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INDEPENDENT IN ALL THINGS, NEUTRAL IN NONE.

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## ROAST ALDERMEN

### Municipal Voters' League Gives the City Council a Dressing for Its Efforts to Increase Taxes.

### Lack of Ability, Nerve and Leadership the Predominant Features Now Existing in that Body.

The Municipal Voters League give the City Council a well deserved roast in its pre-election review. It virtually says that want of ability, nerve and leadership in the city council is responsible, according to the Municipal Voters' league, for the activity of that body in seeking a special legislative session to increase taxes.

The league, in its annual before-the-primary report, characterizes the council record for the year as weak, the lack of strength showing most plainly in the ease with which it has been used by the Thompson administration in an attempt to raise taxes in order "to make good last year's debauch and put the city hall on 'easy street.'"

The league is particularly severe in its censure of large expenditures for "expert services" of the Thompson-Lundin political machine. The experts hired at \$100 to \$150 per day and allowed to be their own timekeepers are "gentlemen known to fame chiefly for their loyalty to the Thompson-Lundin machine."

"Frank H. Moore, who lives in Lundin's ward and rooms in Alderman Michaelson's house," it continues, "has received more than \$43,000; Roserty Faherty, son of the president of the board of local improvements, which hires these experts, more than \$15,000; William A. Bither, Thompson's leader in the Third ward, \$27,000 in the Michigan avenue case alone."

The league calls the activity of the city council in behalf of a special legislative session is one conspicuous failure of the year. "This means in the end," it says in reference to the proposed special legislative action, "saddling the people with bond issues and additional taxes."

"The council holds the bag," it continues, "meekly becomes the apologist for the Thompson administration and assumes the burden of getting the money out of the people."

"What is the explanation?" "Lack of ability, nerve and leadership."

### THE CITY BUDGET

The City Council is now at work on the annual budget.

As the budget now stands it provides:

No increases in pay for any city employees, except the yearly "automatic" increases. This does not include employees who belong to union labor organizations. The city will continue to pay union scales.

Eight-hour working day for all employees.

No pay from the city for employees who have joined the army or navy.

Laying off of approximately 1,000 employees.

Retrenchment of from 10 to 50 per

cent in appropriations under what each department had to spend last year.

Enforced vacations of from two to three days for the year for each city employe not employed on a per diem basis. This includes the police and fire departments, which had figured on a twelve day enforced vacation for all members.

**Plan for Retrenchment.**

Among the economies recommended by the committee are several proposed by public officials and civic organizations. They include:

Closing of twelve police stations.

Abolition of ward lines in the collection of ashes and garbage and the cleaning of streets and alleys.

Standardization and centralization in the purchase of all city supplies and materials.

## IN THE CITY COUNCIL

### Important Public Business Before the Chicago Board of Aldermen

The City Council on Monday sustained the mayor's veto of an order passed a week ago by the city council requesting the Chicago bureau of public efficiency and the Chicago Federation of Labor to make an investigation of city hall departments.

The mayor's action was a surprise. An attempt was made to repass the order over the mayor's veto, but it failed by three votes. The vote was 44 yeas to 20 nays. Forty-seven votes are required to pass a matter over a veto.

In his veto message the mayor said he had no objection to the labor federation. He said this organization was fairly representative of the "greater portion of our people who carry the real burden of the city's activity and make for its progress."

The Council, among other things, amended an ordinance to make minimum penalty for carrying concealed weapons \$200 instead of \$25.

Called for explanation from probation officers, city prosecutor and police for lack of prosecution of gunmen.

Ordered saloon and poolroom keepers to refrain from harboring criminals under penalty of losing licenses.

Ordered pawnbrokers to report thieves who tender stolen property, under penalty of revocation of license, and prohibited owners of stolen property from paying pawnbrokers for its return.

Schools, fire, police and civil service committee recommended ordinance providing charge shall be made for policemen assigned for special detail for periods of three days or more.

The Council favored a \$100 a month minimum wage for police, firemen, and clerks. If a special session of

the legislature is called and the city gets authority to raise additional funds, these increases will be forthcoming.

The council went on record as favoring this program. Several aldermen, most of them candidates for reelection, introduced resolutions and orders making general increases in pay for city employees, but Ald. Richert, chairman of the finance committee, asked that these be set aside as it was no time to "bunk the employes."

"I favor \$100 a month as a minimum wage for members of the police and fire departments," said Ald. Richert. "These employes should have it. But why pass resolutions and orders when you know the city hasn't the money to pay, unless you want to lay off more men than you already have dismissed."

Ald. Richert's argument prevailed and his suggestion was adopted making it the sense of the council that the increases would be given if money could be found. This carried with it a motion by Ald. Rodriguez that all employes who receive less than \$1500 a year be given a 15 per cent increase, and those who get from \$1500 to \$1800 a 10 per cent increase.

"Why not overload the budget about \$3,500,000 and let the city pay living wages?" asked Ald. Kennedy.

"It was less than a year ago," retorted Ald. Watson, "that you advocated having a budget within the revenue. Have you changed your mind?"

"We have but \$23,400,000 to spend," pointed out Ald. A. A. McCormick. "How are you going to stretch this to \$28,000,000?"

Ald. Schwartz and Byrne got into a heated tilt over the salary question. The former apologized for some of his remarks to the latter.

About every alderman who is a candidate for re-election made a speech. Most of the talks were about union labor. These stopped when it was pointed out that the city has always paid union wage scales and intends to continue this.

### THE INCOME TAX

#### Liberty Bonds will not be accepted in payment of income taxes. Waiters, Barbers and others must pay taxes on tips.

Liberty bonds will not be accepted in payment of income taxes, is the statement issued by Collector of Internal Revenue Julius F. Smetanka. The impression that the bonds would be accepted as currency has been general, as is indicated by the proffers for tax payments made to deputy collectors at the income tax bureau on the fifth floor of the federal building.

That the real purpose of the liberty loan would be destroyed in a measure if an investment now made with the government was withdrawn to pay a government tax is the view taken by Washington officials.

Mr. Smetanka has begun an investigation of persons who realize big salaries in the form of tips. Very few of the waiters, barbers, porters, etc., who are obliged under the law to list tips with salaries, have filed their returns. The second return of record was filed by a barber on one of the transcontinental trains. He listed in his income for the year \$215 as representing tips. It is the intention of the internal revenue collector to send out investigators to check up employees of loop hotels and barber shops, whose names are required to be given by employers.

### WATSON WILL RUN AGAIN

Ald. Oliver L. Watson of the Twenty-seventh ward will be a candidate for renomination in the Republican primaries.

Strong efforts are being made to secure a union of Republicans and Democrats behind Ald. Watson, in order to defeat the Socialist candidate,

## WILL ADD TAXES

### Dry Movement to Close Saloons Will, If Successful, Saddle Seven Millions on Voters of Chicago.

### Police Now Paid From Saloon Licenses Will Have to Get Salaries From More Taxes on Public.

The Drys have filed the petition for a submission to the voters of Chicago this spring of the proposition to close all the saloons.

The City now derives \$7,000,000 from saloon licenses and uses the seven millions to pay for a police force.

The closing of the saloons will cut off this revenue and place an additional burden on the tax payers at a time when the tax burden is heavier than it ever was.

More than that, it will place taxes upon thousands of small earners who are not now taxed at all, for the city must have money to pay for its police.

This is one of the problems involved in the wet and dry question in Chicago.

for the blind and signed the inmates' names after latter had made their marks.

"This is the rottenest petition ever filed in the election commission's office," said Mr. Legner. "The petition filed by the drys in 1910 was proven 40 per cent fraudulent and this one is even worse."

"However, if after all the fraudulent names are eliminated at the end of our check, there still remain 106,427 names which are bona fide signers, we will not protest further against the issue coming to a vote."

The drys meanwhile were protesting through their attorney, Robert McMurphy, to the election commission against the photographing of the petition by the wets. Mr. McMurphy pleaded that such an action was against all fundamental principles of the election laws; that the signers of the petition might not want it known that they had signed the petition and that they would be held up to ridicule; and that a petition should be just as secret as a ballot.

### DRYS HAVE A FIGHT ON THEIR HANDS

The Drys are not going to have it all their own way in the fight to increase the burdens of Chicago taxpayers. The Wets have commenced an attack upon the petition filed Thursday to bring the saloon question to a vote in Chicago at the April election. More than 100 experts will start operations on the 148,000 odd signatures, in the examination room of the civil service commission on the tenth floor of the City Hall.

The first job will be to make a card index of the names signed to the petition. An elaborate system of check and cross check with the newest list of registered voters has been devised by the wets. The wet leaders expect to be in readiness to start the next stage of the attack upon the validity of the petition within ten days or two weeks at the latest.

The drys made a determined effort to destroy these sweeping plans of the wets. A big delegation from the Chicago Dry federation appeared formally before the board of election commissioners, with the contention that the petition could not be separated, sheet by sheet, but must remain intact in its present form, about four feet high and reposing on a freight truck in the election board vaults.

They did not deny the right of the wets to copy the names, but they insisted that the job be undertaken with the huge petition, just as it stands. Chief Clerk Dennis J. Egan replied that the anti-drys possess the right to a "reasonable opportunity" to scrutinize the petition, and asserted that if it had to remain intact not more than two persons could work at it, and probably a year would be required to copy the names.

This viewpoint of Chief Clerk Egan was upheld by Colin C. H. Fyfe, attorney for the board of election commissioners.

### CITY EXPERT GRAFT

War is to be made on City "Expert" graft. Leon Hornstein, assistant corporation counsel, says he has been somewhat misrepresented in reports of his stand. He says he is preparing a draft of an ordinance to be submitted to the subcommittee of the council committee investigating the system of employment of city experts.

It was inferred from Mr. Hornstein's remarks that he did not believe it possible to frame an ordinance that would cover the expert witness fee abuse.

"What I meant was that it is not good law to place in an appropriation ordinance the mandates directing an administrative office," said Mr. Hornstein. "The general practice has been from time immemorial not to

incumber an appropriation ordinance with administrative directions. I told Ald. Nance, who heads the subcommittee, that the council should pass a separate ordinance covering the question of the employment of experts. It is on this line we are working."

"The corporation counsel's office is working in good faith with the committee on this question. It is a difficult proposition to work out and will take some thought as a general proposition an expert witness must qualify to pass muster as a witness in court, and I am of the opinion something can be worked out to provide an administrative plan."

Mr. Hornstein favors the suggestion of Joseph Donnersberger that the question of the employment of experts be under the supervision of a commission made up of city officials rather than one composed of real estate men. Mr. Donnersberger suggests a commission consisting of the chairman of the finance committee, the commissioner of public works and the head of the city's real estate department.

George W. Miller, who was first assistant corporation counsel under the Fred A. Busse administration, said it is possible to provide an ordinance that will regulate the expert witness issue.

"It will not be difficult to make it clear that an expert on real estate must be a man who is in the real estate business and who knows that business," said Mr. Miller. "Such an ordinance will do away with much of the political abuse complained of in the hiring of experts. It would not be wise to hire experts by the month or the year, however. The city would be taking a chance, for the other side in the case could bring out the fact that the witness testifying was on a regular pay roll and as such the testimony came from one regularly in the city's employ."

William H. Sexton, former corporation counsel, said that the contention of Mr. Hornstein that the administrative end should be taken care of in a separate ordinance looked like sound law to him.

About the city hall the opinion prevails that the council will pass an ordinance covering the hiring of experts.

### LAWYERS TO AID FIGHTERS

Enlisted men of the army or navy who need legal assistance have been invited to seek the aid of the committee just appointed by the Lawyer's Association of Illinois. The six members of the committee are Peter Richard Boylan, Julius N. Heldman, Joshua H. Lewis, Ambrose A. Worsley, Newton Wyeth and Harry W. Standige. The headquarters of the committee is in Mr. Boylan's office, 1506 Tribune building, where requests for aid should be forwarded.

### BENJAMIN MITCHELL IN THE RACE

Former Legislator Aspires to Alderman Smith's Seat in City Council. Benjamin Mitchell, former state legislator, aspires to be a city father. With the appearance of a petition bearing the name of Benjamin M. Mitchell, 3227 Park avenue, in the office of City Clerk James T. Igoe, it became known that Alderman Joseph Higgins Smith of the Fourteenth ward will have a real battle on his hands to retain his seat.



FRANCIS S. PEABODY  
Leader in the Financial, Commercial, Political and Social Life of Chicago.

### WATER TO BE SOLD ON A METER BASIS.

The last item was tentatively recommended by the committee Wednesday. It was the plan proposed by the Chicago bureau of public efficiency, which made a comprehensive survey of the city's water bureau. The plan provides that every home, apartment building, and factory in the city shall be provided with a meter.

### IROQUOIS CLUB

The Iroquois club elected Harry H. Latham, former president of the Chicago Athletic association, president George I. Reiser was chosen recording secretary, Oscar G. Foreman treasurer and Julius C. Kirchner corresponding secretary. Efforts are being made by the club to have President Wilson or Secretary of War Baker address a public meeting in Chicago in April.

### DRY IRREGULARITIES

Startling disclosures of irregularities in the filing of dry petitions were promised by William Lesner, president of the Chicago Brewer's Association.

He charged that \$15,000 had been raised by the drys with which to purchase the names of the 150,000 signers at the rate of 10 cents per signature, to be paid to the person who solicited or obtained it. Further he charged that whole pages of the petition are filled with signatures in one handwriting.

### MORE LICENSE MONEY

In the event of Chicago going dry at the spring election every business and occupation in Chicago will have to pay a license to make up the deficit in the city treasury caused by the \$7,000,000 loss on saloon licenses.

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