

Chicago from witnessing the count of bona fide subscribers of the Automatic Telephone system operated by the Illinois Telegraph and Telephone Company. The corporation's charter provides for forfeiture of its plant to the city should it have less than 20,000 bona fide subscribers receiving its service. The corporation has tried to obtain permission from the city council to sell out to the local Bell Telephone Company. The Penny Phone League objected to this request and started an agitation to enforce the forfeiture provision. Council was finally forced on October 5 to order an investigation. Sixteen organizations joined in a demand that the count of subscribers by Public Service Commissioner Montague Ferry be witnessed by a committee of two aldermen, a reputable accountant, a representative woman and a representative of the Federation of Labor. The organizations making this demand were the Penny Phone League, the Republican County Executive Committee, Prohibition County Committee, Progressive Club, Socialist party committee, Woman's City Club, Woman's Party of Cook County, Political Equality League, Woman's Municipal Committee, Chicago Federation of Labor, Chicago Singletax Club, Woman's Trade Union League, Embroiderers' Union, Chicago Civil Service League, and the Edgewater Improvement Association. By a vote of nine to four the council committee on gas, oil and electric light, at a meeting on November 25, rejected the demand of these organizations. Strong protests were made against this action, and at a subsequent meeting on November 30 the committee surrendered after first endeavoring to have accepted a motion by Alderman Bowler authorizing the mayor to appoint the committee. This was defeated through vigorous opposition of Alderman Merriam, who had led the minority at the previous meeting. Three witnesses will accordingly be selected by the civic organizations. [See current volume, page 996.]



#### Candidacy of Robert Bridges.

The candidacy of Robert Bridges for Collector of Customs of Seattle has attracted attention on account of Mr. Bridges' service as Port Commissioner wherein he prevented a grab by private individuals of the publicly owned water front. In a letter dated November 23 to Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo concerning this matter, Thorwald Siegfried of Seattle wrote as follows:

Mr. Bridges has been of greater service in promoting the welfare of all of the people in the Port district and a greater hindrance to the spread of Plutocratic exploitation than any single person in our community. On that account and on account of his fitness to occupy with credit any position to which he may be appointed, all the people of Seattle, excepting those whose selfish designs he has frus-

trated, would feel a peculiar delight in having Mr. Bridges honored at your hands.



#### Mexico and the United States.

Wild rumors fill the press dispatches from Mexico. General Lucio Blanco, who was to have held the City of Mexico until the arrival of General Villa, evacuated the city on the 25th, and General Zapata took possession. Some disturbance occurred at the time, but quiet was quickly restored; and no violence has since been reported. Assurances of full protection to property and person is given foreigners and natives alike by General Zapata. General Villa and General Zapata are reported to be in accord in their support of the new provisional president, General Gutierrez. General Carranza retired to Vera Cruz, where he is awaiting developments. General Gonzales, one of Carranza's chief supporters, declared himself on the 29th provisional president, and named a cabinet. General Villa, General Gonzales and General Obregon were the three leading Constitutionalist generals who carried the movement to success. They now head three separate movements. The last named is the only one who now sides with General Carranza. [See current volume, page 1139.]



General Villa entered a suburb of the City of Mexico on the 1st at the head of 25,000 men, where he will remain until the arrival of Provisional President Gutierrez. General Villa issued to the press the following statement:

"My only mission is to restore order in Mexico and not to take personal revenge on anyone. I promise that order will be restored at once. I am acting as the subordinate of Provisional President Gutierrez and the national convention.

"The Provisional President is is now the supreme power in Mexico, and I am merely acting as field commander of the armies. All foreigners and foreign property will be protected."



General Funston's army, which evacuated Vera Cruz on the 23d, reached Galveston on the 26th. The chartered steamer Antilla brought 330 American and Mexican refugees.



#### The European War.

Interest has been centered mainly upon the campaign in Poland, where the Russian and German armies are struggling for the mastery, and where a decisive battle will have a direct effect upon the war. Steady progress is reported of the Russian campaign against the Austrians. The Austrians also are reported to have been checked by the Servians and Montenegrins. Little has been reported of Turkish activities, or of the