CLEVELAND ENTERPRISE: UTILITIES

Introduction

Carroll Pursell

If an army travels on its stomach, a city is sustained by its engineering infrastructure. Whether one thinks of them as analogous to the arteries or the nervous system of the body, a great city's streets and water mains, sewers and port facilities, telephone lines, light-rail routes and other utilities keep it alive and well. Of particular importance are the networks which bring energy to every home and office, school and factory. Gas and electricity systems provided for the cities needs in a myriad of necessary ways. These are nakedly technological systems but, as Karl Hess wrote in 1979 in his book Community Technology, "The most notable attribute of any technology has come to be the way in which it is organized and owned, rather than exactly what it does." It is in that spirit that these papers today will illuminate the civic health of Cleveland, not only in the Gilded Age, but by implication, today as well.