

## PROSECUTOR REKER, IN LASHING STREET CAR BOSSES, CALLS THEM "PICKPOCKETS"

"The pickpocket who sticks his fingers into your coat and gets away with your money or your watch is a better patriot than the street railway millionaire who defies the laws of the government which has given street cars the right to run on our city streets."

George L. Reker, assistant corporation counsel, made this statement to a Day Book reporter yesterday after a jury speech in Judge Heap's court, in which Reker said the car companies are a worse influence in Chicago than pickpockets or anarchists.

Over 300 cases in which the Chicago City Railway Co. and the Chicago Railways Co. have broken the city ordinances on car service are in Reker's charge. It will take months to try them. The companies are calling for jury trials in all the cases. They have been convicted in every case tried so far. They were fined \$300 on eight charges yesterday and \$1,050 in 21 suits Wednesday. Found guilty, the companies take the cases to the higher courts. Nobody knows when the fines will be paid or whether the higher courts will back up the Chicago juries.

"If the street railway companies would spend more money for service and spend less money for lawyers they would be showing some appreciation to the community which has turned its streets over to them," said Reker to the jury.

"When the evidence is brought out showing how these corporations break the law and laugh at the law, their lawyers and managers cloud the air with false explanations and false issues. They resemble a fish that swims in the Pacific ocean. When attacked this fish doesn't fight. He spouts out streams of black ink that color the water so he makes his escape.

"Lucy Parsons and Emma Gold-

man in their most inflammatory speeches do not produce the exasperation and the unrest among the people which is caused by the Chicago street railways. The open and avowed anarchists are at least honest enough to say they have no use for the American flag.

"But the street railway company, pretending to love the flag, picks the pockets of the public and refuses to obey some of the simplest and most necessary provisions of its franchise agreement with the people of the city."

The franchise ordinances which the companies are breaking are those calling for signs on cars, proper ventilation and no overcrowding of passengers.

"I mean just what I say," Reker stated to a reporter. "The street railways of Chicago are controlled by million-dollar pickpockets and thirty-cent patriots. They have no sense of public service or genuine patriotism. They ride in limousines and touring cars on the boulevards and if they know anything about the discomfort and the outright indecency prevailing on all rush-hour cars they give no sign of it."

### HELLO GIRLS OUST MEN

Washington, Jan. 22. — Soprano "hellos" will supplant bass in all city offices, the city commissioners having ousted all men at the private switchboards and appointed women operators.

At the State university museum in Lincoln, Neb., is the body of a duck that has turned largely into soap. This is the first known specimen of the kind. Dr. Wolcott explains the phenomenon by saying that the duck was fat and that the water, alkali and hot sun simply made soap of that portion of the duck that was susceptible of being so transformed.