



Entered as Second Class Matter October 11, 1899, at the Post Office at Chicago, Illinois, under Act of March 3rd, 1879

"INDEPENDENT IN ALL THINGS, NEUTRAL IN NONE."

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TWENTY-SECOND YEAR, NO. 41.

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TELEPHONE BUNK

It Interests Nobody Now Days Except People Who Have Been Influenced to Throw the Bunk.

Daily Papers Which Advocated Penitentiary Stripes for Telephonic Aldermen Five Years Ago Are Now Very Complacent Observers.

While Friends of the Awful Monopoly Are Beginning to Throw Slurs and Slanders at the Mayor and Aldermen Who Protest.

However, Extortion by the Telephone Trust Must Cease to Exist in Chicago or the People Will Know the Reason Why.

The Telephone Trust has commenced a bitter and uncalculated attack on the Mayor and honest aldermen of the city of Chicago who are fighting for the people's rights against a heartless monopoly.

The Telephone Trust is opposed to the honest, capable and efficient service that Mr. J. Ogden Armour and his colleagues are prepared to give to the city with their automatic service.

The Telephone Trust has changed managers in Chicago and has decided to throw dirt upon honest men in the city government who oppose its domineering and extortionate methods.

Five years ago, when it was freely alleged that a large bag of money was thrown at aldermen who favored its bulldozing methods, a leading Chicago paper now noted for its "progressive" and "reform" tendencies, published a cartoon in which it delineated telephone minions and aldermen in the act of climbing into a striped suit of penitentiary clothes.

This time this wonderful organ of "reform" which is always fighting the Mayor and everyone else not connected with a monopoly is singularly silent upon the subject.

The people talk freely about this because they remember that cartoon. That was one "jackpot" that was never investigated.

Perhaps it may be some day. Who can tell?

The Illinois Tunnel Company has fully complied with the terms of its ordinance and yet the grafters union is not satisfied.

It wants the Illinois Tunnel Company which has expended over \$2,300,000 in instruments, wires and station equipments, to be forced to give up all of this to satisfy the Telephone Trust.

The Telephone Trust may be successful in beating firemen's widows out of the money donated to them by a sympathizing public, but it will never be successful in smothering the rising sentiment against the Telephone Monopoly that is growing in Chicago.

Any alderman who votes in favor of an increase of rates for the Telephone Monopoly will be beaten to a finish the next time he runs for office.

According to some accounts several men who are working for the monopoly and its franchise may not be residents of Chicago when the next election comes around.

The Telephone Monopoly is busy circulating "ugly rumors" about the Corporation Counsel, the Mayor and the honest aldermen who are standing up for the people's rights.

"Ugly rumors" is good. Aldermen who are anxious to learn the truth ought to inquire into the details of the passage of the telephone ordinance five years ago.

"Ugly rumors!" Well, there are some pretty ugly rumors going the rounds just now. But the Mayor, Corporation Counsel and honest aldermen are not the ones affected by them.

A watchful eye is being kept on the situation by too many people to have it easily misunderstood. A new report has been ordered on the books and accounts of the Telephone Trust.

They ought to be in a position to lower rates. If they raise them they will raise something hotter than this climate has been for the past few weeks.

Mayor Harrison made a popular move when he ordered a new report on the telephone situation. The "expert" whose report is now in the hands of the Council Committee favored the raising of rates and a general contribution to the necessities of the phone gang. His report strangely enough showed that the Chicago branch of the monopoly is owned by the American Telephone Trust.

His report also shows that the Chicago branch of the monopoly is obliged to buy all of its equipment from a notorious Electric Company which is also owned by the American Telephone Trust. This company makes its own prices for what it sells to the other concern and the people of Chicago are expected to pay for the profits of both subsidiary institutions of the Trust.

Talk about the Tobacco Trust, the Standard Oil Trust and every other trust. The trust that is the real thing is the Telephone Trust. This Trust hits over a quarter of a million people in Chicago. Recently it has grown so bold that it managed to grab off for the purchase of its watered stock a big sum of money donated by the generous Chicago public for the immediate relief of the widows and orphans of brave firemen who gave up their lives last December in the discharge of their duty.

Any alderman who votes for an ordinance favoring the Telephone Trust deserves the ignominy which he will certainly receive.

A new band of Republican patriots met on Tuesday to save the grand old party. And, of course, most of them were job holders or ex-job holders.

Work on the redistricting of Chicago's wards is now on in earnest. It is planned to have the new ward boundaries decided upon in time for the spring aldermanic primaries.

A subcommittee of nine, three from each side of the city, has been appointed, with instructions to get to work at once. The members will change the ward boundaries for their sides of the city during the council's summer vacation. In the fall they will report to the committee of the whole.

The members of the sub-committee are Aldermen Reinberg, Bauler and Cletenberg for the North Side; Aldermen Cermak, Twigg and Lawley for the West Side, and Aldermen Snow, Harding and Richert for the South Side.

That voting machine squabble is becoming interesting.

By a vote of 44 to 22, the city council voted Monday night to adopt the majority report of the elections committee, seating Felix B. Janovsky as alderman from the Twenty-ninth ward. This disposes of the contest brought by former Alderman Matthias Mueller

against Janovsky. Mueller is a Republican and Janovsky a Democrat.

After the recount by the election commissioners, it was shown that Mueller had twenty more votes than his Democratic opponent, who on the first count was elected by ten votes. The contest was taken before the elec-

tion committee and was referred to a sub-committee composed of Aldermen Cermak and Bauler, Democrat, and Alderman Snow, Republican.

Alderman Snow dissented from the finding of the sub-committee, which found that Janovsky had a plurality of twenty votes by throwing out some of the ballots and the elections committee, as a whole, adopted a majority and minority report along partisan lines.

The council judiciary committee on Monday recommended for passage an ordinance introduced by Alderman Thomson prohibiting the use of "explosive firecrackers" within the city limits, and making it compulsory for all those desiring to give a public display of fireworks to get a permit from the mayor.

Because several biases have been caused by fireworks exploded at picnics and demonstrations Chief McWeeny, co-operating with Fire Marshal Seylerich, had refused to issue any more permits for fireworks in the city limits. Chief McWeeny issued an order notifying all commanding officers in the department of his action.

Investigation of all public utilities of the state by a special committee of the state legislature was begun at the Hotel LaSalle Thursday morning. The purpose of the inquiry is to gather information to be used as a basis, according to present plans, for the institution of a permanent commission, similar to the railroad and warehouse commission, for the control of public utilities in the interest of the public.

In an opinion by Attorney General Wickersham and given to Secretary of War Stimson, the Metropolitan Elevated Railway need not remove its bridge across the South Branch of the Chicago river until the sanitary board has widened the river to its original proportions at that point.

The Secretary of War has gone to Panama, and no definite action will be taken by the department until he returns.

The plans of the sanitary board contemplate the widening of the river in two years. The railway company has contended that it should not be compelled to take down its bridge until this work is done, on the ground that the land on which its abutments are built was filled in prior to the building of the bridge.

Plans submitted by the city to the

Chicago's aldermen took a stand at their meeting Monday night in favor of filling in the waste land along the lake shore and making out of it a big park, incidentally boosting the outer harbor. Ald. Charles M. Foell offered a resolution calling for an investigation of dumpings in the lake and sug-

gesting a plan whereby the lake front may be developed by filling in with the city's waste back of the breakwater, thereby reclaiming long stretches of waste land along the lake shore.

Efforts to stop the passage of the Foell resolution were futile and only two dissenting votes were recorded upon a motion to suspend the rules for the purpose of putting it upon its passage. Briefly the resolution calls for an opinion from the corporation counsel as to whether the city has a right

to construct breakwaters and retaining inclosures in the lake to be used in connection with the depositing of the city's excavations and waste materials.

The commissioner of public works is asked to report what the cost is now for the removal of waste materials and excavations and the amount of land such matter would create yearly if dumped outside the breakwater.

Of the commissioner of health the request is made to report whether the deposition of such waste materials may be effected without contaminating the water supply of the city.

The Chicago plan commission is called upon to advise the council whether under such a system of carrying for waste material the commission's plan of creating an outer drive from East 22d street to East Ohio street could not be carried out.

Chicago may build and own subways and issue bonds to construct them a system of underground transportation and secure such bonds with the traction fund. Corporation Counsel Sexton sent a long communication to the council setting forth specifically the powers of the city in the premises. This was in reply to a series of questions asked by Ald. B. W. Snow.

The corporation counsel finds the city has the necessary authority from the legislature to go ahead with this big project without further state enactments. It also has a right, says the opinion, to construct a system of subways by day labor. It has no right, says the opinion, to construct a subway for the carrying of merchandise; the purpose must be for the transportation of passengers.

The sliding scale gas price rate ordinance was reported and ordered deferred and published so that it may be taken up on its passage next Monday night. It fixes the rate for gas at the net price of 75 cents per 1,000 cubic feet for the first year, 70 cents the next two years and 68 cents the fourth and fifth years. These rates are to be flat and the company is prohibited from imposing a penalty for delay in the payment of gas bills. Under the present ordinance fixing the 85 cent rate the company has authority to impose a penalty with a gross rate which is not discounted if the bill is not paid within ten days.

By a vote of 61 to 6 the council refused to suspend the rules to permit the passage of a resolution by Ald. A. J. Fisher calling for arbitration of the gas price question. A commission of five was suggested to determine a fair rate to be charged for gas.

Other business of the council summarized follows: Referred to the judiciary committee the corporation counsel's proposed new ordinance for the regulation of motor propelled vehicle traffic as regards equipment.

Referred to the building committee Ald. Geiger's resolution asking for additional safeguards for horses in stables in times of fire.

Passed Ald. Hey's motion asking the city statistician to obtain data from other cities as to the cost of illuminating gas.

Referred to the judiciary committee Health Commissioner Young's request for an ordinance to control the issue of bathing suits at private beaches.

Concurred in Mayor Harrison's ap-

pointment of Osborn Monnett as chief smoke inspector.

Referred to the judiciary committee Alderman Bauler's request that the corporation counsel clearly define the right of conductors and other employees of transportation companies to summon aid from the police department to make arrests.

A charter was issued Tuesday by the secretary of state to the Initiative and Referendum League of Illinois. The object of the league is to secure the enactment of laws for a popular initiative and referendum, and offices are to be maintained in Springfield.

The incorporators are: Charles E. Merriam, George E. Cole, S. S. Taylor, Raymond Robins, all of Chicago, and G. Lee of Springfield.

O. F. Berry, chairman of the state board of railroad and warehouse commissioners, announced on Tuesday the appointment of W. A. Van Hookmott of Chicago as assistant engineer; A. N. Morton of Peoria as statistical clerk and Miss N. Miller of Chicago to have charge of the claim department and the Chicago office of the board. These appointments were made pursuant to the new law giving the board additional powers.

The telephone monopoly in Chicago has grown to be an unbearable nuisance.

The service is rotten. The scandal attendant on the passage of the telephone ordinance by the council five years ago is not forgotten.

The passage of the present ordinance will result in something more than scandal for the facts will be easier to get at.

Any alderman who votes for an increase of rates will be branded as he ought to be.

The Chicago American of June 28 contained the following vigorous article on the subject of a merger:

The New York Times announces that there is hope of telephone competition in New York City and that Armour, the great packer of Chicago, is said to be back of the plan.

The idea is to buy up certain franchises in the State of New York, especially to get an entrance into New York City, and to give to the citizens the benefit of telephone competition and of actually cheap service.

The idea of cheap telephone service is going to grow in the United States, and eventually it is going to be realized, despite the power of any monopoly or the profits of any group of individuals.

It costs less, or under proper management would cost less, to send a telephone message than to send a letter.

There was a time in the United States when private individuals exploited the mails and when the citizen writing a letter paid from ten cents to a dollar or more to have it delivered. Government ownership, economical, businesslike methods, have reduced the price of sending letters to two cents all over the United States—even in the Klondike, where the letters are carried on dog sledges.

And sane, businesslike administration of the telephone system of this

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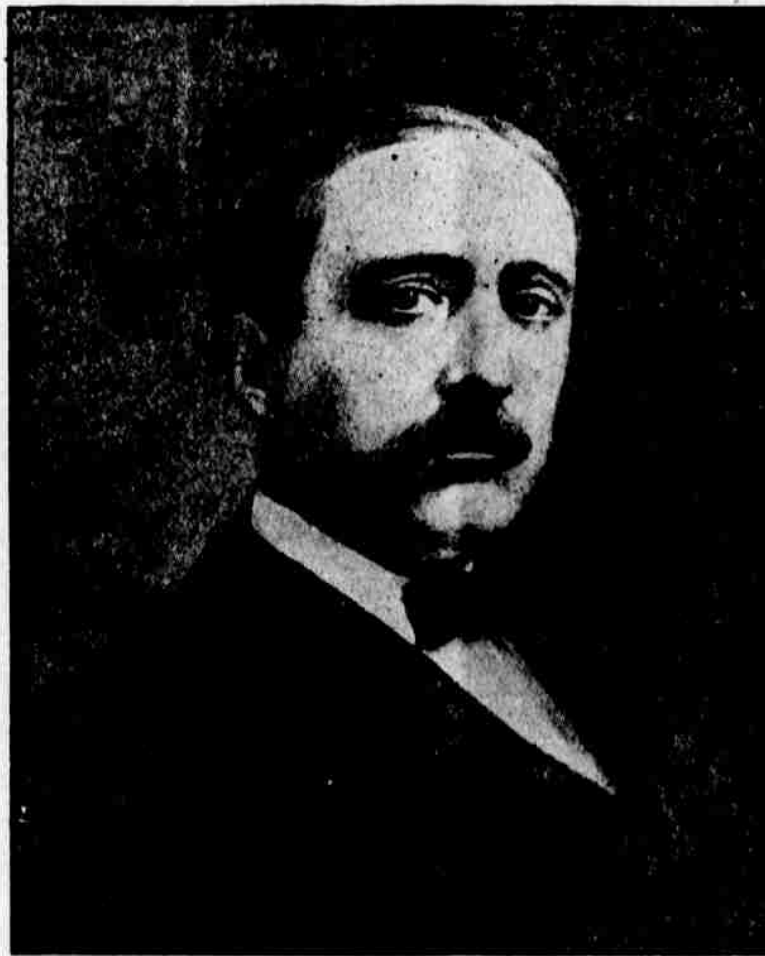
FOR THE BIG PARK

City Council Takes Action on Resolution of Alderman Foell in Regard to Filling in Lake Front.

Plans to Give the Public a Recreation Ground Four Miles Long and Also Make Way for Outer Harbor.

All the Department Heads to Be Consulted and the Work Will Be Started as Soon as Possible on Big Project.

Chicago May Build and Own Subways and Issue Bonds to Construct Them According to Opinion of Corporation Counsel Sexton.



J. OGDEN ARMOUR. Who Will Give Chicago a Good Telephone Service.