

municipality, but absolutely to unfettered liberty of private enterprise. You could go on in that way, and refer to all that steam had done in setting millions of hands at work in the cotton or other trades, but they did not owe it to the State or to the municipalities. Taking lighting again: going back to his youth they had tallow dips and snuffers. Now every little cottage had its paraffin lamp, and you had electricity in every possible form of lighting, and if the municipalities did not interfere the probability was that within a generation the electric light in many districts would be burnt even in the cottages which used to be lit by the old cotton wick. So far from owing that to the State, all that the State had done with regard to electricity was to try and stop it, and it had succeeded in stopping it more than it would ever succeed in any enterprise of that kind. It stopped it completely in 1882, and a committee had to be called together to amend the Bill which had stopped electricity. Coming now to water: they heard a great deal about the water in London. He found no better water than he got in London, and always had an abundant supply. There was a great outcry on the part of the London County Council, who proposed, if they were allowed by Parliament, to spend 50,000,000 of money, and to rival Manchester by bringing water from Wales. Why? Because through the waste of people in the eastern districts, and because of this exceptional year there was a scarcity of water. He had an estate in Perthshire, and during the last summer every drop of water had to be carted from a pond. But he looked upon that as exceptional. He was not going to spend a lot of money in bringing water from the Grampians. By the Report of the Commission over which Lord Balfour presided, it appeared that the present water companies, with the little additions such as they could make, would find water enough for 12,000,000 of people for 40 years. Those who managed these things in London denounced the water companies as a monopoly, but it was not the State that brought the water to London, it was the Companies which were denounced for