

## Speaker and Writer

During the past 50 years Mr. Carlson has delivered speeches, and written articles totaling more than 5,000, mostly on public utility questions. The public record shows that it was Mr. Carlson who first introduced most of the initiatory measures in the early stages of the public utility movement in this city. He often fought alone against bitter opposition. It was Carlson who in a large measure molded public sentiment in support of this movement. It was Carlson who latter as mayor selected the business, professional and engineering personnel by whom the municipal utilities were developed to the present momentum of successful operation.

The movement to build a plant to light some of our principal streets encountered much opposition back in the early days when the late M. George Martyn played a leading part in that role. But the real big municipal battle began after Mr. Carlson, then a youthful alderman, introduced in May, 1894 a resolution to sell bonds for the purpose of procuring machinery with which to produce current to be sold to the people of the city, the first experiment of its kind to be tried in America.

## Faces Opposition

But even after the commerial equipment had been installed, it took many years before a majority of the Common Council, then in control of the plant, could be elected who could be counted on to wholeheartedly favor a continuous expansion to meet the increasing demands for municipal current. The result of this slow-moving policy was that up to the year 1908 the plant, then valued at \$136,000 had only 150 consumers and a revenue of less than \$44,000. It was in that year that Mr. Carlson was first elected mayor after having launched his candidacy on a platform declaring for the purchase of larger units for generating electricity so that greater and cheaper production of energy could be supplied to the citizen consumers. Soon after Carlson's election and the educational effect of his campaign, a bond issue was ratified by the taxpayers for a large addition to the City Plant. Seeking increased revenue from industrial plants, Mayor Carlson succeeded in enlisting the services of Frank O. Anderson, then a leading industrialist, as chairman of the reorganized Board of Public Utilities which had assumed the functions previously performed with little