

WILL CHICAGO ALDERMEN DARE TO GRANT THE FIFTY YEAR FRANCHISE?

OVER ONE MILLION DOLLARS THE BRIBE SAID TO BE OFFERED

Hangman's Nooses Displayed and Dangled Over Those Who Favor the Traction Companies.

Charles T. Yerkes, Chief Representative of the Street Railway Corporation, Boldly Makes Charges of Blackmailing.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

CHICAGO, Dec. 10.—The sum of \$1,000,000 is the price reported to have been offered by the promoters of the Lyman ordinance to Aldermen if they will pass the measure. Leaders are at knives' points with each other. One will not trust the other, and a respectable Alderman to hold the cash while business is being done has not been selected yet. There is one leader who, years ago, when the city railway ordinance was up, was entrusted with \$70,000 or \$100,000, boodle money. He fled with it to Europe. When he returned he was made to disgorge a part of it at the pistol's point. Although he cannot be trusted he is taking a very conspicuous part in the fight.

On the other hand, the "little fellows," booked, so it is charged, for \$10,000, are jealous of the bigger ones, who are to get \$100,000 each. There are said to be four of these, one who is to get \$75,000, and another \$50,000.

The newspaper owned by Mr. Yerkes, the Inter Ocean, to-day deliberately charges blackmail on the part of certain newspapers which have persistently opposed the fifty-year franchise ordinance, and says: "Honest Aldermen of the City Council will stand at their posts of duty. They will not surrender to blackmailers or the blackmailers' following. Not one of these Aldermen—and among them are the best men ever elected to the Chicago City Council—will be cowardly enough to bow to the will of the blackmailing rump of the Harrison administration.

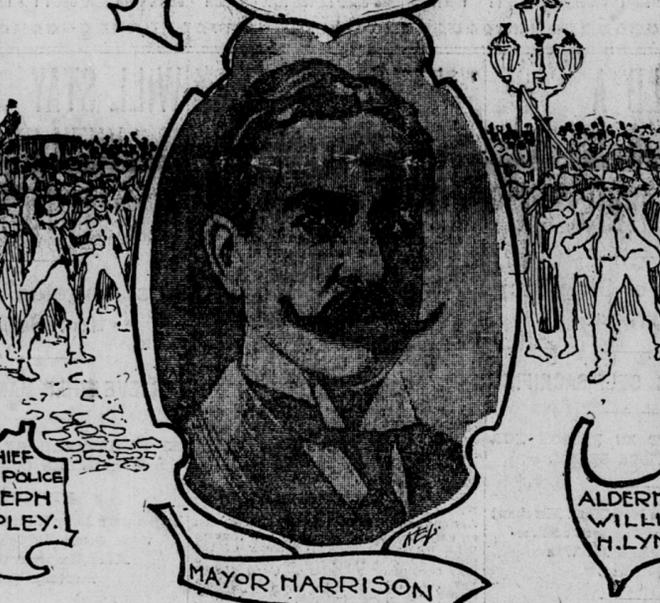
"The traction companies of Chicago are prepared to meet the issue whatever it may be. They ask no favors from the sedition press. They will not cringe before the power of the lawless city administration. They will not make terms with sand-baggers, freebooters or anarchists. Traction ordinances will be passed. They will be passed over Harrison's veto. They will be passed in defiance of trust editors, who froth at the mouth in important rage because they cannot collect blood money for silence or their favor."



CHARLES T. YERKES.



CHIEF OF POLICE JOSEPH KIPLEY.



MAYOR HARRISON



ALDERMAN WILLIAM H. LYMAN.

SOME OF THE MOST PROMINENT FIGURES IN CHICAGO'S LATEST SENSATIONAL UPHEAVAL.

The Council Committee on Franchises holds daily meetings in the Council Chamber listening to arguments for and against the ordinance. Enormous crowds are always in attendance, and the galleries always filled with men wearing hangman's badges.

At to-day's meeting a man wearing good clothes and a silk hat was conspicuous, particularly because of the fact that he had around his shoulders twenty feet of rope with a hangman's noose at the end, which, from time to time as a friend of the ordinance would speak, he would unwind and allow to drop till the noose hung suspended over the speaker. He was not molested.

Several elaborately gotten-up band wagons paraded the streets of the business portion of the city this afternoon, the music attracting the attention of throngs on the sidewalks to this legend: "Down with Yerkes; down with boodlers."

Yerkes, on behalf of the companies, wants the committee to go over the books and determine what percentage of the earnings should be paid the city for the use of the streets for fifty years. To this the Mayor will not agree, and when waited upon by Aldermen to-night, who laid the proposition before him, indulged in a violent tirade of abuse, the gist of which was that no argument can be brought to bear which will induce him to favor granting any extension of railway franchises, no matter what the rate of compensation so long as the Allen law is on the books.

EXTRAORDINARY PRECAUTIONS OF THE CHICAGO POLICE TO PREVENT LYNCHING

CHICAGO, Dec. 10.—As to the course to be pursued by the police in case a mob gathers about the City Hall Monday night, as it certainly will, Chief Kipley to-night said to The Call correspondent: "Everything that this department can do will be done to preserve order in the downtown district Monday night. If, as a result of the excitement created by the discussion, a mob gathers about the City Hall, it will find itself opposed by a formidable array of police. It will not be permitted to gather, in fact, as the police will have orders to keep everybody moving and prevent concentration at any point. There will be no lynching. Of course, slight disturbances may arise when the people are in such a state of excitement, but I think there is no danger of any riots. Still, every precaution will be taken to prevent trouble.

"Every detective in that branch of the police service has been brought on duty to-night and will remain on duty till Tuesday morning, at least, in order to forestall any trouble, and warnings have been sent to the leaders of factions everywhere that all talk of taking a mob to the City Hall on Monday to influence Aldermen must cease."

CHICAGO ALDERMEN GIVE THEIR VIEWS Many Favor Extending the Franchise if the City Is Duly Compensated.

CHICAGO, Dec. 10.—The following interviews with sixty-seven of the sixty-eight Aldermen of Chicago show how the Council is divided on the question of granting a fifty-year franchise: JOHN COUGHLIN—I will vote to extend the franchise if the ordinance gives the city what it deserves.

W. T. MAYPOLE—I will vote against the measure. T. F. LITTLE—I will vote for the ordinance if it gives the city a fair price. I am still studying the matter. A. W. BEILFUSS—I stand with the Mayor in this fight. W. C. L. ZIEHN—I will cast my vote in the interests of my constituents. (He is considered doubtful.) W. J. RAYMER—My vote will be against the fifty-year extension.

with the Mayor for the defeat of the ordinance. HENRY S. FITCH—I shall demand a fair rate of compensation before I vote for any ordinance. CHARLES ALLING—The Allen law should be repealed. I will not vote for this ordinance. WILLIAM S. JACKSON—I am opposed to fifty-year franchises. A. A. BALLEBERG—I will not vote for the extension of franchises until the Allen law is repealed. EDWARD D. CONNOR—The compensation is unfair. I will not say how I stand on fifty-year franchises. E. D. CLOIDT—The ordinance requires amendments to make it fair to both sides. CHARLES MARTIN—I am not opposed to fifty-year franchises on general principles. W. J. O'BRIEN—We must see that justice is done both by the city and the street car companies. HENRY F. LICK—I don't see why a fifty-year franchise is not satisfactory. W. J. MURPHY—I think there is nothing wrong in extending the franchises if the city is well paid for it. JOHN BENNETT—We must inquire into the compensation that the city should receive for the extension. E. J. NOVAK—I will not vote for a franchise extension under the Allen law. RUDOLPH HURT—I will wait until the committee reports before I decide. E. F. CULLERTON—I think the railways should be treated fairly and will vote to extend the franchises for a reasonable compensation to the city. A. W. MILLER—There is only one way to vote on the passage of the Lyman ordinance, and that is "No."

PETER BLEWER—I will vote for it if the city receives what it should, but that is still to be determined. R. K. COLSON—I think the traction companies should be granted. WILLIAM H. LYMAN—I have not yet decided. Am studying the question of compensation. ALBERT J. OLSON—I am in favor of fifty-year franchises if the city receives fair compensation. MILES B. HARRY—I will vote against this ordinance. C. M. WALKER—I am opposed to the measure. RUPERT GRIFITH—I will not vote for any bill based on the Allen law. JAMES H. HIRSCH—I am against the present fifty-year franchises. (Hirsch is considered doubtful.) W. E. SCHLAKE—My vote will not help it pass. JOHN C. CANNON—I cannot say at present. I must have time to look into the matter. HUBERT W. BUTLER—I will not assist in robbing the people of their right to profit by the lease of the public highways. SPENCER S. KIMBELL—I am in favor of an ordinance that will do justice to the city of Chicago and be fair to the street railway companies. JOHN BIGANE—The franchises should be extended, but adequate compensation must be demanded by the city. FRANK M. McCARTHY—I have not decided the question to my own satisfaction. THOMAS CARR—My vote will be cast against fifty-year franchises. M. McINERNEY—I will not oppose a fifty-year franchise, if the city is given its dues. C. J. BOYD—No money on earth can buy my vote for the Yerkes measures, no matter in what form they are introduced. E. REICHAERT—I have not yet reached a decision as to the way I will vote. (The Mayor's forces expect to win him over.) JOSEPH BADENOCH—I will vote to defeat this ordinance. E. W. SPROUL—I am opposed to a fifty-year franchise. WILLIAM MAROV—I will oppose the ordinance at every step. WALTER C. NELSON—I will not vote to make the provisions of the Allen law effective. HUGH T. DARGY—I will not say how I will vote. MARTIN WIORA—The ordinance should provide for proper compensation. I am not opposed to an extension if the city receives enough for it. JOHN B. MATH—All members of the Council who are true to their constituents will vote against this ordinance. FRANK I. BENNETT—I have always been opposed to a franchise lasting fifty years and will vote against this ordinance. Alderman George Duddleston could not be found.

YERKES' PAPER SCORES THE MAYOR OF CHICAGO Declares That Harrison Is Responsible for any Trouble That May Occur.

CHICAGO, Dec. 10.—The Inter Ocean, of which Charles T. Yerkes is the principal owner, and which espouses the side of the traction companies, will say to-morrow in an editorial on Mayor Harrison's attitude during the controversy: "On Wednesday last Carter H. Harrison, Mayor of Chicago, who is bound by his solemn oath of office to administer the laws and preserve the peace of the city, made a statement with deliberation that he hoped there would be a mob of 150,000 men assembled in front of the City Hall for the purpose of intimidating Aldermen the night the traction ordinances come up for passage in the City Council. Upon being asked regarding the story that Aldermen who dared to vote for extension of the ordinances, in accordance with the dictates of their consciences, would be attacked, the Mayor replied: 'It is not idle talk at all, and I shall not be surprised to see some hanging done in the streets of Chicago. I don't mind saying, too, I shall not send in a riot call when it starts,' meaning by this he would ignore his oath of office and refuse to exercise his authority to protect the lives of citizens from a mob composed of criminals, thugs and anarchists. There is ample testimony to prove that when Harrison made the above declaration he spoke as deliberately and calmly as a man of his intellectual and moral nature can speak. 'As if to reinforce the oral statement, the following paragraph was published in the newspaper recognized as his authorized organ: 'Word has gone out to the gang that they need expect no protection of any kind from the police. An official who is said to have been approached on this subject gave this answer, according to the story circulated in the City Hall this afternoon: 'No, we need every man we've got to catch the hold-up men and thieves in the city, and we will protect no Aldermen in the City Council chamber.' These declarations were telegraphed broadcast throughout the land. It was not until Friday, however, when the Inter Ocean directed attention to the fact that Chicago was practically without a city government, and sedition and anarchy had been invited to assume control of affairs, that Harrison saw the irreparable harm which he had done himself and his political future. He did not care for the city nor the oath of office, but he came partially to his senses when told by henchmen that he had published himself as either a madman or an anarchist. In a vain attempt to save himself he had the following notice published: 'I want it understood right now that I am opposed to any talk or resolutions that