

THOMPSON WILL FIGHT FOR SQUARE DEAL FOR THE PEOPLE OF CHICAGO

The following interview with Wm. Hale Thompson was sought by a Day Book reporter in order to let the public know what Thompson stands for in the way of live public issues that affect the daily life of the men, women and children of Chicago:

"I am for the people and I am against the public service corporations in every situation where the people are not getting a square deal from those corporations.

"There is not a public utility corporation in Chicago that has any kind of a hold on me. If I am elected mayor of Chicago I will be free to meet the street car companies, the gas company, the electric light and power company and the telephone companies and do whatever the people want done."

This is what William Hale Thompson said to a Day Book reporter. In an interview covering more than two hours of time, with phone calls breaking in half the time, Thompson lined out his claims as a man of the people in this way:

"If I am elected I go into the city hall free from the entanglements that tie up an organization gaining control of a city hall. I know that it has generally been the case that before a man could be elected mayor he had to deal with organizations in 35 wards of the city and when he got into the city hall everything was promised away and he couldn't do what the people want done.

"I will be free to handle the automatic telephone situation and give the people whatever they want. Several propositions have been brought to my attention about the proposed merger of the automatic with the Chicago Telephone Co. which convince me that there is more behind the whole of it than is generally known. I would have engineers and investigators make reports I could depend on and I would act on that information.

"As it looks to me now, it is not a fair deal to the people of Chicago to permit the sale of the automatic system to the Chicago Telephone Co. at a price of \$4,000,000 or \$6,000,000, that price to be added to the capitalization of the Chicago Telephone Co., and the interest charges taken from the telephone users in higher phone rates, poorer service and reduced amounts in the 3 per cent of gross profits paid the city. From what I have gathered the automatic prop-

erty is not worth the amount which the Bell company wants to pay for it.

"I have not made an investigation of the telephone situation. But I am for what the people want. If you show me that the automatic phone is regarded by telephone engineers and experts outside of Bell influence as superior to the Bell manual phone, then I would go mighty slow before I would ever consider authorizing the sale of the automatic.

"I don't like the idea of telephone competition. The people don't want two phone systems in one town. I've been in towns where when a bell rang you'd have to pick up two or three different receivers before you'd get the right one. The best plan is to have all the phone users of a city on the same system of exchanges.

"Understand me clearly, though I am against phone competition I believe there are possibilities in the automatic situation. If it could be proven that the city can operate an automatic system and give users a penny-a-call service I would be for it. I'm for what the people want.

"What do I mean when I say I'm