

sons and property which hitherto have unlawfully escaped taxation.

"In connection with the foregoing, I call your attention to the fact that a charge has been made repeatedly during the past ten years that certain persons having, or claiming to have, political influence have solicited trade or business of various kinds under the claim that they were able to reduce assessments, or prevent assessments, upon property which should be taxed. There have been repeated charges made of conspiracy between

persons making such claims and employes of the taxing body. It is my earnest desire to receive from you any information you may have against any former or present employe of the board, or any other person, or corporation, who has been guilty of the violation of the criminal code of this state.

"I am sending a like letter to the chairman of the board of assessors.

"Very truly yours,

"Maclay Hoynes,

"State's Attorney."

SHALL THE ADVERTISERS DECIDE WHICH NEWSPAPERS SHALL LIVE IN CHICAGO

BY N. D. COCHRAN

The plight of the Record-Herald and Inter-Ocean, two of the oldest newspapers in Chicago, may serve to give both people and publishers a better insight into the newspaper business.

Take the Record-Herald. It has a daily circulation of 140,000 and a Sunday circulation of 200,000; yet it has been losing over \$300,000 a year for many years, and one man has been standing that loss. Lawson makes enough profit out of the News to be able to stand the loss, but there is no reason why he should.

Nor is there any reason why local advertisers should support four morning newspapers. The tax is too great on business; and consumers would have to pay it in the end anyhow.

But the success of newspapers should not be dependent upon advertising.

So long as newspapers are dependent upon advertisers instead of their readers, newspapers will necessarily be run in the interest of Big Business rather than for the public benefit.

If there were but two morning State street stores are in position to shall die, that is bad for the public; for it gives dollars a greater influence than people.

When the Tribune and Record-Herald, because of keen competition for circulation, reduced their retail price from two cents to one, it was a bad thing for the people of Chicago and gave the State street stores and the loop interests a tighter grip on the newspaper situation.

It would be far better for newspaper readers to pay two, or three, or even five cents for a paper, and have that paper independent of advertisers, than to be able to buy it for one cent and place publishers at the

mercy of advertisers.

I feel this way about it: If the Record-Herald were in advance its selling price to 2 cents or to 3 cents and all other morning papers would continue retailing for 1 cent, I would buy the Record-Herald in preference to any other, and believe the Record-Herald would be the best morning paper in Chicago.

As a business proposition the Record-Herald has a terrific handicap in its bonded indebtedness and in the foolish rental it pays for the big building it occupies, and on high-priced land. It would be better off o.