

Chicago Eagle.

"INDEPENDENT IN ALL THINGS. NEUTRAL IN NONE."

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CAN "BUMPS" BILLINGS TELL?

People Are Anxious to Learn What the Gas Trust Horseman Knows About Things.

The Sangamon County Grand Jury Should Summon Him and Ask Him Some Questions.

A Noble Millionaire, Whose Principal Occupation Is Fast Driving in Chicago and New York,

Might Be Relieved if Called to Springfield Upon Official Business or to Testify.

"Bumps" Billings, the head of the Gas Trust, should be called before the Springfield grand jury.

He should be asked to tell, if he knows, who the agents of the Trust were at Springfield.

He should be asked concerning the session of 1897 as well as the session of 1899.

There are numerous questions, over 300 in number, which he should be asked to answer and which will be framed up for the State in case it decides to summon the Bi-City Boulevard-Wonder.

Why doesn't the Baxter committee ask "Bumps" Billings some questions?

"Bumps" Billings will be the most talked of man in Illinois before a year passes over us.

The profits of the "Bumps" Billings gas gang in Chicago must be something enormous, judging from what their imitators make in other cities. A dispatch to the Tribune from Cincinnati says: "The Cincinnati Gas Company can sell gas at 75 cents a thousand feet or at 5 cents a thousand feet and the price it charges will be all profit. The by-products more than pay for the cost of producing the gas."

"These facts have been revealed in the last week's gas agitation, and they come from the books of the Cincinnati Gas Company. They have been unintentionally set forth by Attorney Warrington, the chief counsel for the gas company, and M. M. White, president of the Fourth National Bank, generally reported to be the heaviest individual holder of gas stock in Cincinnati."

"The statements were made by Warrington in his speech and by White in an interview in a local newspaper."

"Bumps" Billings' gang has notified the city authorities that it will leave the streets in darkness by shutting off the gas, if its exorbitant bills are not paid. In view of the fact that "Bumps" Billings' gang pays nothing for the use of the streets; that it tears up pavements with impunity, and that it is a virtual trespasser, this threat to injure Chicago ought to awaken the people to a fever of indignation.

The South Park Board has the thanks of the whole community for shutting the automobiles out of the south parks and boulevards.

The South Park Board is right in refusing to allow the cheap John fellows who are getting up the "Stadium" to place it in the Lake Park. These cheap "business men" have no property of their own as a rule, and would like to get everything belonging to the public.

A cheaper lot of skates than the majority of the fellows engaged in getting up the October "Stadium" would be hard to find.

"Bumps" Billings should be given the city hall and the water works. He now has the streets.

We don't hear much about "Bumps" Billings' tax schedule.

So patent was the process for the protection of corporations in the Forty-first General Assembly that even the old-timers who have seen sleek work done in the palmiest days of legislative hoodluming stood aghast at the barefaced effrontery with which matters were conducted this time. True, the

organization was a small one, but that made it all the more incumbent upon the coparceners to do work boldly, defiantly and thoroughly. In no case was the spirit, energy and ability of the little gang which ran things in the last Legislature more conspicuously displayed than in the protection of the notorious Chicago Gas Trust in committee. It became evident to everybody from an early stage of the proceedings at Springfield that the controlling clique in the Legislature had made up its mind to stamp out at any cost every effort in the shape of proposed legislation to curtail any of the prerogatives or emoluments of this monopoly, or to rescue the people from its grinding enactments.

It is the privilege of The Eagle, and it is glad to exercise it, to expose bit by bit the details by which this conspiracy against the taxpayers of Chicago was carried out in regard to the Gas Trust, and the bills regulating the business of that monopoly mangled or destroyed.

It is not generally known that when the committees of the House of Representatives were formed and announced by Speaker Sherman, it was understood that these bodies were framed with an eye single to the interests of the big corporations of Chicago and of the State of Illinois. This was notoriously the case in reference to the Gas Trust. It is stated on the very best authority that the representatives of the Gas Trust were given an opportunity to inspect the lists of the proposed committees before they were even presented in the House.

It is said, however, in the same connection, that somebody blundered in regard to the matter, and that after the committee got to working several corporations "regulators" found their way to the front in the committees and appeared to be liable to come out into the House with a favorable recommendation.

Then a very unusual thing occurred. Speaker Sherman suddenly became convinced that the committees needed enlarging. This idea never occurred to the wise and learned gentleman from McDonough County who presided over the destinies of the House until after it was found that notwithstanding all the care that had been taken in the selection of the committees, particularly those on railroads and municipal corporations, those bodies were not dominated by the corporations. A number of measures framed for the express purpose of limiting the powers of certain combines and of doing away with extortion were pushed forward with alarming rapidity in some of the more important committees which had been regarded as absolutely safe.

There was consternation all along the line. The monopolies were at their wits' ends. It looked as if all the fat was in the fire. The Gas Trust was one of those most particularly perturbed. Several severe "regulators" vitally affecting the receipts of that institution were on the tapis, and the men back of them were evidently determined to push them to a final passage. There were in addition to the frontage repeal bill a measure fixing 60 cents per thousand cubic feet as the minimum price for illuminating gas, the McGoorty bill for municipal lighting of the city, and others of equal importance to the trust, and also to the taxpayers.

There was nothing for it but to amend the defects in the formation of the committees. So a few short weeks before the adjournment of the session Speaker Sherman announced to the House that it would be necessary to increase the membership of several of the

committees. At first the announcement caused general surprise, and everybody was making inquiries as to the cause for the change. Plausible reasons were assigned, but at last the Speaker's official and ostensible reason became public property. It was given out that certain West Side Republican politicians were dissatisfied with the make-up of the committees because a few of their proteges and ward workers had not been put upon the "good" committees. Now, when the fact is taken into consideration that the session of the Legislature was practically over, and that most of the opportunities for "doing business" in "the regular way" had passed, it will be seen how little there was to this very thin excuse. The disgruntled "outsiders" say the change was decided upon when it was discovered that the corporations were all likely to be recommended for passage, and that the individuals who were fixed upon as the material with which to increase the membership of the committees were all plant tools who could be counted upon to answer the whip and do the bidding of the corporations. Certain it is that from the date of the change in the committees all talk of the big corporation bills died. It was too late to keep back the gas frontage repeal bill, as that measure had been forced so far to the front that it could not be stopped in committee.

The Eagle has told how it was finally strangled on the floor of the House in the last days of the session. But the bill regulating the price of gas to consumers was smothered, so was McGoorty's municipal lighting bill, and so were half a dozen other equally useful measures.

The Eagle has in its possession the details of "the seances" that took place in a certain hotel in Springfield over these additions to the committees.

This paper has the names of the individuals who during four long weeks "labored" with Speaker Sherman over the matter. It will make interesting reading for the taxpayers of Chicago.

Suffice it to say that the kyndicate felt exceedingly happy and very comfortable over the entire business. So much so, indeed, that on the closing days of the session there was a public justification, at which a presentation of costly silver services, sparkling diamonds, pretty compliments and a general throwing of bouquets took place among the members of the select few. The details of this glorification are at hand. They have been supplied to The Eagle by members of both houses who saw the costly presents given to the presiding officers of the House and of the Senate, while they stood by and overlooked with empty pockets and heavy hearts. These details will form portions of the next chapter on the doings of the famous Forty-first General Assembly and the relation of the same to the Chicago Gas Trust.

Alderman Charles F. Brown of the Twentieth Ward is being boomed by

his many friends for the Democratic nomination for Coroner next year.

Mr. Oscar Norton, the famous Fox Lake trapper, guide and fisherman, will pilot a large party of Chicago gentlemen through the wilds of Northern Minnesota in October. Mr. Norton trapped for years on the head waters of the Mississippi.

"Bumps" Billings has become quite a noted character in Chicago.

"Bumps" Billings has not instilled very much confidence into the public when the stock of the Gas Trust is quoted at nine points less than it was two months ago. "Bumps" is a poor manager.

The tip is out that William R. Morrison will re-enter Democratic ranks in the State next year and make a fight to go to the national convention as a delegate. It is also claimed by some of his friends in the southern part of the State that he is anxious to enter the race for the United States Senate in case of a Democratic Legislature in 1901.

Senator Marcus A. Hanna gives it as his opinion that William J. Bryan will not be re-nominated, that McKinley and Hobart will, but refuses to express an opinion on a probable anti-trust plank in the platform.

D. D. Healy, in an estimate of John R. Tanner's strength in Cook County, gives the Governor all the delegates from the Tenth Ward, and "a good number from the Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, Eleventh, Twelfth, Twenty-seventh, Twenty-ninth, Thirtieth, Thirty-first, Thirty-third, and Thirty-fourth and the country towns." Nearly all of this is what is known as "Lorimer territory." He also believes Lloyd Smith will get some Tanner delegates in Lake View.

Governor Tanner, on the recommendation of the State Board of Live-stock Commissioners, issued a proclamation scheduling all the States and territories, other than the State of Illinois, of the United States and all foreign countries, of the existence among dairy and breeding cattle of tuberculosis. He prohibited the importation into this State of all dairy and breeding cattle until they shall have been tested with tuberculin.

For the twelve months ended July 1 Chicago has contributed in round figures to the war-revenue tax a little matter of \$7,000,000. The government revenues from all sources derived in Chicago for the twelve months as reported by Collector Coyne are \$15,000,000. Collector Coyne also reports that the opening of the Schufeldt distillery and the sale of whisky was responsible for \$1,500,000 which was added to the

income of the revenue office for the year. The greatest proportion of revenue for war purposes was received from the beer interests. This proportion was over 40 per cent. of the total war-tax receipts. The next best source of war income was documentary stamps. Collector Coyne notes the fact that generally speaking the war tax was paid cheerfully and ungrudgingly.

Mayor Harrison is likely to reorganize the Civil Service Commission by July 1. Several changes are contemplated in the personnel of the commission and the staff of examiners. Commissioner Ludwig sent in his resignation to the Mayor two months ago. It is said the Mayor will decide to accept it on July 1, the day President Lindblom's term will expire. At the time Mr. Ludwig sent in his resignation the Mayor asked Joseph Downey if he would like to serve as the Republican member of the commission. Mr. Downey declined to serve, and the Mayor determined to wait. Since then the entente cordiale between Mr. Lindblom and Mr. Ludwig has not been restored, and it is likely the President will refuse another term because the work has become disagreeable to him. Commissioner Carroll will remain on the board. B. M. Winston, brother of Dudley Winston, former President of the commission, has been mentioned as the Democrat to succeed Mr. Lindblom.

The commission helped Chief Kiple Tuesday in his fight against political pull on the force by issuing an order that no rehearings of cases settled by the police trial board will be allowed in future unless it is shown written charges have been filed. The politicians have usually besieged the chief for rehearings in order to save the scalps of the offending policemen.

Mayor Harrison gave out the dictum Tuesday that he would support Chief Kiple against the politicians who want his head because he transferred their pets without asking their permission. This caused dismay among the politicians, and every one of them immediately began to disclaim any interference with the chief in order to save their own heads. Chief Kiple stamped as untrue the rumor that insubordination had broken out in the detective department, and that Captain Coleran's friends had been trying to make trouble. The chief said that Captain Coleran and his men had done splendid work during the last two months, and that there was absolutely no friction between them.

We notice that the usual claim is being made by sundry statesmen that they are about to "do up" Robert E. Burke and Mayor Harrison. The Eagle still bets its money that Burke and Harrison will wipe them all out.

Judge Tuley's advice to the Democracy is good.



HON. RUDOLF BRAND.
The New President of the United States Brewers' Association.

A RECORD OF CROOKEDNESS.

The Lately Adjourned Illinois Legislature Made One Which Will Be Hard to Beat.

Gas Trust Crooks Had Their Own Way in Fixing Up Their Bad Schemes,

And the Barefaced Way in Which the Coin Was Distributed Among Members

Will Bring Some of the Gang to Justice Before Another Year Goes By.

At an early stage in the Forty-first General Assembly the Hon. John P. McGoorty, of Cook, introduced a bill providing for municipal ownership of public utilities in Chicago. This bill was so framed that, should it pass and become a law, its immediate effect would be the lighting of the streets by the city instead of by the greedy and grasping Gas Trust.

Simultaneously with the introduction of the bill, Mr. McGoorty gave out an interview for the press, in which he pointed out that the electric plant of the city of Chicago had been increased fourfold since the advent of the present Democratic city administration, and that if the bill became a law the streets would be lighted by the city electrical plant from one end to the other. There would be nothing left for private contract lighting but a few very remote and outlying districts on the western and southern outskirts of the city.

The bill and the accompanying statement fell like a bombshell in the camp of the corporation conspirators. It produced consternation in the clique which had for its paramount object the safeguarding of the interests of the Gas Trust, the meat combine, and the railroad and sleeping car companies.

It was doubly dreful in its effects from the fact that there was just then a red-hot municipal campaign in progress in Chicago, and municipal ownership was one of the burning questions in that campaign.

Mr. McGoorty and his large Democratic following in the House were the acknowledged representatives of the Harrison administration in the Legislature. The introduction of the bill showed that Mayor Harrison was a practical worker in the field of municipal ownership. It was eminently calculated not only to take the wind out of the sails of the Republican stalking horse—Algeld—but it was a measure so popular with the general public that the Republican Legislature at Springfield dare not go on record as being opposed to it.

A representative of the Gas Trust, a man delegated by the corporation lobbyist, who worked the wires at the Chicago end, promptly made his appearance at the State Capitol.

He became exceedingly busy, consulting hourly with the members of the Senate syndicate. It was agreed on all sides that it would never do for the Speaker to kill this measure with the gavel. Neither would it do to try to shove it or choke it off in committee, for McGoorty was not the man to stand that sort of nonsense.

It was this measure and these considerations that first created the necessity for the hiring of the outer circle in the Senate. The "cheap skate" Senators, as the members of the outer circle were called, devoutly thanked their stars for the introduction of the McGoorty bill, as they regarded it as the first measure that disarranged the plans of the syndicate to such an extent as to render outside assistance necessary. The \$3,000 apiece for the cheap skates might never have been forthcoming were it not for this formidable measure; at least that was the belief then, and it continues to be so in the minds of most of the outsiders up to date.

After much cogitation and many conferences and consultations, it was decided that the exigencies of the Chicago election demanded the passage of the bill through the House. The plan after that was to kill the bill in the Senate as soon as the election was over.

This program was adhered to almost to the letter.

McGoorty forced the bill through the House. The Republican clique in that chamber did not offer much opposition. They dared not; so it was passed by the lower chamber. But when it got over to the Senate it was relegated to the Committee on Municipal Corporations. In that body it was quietly and effectually smothered.

It was sent back with the recommendation that it lie on the table, and it lies there yet.

This bill would have been, if passed, one of the most useful measures for the citizens of Chicago that was ever introduced in an Illinois Legislature. It would have saved the taxpayers of Chicago thousands upon thousands of dollars; it would have served to provide a fund whereby the streets could have been cleaned, the pavements kept in good order, and the sidewalks put in decent condition.

The trouble was, however, that it would have diverted hundreds of thousands of dollars annually from the coffers of the greedy Chicago Gas Trust.

For that reason it was doomed to death. For that reason it was done to death by the infamous Senatorial syndicate, which got a fabulous sum of money for protecting the trusts and monopolies of Illinois, and the outer circle of Senators who got \$3,000 each for betraying the rights of the people and crawling on their bellies before the corporations of this State.

Last week The Eagle detailed how and when these latter got their wages of infamy. Later it will tell WHERE the money was paid, and at the proper time and to the proper official it will tell BY WHOM it was paid.

It is in a position to trace the corruption fund from the very coffers of the corporations to the hands of the veteran member of the Senate who dished out most of it to his coparceners.

The Eagle can also designate the veteran member of the House who handed out the coin to the select clique in that chamber. This man is an adept in the work, but he has not been careful in covering up his tracks of late.

In his old days he has become greedy and avaricious. He held out on the boys last time, and there is a fine and ery against him all over the State. The Eagle has the statements of half a dozen Cook County members who claim he hogged the fund put up for the killing of a bill "regulating" the Chicago Stock Yards. The main features of this transaction are herewith given as an illustration of the methods by which the corporations and trusts were taken care of in the last Legislature. Early in the Legislature two bills were introduced affecting the interests of the stock yards. One was put in by Representative Henneberry, of Will County, the other was presented by Representative White, of Mason County. The White bill was the one most feared by the stock yards people. It was sent to the Committee on Live Stock and Dairying, and a fund of five hundred dollars a man for most of the members of that committee was put up and placed in the hands of the old-time member for distribution after the bill was killed.

The bill was killed in the committee, but the old-time member refused to disgorge. He paid eleven members sums ranging from \$150 to \$300 each; the rest got nothing. The old-timer hogged all the rest for himself. There are not in Chicago to-day who are ready to go before the Sangamon grand jury and give the facts to that body, as they have given them to this paper. Arising