

LET NEWSPAPERS PRACTICE WHAT THEY PREACH

"Chicago needs at least two thousand more policemen.

"A list submitted by Chief McWeeny shows that fully 40 per cent of policemen on the present force are unavailable for regular police duty, owing to special assignments.

"It ought to be a public scandal to have city policemen, in uniform, doing crossing duty for private railroad interests—doing it without cost to the corporations demanding the service.

"It is hardly less a scandal that hundreds of city policemen should be detailed to guard private buildings, or to perform duties that belong to private watchmen or messengers.

"Also, if wealthy corporations needs special police protection let them pay for it."

The above are excerpts from an editorial in this morning's Hearst's Chicago Examiner under the caption "How to Increase Police Efficiency."

The Examiner is noticeably silent about traffic policemen being stationed at the various newspapers. The Examiner has one, and the American two, according to the report of the chief, quoted from. These policemen are in uniform, with the insignia of the traffic squad on their sleeves.

In the afternoon one of the patrolmen stationed at the American stands in the alley behind the Hearst building, between Madison and Washington streets, and directs the dispatching of the

wagons with the afternoon delivery of the American.

He is there to keep order in the alley. The drivers are reckless, and it is up to the policeman to see that pedestrians are not knocked down when these wagons and auto trucks dash out of the alley.

And if the drivers leave their horses standing in a way to block passage through the alley, the policeman takes the bridles of the horses and backs them out of the way.

All of this work could be done by a private watchman, paid for by the papers, as the Examiner suggests—for some one else.

If the Examiner is sincere in its declaration for more policemen on beats, why doesn't it, with the American, return the three men it now has, and hire private watchmen out of its own pocket.

These two papers are not exceptions, for all the other big dailies have the special policemen. Let them stop publishing tabular accounts of robberies and hold-ups and return these men to the city to aid in the suppression of these crimes.

Only the other day the Tribune offered to return its special man if the city wanted him. The city does want him. The city needs him.

If the Tribune really wants to be a "good fellow," as it is urging every one else to be, let it return the city's policeman as a Christmas present.