

GAS COMPANY BLAMES ITS TROUBLES ON COUNCIL

Sam Insull and E. G. Cowdrey, heads of People's Gas Co., in annual report to shareholders say earnings for 1916 were \$2,077,258. With much financial jargon and in many stock phrases of the corporation promoters throwing scares into shareholders, Insull and Cowdrey say in substance:

"Our decrease in earnings is caused by higher production costs and by failure of city council to grant us the kind of a gas standard ordinance we want."

Council gas-oil committee yesterday voted for the 565 B. T. U. and nine-candle power standard and directed E. W. Bemis, consulting engineer, to take up gas rate matter with gas company.

LIFER ESCAPES, LOSES MONEY AND IS ARRESTED

How would you feel if you were sent to Joliet penitentiary for life and after you served 25 years of your term and got a soft job as a trusty you had a chance to flee the prison wall and you did, but had your pocket picked of \$100, the last cent you owned, the first day you were out, and when you made a kick to a policeman he pinched you as an escaped convict and you were sent back to face hard labor and abuse?

That's what happened to George Mears yesterday.

SWITCHMEN WIN — DANGER OF STRIKE AVERTED

An eight-hour day with time and a half for overtime were the victories won by the railroad switchmen who threatened to strike against 18 roads about Chicago.

After a long verbal duel with the railroad managers' association, officials of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen announced the result last night.

The government warned the managers that their roads might be tak-

en under federal control if the strike tied them up.

ALLEGED SECRET SERVICE MAN LANDS IN CELL

William Reikow, 35, 1831 Park av., who said he is a secret service man and also an employe of the German consulate, caused the arrest of himself and Mayme Hansen, 2507 Harrison, and Edw. Stauper, 22, 2509 Harrison, at Division and Halsted sts. early this morning after they had staged a street argument. Police-man Chris Brown stopped the argument and was about to let them go free when Reikow challenged his right to arrest him. Disorderly conduct charged.

JUDGE KERSTEN HAS RUN-IN WITH AUSTRIAN CONSUL

When Count Hugo Silvestri, Austro-Hungarian consul general, appeared in Judge Kersten's court to ask commutation of the sentence of Andrew Pepper, to hang Feb. 23 for murder, he started something.

There was a little argument between the count and the judge. Kersten had the last words, which were something like this:

"You're a contemptible cur. I'll send you to jail if you say another word. Get out of my courtroom. Bailiff, put him out!"

HALPIN, FORMER DETECTIVE, GOES TO JOLIET

It's no longer Chief of Detectives Halpin. It's "prisoner No. 5231—Joliet."

The long slide that brought Halpin from his mahogany desk as chief of detectives of the second city in the United States to the garb of a prison convict ended yesterday.

State's Att'y Hoyne greased the skids which were built with the aid of Barney Bertsche on the story of a \$20,000 con game swindle. Halpin is in for from one to five years. His friends say he will serve the minimum.