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INDEPENDENT IN ALL THINGS, NEUTRAL IN NONE

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## WARN ALDERMEN

### Uncle Sam Will Lock Up Chicago Councilmen for Conspiring with a Trust to Violate Anti-Trust Laws.

### Many Weeks Spent Here by Special Agents Said to Have Fixed the Standing of Telephone Serfs.

### The Attempt of the Aldermen to Get Permission to Help Out Their Benefactor, the Phone Company, Surprises the Government.

### A Vote Now to Consolidate the Phone Outfits and Squeeze the People Means Indictment by the Federal Grand Jury.

A number of Chicago aldermen face indictment by the United States grand jury, trial in the United States court and terms in jail for conspiracy to violate the anti-trust laws of the United States.

Special agents of the government have been watching the telephone situation closely and are said to have procured pretty strong evidence of the existence of a Phone Trust-Aldermanic Conspiracy to violate the United States anti-trust laws.

Several local organizations are also at work and a number of aldermen are likely to have their mail addressed to them in jail before many months.

The people will be astonished when full details come out.

The Trust Press may save the aldermen from local authorities, who are out for the stuff themselves, but it is not duce high with Uncle Sam.

A dispatch from Washington has the following to say about the late aldermanic attempt to head off trouble and make the coming "handout" easier to handle:

"Attorney General McReynolds will not comply with the request of the committee on gas, oil and electric light of the Chicago city council for an opinion as to the legality of the proposed merger of the Chicago Telephone Company with the American Telephone and Telegraph combination.

"This refusal is not intended in any sense as a discourtesy but is in accordance with the policy of the department of justice not to render opinions upon questions unless asked for by the president and members of the cabinet.

"Moreover, if the attorney general were to comply with such requests, it would put him in the position of defining the attitude of the department upon matters proposed to be consummated if it were believed they did not violate the law.

"The purpose of the attorney general in connection with the Chicago telephone situation was brought out by a telegram received from Senator Lewis who is in Chicago, asking that Mr. McReynolds not pass upon the request of the committee of the city council until 'certain parties' had been given an opportunity to appear before him.

"The attorney general is willing to hear the men who will come to him upon the recommendation of Mr. Lewis. He does not know whether they will advocate the merger or oppose it.

"What Mr. McReynolds is trying to do is to obtain all the information he can in regard to the telephone situation. He has under consideration a number of complaints from independent telephone and telegraph companies in various parts of the country against the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, alleging that this corporation has violated the Sherman anti-trust law.

"Suits against the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, known as the Bell company, were filed by the department of justice for alleged violations said to have occurred in the Pacific coast states and Colorado.

"Mr. McReynolds said that as yet he had no means for determining whether additional suits for alleged violations

in other states would be brought against the Bell company."

"If the aldermen expect leniency from a United States grand jury, they are mistaken. The United States grand jury is not made up of telephone officials and stockholders as is the county grand jury. For years the Cook county grand jury was a spectacle for the world. At one time men then under indictment in the United States courts for violating the law were drawn for membership on it. The president of the telephone trust is named as a Cook county grand jurymen every now and then just to show his strength, we presume. While Cook county grand juries as a rule are inciters of criticism, no such fault can be found with the Uncle Sam article. It is not controlled by trust millionaires as its records prove. If the Department of Justice goes after the phone aldermen it will get them. Never fear.

Two split-named senators would be too much for Illinois at the same time.

Who is it that has so much pull with the city council that the latter was afraid to stand by the change of the name of the South Side street, running to Wells street bridge, to Wells street? It remains Fifth avenue, but all other contiguous streets in the city have been given continuous names.

How much did it cost to change South Wells street back to Fifth avenue? People residing on streets with new names would like to know.

The new Chicago "Public Safety Commission," like all patriotic bodies, commences business with an appeal for funds. We notice a couple of aldermen among the members. The people are paying for a city council which ought to be able to protect life and property in Chicago, but it doesn't.

Mayor Gaynor's funeral took two hours to pass a given point. He had a large payroll and \$2,000,000.

The theory that one United States senator should be chosen from Mt. Vernon or Tumbuctoo, Ill., when Chicago has the other one is played out. Chicago is entitled to two senators if she can furnish the men with the necessary ability.

Following the announcement that Attorney General McReynolds is about to take steps to break up the telephone trust and the arousal of interest in the efforts of the trust to absorb the Automatic Telephone Company in Chicago, complaints against the Bell concern are pouring into the Department of Justice. One protest points out that the trust has as many subscribers as the 20,000 independent telephone companies of the United States, with an aggregate capital of \$300,000,000.

The phone trust has started in to oppress the people in Chicago suburbs. Retaliation for the institution of telephone toll tariffs between Wheaton, West Chicago and Glen Ellyn was threatened by the business men of the three communities. Res-

olutions were adopted at the meeting of the Business Men's Association of Wheaton and Glen Ellyn decrying the attitude of the company and suggesting every fair means be employed to force the return of the old rule of free interchange of telephone calls between the cities.

Col. Ham is busy with the jobs. The senator has asked for the heads of the following Chicago officials: John C. Ames, collector of customs; S. M. Fitch, internal revenue collector,

and L. K. Torbet, naval officer. The only reason offered for their removal was to make way for Democrats. Secretary McAdoo gave no assurances. Fred Greishelmer of Chicago arrived in Washington to press his candidacy for appraiser of customs at Chicago, but Senator Lewis told him he could not commit himself in his behalf.

The plan to tax the North Side taxpayers between the river and the city limits for the joy riders' auto bou-

levard link will have to be passed by the City Council once more. It was too full of errors to stand.

If you part your name in the middle run for senator.

W. Duff Piercy is the latest Democratic candidate for United States senator. As long as he persists in parting his name in the middle he will please the divided Democratic leaders.

Has your alderman divided his telephone graft with you?

If the law against highway robbery was enforced in this country the phone officials would be behind bars. Charging people for "wrong numbers" is the most exasperating form of theft.

Did you ever stop to think of how much more Chicago pays for telephone service than other places?

The most successful automatic telephone connection is that between the Trust and the aldermen.

The billboard nuisance will never be abated until the graft is taken out of it.

The many friends of H. L. T. of the Chicago Tribune will feel bad when they hear that he has abandoned newspaper work. It is reported that he has joined the Press Club.

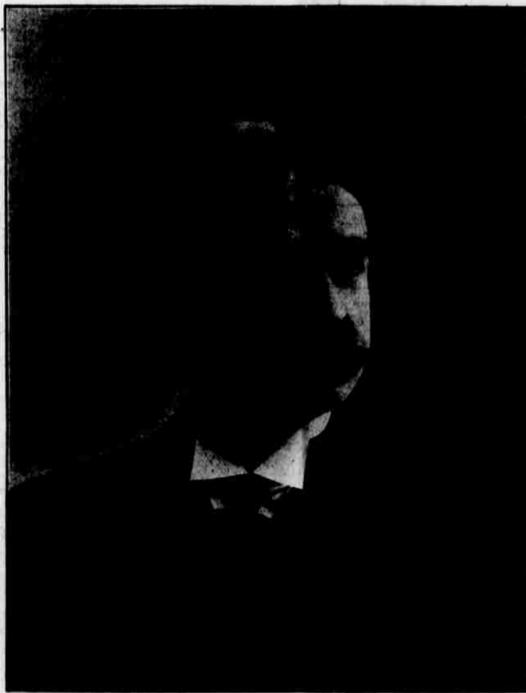
Hearst claims the Chicago post office and it is said that a Hearst-Harrison supporter has been selected to succeed Postmaster Campbell.

It takes longer to get telephonic connections now than it ever did.

Roger C. Sullivan would make an ideal United States senator. He is honest, able, truthful and modest. He would serve the people well in that capacity.

Republicans and progressives are talking quietly of coming together for Colonel Bernard A. Eckhart for United States senator.

President Wilson is the first real statesman the American people have had in the White House for a generation. He does things in a straight-



COLONEL BERNARD A. ECKHART. The Choice of Thousands of Republicans and Progressives for United States Senator.

## BIG METER GRAFT

### Installation of Water Meters in Every Flat to Be Asked of the City Council This Fall.

### This Will Double the Price of Living and Will Force the Raising of Rents in Chicago.

### The People Will Then Have to Pay for Water Like They Do for Gas and a Leaky Meter Costs Money.

### Scheme Has Been Hatching a Long Time and the Public Will Now Have to Put Up More for Living Than Ever.

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

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 advocating "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 underground 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, some 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.

The water meter scheme has taken shape.

The City Council will be asked to sanction this outrage when it meets. This means a water meter in every flat and it means a general raise of rents on tenants.

It also means a tremendous expense to landlords.

The only beneficiaries will be the makers of water meters.

The City Water Department proposes to make 200,000 people in Chicago put in water meters.

With an inexhaustible supply of pure water right at its door, Chicago has the poorest water service of any city in the world.

Many great cities go hundreds of miles for their drinking water and carry it over mountain and vale in costly aqueducts.

Chicago can have all that she wants by using ordinary common sense, but she refuses to take advantage of her opportunity.

The water supply of Chicago has been a fruitful source of political graft from the beginning.

Instead of using the earnings of the department to build up and enlarge the water plant and increase the supply the surplus has been "borrowed" year after year by other city funds, to increase the pay and the opportunities of political hirelings.

chronic water difficulty in which Chicago finds itself.

All this dreary drivel about "home rule" must be dropped and the State of Illinois asked to run our water system on a non-partisan and common sense principle. With a competent board of engineers controlled by the state and appointed by the governor, running the Chicago water works, the city would have an abundant supply of that life giving and life sustaining fluid.

Under local control the Chicago water works system turns wholly on graft and every cry for relief only awakens the cupidity of dealers in water meters and other appliances for circulating boodle where it will do the most good to bootlers and the most harm to Chicagoans.

Chicago gives to its people the poorest water service of any city in the world for the money they pay for it.

With an exhaustless body of fresh water at her door Chicago is constantly talking about installing water meters in every flat and in every home to stop "waste." This is in the face of the fact that the enormous surplus in the water fund is constantly being appropriated to meet other expenses of the city government instead of being used to extend and build up the water system. Water meters in every flat in Chicago would bring on a pestilence in this big city in a short time.

The fellows who are shouting for water meters are grafters.

Every man who talks of water meters or water waste in the homes of Chicago should be charged as a public enemy.

The people cannot have too much water.

To limit its use means pestilence and disease.

New York goes 168 miles for fresh water and the great aqueduct which carries it to her people cost over \$500,000,000. It is one of the marvels of modern times and ranks alongside of the Panama Canal as one of the wonders of the world.

Liverpool, England, is supplied with fresh water by an aqueduct which brings a supply from Wales and yet there is no talk of "waste" over there. Other European cities go even farther for their supply of water.

But Chicago, with an abundance at hand, is always howling about "waste."

Who is behind this water meter graft anyway?

An enormous sum is diverted from the water fund every year to supply the wants of other city departments as you can learn from the recommendations of the finance committee to the city council in the printed council reports.

If the water fund was properly used, a pumping station could be built at the lake end of every section line in the city.

If this was done you would hear no more about "water waste" and the necessity for meters in every house.

Now is the time when "eminent students of economics" will be heard from declaring that telephone monopoly is a public necessity.

With phone rates as high as ever and taxes 75 per cent higher than ever, Chicago has had all of the Aldermanic home rule that it wants.