

office has turned over evidence of income tax evasions to State's Attorney Swanson to be used in connection with the county prosecutor's investigation of graft in contracts made under the old sanitary district régime.

"None of the evidence and the records gathered in our investigation of tax matters has been given to the state," Mr. Johnson said.

It was pointed out, however, that the state's attorney can and probably will call the witnesses who testified before the federal grand jury to repeat their testimony before the county grand jury.

COUNTY CAN DO OWN RESCUING, OFFICIALS SAY

They Call for No Help in Getting Out of Debt.

BY JOHN BOETTIGER.

The county government, pictured with the other orphans of the storm as requiring the ministrations of the Strawn rescue committee, seems in no need of succor. It may be that the city and school governments are broke, but county officials declare they will be able to get along, with severe skimping, even if there is no Santa Claus.

J. L. Jacobs, efficiency engineer for the county, and M. J. O'Connor, deputy controller, are authorities for the statement that the county is solvent, can struggle along until the taxes are collected, and has no need for extraordinary relief.

Attorney Makes Statement.
Attorney George K. Bowden, who represents both men, last night made the following statement:

"At this time our clients desire to make no statement other than to assert their innocence of the violation of any federal taxing statute. Any further statement prior to a hearing would show a lack of due deference to, and a proper respect for, the federal courts."

Both Chamberlain and Rhoades are expected to surrender and post bond within the next few days.

Gene Oliver Files Demurrer.

Demurrers to the indictments returned against Assessor Oliver, Ralph Capone, brother of Scarface Al Capone, and Oliver J. Ellis, alleged slot machine operator of Chicago Heights, were filed yesterday in the United States District court. The demurrers allege an insufficiency of allegations to constitute a crime against the government. They will be argued before Judge Wilkerson on Monday.

Oliver is represented by State Senator James J. Barbour, Capone by his "family" lawyer, Joseph Lustfield, and Ellis by Edward J. Hess, former assistant United States attorney.

37 Indictments Returned.
A total of thirty-seven indictments were returned by the federal grand jury, most of them naming persons accused of minor offenses against the postal and Harrison anti-narcotic laws. Among the liquor indictments were true bills against Anton Rench, president of the village of Stickney, his wife, Erna, and James Sindelar, bartender in a saloon which was operated in Rench's home.

Sergt. John Roza of the New City police station was also named in a Jones law indictment, charging him with selling a five gallon can of alcohol. His bond was set at \$2,500.

COLD WEATHER DUE FOR CITY OVER WEEK-END

After five mild and foggy days, colder weather is in store for Chicago. The weather man, C. A. Donnell, said last night that the outlook for tomorrow is partly cloudy and "rather cold," with the mercury between 15 and 25 degrees. This is a considerable drop by comparison with the range of 30 to 45 degrees experienced this week. Not since last Sunday has there been any sunshine in Chicago, according to official records; nor is any expected today. The prediction calls for cloudy and colder weather today.

RECLUSE IS ASPHYXIATED.
Frank Pawasky, 75 year old recluse, was asphyxiated yesterday by coal gas fumes from a kitchen stove in his home in Lemont, Ill.

SUBURBS SEEK TO FORCE TAX PAYMENT ON 1927 ASSESSMENT

A petition for a writ of mandamus to compel county officials to extend and collect 1928 taxes on the basis of the 1927 quadrennial assessment was filed in the Supreme court yesterday by attorneys representing Cicero, Berwyn, Maywood, and school districts in the suburbs. The demand was made after county officials rejected petitions urging them to abandon the reassessment.

producing realty which is assessed for more than its returns warrants should band together and take legal steps to invalidate the tax assessments, so as to tie up completely the various branches of the city and county governments. Such action, said Mr. Wolfe, will force the bankers and other financial interests holding county and city paper to take action in the courts to protect their investments.

This will mean federal receiverships, along with management of public affairs by the courts and the financial interests, who may be relied upon, in the opinion of Mr. Wolfe, to put into effect an economical control of government expenditures and activities.

Would Enlist 1,000 Owners.
"To this end," said Mr. Wolfe, "we intend to enlist at least a thousand property owners, to tie up absolutely the funds of all branches of government. Already 75 owners have agreed to cooperate."

Mr. Wolfe said that the state Supreme court in an early case ruled that "the net rather than the gross earnings should be taken into account in fixing the value of property for taxation, where the law requires that all property shall be taxed according to value."

"We believe," he added, "that it is time for all owners of properties capable of producing income to band together to protest the new assessment. This would delay collection of taxes for a considerable time and would endanger the payment of tax warrants, thus furnishing an opportunity for the banks of Chicago to step into the breach and protect their investments by means of a virtual receivership."

Puts Matter Up to Strawn.
"It is my opinion that if Mr. Strawn would divert the interests of this new committee, which at present seems to be a tool for furnishing more money for the tax spenders, into a protest committee for the appointment of a receiver for Chicago by enactment of the legislature, he would be performing a real civic duty to the taxpayers and would afford the banks, whom he is supposed to represent, an opportunity for making good their present loans."

"Recently we asked our attorney, Austin L. Wyman, for an opinion on the matter of receivership, and we believe we have a program which, although radical, is not without precedent in the state of Illinois. Mr. Wyman's opinion is in part as follows:

"Bankrupt though it unquestionably is, the city of Chicago is so large a corporation that practical grounds might interfere with the appointment of a receiver. Still there are authorities for the appointment of receivers for particular funds of a taxing body. In at least two jurisdictions in Illinois the federal court has applied this

ASK ADEQUATE FIRE FORCE

A picture of the fire of 1871, which hangs on the wall in the meeting room of the council finance committee, was used yesterday by advocates of an adequate fire fighting force to illustrate the possible results of a slash in the personnel of that department. Fire Commissioner Goodrich was present at the time to oppose the tentative reduction of 373 men in his department.

"It is not impossible," remarked Clarence Goldsmith, chief engineer of the National Board of Underwriters, as he pointed at the blazing scene shown in the picture, "to have a catastrophe along the lines of that inferno if the fire force is depleted."

Ernest G. Palmer, general counsel for the Chicago Board of Underwriters, warned the aldermen that the country is facing a winter during which the number of fires is expected to be high. The country's fire loss in November was \$40,000,000 more than in November, 1928, he said.

DEPUTIES O. K. ARGENTINE PACT WITH BRITAIN
[Chicago Tribune Press Service.]
BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 13.—After a year of almost complete congressional inactivity, the chamber of deputies in Argentina in a hectic session lasting 17 hours in which the legislators exchanged a number of insults and threats.

They passed a vote of censure on the senate, howled down the opposition, and generally approved of the Anglo-Argentine \$4,000,000 trade agreement as well as a few questions of minor importance.

This session was featured by the government party's ruthless use of its overwhelming majority, particularly in directing a snub to the senate following the latter's recent rebuke of the government's "unconstitutional proceedings."

The deputies' action was looked upon here as virtually tantamount to a solemn assertion that President Yrigoyen can do no wrong.

7 Alaskan Volcanoes Spout Fire, Ship Captain Says
DUTCH HARBOR, Alaska, Dec. 13.—(AP)—Seven volcanoes on the Alaskan peninsula are unusually active, Capt. Anderson of the steamer Starr, west bound on his Christmas voyage, reported when he arrived here today. The Shishaldin was spouting fire from the crater at a height of several hundred feet at very short intervals, he reported.

British Columbia Liquor Board Receives Dry Plea
VANCOUVER, B. C., Dec. 13.—(AP)—A petition to close beer parlors and liquor stores, submitted by the provincial prohibition association because of "widening unemployment" and "suffering and poverty in many families" was being considered by the British Columbia liquor control board today.

Secretly Drafted Transit Franchise Made Public but Much Is Omitted

BY OSCAR HEWITT.

[Chicago Tribune Press Service.]
Waukegan, Wis., Dec. 13.—[Special.]—The proposed franchise for a comprehensive local transportation system in Chicago, which the lawyers for the present companies and the city have been secretly drafting since last August in the private office of Attorney Walter L. Fisher, was first made public here today. The aldermanic subcommittee of the Chicago city council—McDonough, Arvey, Nelson, J. B. Bowler—began reading it this afternoon with the aid of John J. Drennan, the city's special transit lawyer.

The most striking feature of the eighty-eight page document, at first glance, is the number of blanks it contains. Many of the things an interested public would like to know are only blank spaces in the franchise draft.

Capitalization Not Stated.
The capitalization of the combined surface and elevated lines has been determined by the city, but the capitalization is indicated only by a blank in the proposed ordinance. "The working capital to be supplied by the companies is another blank. The damage reserve amount to be set aside for accidents is another blank. The percentage of gross receipts to be used for renewals and depreciation is still another blank."

It is common knowledge that no satisfactory plan of consolidating the surface and elevated lines has been worked out, and of course the ordinance cannot be completed before the financial scheme has been determined. Consequently the ordinance is a blank on the return which shall be allowed the company. The compensation to be paid the city is another blank. The city transit trustee fund is an open space. The application of the gross receipts is a blank and the section relating to the amortizing the capital invested is another page of white paper.

The initial fares under the unified

system will be 10 cents on the elevated, with free transfers on the "L" lines to the surface lines. The fare of the surface lines is to be seven cents, with a free surface line transfer and a transfer to the elevated for three cents extra. On both surface and elevated, three cents will be the fare for children seven to twelve years old. Free transportation will be provided for a child under seven accompanied by an adult paying cash fare.

The period for which the fare schedule is to remain effective is another blank, although the companies have said that they would be willing to make it two years.

In addition to these points yet to be determined, some of which are of major importance, there are decided differences on some of the sections in the draft made public. A letter signed by Britton I. Budd, Leonard A. Busby and Guy A. Richardson for the companies, frankly states that the ordinance is incomplete because of the lack of a financial plan. The companies' officials conclude their letter with: "The companies stand ready and willing to consider with your committee or the main committee any changes in the present draft which upon further study may seem desirable to either party, and at the earliest practicable date take up the drafting of the omitted sections."

Extensions Promise Studied.
In considering the first five of the 30 sections in the proposed ordinance, the aldermen here raised the largest objection to the promise of \$200,000,000 worth of extensions and improvements. The aldermen want to make certain that the public obtains all of the benefits promised, and they are afraid that the guarantee is not sufficiently binding.

Ald. Arvey suggested that the city

retain the power to build any extension on which the company defaults. Another alderman suggested that failure to make extensions shall be sufficient cause to forfeit the franchise, and Ald. McDonough suggested the imposition of heavy penalties for failure to make extensions. Ald. Nelson had the subcommittee adopt a resolution instructing its attorney and engineer to prepare a guarantee which shall be as absolutely binding as it is legal to make it. The companies are to be told, according to the subcommittee action, that this section is unsatisfactory.

Limitations Set Forth.

The section provides that the new company shall make all of the extensions and additions and acquire all of the new equipment described in "exhibit B," which, incidentally, is not available in the first ten years of the franchise. The companies would place the following limitation on that agreement: "The obligations of the company with respect to said additions and extensions or any of them shall be subject to all delays or interruptions occasioned by unavoidable accidents, labor strikes, orders or judgments of any court entered in any suit brought without the connivance of the company, and shall also be subject to the ability of the company to obtain the necessary money therefor from the sale of securities upon terms approved by the transit commission; and the company agrees that it will take all necessary steps which it may lawfully take to procure such money in the manner and for the purpose aforesaid."

The aldermen have a feeling there may be some loopholes in the section as written by the company. They are also unsatisfied with the section drawn by their own lawyers on this subject.

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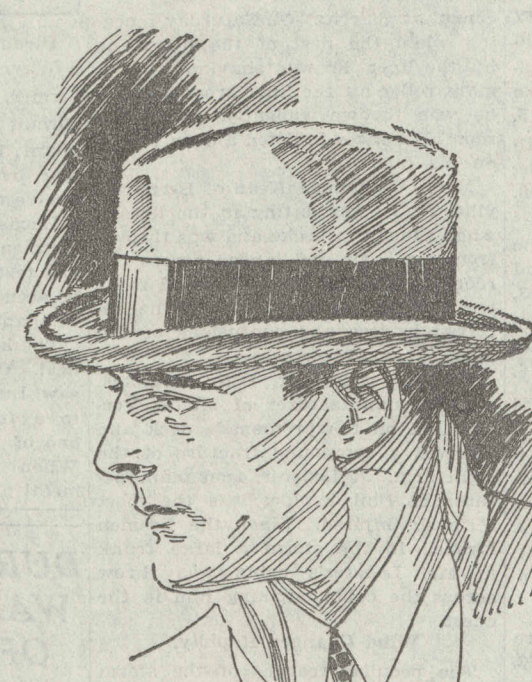
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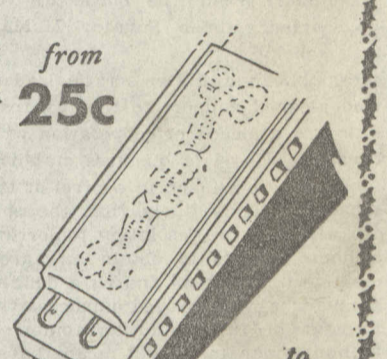
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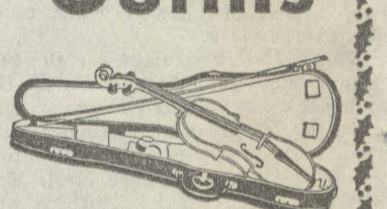
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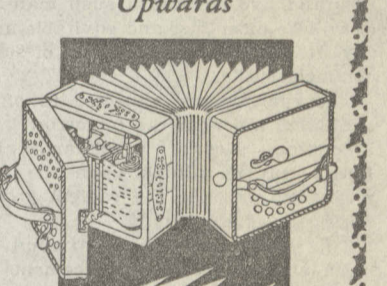


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