

## CLAIM STATE STREET IS BEHIND FIGHT ON ALD. KERNER

Is State street out to punish Alderman Otto Kerner because he put the auto truck fender ordinance on the law books of the city?

The department store interests are said to be working in full force out in the 12th ward, where he is a candidate for re-election. They intend to make an example of Kerner to show other members of the city council what will happen to them if



Ald. Otto Kerner

they support laws opposed to the wishes of the loop stores.

Backers of Kerner say that the candidacy of Stephen Thieda, his Republican opponent, is significant. Thieda was for years private secretary for Leon Mandel, owner of the store bearing his name. Along this line the Municipal Voters' league says:

"Thieda was a bookkeeper and accountant for Mandel Bros. and private secretary for Leon Mandel, and later department manager and financial manager for the same company, covering a service of 12 years."

From Kerner's supporters comes the complaint that the downtown stores are fighting their candidate. In opposing Kerner they are joined by the owners of big stores and express companies in his neighborhood which own auto trucks.

Kerner himself hesitated to talk about the part the loop firms are playing in his ward. He admitted, though, that he had heard they were solid behind his opponent.

"I won't say that Mr. Thieda is accepting the support of the business firms which would rather fight a law and its maker than have it enforced. I know that he is rated as an honorable man.

"But reports have come to us repeatedly that the loop interests are pushing his candidacy. I have been told that there will be a 'barrel of money' spent next Tuesday by those who don't care for Thieda especially, but who want me out of the council.

"I think that if the better class of residents of my ward realize the tremendous fight that is being made on me they will flock to the polls and show the business interests that a really public-spirited alderman shall not suffer because he sets out to regulate these business interests."

Kerner had the fender law passed in the face of the united opposition of every department store in the loop, the express companies, the public utility corporations, the newspapers, and, in fact, nearly every big business concern that owns auto trucks.

The alderman stepped into the fight after his father was slain by a motor truck on Christmas eve, 1913. Three times he had the council pass an ordinance requiring that the trucks be equipped with safeguards and twice the big corporations had the law declared invalid.

The last ordinance, passed unanimously on June 1, is now in court being opposed by attorneys for Armour & Co., Consumers' Co., The Fair and other stores and firms.

The 12th Ward Guards and the