

# A FABLE FOR CRITICS

Particularly Those Who Oppose Municipal Ownership.

## THE WIZARD WAVES HIS WAND

Then the Streets and Parks Become Private Enterprises and Pedestrians Pay For the Privilege of Walking or Sitting Down.

"I don't believe in municipal ownership," said the Carping Critic. "Schemes of that kind are always rank failures. You can't convince me that public utilities may be managed better by municipalities than by private ownership. There is entirely too much socialistic foolishness in this country nowadays. I'm opposed to municipal ownership in any form whatever."

The Carping Critic and the M. O. Advocate were taking a stroll together. They had arrived at the entrance to the city park. The M. O. Advocate laughed softly as he drew from his pocket a curious wand. He said:

"I'm a wizard. Maybe you didn't know it, but I am. Presto—change!" He waved the wand in the air. Suddenly a gate was thrown across the park entrance. A small ticket booth loomed up at the side of the gate.

"Here, what's the reason they've got the park fenced in?" cried the Critic.

"It's a private enterprise, you know," replied the Wizard. "This park belongs to the Park Syndicate, limited, and, being a private enterprise, of course a charge is made for admission. But it costs only 10 cents apiece. Here, two tickets, please."

The ticket seller took the money, the tickets were handed to the gatekeeper, and the gate swung open. The two men entered the park and strolled along for half a mile or so, when the Critic remarked that he was a little tired and would like to sit down.

"But I don't see any seats alongside the walk," he said in surprise.

"No," replied the Wizard, "but yonder they are in that roped off place. The charge for seats is only a nickel, however, so we'll buy tickets."

After resting a nickel's worth each the men arose to go. They reached the exit without incident, but the Critic, who was slightly in advance of his companion, was halted by a hand laid upon his shoulder.

"Ticket!" sharply cried the uniformed person to whom the hand belonged.

"What?" demanded the Critic, open mouthed with amazement.

"Ticket, please. You've forgotten to show your ticket."

"A ticket for what, may I ask?"

"Where are you from?" was the counter query from the person in uniform. "You've got to show your ticket if you walk on this street. Otherwise you don't walk. See?"

The Critic turned to his companion. "It's all right," said the Wizard. "This street belongs to Jones & Johnson. They own half a dozen streets in the city. You buy your street ticket here, for instance, and it is punched by the street man when you start to walk on Third street and punched again on Plum street, and so on. Quite a handy arrangement, eh?" added the Wizard, with a ghastly smile.

"Who owns the rest of the streets?" the Critic inquired.

"Oh, they're divided up among a dozen firms or corporations. That makes it a little awkward, you know, because you've got to carry your pocket full of street tickets if you want to walk anywhere in the city without being held up by a street man and ordered to go and buy your ticket or permit to perambulate on such and such a street. Then there's an extra charge for teams, of course, and a different set of tickets. Automobiles, for instance, are held up at each street crossing so that the employees of the street operators may see if the chauffeurs hold the proper tickets. Sometimes the auto folks do a lot of kicking, but private interests must be protected, you know."

"What brought about all this change?" weakly asked the Critic. "Didn't the streets and the parks used to be public property, kept up by the city and free to all the citizens and anybody else who wanted to use them?"

"Oh, yes," replied the Wizard, "but that was before the days when municipal ownership went out of fashion. A lot of carping critics got together and declared that any sort of municipal ownership and management was socialistic and dangerous, so I, being a wizard, just drew this little wand of mine and wiped municipal ownership off the face of the city map. How do you like it?"

The Carping Critic grinned feebly, bit his lower lip and humbly requested the Wizard to restore the municipal ownership and management of streets and parks.

"And if the city can operate these public utilities successfully," he admitted, "I can't see why it can't operate the street car lines, too, instead of giving up the right of way to private corporations which run the cars for profit. And we might add the lighting system and the waterworks and the sewers and a few other public utilities."

Whereupon the Municipal Ownership Man gave the ex-Critic the right hand of fellowship.

Success in life is accompanied by increase of enemies. That's why Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea has so many imitators. It's a success.

## AN M. O. PIONEER.

Lee Meriwether the First Conspicuous Municipal Ownership Candidate.

Though still a comparatively young man, Lee Meriwether of St. Louis was the first conspicuous representative of the municipal ownership movement in America. Mr. Meriwether has been a nominee for mayor of his city three times, first as a Democratic candidate with municipal ownership plannings and the other times on a straight-out municipal ownership platform. His first nomination, in 1897, caused a split in his party, resulting in another nomination and the election of the Republican candidate, the noted Mayor Ziegenhein, during whose administration took place a great deal of the hoodling the prosecution of which made Joseph W. Folk governor of Missouri.

Mr. Meriwether was nominated by the Municipal Ownership party in 1901. His vote was very large. His party claimed his election, and his adherents still insist that he was elected mayor instead of Rolla Wells, who was seated. In 1905 Mr. Meriwether ran again on a municipal ownership platform, but received a decreased vote.

Lee Meriwether was born at Columbus, Miss., forty-four years ago. At the age of twenty-one he made a trip through Europe, walking and carrying a pack on his shoulders. His book, "A Tramp Trip; or, How to See Europe on Fifty Cents a Day," was one of the great successes of twenty years ago. A later book was "The Tramp at Home," in which Mr. Meriwether described industrial conditions in the United States. In Europe he went into the homes of the humblest people, slept and ate there and mingled with the families of farmers and laborers. His books are valuable sociological reports, written in an entertaining manner. The United States government employed the young author to travel in the United States, the Hawaiian Islands and elsewhere as an investigator of industrial conditions. His reports to the interior department are highly valued.

Mr. Meriwether became a convert to the municipal ownership doctrine, particularly as it relates to street railways, early in his career after wide travel and studious observation. He consistently advocated the public retention of public utilities and opposed franchise giving or grabbing during all his political career. Mr. Meriwether has held no elective office, but he has served as state labor commissioner for Missouri. He is a lawyer by profession.

### Baby's Excuse for Laughing.

Friend.—I am afraid your husband has a very bad cold; he's con-

tinually sneezing. It's quite painful to hear him. Why don't you ask a doctor to see him?

Matron.—Well, I'm waiting just a few days because it amuses baby so to see his father sneeze.—Life.

### There Are Few

People who know how to take care of themselves—the majority do not. The liver is a most important organ in the body. Herbine will keep it in condition. V. C. Simpkins, Alba, Texas, writes: "I have used Herbine for Shills and Fever and find it the best medicine I ever used. I would not be without it. It is as good for children as it is for grown-up people and I recommend it. It is fine for La Grippe." Sold by D. J. Fry.

### A Sure-Enough One.

Hogan.—I had to dispose of my automobile I give my son Terry.

Dorgan.—Shure, it wor only wan av them harmless toy wans.

Hogan.—I thought so; but after it killed two cats an' wan dog an' broke a leg, an' ar-rm an' a nose, I concluded it wor a baby grand tour-car.—Puck.

### Have You a Cough.

A dose of Ballard's Horehound Syrup will relieve it. Have you a cold?

Try it for whooping cough, for asthma, for consumption, for bronchitis. Mrs. Joe McGrath, 327 E 1st street, Hutchinson, Kan., writes: "I have used Ballard's Horehound Syrup in my family for 5 years, and find it the most palatable medicine I every used." Sold by D. J. Fry.

### As He Knew the Cow.

One Eastern railroad has a regular form for reporting accidents to animals on its right of way. Recently a track foreman had the killing of a cow to report. In answer to the question "Disposition of carcass?" he wrote: Kind and gentle.—Everybody's Magazine.

### Do Not Neglect the Children.

At this season of the year the first unnatural looseness of a child's bowels should have immediate attention. The best thing that can be given is Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy followed by castor oil as directed with each bottle of the remedy. For sale by Dr. Stone's drug store.

### Ethel Spoke Trully.

Dad (severely)—And, look here, Ethel, you mustn't encourage that young man to stay so late every night. It's disgraceful! What does your mother say about it?

Ethel.—She says men haven't altered a bit, dad!—Punch.

### How's This?

We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, O.

We, the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligations made by him firm. Walding, Kinnam & Marvin, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O.

Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Testimonials sent free. Prices, 75 cents per bottle. Sold by all Druggists.

Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

### Ancient.

"Papa, what is a gentleman of the old school?"

"The man with a bicycle, my son."—Smart Set.

### The Magic No. 3.

Number three is a wonderful mascot for Geo. H. Farris of Cedar Grove, Me., according to a letter which reads: "After suffering much with liver and kidney trouble, and becoming greatly discouraged by the failure to find relief, I tried Electric Bitters, and as a result I am a well man today. The first bottle relieved and three bottle completed the cure." Guaranteed best on earth for stomach, liver and kidney troubles, by J. C. Perry druggist. 50c.

### An Improvement.

"Home was never like this," said Mr. Henpeck, as he was shown about the Deaf and Dumb Asylum.—The Columbia Jester.

Cosmetics will ruin the complexion. There's no beauty practice equal to the effects of Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea. It keeps the entire body in perfect health. Tea or Tablets, 35 cents. Dr. Stone's Drug Store.

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We have handled this line for over three years, and have built up a large trade on this particular line.

When in need of Children's Hose, give our Never-Wear-Out Hose a trial and you will buy no other. All sizes 15c a pair.

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We have a very neat line for you to choose from at reasonable prices.

Plain White Linen Cover, 75c. White Linen Cover, with deep Flowered Border, only \$1.35.

Children's plain Blue, Pink, Red or White Parasols in two sizes, price 15c and 20c.

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We do not hesitate to claim that the value represented here are the greatest ever shown the trade.

When you see the handsome design, the size and the quality you cannot help seeing the truth of our claim.

Length Yds.	Width Ins.	Color	Price Per Pair
2 1/2	30	white	1.45
2 1/2	36	white	.75
3	40	white	1.00
3	44	white	1.25
3 1/2	52	white	1.50
3 1/2	62	white	2.00
4 1/2	50	white	2.15
3	38	ecru	.95
3	41	ecru	1.00
3	46	ecru	1.25
3	53	ecru	1.50
3 1/2	56	ecru	1.80
3 1/2	62	ecru	2.25

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