POLITICS

CHAPTER III.

Elect No Secret Foe of City-Owned Utility Plants

BY THE EDITOR

In giving your vote to candidates for city commissioner it is important that you know how they stand in regard to municipal ownership. The City of Tacoma owns and operates a water system worth many millions of dollars. It owns and operates a lighting plant worth other millions.

In any event we will want to retain all the municipally-owned utilities in their present form.

Consequently it is imperative that no more commissioners be elected who are not heart and soul in sympathy with the principle of public ownership.

One underhand way in which the present council showed its enmity to municipal ownership was to rob the light and water fund of its rightfully earned money.

When the 1916 budget was in process of formulation the commissioner got together and decided that it would be much easier for them to pass a large cut in the light and water fund into the general fund than it would be to make a legitimate reduction of the expenses in their various departments.

So they voted to rob these funds of about $50,000.

That showed both moral laziness and a decided lack of genuine economy.

Worse than that, it was a devious attempt to discredit municipal ownership, also a fraud on the merchants, manufacturers and householders of Tacoma.

For in using the money these RESIDENTS and contractors are applying it where it would reduce the taxes of NON-RESIDENTS, most of them speculators who hope to profit from the unbalanced tax assessment.

This was so flagrant a robbery that The Times has carried a story of it in its last issue, and this will not be the last.

The Men's Six Days of Hard Hammering.

We were warned.

The utilities were saved, temporarily, on the strength of the municipal ownership. The plant which is the property of the city is being operated, and the rates are set, and the city officials are being paid by the city. The city system, the work which is the property of the city, is being the same as if it were the property of the city.

It is accepted as a fact that the city officials will be paid.

And as it is a fact that the city officials will be paid, the city rates will be the same as if they were the property of the city.

And as the city system, the work which is the property of the city, is being operated, the city officials will be paid.

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