

# Chicago Eagle.



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## TAXI OUTRAGES

### Alderman Steffens' Committee Hears Stories of Overcharging Which Are Familiar Facts to Many People

#### The Taxi Occupies Unique Place in Chicago for It Rules Both the Streets and the Public

The taxi monopoly in Chicago has got to be curbed.

There is no limit to the extortion practiced upon the public by some chauffeurs for independent as well as some working for regular companies.

Ald. Walter P. Steffens turned witness before his own committee and declared taxicab chauffeurs overcharge on 50 per cent of their trips.

He told the council police committee, of which he is chairman, he had received numerous complaints of petty overcharges by individual drivers.

Ald. Sheldon W. Govier added to the chairman's testimony by a tale of his own experiences.

"It happened just this way," he said. "I got into a taxi at 2:10 o'clock and rode for an hour. When I got out the chauffeur insisted on charging me for an hour and thirty-five minutes, in spite of the fact I compared watches with him before we started, and a comparison at the time I alighted showed his watch had gained thirty-five minutes during the trip. He called up his firm and tried in every way to make me pay him for the extra thirty-five minutes, but I didn't."

The committee ordered an investigation of the subject of taxicab fares, and the chairman named Aids. Cermak, Dorney, and Touhy to make the investigation.

State's Attorney Hoynes denied Edward N. Nockels, secretary of the Chicago Federation of Labor, had appealed to him in regard to the alleged use of deputy sheriffs' stars by employees of the Yellow Taxicab company.

"In case there is any misunderstanding, however," said Mr. Hoynes, "the state's attorney condemns as improper, if not illegal and criminal, the practice of swearing in as peace officers employees of any private corporation, or individuals who owe their allegiance to and receive their compensation from the latter."

### VOTE AGAINST BOND ISSUES THIS FALL

Vote against all of the bond issues next fall.

Chicago taxpayers are to be burdened with still heavier debts after the next November election.

The tireless reformers who are willing to spend everybody's money but their own have framed up a nice kettle of fish to dose the public with.

The contractors who will benefit by the move and the negro labor which will be imported to do most of the work are the only people who are not kicking.

Here is the bill of fare planned by the schemers and the amount of coin they hope to extract from your pockets:

- Widening and straightening of Western avenue.....\$2,400,000
- Extension of Ogden avenue.....5,400,000
- Reclaiming and improving South Water street.....3,800,000
- Widening and extension of Ashland avenue.....5,800,000
- Widening and extension of Robey street.....9,200,000
- Completion of Michigan boulevard link.....2,000,000

The very suggestion of "widening and straightening" Western avenue is a huge and ghastly joke.

And the public is expected to "cough up" two million four hundred thousand dollars to carry the joke out and make some men rich.

The extension of Ogden avenue is a farce.

Ogden avenue commences nowhere and ends nowhere.

Its extension to Lincoln Park would mean the expenditure of nearly six million dollars in order to give a floating population on the southwest side a chance to sleep in Lincoln Park on Sunday nights.

Talk about graft. Ogden avenue extension would produce bales of it.

And the people would pay the freight.

"Reclaiming and improving South Water street" is a good one.

The idea of making the public at large pay \$2,800,000 in order to increase the rent rolls of South Water street property owners is rich.

Verily, the fools are not all dead. The grafters are very much alive.

Fifteen millions of dollars are asked for the widening and extension of Robey street and Ashland avenue.

This is the most appalling case of grafting impudence on record.

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## WARN CONVENTION CANDIDATES TO AVOID PLEDGES

The Civic Federation issued a bulletin urging candidates for the constitutional convention not to pledge themselves on proposals likely to come up. It asks them not to "foreclose their judgement," and says "the only proper pledge a candidate can give is that he will do all in his power to promote the welfare of the people."

"Having observed," says the bulletin, "that in the confusion of a campaign candidates for other legislative positions at times have been prevailed upon to commit themselves in ways that later proved embarrassing, we take the liberty of calling your attention to this practice on the part of certain organizations and interests, and of warning you against such insidious efforts."

"We believe the purpose of the convention is to modernize provisions of the constitution which have become antiquated, preserving the coherence of the instrument, regardless of the amount of revision that may be deemed necessary. We do not suppose the people intended, in voting for such a revision, that the convention should meet merely to submit back to the voters any or all changes which various small groups might demand."

## FADS RAISE TAX

### People of Chicago Are Overwhelmed With Burdens Created by Fad-Hunting Skylarks of Promoters

#### Ordinary Taxes Are Going Sky-High and the "Specials" for Bond Issues Will Increase Their Load

The wasting of countless millions of dollars of the public money at this time on schemes like the "Boulevard" link, Ogden avenue extension and Western avenue and Robey street fads is having a bad public effect.

The proposition to tax the people of Chicago \$3,800,000 for helping South Water street landlords by

increase was given by Mr. O'Brien thus:

"Take a North Side home valued at \$5,000. Last year the assessed valuation was \$2,000, the tax rate \$6.21 and the tax \$124.20. This year its assessed valuation is raised to \$3,000 and the rate is lowered to approximately \$5.25, but the tax will amount to \$155."

The rates probably will not be determined until November. The distribution last year was:

State	.....\$ .75
County	......60
Forest preserve	......06
Sanitary district	......40
City	.....1.98
Schools	.....1.63
Town	......14
Parks	......55
Lincoln Park bonds	......10
Total	.....\$6.21

The city, through Assistant Corporation Counsel Leon Hornstein, won a temporary victory when County Judge Williams overruled objections of several railroads to that portion of the tax levy intended for the police, fire and municipal pension funds. If the objections are sustained by the state Supreme Court, to which they will be appealed, the city will lose over \$1,000,000.

### ABANDON SUBWAYS

Give the Surface Lines All of the Gross Receipts from Fares.

Raise the Salaries of the Employees and Give the People Good Street Car Service.

For years the city of Chicago has been taking 55 per cent of the gross receipts of the Chicago Surface Lines. Nothing has ever been done with this money which now amounts to over thirty-five millions of dollars.

Contractors and politicians want to build subways with it.

Subways are no good except for graft.

They never were any good and never will be any good for public use.

Chicago demands and should receive better street car service.

The officials of the surface lines are anxious to give better service but have not money enough to give it.

Now that conductors and motormen are asking for more pay.

They are entitled to it.

But the surface lines cannot grant their request without raising fares from 5 to 10 cents.

This puts the cost on the long suffering public.

The best way out of this dilemma is for the city to surrender its share of the gross receipts to the surface lines.

Then the salaries of the employees can be raised.

The service can be improved.

And the fare to the public will remain as it is—5 cents, including universal transfers.

### VOTE FOR THESE

New Laws for Chicago, of Which Voters Should Approve At the Polls in November.

The conference committee of the various civic organizations of Chicago having in charge legislation favored by the different bodies has prepared a report showing the results of its work at Springfield and an explanation of two laws that were passed and will be voted on at the election next November. The report is signed by Cornelius Lynde, chairman, and Joseph Cummins, secretary.

### JUDGE SCULLY IS RIGHT

Chicago's Able County Judge Wants an Institution to Hold Morons of the Fitzgerald Type.

Judge Thomas F. Scully is planning to call a meeting of official experts to devise ways and means of minimizing the peril of conditions that make it possible for such men as Thomas R. Fitzgerald, confessed slayer of Janet Wilkinson to run at large.

Among those who will be asked to attend are Dr. Herman M. Adler, state criminologist; Charles H. Thorne, director of the department of public welfare; Chief of Police Garrity; Chief Justice Harry Olson of the Municipal Court, Coroner Peter M. Hoffman and President Peter Reinberg of the county board.

It is hoped by the co-operation of these and other officials that arrangements may be made whereby the county will supply temporary relief to be continued by the state following the next session of the legislature.

### MAYOR THOMPSON ON AIR SHIP REGULATION

Speaking about dirigibles, Mayor Thompson said:

"I am going to do everything in my power to assist in establishing laws in Chicago that will bear the relation to the air as traffic regulations to the street.

"If dirigibles containing inflammable gases are permitted to fly over cities, certain aerial lines of travel should be designated and licensed regulations of aircraft be provided for those using them.

"I am opposed to permitting any airship which uses inflammable gases to pass over the city. Laws regulating air traffic will be absolutely necessary in time, and they might as well be experimenting with such laws now as later."

### WRIGLEY WILL HAVE WORLD'S LARGEST GUM FACTORY

Chicago will have the largest chewing gum factory in the world. Work on the new building of the William Wrigley, Jr., Company, at Thirty-fifth street and Ashland avenue, has been started, and is expected to be completed in about a year.

The new factory will be double the

garden, recreation hall, restaurant, hospital, welfare department, handball courts, library, clubrooms, smoking rooms, gymnasium and shower baths.

### STEFFEN WANTS COURT FOR WOMEN

Chairman Walter P. Steffens suggested to the council police committee that it recommend the creation of a special court exclusively for women. He said the consolidation of the three women's police detention homes into a central building, with a court attached, would save large amounts of public funds. Acting Chief Alocck and Aldermen Steffens, Eaton and Passmore investigated the homes during the afternoon. The committee spoke in favor of the proposal, but deferred action for further consideration.

### PUT DE VRY BACK AS HEAD OF ZOO, 4,000 ELKS ASK

An organized movement to get Cy De Vry back as keeper of the Lincoln Park zoo was begun. Four thousand Chicago Elks are behind it. They have started petitions addressed to the Lincoln Park commissioners, asking that they reconsider their action in discharging De Vry from the place he had held for thirty-one years.

The people generally want to see him put back.

Edwin R. Landon, president of the Standard Fire Escape Company is one of the solid men of Chicago. His company is noted for the reliability of its output.



W. O. DUNTLEY. Head of the big Duntley-Dayton Co., who is often mentioned for Governor.

In speaking of legislative action the report says:

"Of the measures affecting the Chicago city government which were urged upon the general assembly of Illinois at its recent session by the conference committee of civic organizations, three have been enacted into laws. They are:

- "1. The bill for the nonpartisan election of aldermen in Chicago. (Senate Bill 248.)
- "2. The bill changing the number of wards in Chicago from thirty-five to fifty, providing for fifty aldermen instead of seventy, all being elected at the same time so as to reduce the number of elections. (House bill 700.)
- "3. The bill to reduce the number of legal holidays by providing that no primary day and no election day, except the regularly biennial election in November, shall be a legal holiday. (Senate bill 230.)

"While these measures constitute only a part of the program of constructive legislation for Chicago formulated by the conference committee for presentation to the general assembly, they represent progressive steps of importance. The act to reduce the number of holidays is already in full effect, without further action by the electorate, and henceforth primary days and election days except for one election day in November every two years—will not be holidays. The other two measures must be approved by the people of Chicago on a referendum vote before becoming operative. They will be submitted to the people of Chicago for approval or rejection at the election of November 4 of this year, when delegates to the constitution convention are to be chosen.

"The nonpartisan bill, as first introduced and as passed by the senate, applied to the mayor and aldermen and to the city clerk and city treasurer so long as they should remain elective. The house, before passing the bill, limited its application to aldermen only.

"The bill to reduce the number of elections, as passed, provides for fifty wards, one alderman to a ward, the term of aldermen, beginning with 1925, to be two years or four years, as the people may decide on a separate referendum when voting on the adoption of the act. The recall feature has been eliminated.

"If the act is adopted this fall, aldermen to be elected next spring—1920—will be chosen from the existing wards, to serve for one year terms. In 1921 the elections will be for a two year period from the new fifty wards. Beginning with 1923, the aldermen will be elected for either two or four year terms, as may have been decided by the people on a referendum vote. The act as passed continues the city clerk and city treasurer as elective officials, their terms to be four years each, beginning with 1923."

Frank A. Johnson, general sales manager of the Grenman Cake Corporation, is one of the most popular and wideawake young men in Chicago. He is very popular in political circles and many predict a big public career for him.

The McAvoy Company is manufacturing a temperance drink that bids fair to become very popular. It is called "Alpha" and its strengthening and invigorating qualities are much praised. The McAvoy company is also producing delectable Malt Marrow, which is universally popular.

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