

450,000 users of telephone service, and over 300,000 users of electric light, are deeply interested in rates and service of these corporations. They are as important as police, fire and schools to the industrial and social life of our people. The "ripper bill" of 1913 deprived Chicago of local control over local utilities and the recent decision of the supreme court leaves the city helpless. It is absurd that a city of 2,500,000 should not possess the power to regulate the rates and service of these corporations whose action so closely touches it.

"A home rule bill, providing a proper time limit of 20 years is placed on franchise grants, and a referendum attached to them, will restore Chicago's authority, and an appropriate home rule bill should be vigorously pressed by the council. Insidious attempts will be made, however, to juggle such legislation in a way to keep the power from the people.

"I call attention of the council in particular to the relations between the People's Gas Light and Coke Co. and the city of Chicago. It is strongly urged that a change should be made, for reasons of economy, in the present method of producing gas and that for such a purpose a change from light to heat standard is essential. As a member of the gas, oil and electric light committee I wish to warn the council against any settlement of the gas rate question which carries with it an increase in the rates charged the smaller consumers, however insistent the demand. The city will not advance toward lower prices by raising the prices of thousands of those already using gas service for light and fuel."

#### COCKRAN HITS CONVICTION OF MOONEY IN SAN FRANCISCO

New York, April 24. — W. Bourke Cockran, New York attorney who defended Thomas Mooney, charged with San Francisco preparedness pa-

rade bomb outrage, declared today that Mooney's murder conviction should undoubtedly be set aside and the "whole conspiracy" against him exposed through substantiation of subornation of perjury charges against F. C. Oxman, star government witness.

"The arrest of Oxman," said Cockran, "only carries out entire contention of defense in this case—that the bomb outrage was perpetrated by a maniac and that the investigation developed into a conspiracy to hang Mooney because of his labor activities. If Oxman is convicted there will be no need for me to return to California to defend Mooney in a new trial. The whole proceedings will be set aside by the supreme court or by Gov. Stephens and Mooney will be liberated.

"Oxman's whole story was incredible. The outrage could not have proceeded from a sane man because it was not directed against any particular person. They had been trying to get hold of Mooney for labor activities. The bomb probe developed into a conspiracy to get him. We contended one man who had spent much time trying to get Mooney suborned perjury. This was not denied. Oxman's arrest proves it. We contended that an innocent man was being railroaded to the scaffold on false evidence. Our contention is upheld. The conspiracy is exposed."

San Francisco, April 24.—A direct request that Att'y Gen. U. S. Webb confess error and ask the state supreme court to order a new trial for Thomas J. Mooney, preparedness parade bomb defendant, was drafted today by Superior Judge Franklin Griffin, who presided at Mooney's trial.

Meanwhile Police Judge Brady today insisted on his right to hear evidence in the case of F. C. Oxman, charged with "framing" evidence against Mooney, and announced that the hearing would be resumed this afternoon.