

talk and saloon confidences exchanged between newspaper editors, reporters, printers, etc. Most newspaper men are saloon patrons—many of them excessively so. Many of them unburden suppressed news to one another under the mellowing influence of amber fluids—news which otherwise their prudence would thrust into the skeleton closet. She could hear enough right in the newspaper offices, however, to convince her that she had a sadly bungled woman.

Not only did I acquire a great deal of unpublished information in newspaper circles. Throughout the whole of my Chicago citizenship I was keenly and actively, though inconspicuously, interested in politics and public affairs. At one time I went to much trouble investigating the matter of school books and the board of education's connection therewith. So it is with confidence that I claim that only once within 30 years or more has Chicago had a school board that merited confidence and respect. This was the brief period when the Dunne school board was in power. Even it was not without sin, but it was an angel of light compared to the others.

My information satisfies me that the majority of appointments to Chicago's school board have been dictated by powerful business interests, newspaper publishers and politicians—excepting Mayor Dunne's appointees.

I have first-hand information that a Chicago millionaire was asked as a personal favor to influence the board of education to certain action of vital importance and benefit to the public school system. He consented; it was done. He was not on the board, but "his man" was. This was several years ago. If anything of importance is wanted from Chicago school board members, save time by going to the men who had them appointed.

Why have exorbitant prices been paid for school sites? How have cer-

tain contractors made fortunes by erecting school buildings? Is "Citizen" so gulleless as to think that powerful newspapers and business interests occupying school land have no influence in school board appointments? Why do the Daily News and Daily Tribune occupy school land at about half-price rentals?

The relations or activities of the book companies with Chicago's boards of education have been alone enough to give mal de mer to a really patriotic Chicagoan. What forced the retirement of Sup't Cooley—very "patriotic" and very friendly to the book companies?

How innocent to suppose furniture companies, coal companies, plumbing and heating manufacturers, etc., stand about quiescent and trustfully await contracts on the bases of the merits of their wares and the "patriotism" of school board members?

Some years ago police raided a Chicago slum bawdy house. One of its patrons arrested was a "patriotic" and flag-waving orator and "reformer" (fake) of national reputation—a Chicagoan. Almost certainly he is one of "Citizen's" pet idols. News suppressed. What a fine newspaper scare-head he would have gotten had he been Mayor Dunne, Ald. Kennedy, Ald. Rodriguez, John Fitzpatrick or Margaret Haley!

Remember now the facts about the death of Marshall Field II. were suppressed.

These are only two minor instances of a personal nature, though involving public characters. Yet they are indicative of the larger and more important news suppressions—those involving public welfare.

Some time in the near future I will write for The Day Book a narrative of an interview between Charles T. Yerkes and a union organizing delegation. It may interest "Citizen" and others like her. Yerkes, it may be recalled, was the pet street railroad devil of Chicago newspapers.

In Chicago I learned that Samuel