

# ASKS "NO" TO ALL PROPOSITIONS

H. M. McCaskrin Takes Negative Side in Pending Measures Before People.

## HAS ERRONEOUS IDEAS

Imagines Papers Will Ignore Him So Challenges Publication of Prepared Statement.

At Turner hall Saturday night, to which place the meeting had been adjourned from Market square owing to the chilly condition of the atmosphere, Harry M. McCaskrin, in speaking of pending issues, asked the special election to be held in Rock Island tomorrow, declared he would furnish the papers of the city copies of a statement he read from the stage and defy them to publish the same. In the same connection the speaker averred that the influence of the advertising columns of the newspapers were such as to warp their editorial and news policies, and hence he felt very certain that because of the nature of his own views it would be impossible to have them published through the regular channels. While for its own part The Argus does not consider it necessary to refute Mr. McCaskrin's allegations, and is content to let that part of it go with the thought that he is laboring entirely under a misapprehension, it is quite willing, nevertheless, to accept this challenge, if such it may be termed, and give to his statement the space he desires. In this same connection it may be said that Mr. McCaskrin could just as well have saved himself the expense of Saturday night's meeting, if the main desire was to get his side of the proposition into print, for The Argus would have published it in the form of a communication at any time he may have asked it, in pursuance of its policy to publish communications of a respectable and concise nature on any subject of public policy when properly signed.

**BY WAY OF EXPLANATION.**  
For Mr. McCaskrin's information let it be said that so far as The Argus is concerned, and it believes this is true of the average respectable publication, its advertising and editorial departments have no more relation to each other than has Mr. McCaskrin himself to either department, and even if one bore influence on the other, the amount of the special advertising that has been offered the paper by the telephone interests or in opposition to the increased license proposition would not amount in the aggregate to what a single local advertiser has on more than one occasion paid for space in the paper in a single day. As a further illustration of how misguided are Mr. McCaskrin's notions as to the influence of a newspaper's advertising on the editorial or news policy, his attention may be directed to the fact that the anti-prohibition league has contracted for a pretty good chunk of space in The Argus for use in the campaign and for the very purpose which was one of the objects of Mr. McCaskrin's Saturday night meeting—the defeat of the \$1,000 license. Yet The Argus has stuck to the position it has always taken, that a higher license should prevail as one of the means to the proper regulation of the liquor traffic, and this in the face of the fact that no concerted effort has been made to carry the proposition at the polls while the interests opposed to it are organized and in first-class fighting trim.

As to the attitude of The Argus on the telephone matter, this paper has published what it believes to be an honest statement of the existing conditions from the standpoint of the public and without regard to the interests or desires of the telephone companies involved, and has drawn reasonable deductions from the same which do not coincide with Mr. McCaskrin's views.

**SOMETIMES IMPOSSIBLE.**  
It is not always possible for any newspaper to publish at the length that public speakers would desire their remarks on specific occasions. One man's ideas do not constitute the entire sum and substance of what the subscribers of a newspaper pay for. They want all the news, and they want it while it is news, and if a paper were to give its entire space to one speech to the detriment of everything else of importance that might happen in a day or a night, it would soon hear from that great body of its readers whose interests are so important to The Argus at least, as the income from any advertising space, or the wishes of any citizen who may feel constrained to talk or write upon any subject before the people.

**NEWS WHEN IT IS NEWS.**  
Mr. McCaskrin's address was delivered last Saturday night, and since that time a dozen or more things of greater or more timely importance may have occurred to interest the public, and from the standpoint of good news value the publication of what he said would ordinarily be dismissed by the average newspaper in its first issue to come after the delivery of what about those things were said.

However, because Mr. McCaskrin has taken the pains to provide The Argus with a reasonably brief synopsis of what he had to say, and has sent it to the paper under the misapprehension that The Argus would not be felt enough to publish it, it is produced here. And it is done with the hope that Mr. McCaskrin will evince a spirit of equal fairness to The Argus by improving the first opportunity to state as publicly as he has made the allegations reflecting upon the policy of newspapers, that in so far as they may involve The Argus, his ideas were entirely wrong.

The statement which Mr. McCaskrin has furnished The Argus is here published in full:  
"Our newspapers, like all newspapers, sell space for advertising. It is a matter of business with them. The amount of space purchased by the telephone trust is beyond the reach of any private citizen, in the interest of patriotism, I could not afford to pay for advertising space to compete with these telephone companies, but I take it that our newspapers will publish some of these statements that I make here to this large public audience. Many of you subscribe and support these papers, and you are entitled to honest news in them, as well as paid advertisements in them.

"If some stranger comes here and makes an address to an audience one half as large as this our newspapers publish his statements. You will see long sermons written by our local preachers here, published at length and free. So that I have written out a summary of my address to you here tonight, on these three questions, and I am going to ask the newspapers to publish it in full as news, without charge, as they publish the statements of other men. If they refuse to publish it I will have it set up for distribution at my own expense.

"I have told you that you should vote no three times on election day, Oct. 31, 1917, (next Tuesday) and that you should get your friends to vote 'no' on all three propositions. Every voter should vote. The privilege you have to

H. B. HAYDEN



At the annual meeting of the Northern Illinois Teachers' association held at Dixon the local superintendent was named as president of the association. The election was held Saturday. During the year previous Mr. Hayden was executive committee chairman. The meeting was one of the most successful ever held by the western section of the association. Several addresses on topics of vital importance in the conduct of school affairs were delivered by prominent educators. The other officers elected were:  
Vice President—Superintendent W. R. Snyder, Dixon.  
Secretary—S. F. Parson, De Kalb, Mr. Snyder is also secretary of the eastern section, and has been in office for some time.  
Treasurer—County Superintendent John Hay, Mt. Carroll.  
Executive Committee—Miss Myrtle Renwick of Stockton, chairman; Superintendent J. B. McManus, La Salle, and County Superintendent B. F. Hendrich of Whiteside county.

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# Telephone Improvements for Rock Island

## Plans of the Bell Engineers for the Next Two Years.



**IF YOU WILL ALLOW US TO BUY THE PLANT OF THE UNION ELECTRIC COMPANY** we will make great improvements within the next two years which will bring Rock Island telephone service up to the standard of the rest of the world.

**WE WILL MOVE INTO LARGER QUARTERS NEARER THE TELEPHONIC CENTER OF THE COMMUNITY.** We have outgrown our present building. The Union Electric's property would be well adapted to this purpose on account of its proper location and distribution of underground ducts.

**WITH ADEQUATE FLOOR SPACE WE WILL INSTALL A** much larger switchboard with room for more operators—both local and long distance—to work.

**IF YOU WILL ALLOW US TO BUY THE UNION ELECTRIC** plant, we shall thereby acquire at a bargain an excess of circuits. We will use these to reduce the number of parties on each party line, thereby greatly improving the service.

We can also promise you additional circuits to Davenport and to Moline, providing facilities to keep up with the ever-increasing number of calls.

**DAVENPORT IS ALREADY PUTTING UP A NEW BUILDING** to be occupied by a new switchboard. We shall rebuild our lines at Moline as soon as that city can see what is to its own best interests.

In spite of the obstacles imposed by politics, we shall do our utmost to give the tri-cities the sort of up-to-date service we are establishing throughout the central states.

**THE NEW ROCK ISLAND SWITCHBOARD WILL HAVE ALL**

the latest improvements like those at Galesburg, Peoria, Kankakee, Rockford, South Bend and Youngstown.

The new apparatus is called the 'Youngstown type' of switchboard and provides a great deal of self-acting apparatus to hasten and facilitate the operators' work. Among these improvements are:

The ring-back signal by which the calling party knows that his party is being rung and may control the number of rings that are given.

The self-acting ringing device, by which the switchboard does its own ringing and the operator is relieved of the motion and time now required to depress the ringing key.

The self-acting switch by which the operator is connected with the calling party. This insures prompt answers.

The self-acting switch by which the operator is disconnected from the line as soon as she has given you the number. This insures secrecy.

The new style of party lines, on which each subscriber has his own individual number without any "K," "L," or "Y" suffixes and in case of moving your residences from one part of town to another, your number need not be changed.

New party line apparatus which is more reliable than the present old-fashioned kind, resulting in fewer troubles and fewer false rings.

**THE NEW STYLE SWITCHBOARDS CONTAIN MANY OTHER IMPORTANT** improvements, but these are most noticeable to the public.

## Answers to Questions Being Raised by the Public

**NO**—The property of the Union Electric company has not been forfeited to the city, nor is there any way by which the city can ever acquire it except by purchase.

**NO**—The present Central Union franchise does not regulate our rates. Our policy is to reduce rates wherever conditions warrant it, but nothing is said on this subject in our present franchise, which has 23 years yet to run.

**YES**—The proposed amendment does restrict our rates and thereby protects the public against any possible attempt at extortion by us.

**YES**—We shall continue to give party line service at the lowest possible rates. In most of the cities where we have installed the new style apparatus, we have so far been able to offer party line service at not to exceed \$1.50 per month.

Most residence telephone service is sold at a loss.

High rates for business service make up the deficit.

The business and professional men collect these high rates from their patrons and customers.

Therefore, the ultimate consumer pays the whole telephone bill of the city.

Those who have no telephones, nevertheless, pay their share indirectly.

The telephone is a tax. Two systems are a double tax.

Vote for the consolidation, and thereby cut down the city's total telephone bill.

# Central Union Telephone Co.

A. J. BEVERLIN, Manager.

demonstrate your power with the ballot should not be neglected.

"The first question is the merger question. Should two competing telephone companies be allowed to combine, to create a monopoly and a trust? The newspaper talks by these two companies and their agents, show how anxious they are to combine. The city officials have been offered \$5,000 in cash and these companies are paying the expense of the election, in order to make you feel under obligations to vote in their favor. But who has said anything in your behalf? Do these telephone companies represent your interests? Do you remember how hard the old company fought to keep competition away? Do you remember the service they gave before competition came in?"

"It is an old trick of the telephone trust to buy up competition. The new phone company accepted a franchise which forbids them to sell out without consent of the city. They dug up our pavement, put up poles and wires in our streets and alleys and then sold out to the telephone trust. But they could not get the consent of the city until the present officers came into control. But the law which gives these men control also gives you the right to control them, and before this merger can take place they have to get your consent. And if you vote for the monopoly and in favor of this combination you will be favoring the worst trust in the city.

"These companies have done all in their power to create this trust and you have the result of their actions

before you now. The new phone is no longer a real competitor, and the old phone, the telephone trust is holding this situation up as a horrible example. The trust is responsible for the situation now. If you vote in favor of this combination and this merger you will help them to complete the 'horrible example.' But by selling out without your consent the new phone company has forfeited its franchise and property to you (the city) and if you refuse to give your consent the city will own a telephone plant which sold under the hammer for \$170,000 and which is worth to the city and to you \$100,000, at least. And being worth that amount to the city can you see any good reason why our present city officials should be so anxious to sell us out for \$5,000. The conduits in our streets and alleys alone are worth \$40,000, and any sensible capitalist would be glad to buy this property and franchise for \$500,000. Indeed the telephone trust has paid that amount, and

again I ask you, if this property is worth \$300,000 to the trust, why is it not worth at least \$100,000 to the city (to you)? A vote 'no' on the first proposition means that you are against the telephone trust and that you favor getting what this franchise and property is worth before you consent to sell.

"The second proposition is premature, and appears like another telephone trust trick. By voting in favor of it you will be permitting another franchise, before you have disposed of the one you have, and which your city officials are trying to sell for \$5,000. By allowing another company to come in here, tear up our streets, alleys, and set poles in front of our property, you will damage the city more than \$5,000. A vote 'no' on this proposition means that you want to settle one fight with the trust before you start another; that you do not favor placing in the hands of your city officials another franchise, until they show themselves competent

to sell the one they have for what it is worth on the market.

"The third proposition is being presented by representatives of business I have no authority to speak on this question to bind any one except myself. I do not favor the increase of any license that will increase the amount of money to be received by the present city officials. I feel that men who would offer to sell \$100,000 worth of telephone property for \$5,000 should not be trusted with more money as revenue or otherwise. If you vote in favor of this increased saloon license you take money out of the families of men who patronize saloons, the increase, and put it into the hands of these city officials, you strike at the poor man, and ask him to pay revenue, to the city, which should come from taxable property of the rich man. I do not believe in robbing poor men to help get revenue to be handled by men like we have in office. The license fee

is already too high. The manner in which the present city officials are hampering business, increasing general taxes and causing Rock Island to go back, should cause every voter to look with suspicion upon their actions. A vote 'no' on all these propositions will place these men on the slide for a recall next April. Get busy on election day."

HARRY M. McCASKRIN.

**A Mistake.**  
Circulation Man—That woman who wanted her name kept out of the paper yesterday has stopped her subscription.  
Editor—Why, we kept her name out.  
C. M.—That's the answer.—Toledo Blade.

The pleasant purgative effect experienced by all who use Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets, and the healthy condition of the body and mind which they create, makes one feel joyful. Sold by all druggists.

# VOTE NO

On the question of increasing the saloon license from \$600 to \$1,000

"Shall the ordinance increasing the saloon license fee to One Thousand (\$1,000.00) Dollars per year, be adopted?"

YES	
NO	X

## Vegetables From the Garden Patch

Ready to eat. Finest crisp vegetables packed at the field where grown. All the natural flavor retained. Cheaper than fresh vegetables. These are the kind we want to put on your pantry shelves.

- Corn, Little Duke, extra fancy dwarf, small grain, very sweet, a can ..... 15c
- Carnation, fancy sweet, two cans ..... 25c
- Paxton, extra standard, three cans ..... 25c
- Peas, Little Duke, extra sifted, a can ..... 18c
- Best standard brand, a can ..... 10c
- Lima beans, Little Duke, small green, very fine, a can ..... 15c
- I. X. L. brand, a can ..... 10c
- Peas, Little Duke, green refutice, small stringless, very tender, a can ..... 15c
- I. X. L. brand, a can ..... 10c
- Beans, Little Duke golden wax none better, a can ..... 15c
- I. X. L. brand, a can ..... 10c
- Spinach, finest whole garden leaf, free from grit, a can ..... 15c
- Beets, tiny red beets, can chuck full, a can ..... 15c
- Mixed vegetables, 12 kinds, in a can, fine for soup, a can ..... 10c
- Canned pumpkin and kidney beans, standard quality, three cans ..... 25c

Connect your phone with ours. Our number is 288.

**F. R. Kuschmann, GROCER**  
2207 Fourth Avenue.