

Thus, for example, it issues collective policies to large associations for premiums which are so surprisingly low that the benefits of insurance are for the first time brought within the reach of large sections of people. By means of such collective policies, 256,000 persons were insured against various contingencies in the year 1927. A considerable portion of these insurances relate to protection against accidents incurred in sports.

Despite the difficult economic conditions, the municipal enterprises have carried out improvements to the value of nearly £7,000,000 during the years 1923 to 1927. The already mentioned loan of 30 millions of dollars will be devoted to the purposes of technical improvements in the municipal enterprises.

The new Vienna.

We have now shown how the socialist majority has applied a policy of systematic reform to all branches of administration. The Municipality, which as an administrative authority was often alien and hostile to the masses of the people, has developed under socialist influence into the real community, embracing everybody who dwells within its walls and following the progress of the individual from the cradle to the grave, wherever it may be necessary.

Capitalism cannot be abolished from the Town Hall. Yet it is within the power of great cities to perform useful instalments of socialist work in the midst of capitalist society. A socialist majority in a municipality can show what creative force resides in Socialism. Its fruitful labours not only benefit the inhabitants of the city, but raise the prestige of Socialism elsewhere.

The tens of thousands of persons with no political opinions who live in a great city such as Vienna have inevitably been impressed by the earnest determination which the Socialists have displayed in performing their task, undeterred by Christian Social and Communistic extravagances, at a time when the decay of Vienna, its decline to an unimportant town, was confidently predicted.

The reconstruction of Vienna not only serves as an example to the industrial cities of Austria, but attracts the attention of experts and politicians of many countries. The new Vienna will continue in the path of progress, to the advantage of its inhabitants and to the honour of Socialism.