert Hugh Morris.

The Daily Home News (New Brunswick, N. J.) of May 1st contains a splendid cut of Rev. Robert Hugh Morris, formerly of Ocala.

Rev. Morris has received a call to the Second Presbyterian church of that city and preached there last Sunday. He has not formally accepted the call but will do so, his pastorate to begin June 1st.

The News says:

"In Mr. Morris the church gets a young pastor of unusual power and the city gets an important addition to its brilliant array of pulpit orators. Rev. Morris will stand with the leaders of the ministry in this city as a thinker, a Christian worker and an orator. He will attract people to the cosy little church on the hill and will hold them by the spell of his eloquence.

"The new preacher is a tall young man, possessing a strong, intellectual face. There is a natural ease about him in the pulpit, possibly the fruit of his experience on the lecture platform. He is deliberate in his delivery, and speaks with a commanding earnestness in a voice of fullness and richness, rolling off phrases that fall musically upon the ears of the audience.

"He is a thoughtful student and will spend one more year at Princeton, concluding his studies. He has been tireless in his work and study. The tinge of gray in his hair betrays the energy which he has thrown into his work."

Peter an Optimist.

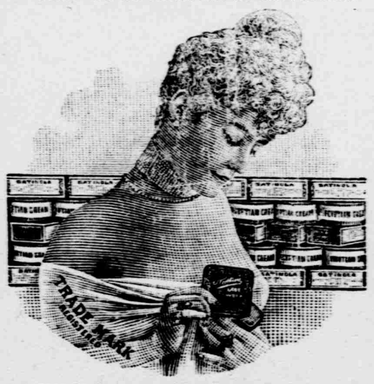
Talking about Chauncey DePew being an optimist, he is nothing compared with Hon. Peter O. Knight, of Tampa. Here is what he says in the Tampa Tribune:

"All the bad laws now before the legislature will be defeated and all the good ones will be passed, was the comprehensive comment of Colonel Peter O. Knight, who came home yesterday for his usual Sunday rest from the arduous duties of attending to the multifarious interests of his clients at the state capital.

Colonel Knight thinks the present legislature is one of the most conservative bodies ever assembled, and he says the people have no cause to fear that any crazy legislation will go through. He will return to Tallahassee Monday night.

TO REMOVE FRECKLES AND PIMPLES. In 10 Days Use —SATINOLA—

THE COMPLEXION BEAUTIFIER.



SATINOLA as a new discovery, guaranteed, and money refunded if it fails to remove the worst case of freckles, pimples, tan, liver spots, sallowness, blackheads or other skin eruptions in 20 days—leaves the skin clear soft, healthy and restores the beauty of youth. Thousands testify to the merits of Satinola.

Miss Alice Lirette writes: Thibopeaux, La., Oct 15, '04. "For four years my face was completely covered with freckles and pimples. All remedies failed until I used two packages of Satinola, which completely removed the freckles and pimples. My complexion is now perfect, and I hope every lady having freckles or pimples will try Satinola." Price 50c. and $1.00 by leading druggists or mail.

NATIONAL TOILET CO., Paris, Tenn.

Sold in Ocala by Anti-monopoly Drug Store and all leading druggists'

In the person of Hon. Harry H. McCreary, of the Gainesville Sun, the newspapers of the state have a faithful friend—one who is ever on the alert when bills affecting publishers are on the docket in the senate. So long as McCreary is a member of the legislature the Florida editors need not fear any legislation adverse to their interests.

Now is the time you will be wanting to hang new shades on your windows, and you might look a long time before you found anything prettier at as low prices as the ones being shown by Pittman & Son, the furniture men.

One gross of Jardiniers, all sizes and prices. Ocala Furniture Co. x

A TAINT —OF— MALARIA IN THE BLOOD

At SPRINGTIME means

A SALLOW SKIN,
A MINCING APPETITE,
A TIRED FEELING,

Lasting all SUMMER. By Special arrangements with The

JOHNSON'S CHILL & FEVER TONIC CO., SAVANNAH GA.,

A forfeit of $5.00 will be made if a course of Johnson's Tonic will not eradicate every trace and taint of

MALARIA.

PRICE 50 CENTS.

THE CHAMBERS SHOE COMPANY.

We have just received a complete line of Trunks AT $2 TO $25.00

Suit Cases AT $3.00 TO $15.00

Hand Satchels AT $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	0.225
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 disstilled 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.

JCKSONVILLE, Cor. Forsyth and Cedar St. - - - - FLORIDA,

Everything Used by the Carriage and Wagonmaker and Blacksmith.

Celebrated Davis Wagons for Sale.

Our Specialties: Log Cart Wagons, Buggies, Surries, Delivery Wagons, Saddelry, Harness, Etc. We solicit your business and Guarantee Satisfactory Service.