



Entered as Second Class Matter October 11, 1895, at the Post Office at Chicago, Illinois, under Act of March 3rd, 1879

"INDEPENDENT IN ALL THINGS, NEUTRAL IN NONE."

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TWENTY-THIRD YEAR, NO. 11.

CHICAGO, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1911.

WHOLE NUMBER 1,157.

TELEPHONE BUNK

Handed to the City Council Committee on Gas, Oil and Electric Lights by the Hello Trust

Company Will Tell People the Time Free But They Must Pay for All Emergency Calls.

If a Robber Is in the House or a Fire Breaks Out the Subscriber Must Drop a Nickel for Help.

Telephone Company Says That Chicago People Cheat It Out of Eighteen to Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars a Year at Present.

The Telephone Monopoly is going to do wonders for the people.

It is going to tell the time of day to persons using pay-in-advance nickel-in-the-slot machines free of charge.

All customers dropping a nickel in the slot for the purpose of asking the time of day will have their nickel returned.

Think of it!

What stupendous generosity!

An employe of the Telephone Company told the City Council committee on gas, oil and electric lights about it and the admiration excited for the good hearted telephone company was unbounded.

The Telephone Company's hired man did not tell the committee that the company would return all nickels paid in advance for wrong number.

Oh, no.

He did not tell the committee that the company would refund nickels where other service called for was not rendered.

He simply gave the committee to understand that the company would tell the subscribers the time of day, if they asked for it, but they must put their nickel in the slot first and then the good-hearted company would return it to them after looking at the clock and telling the hour.

Really, the Telephone Company must think the population of Chicago is one vast joke.

It has so much fun with it.

The company, through its employe, informed the Council committee blandly that the prepayment device would prevent emergency calls.

But what of that when the customer can get the time for nothing.

A burglar may break into a house where there is a defenseless woman and she cannot call for help or utilize her telephone until she hunts around and finds a nickel.

A house may be on fire, but the Telephone Company wants that nickel before the firemen can be called.

The company wants the City Council to help it out in this pay-in-advance scheme because it says that the people of Chicago cheat it out of \$18,000 to \$25,000 a year on the old system of phones.

This gratuitous insult to a long-suffering public was permitted to pass unchallenged by the aldermen.

"The prepayment device," the company's agent told the committee, "will save between \$18,000 and \$25,000 for the company each year. That the company loses approximately that amount each year by telephone users 'cheating' there is little doubt.

"We have been gradually installing these devices for several years, and we think they are giving universal satisfaction to more than 75 per cent of our subscribers. The devices eliminate interruption by operators and insure more rapid connection.

"It has been said that the devices will not permit of emergency calls. That is true, but we have had no complaints about that feature. The devices are installed in many large cities and are giving satisfaction."

longer be used in any way to share payment for the improvements upon a pie of public benefits.

This important ruling, which will place the full burden upon the property owners along business thoroughfares and exempt the small home owners and taxpayers on residence streets, was made public by County Judge Owens and Attorney Philip J. McKenna, counsel for the board of local improvements. Lawyers representing downtown property owners sought for days to prevail on Judge Owens to rule that the improvement of downtown streets and of such business thoroughfares as Commercial avenue, Madison street, Milwaukee avenue, Lincoln avenue and Wentworth avenue conferred a special public benefit for all taxpayers, so that a share of the cost of improvements upon such business thoroughfares could be paid for from the general fund.

Did you ever keep tab on the total of "wrong numbers" you get on the telephone every day?

That North Side sensation-loving preacher who assailed Harry Gibbons in a talk last Sunday has earned the well-merited contempt of thousands of Mr. Gibbons' friends. Harry Gibbons is a man whose standing in the business community is above reproach. A man devoted to his family and respected by all with whom he has had dealings, no frothing and thoughtless words spoke of him by sensation-mongers can hurt his standing in this community.

People who pass by the big cold storage warehouses have been interested the last few days in watching case after case of cold storage eggs loaded on the wagons belonging to prominent concerns, for sale in the market as extra choice "frats."

That San Francisco telephone deal was pretty well shown up by Detective Burns in the graft exposures out there.

Now that Chicago has landed the Republican National convention all efforts will be centered on landing the Democratic also. Several new members of the Democratic committee which Mayor Harrison appointed to procure contributions for the convention met with the original five members of the Iroquois Club Tuesday afternoon. Those present were: John W. Eckhart, chairman; Charles J. Yopelka, secretary; Michael Zimmer, James Bowers, William L. O'Connell, Charles H. Wacker, James Simpson, Charles A. Stevens, J. C. Vaughan, Simon Fish and J. S. Ager.

Alexander H. Revell, the well-known Chicago merchant and public-spirited citizen, made the opening address at the National Business Congress at the Congress Hotel.

Mr. Revell in his speech gave the following aims business men should work for:

First—A more stable tariff schedule.

Second—An amended Sherman law.

Third—A complete working regulation and not a "busting of trusts."

Fourth—The defeat of self-seeking political agitators who continually

make for disorder and disorganize industry.

Fifth—Party names in politics that will mean something, or fairly stable party principles that we can live to.

Sixth—A single six or eight year term for our President.

Seventh—An established sentiment that will not tolerate in the future the

comparatively new and increasing practice of a President leaving Washington on short or long trips, the apparent purpose of which is politics.

Eighth—A preparation, legally, commercially and politically to handle

American industry in a comprehensive far-reaching way.

Aldermen who favor the telephone monopoly will be redistributed into private life by the people.

The whole country demands the crushing of the butter and egg trust.

The people are watching the telephone fight closely.

The butter and egg trust should be smashed. It is a robber of the poor and an oppressor of everybody.

Drop a nickel in the slot and get a "wrong number."

The lead-pipe cinch, drop-a-nickel-first scheme is a sure thing for the telephone company.

Work on that new harbor is slow but sure. Plans for the first steps in Chicago's new system of harbors were submitted to the Council Committee on Harbors, Wharves and Bridges Tuesday afternoon by the board of subway and harbor engineers. City Engineer John Ericson, chairman of the board explained the plans method of procedure in the meetings to be held on the harbor question. Assistant Corporation Counsel Maclay Hoyne will render legal opinions as to the rights of the city to condemn certain properties, and will draw up ordinances necessary to carry the work forward.

The plans as submitted to the committee call for an expenditure of \$5,000,000, subject to a bond issue at the Spring election. The first structure as proposed will be two piers 2,500 feet long, each 250 feet wide, and separated by 250 feet of water. The favored location for the piers is at the foot of Illinois and Indiana streets, but is necessary because of condemnation difficulties, they may be built at the foot of Ontario and Erie streets.

One pier will be for freight and will be fitted with railroad tracks and other facilities. The other pier will have passenger facilities on the top deck, including a moving sidewalk, for han-



RUDOLF BRAND, President of the United States Brewing Company.

'PHONE SLAVERY

The People of Chicago Pray for Deliverance from the Grasp of the Awful Bell Monopoly.

Chicagoans Forced to Pile Up the Profits of Three Different Corporations and Thus Boost Stock Dividends.

The Bell Monopoly Owns the Local Telephone Company and the Western Electrical Company and Makes One of Them Patronize the Other.

As the Bell Company Wants a Big Profit Itself It Is Easy to See Why Telephone Rates Are to Be Raised.

The Telephone Trust has commenced a bitter and an uncalled for attack on the Mayor and honest aldermen of the city of Chicago who are fighting for the people's rights against a heartless monopoly.

The Telephone Trust is opposed to the honest, capable and efficient city government who oppose its domineering and extortionate methods.

The Illinois Tunnel Company has fully complied with the terms of its ordinance and yet the grafters union is not satisfied.

It wants the Illinois Tunnel Company which has expended over \$2,300,000 in instruments, wires and station equipments, to be forced to give up all of this to satisfy the Telephone Trust.

Any alderman who votes in favor of an increase of rates for the Telephone Monopoly will be beaten to a finish the next time he runs for office.

According to some accounts several men who are working for the monopoly and its franchise may not be residents of Chicago when the next election comes around.

The Telephone Monopoly is busy circulating "ugly rumors" about the Corporation Counsel, the Mayor and the honest aldermen who are standing up for the people's rights.

"Ugly rumors" is good.

Aldermen who are anxious to learn the truth ought to inquire into the details of the passage of the telephone ordinance five years ago.

"Ugly rumors"!

Well, there are some pretty ugly rumors going the rounds just now.

But the Mayor, Corporation Counsel and honest aldermen are not the ones affected by them.

A watchful eye is being kept on the situation by too many people to have it easily misunderstood.

A new report has been ordered on the books and accounts of the Telephone Trust.

When the aldermen get that report they ought to be in a position to lower rates.

If they raise them they will raise something hotter than this climate has been for the past few weeks.

From a learned "Expert's" reports to the City Council we learn that:

Telephone rates should be raised because the Bell Telephone Company owns the local telephone company.

Because the Western Electrical Company is also owned by the Bell Telephone Company.

Because the local telephone company is obliged to buy all of its equipment and necessities from the Western Electrical Company.

Because neither the Western Electrical Company or the local telephone company would have big enough profits to suit the Bell Telephone, which owns them, if Chicago people were not pressed for a little more coin and their telephone rates raised.

Because the local telephone company has increased its capital stock from the original \$500,000 to \$37,000,000 and \$5,000,000 more in bonds.

Because the stockholders would not get big enough dividends on this immense stock issue if the people of Chicago were not squeezed.

Therefore the telephone company has the nerve to ask the City Council to raise the rates on the people of Chicago.

The people of Chicago are to be used as serfs by the telephone monopoly and the last drop is to be squeezed out of them.

In the meantime it would be well for the aldermen to inquire into the alleged relations, in the past, of certain

city officials with the above electrical company, the twin of the local telephone company, both being owned by the Bell monopoly.

The telephone gang want the council to raise the rates on all phones.

To abolish all flat phones and make everybody takes measured service.

To put a nickel in every phone before connection is made.

Fire Marshal Seyferlich asserted that as practically one-half of the fire and police alarms are received by telephone, he did not favor the general installation of the "pay-in-advance" type of telephone instrument now being placed in various parts of the city by the telephone company.

From the learned telephone expert whose report was submitted to the City Council in May, 1911, we learn on pages 49 and 50, that the Bell Telephone monopoly that reaches all over the country, owns a controlling interest in the local telephone company and the Western Electrical Company. "The latter is purely a manufacturing company," says the report, "engaged in the manufacture of Bell telephone apparatus and supplies." In 1904 a contract was entered into between the local telephone company and the electrical company, both of them owned by the Bell monopoly, whereby the local company agreed to purchase all of its supplies from the electrical company. Under the terms of this contract the electrical company agrees to deliver to the telephone company all telephone appliances manufactured under the license of the Bell Telephone Company. The local telephone company, on the other hand, agrees to purchase all its supplies from the electrical company.

Here we have a fine sample of how the parent monopoly makes the subsidiary monopolies pile up profits for each other and the public pays the freight.

On page 52 of the report of this "Expert" to the City Council we find the statement made that the Bell monopoly charges a rental of 53 cents per station for each set of instruments used.

This would amount to \$189,300 yearly, but the expert discovered that the local company really paid the parent company \$355,711 last year.

About this enormous overcharge the "expert" naively says on page 53 of the report now in the hands of the Council committee: "In justification of the payment of the difference between these amounts, or \$222,411, the Chicago company receives certain services from the parent company which it is claimed are worth the amount paid.

These services consist of technical advice and counsel and the use of apparatus patented by the parent company.

What do you think of that?

And then the aldermen are asked to raise the rates on the people to help the local company out.

Any alderman who votes to raise rates should be outlawed.

Rates are twice as much as they ought to be at the present time. They should be reduced.

The telephone monopoly obliges the users of nickel phones to guarantee 5 cents per day. If the monthly deposit of nickels falls short of the guarantee

Street improvements in the downtown district and along business thoroughfares in different parts of the city must all be paid for by owners of property directly benefited by the improvements, and the general fund from taxes of the entire city will no

longer be used in any way to share payment for the improvements upon a pie of public benefits.

comparatively new and increasing practice of a President leaving Washington on short or long trips, the apparent purpose of which is politics.

ding the large crowds. Each pier will have three docks, the lowest one being given over to cold storage.

ice that Mr. J. Ogden Armour and his colleagues are prepared to give to the city with their automatic service.

from taxes of the entire city will no

work for:

Eight—A preparation, legally, commercially and politically to handle

How many times do you get the right number on the telephone?

to throw dirt upon honest men in the