

be a "fraudulent and unlawful" act, it is alleged. On these grounds, a restraining order is asked.

That the ordinance kicks a hole in the federal government anti-trust policy is understood on both sides. Walter Fisher, special counsel for Mayor Thompson, says the ordinance is a good one and ought to go through. But Fisher advised:

"It would be foolish for this committee to ask the attorney general of the United States to approve this ordinance. He wouldn't approve it. You can gamble on that."

On the basis of information collected by Public Ownership league men and interviews with federal officials, it is believed there may be action by the federal government. The department of justice in a letter from President Vail of the American Telephone & Telegraph Co. in December, 1913, got solemn promises from Vail that monopoly tactics, the purchase of competing properties, would be stopped by the A. T. & T. Letters from the attorney general's office have stated explicitly that the department of justice would certainly want to be consulted and have something to say about a deal so clearly in violation of the Sherman anti-trust law as the ordinance voted on today by city council.

Though the ordinance is of tremendous importance both in public policy involved and in the way it puts city hall politicians on record as to corporation control, the news of the ordinance has had stinging handling in the newspapers. Oscar Hewitt's analysis of the ordinance in this morning's Herald is the only news story that comes anywhere near giving newspaper readers a fair shake in the way of facts about the deal and figures about the deal.

Hewitt shows how the tunnel company on July 8, 1913, gave an option on its automatic phone property to the A. T. & T. for \$6,300,000. After nearly three years in which the city has refused consent to such a sale

the property had various valuations put on it, but in the end the council committee fixes \$1,532,058 as a price.

"The natural question is: Why are the Bell interests paying \$6,300,000 for something which the city values at one-fourth that amount? In reply the advocates of the ordinance say that it makes no difference so long as the price paid will not affect telephone rates."

#### MEETING TOMORROW TO TELL CONDITIONS IN IRELAND

With imprisonment hanging over their heads if they touch their foot to British soil Cornelius Lehane and James Larkin have been canvassing the United States, bringing a message of the true war conditions in Ireland.

At the first of a series of mass meetings to be held throughout the country, John Fitzpatrick, Lehane and Larkin at First Regiment armory at 2 o'clock tomorrow will tell the people of Chicago of the Irish Labor movement and its relation to the war.

"We intend to show up the actual economic conditions and to give an uncensored story of the terrible situation Ireland finds itself in today," Lehane told a Day Book reporter.

#### CHILD LABOR OPPONENTS WIN SKIRMISH IN SENATE

Washington, March 11.—On test of strength, friends of Keating-Owen child labor bill triumphed in senate committee today. Sub-committee of two friendly to bill, Cummins and Robinson, and one unfriendly, Smith of South Carolina, was named to examine bill for possible vulnerable points from legal standpoint.

#### MAYOR SIGNS BUDGET

Mayor Thompson today signed the city budget as it was passed by city council. Not a change was made. The budget carries the \$36,000 appropriation for morals commission expenses and other provisions to which the mayor was opposed.