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INDEPENDENT IN ALL THINGS, NEUTRAL IN NONE.

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## WORSE THAN WAR

### The Annual Slaughter of Chicago People by Automobiles Is Arousing Public Sentiment Upon the Subject.

### Coroner Hoffman Predicts a Public Uprising from This Cause and the Passing of More Stringent Laws.

### Human Life Is Held Far Too Cheap by the Joy Riders, Who Do as They Please in Spite of All Laws.

### The Streets Are No Longer Safe, as the Reckless Drivers Appear to Have Things All Their Own Way at Present.

The slaughter of Chicago people by automobiles is attracting widespread attention and causing a great deal of comment.

An uprising that will crystallize in rigid laws governing automobilists was predicted by Coroner Hoffman unless something is done to put an end to the taking of human life. The number of deaths in automobile accidents so far this year is more than 100 per cent greater than for the corresponding five months last year. The coroner declared that he can recall only one case where any one has been convicted in connection with an automobile killing.

He was moved to his sensational prediction when he reached his office one day last week and learned of the death that day of Harry Smith, a union painter.

"This appears to be a particularly bad case," said the coroner. "From what I learn Smith was run down and killed by an automobile at South State and 13th streets. The chauffeur and his passengers abandoned their machine and escaped on foot. If the facts are as reported I will instruct my assistants to do everything possible to bring about the conviction of the driver. Unfortunately the laws of Illinois are such that convictions are rare and hard to get. Unless action is taken to stop this slaughter something is going to break loose. The people will exercise their power before long."

Mr. Hoffman gave orders that a personal report be made to him of every case where a person is killed by an automobile. His deputies were instructed to get him out of bed at night in order that he might assume personal charge of the cases.

Records of the coroner's office show forty-four deaths in automobile accidents in the first five months of 1913. Last year in the same period the number of deaths was only twenty. The coroner pointed out that in 1905 there were only five automobile deaths the entire year.

Following is the record of automobile deaths by months:

Month	1912	1913
January	3	6
February	2	9
March	4	6
April	2	10
May	9	13

Coroner Hoffman further predicted that unless action was taken to regulate the powerful electric searchlights used on the front of automobiles they would sooner or later be the cause of many accidents and much loss of life. "There should be a law requiring drivers to turn off their electric searchlights when passing other cars," he said. "From personal experience I know that these lights are blinding. One feature of the situation that impresses me is the killing of children. I want to be fair, however, and I will say that the public is equally responsible with the automobile drivers for the slaughter. The police should arrest every boy or girl found hitching on behind wagons and automobiles or roller skating in the streets. I wish also that some law could be devised which would prevent any one crossing streets except at intersections."

Speaking at the twentieth annual convention of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, now meeting in Washington, D. C., William A.

Pinkerton of Chicago, head of the Pinkerton National Detective Agency, warmly defended the parole law and the indeterminate sentence and gave arrays of statistics showing that the law had worked satisfactorily and with greater justice in Illinois since its enactment than the old law.

"I believe," he said, "that all political influence should be eradicated from the conduct of all penal institutions, and more especially from all boards of pardon or parole. The indeterminate sentence and parole law cannot be administered efficiently in any prison controlled by partisan politics, for the most important part of the indeterminate sentence and parole law is its supervision.

"In the many years that I have been in the detective service I have made it a rule always to meet paroled prisoners more than half way and give them every encouragement possible to guide them in the right direction. In many instances I have gone out of my way to get them employed, first stating to their employers who and what they are, and even aiding them financially in an endeavor to bring them back to a clean and better life. The great trouble with men of this kind is that, unless they have friends who get them positions, evil associates are liable to hunt them up and endeavor to lead them astray.

"These men should be encouraged to do right and not dragged into court without cause and their past lives exposed and held up to ridicule. On the contrary, whenever opportunity presents itself, it is the duty of a police officer to use his best efforts to aid and assist them so long as they are doing right."

Dancing in so-called respectable down town restaurants is a disgrace to Chicago. The Cabaret is arousing national attention. The tremendous growth of wealth, with its consequent increase in the number of "idle rich," is producing a class of criminals in this country almost faster than the police can cope with it, according to Representative Borland of Missouri, who addressed the convention of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Mr. Borland declared that the "idle rich" set a pernicious example in their search for amusement and aroused a desire of emulation in the minds of persons of small means. The result of such an example, he said, was to tempt poorer folk into indiscretions and crime to obtain money with which to gratify newly acquired tastes. The cabaret show he declared to be one of the main causes for the spread of the social evil.

There is still a little grass and some trees left in Lincoln Park. These will be removed in time to make room for more auto speedways.

The water meter graft is bobbing its head up again. It is proposed to tax every lot in Chicago from \$300 to \$500 for water meters, besides the great expense it will entail upon all users of water.

Chicago has an immense water fund. If part of it was devoted to wards building pumping stations at the lake end of every section line in Chicago there would be no water famine anywhere. It is astonishing what men the

water meter people can influence to their way of thinking.

Some men who ought to know better are talking for water meters.

More than that the "high pressure" scheme is up again.

According to some advocates it will

vocating "high pressure" and water meters said the other day, according to daily papers, that one of the chief troubles in Chicago was the very high consumption of water, which averaged about 2,000 gallons per capita daily, caused largely by waste and under-ground leakage from broken connections. As a remedy for waste he recommended water meters. The test of the water pressure made in the loop shows an insufficient pressure, but he said that the city was installing a large number of water mains, none under eight inches, and these would materially improve the pressure.

The health of the city demands plenty of water for everybody. The installation of meters would limit the consumption of water and raise the price of living on the poor. Higher rates would have to be charged in the residence districts and tenants would have to pay the water rates after the landlords had paid an exorbitant rate for installing water meters.

This form of graft is particularly objectionable to Chicago people. They will not stand for it. It hits everybody and it is unnecessary.

Lincoln Park West! What a chance there is here for a legislative investigation. A Park Commissioner secured a big piece of land on North Park Avenue, facing Lincoln Park. He erected a great series of apartments on the land. Then the park board paved the street out of the park funds after first declaring it a boulevard. Then the name was changed to Lincoln Park West, to further enhance things. Why is not North Clark Street called Lincoln Park Southwest, or North Avenue Lincoln Park South, or Lake View Avenue Lincoln Park Northwest? Is it because no Park Commissioner owns apartment buildings on them?

The parks are being rapidly turned into roadways.

The next campaign will be the big primary battle of 1914. The different leaders are already scurrying around

## CHICAGO SLAVES

### They Make the Richest Kind of Picking for the Greedy and Ever-Hungry Bell Telephone Trust.

### Aldermen Who Care More for Monopolies than They Do for the Voters Have a New Scheme.

### The Bell Telephone Monopoly Is to Be Given Permission to Stifle All Competition in This City and Defy the People.

### By Getting the Approval of the City Council to Its Fine Little Scheme Permitting It to Buy Off Competition.

The Bell Telephone Trust is going to strengthen its strangle hold upon the throat of Chicago by wiping out competition.

A merger of the two companies into one operating system is contemplated.

telephone ordinance, which at present prohibits the amalgamation of the Illinois company with any other locally operated concern.

It has the aid of several aldermen in this new move.

Should the Trust be successful Chicago will be at its mercy forever. Owing to the belief that the instruments and plant operated by the automatic company could not be used by the purchasing company, rumor has it that the purchase of the organization is mainly for the purpose of overcoming competition and establishing a universal telephone system in Chicago.

Because of a clause in the ordinance passed in 1899, prohibiting the sale of the company to any telephone corporation operating in the city, it is impossible without legislation to effect the sale.

The step to overcome this obstacle was taken when an amendment to the present ordinance was presented to the gas, oil and electric light committee of the city council. The ordinance provides that if the company makes any agreement "which would tend to make competition inoperative" the franchise would be forfeited. This clause is eliminated in the proposed amendment. Alderman Charles E. Merriam urged the committee to proceed with caution in taking action.

"In case the automatic company disposes of its properties to the Chicago Telephone company," he said, "the latter concern probably will add to its capitalization \$5,000,000 or \$6,000,000, which amount would represent the purchase price."

People of Chicago are especially soft picking, it seems.

On page 352 of the council proceedings for May 12, 1913, in the telephone report, the council committee states that the Chicago company "IN COMMON WITH THE OTHER BELL COMPANIES OF THE UNITED STATES" adopted in March, 1913, an employees' pension disability and insurance plan, which would cost the company \$120,000 a year.

On page 8 of the annual report of the Bell Telephone system for 1913, the statement is made that the surplus and reserves of the company have increased from profits, \$103,000,000 in the past five years, "even after setting aside \$8,845,000 for the benefit fund recently created for the employees."

Chicago people can read both reports and draw their own conclusions, while paying out their good money.

Chicago people have been sold out to the telephone trust by some of the Chicago aldermen.

This fact is proved by the Council records for the past year.

An "expert" showed that about \$900,000 should be divided among telephone users and rent payers in Chicago.

Then the Company pleaded that it was going to raise the salaries of its employees and pension them.

That would eat up most of this surplus.

A number of the Aldermen believed this, or pretended to believe it.

Chicago people will get no phone reduction.

And now comes the telephone trust in its annual report just printed, and

says that after deducting nearly nine millions of dollars from its profits for the purpose of raising salaries and pensions, it has a net profit of nearly one hundred and three million dollars left. The Chicago Company is merely an underlying branch of this monopoly and all the stuff that we have been hearing at the Council Committee meetings has just been so much rot, pure and simple.

Here is what the Telephone Trust says itself on this subject in its printed report:

"During the five year period between 1907 and 1912 the assets of the Bell Companies have increased \$311,000,000, while the capital obligations and payables outstanding have increased only a little over \$199,000,000. The surplus and reserves have increased from \$61,800,000 to \$164,200,000, or nearly \$103,000,000, even after setting aside \$8,845,000 for the benefit fund recently created for the employees."

The Phone Trust, under the old ordinance furnished 1,200 calls for \$5 per month on single lines.

Under the new one it will furnish but 960 calls for \$4 per month and the excess at 5 cents a call will cost the subscriber more than he has been paying in the past.

What a farce! Even if the proposed reduction of \$500,000 was genuine, the 400,000 Chicago subscribers would get less than 10 cents per month out of it.

The Telephone Trust will be fought by the people until it ceases to be a monopoly and until its charges are as reasonable as the government itself would charge for similar public service.

People who imagine that the passing of an ordinance by the City Council will do away with a public demand for better conditions and lower rates in the telephone service are mistaken. The telephone is a necessity to the people and no one knows this better than the monopoly which controls it. The purchase of newspapers or the purchase of public officials will not help the cause of monopoly.

The newspapers which support monopoly have lost their influence with the public, which is intelligent and possessed of a good memory.

Public officials who give away the people's rights or show favors to the telephone monopoly will not be forgotten.

On the contrary, they will be properly branded and will be retired to private life.

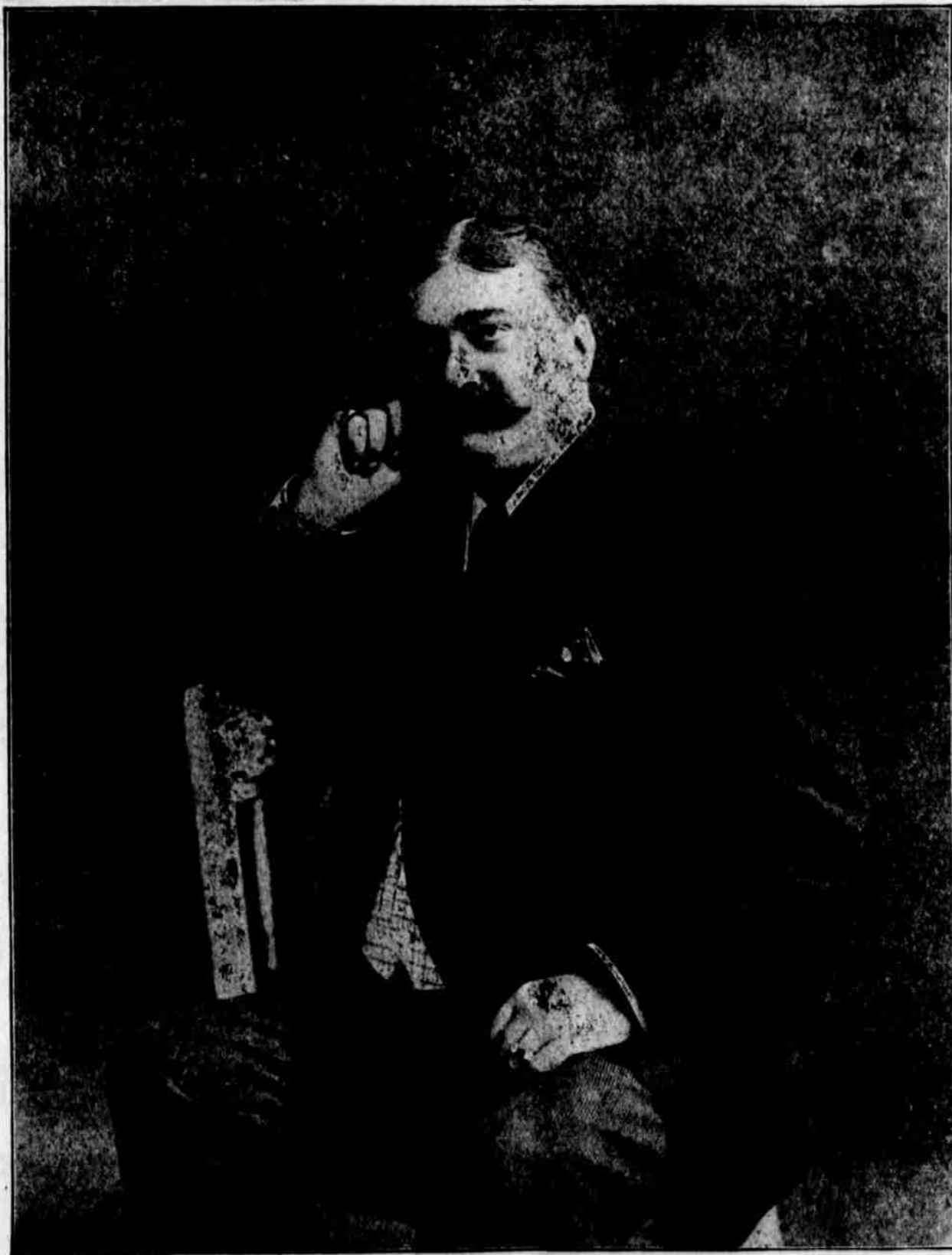
The people are in no frame of mind to be trifled with. They are showing this every day and at every election.

The man who sells them out to a trust may win the approbation of some millionaire-owned daily paper, but the common citizen, who is insulted, neglected and overcharged by the telephone service, will not forget.

There is one thing that the average voter has a knife up his sleeve for. That thing is the public official who favors the Telephone Trust.

How about those gum and weighing machines on the elevated platforms? The city council ordered them off but they are still in evidence.

The coming primary fight will be an interesting one.



WILLIAM A. PINKERTON, Famous Detective Who Addressed National Convention of Police Chiefs.

only cost thirty or forty millions of dollars to install meters and a "high pressure" system. The poor will have to pay the cost.

With half this sum additional pumping stations could be built which would more than supply the demand. A well known engineer who was ad-

looking after their political fences. Watch out for surprises.

Michigan avenue, with its autos parked in the middle, looks like a hay-market in a small town.

and if realized will mean the end of two separate lines within the city. The combine, it is declared, will mean the abolition of the automatic system and the taking over of its subscribers by the Bell company.

This was announced following an attempt to effect the revision of the