

by the records of the police department.

Some one in authority knew of these dangerous conditions and yet nothing whatever was done to provide even elementary measures of safety. The statement that after a rope is provided bathers will be arrested who venture beyond is laughable in the face of the ghastly horror that is stirring political derelicts to action. It is a wonderful show of activity in its determination to keep the barn locked after the horse is stolen.

What about the frightfully dangerous condition of the low breakwater that extends into the lake at this place, visited by thousands of anglers every week. Two rows of piles driven some six feet apart and protruding blocks of stone. Men and boys are constantly risking their lives in fishing off this insecure and slippery structure. I have visited this place several times and on each occasion saw men and boys slip and fall into the water, which is, on either side, from six to fifteen feet deep.

Must more lives be lost at this place before sleepy and negligent officials will provide some measures of safety? Cannot the proper authorities be compelled to take action before damage is done? The Lincoln park board is amply provided with funds. A few hundred dollars' worth of lumber can make this spot safe and afford healthful enjoyment for thousands each week.

A short distance beyond a path, representing thousands of dollars in value, is provided for horseback riders. This drive is graded and watched carefully, although its patrons can be counted on your fingers, while just below thousands of people are deprived of proper bathing facilities, life protection and proper means of comfort. Are we taxed to furnish space and comfort for a handful of equestrians and deny it to thousands to whom a little fresh air and a plunge in the lake is a physical blessing?

How long are we to tolerate this Turkish or Chinese method of administration before it is replaced with a real American system which we are supposed to get and for which we pay?—L. Romanski.

THE TELEPHONE TANGLE.—If the city council possessed more knowledge, or more desire to attain knowledge, the Automatic telephone tangle could be straightened out with benefit to the citizens of Chicago, and the experience of Chicago would later become a beacon light for the world.

The struggle for the possession of the automatic by the telephone trust is not for the actual tangible property involved, but for the purpose of establishing a monopoly of the telephone business here in Chicago and elsewhere.

Perhaps some of the members of the council know what a monopoly is. When it comes to practical matters immediately involving their own business they are quick to see the monopoly element and to fight or embrace it as their interests may direct. But when it comes to the public interest they are often blind. They can give away the streets or alleys of the city without a sting from their consciences, and they can also consider the giving away of the interests of Chicago's citizens in the telephone business with as little mental effort as they would to expend a nickel to relieve the wants of a beggar.

The probability is that most of our troubles come from ignorance. Ignorance of the facts of individual and of social life brings poverty and sickness and crime that affects us all, and the council should be condemned for ignorance and stupidity rather than for cupidity.

The telephone is a natural monopoly. It admits of no effective competition. The monopoly gives such abundant opportunities for extortion in rates and bad service, such exorbitant returns for small investment