

house to house on given routes. It then added provisions for mitigating the evil, 'in case,' as it said, 'the passage of a law prohibiting newspaper selling by children is not practicable.' The report concluded with the following grotesquely harsh and ignorant sentence: - 'It will not be long before women and young girls will use the streets as a cover for begging, and it would be advisable, looking forward to this contingency, to keep girls out of the streets entirely. Twenty-one years should be the minimum age for girls. The danger to morals in the narrower sense is much exaggerated between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one, and after arriving at maturity, girls should be able to take care of themselves and our ordinances against "street walking" would protect the community.' Protecting 'the community' in this case of course meant protecting the men. But the Socialist Council are only responsible for this paper in so far as they, very properly, republished it, because of its being the report of a State Industrial Commission on an important subject. It may therefore be dismissed with the hope that the speedy enfranchisement of women, both in America and in England, will bring in its train equality of treatment for men and women on questions of sexual morality by law, custom and popular opinion.

It was into the business reorganisation of the City Government that the principal activities of the Bureau of Economy and Efficiency had been thrown.

Finding that there existed no accessible collection of the law affecting the powers, duties, and responsibilities of the Milwaukee Council and that to determine any legal point necessitated a long and difficult search, they at once began to make an exhaustive survey of the laws and ordinances of which they compiled a digest and furnished a copy of this to every municipal department. Then they proceeded with the work of reorganisation.

The rooms in the City Hall set apart for the Bureau of Economy and Efficiency were all hung with charts showing how the various Municipal departments were organised and how they were affected by charitable societies, labour organisations and other outside influences. Detailed charts, showing the relation of every city official and employee to his department, had also been prepared, to secure general thoroughness of organisation and in order that newcomers might gain at a glance a general knowledge of their duties and position.

The various economies and improvements introduced by the Bureau included the consolidation of the police and fire telegraphic alarm

systems, by means of which a saving of 10,000 dollars (£2,000) a year had been effected and the preparation of reorganisation plans by which it was estimated that 64,000 dollars (£12,000) a year could be saved on the working of the refuse incinerator, 6,000 dollars (£1,200) a year on the inspection of house drains and plumbing and 9,648 dollars (£1,929) a year in the collection of garbage.\*

I carefully read the detailed reports published by the Bureau on these and kindred matters and in each of them I found evidence of order, honesty, integrity and the desire to cut down expenses and to obtain the greatest possible return for the money of the ratepayers. I have heard it charged against the Socialist administrators of Milwaukee that their discipline was lax and that they were over generous in finding jobs for workless men, but these reports of their Bureau of Economy and Efficiency formed infinitely more pleasant reading for the commercially minded economist than for the tender hearted humanitarian and the Socialist. A report of twenty-eight pages was devoted to an exhaustive inquiry into the garbage collection system.<sup>†</sup> It explained that the Bureau had sent Inspectors out to keep a watch upon the collectors. The Inspectors reported that many of the men wasted time in talking by the way and in visiting saloons and that many of the horses provided by them were too old and feeble to draw the garbage wagons as they should. Yet, though this was a report prepared by a Socialist Bureau for a Socialist town council, there was no attempt to connect these reasons for complaint with the fact that the garbage collectors were very poorly paid.

As was stated in the report, each collector received three dollars (12/-) a day both for his own services and for those of his horse and running gear, half of this sum being considered the wages of the man and half the payment for the horse and gear. One and a half dollars a day is not a fair wage for an American workman owing to the high cost of living in the

\* Sylvia evidently obtained these figures from the following Bulletins: J.E. Treleven, *Proposed Consolidation of Fire and Police Alarm Telegraph Systems*, Bulletin No. 2 (June 1911) on the plans though not inclusive of the savings figure cited; M. Cerf, Louis Reber et al., *The Refuse Incinerator*, Bulletin No. 5 (June 1911), p. 2; Fayette H. Elwell, *Plumbing and House Drain Inspection*, Bulletin No. 10 (December 1911), p. 2; Robert E. Goodell, *Reorganization of the System of Garbage Collection*, Bulletin No. 12 (January 1911), p. 24.

† Goodell, *Reorganization of the System of Garbage Collection*.