

conducting the automatic since granting an option to the Bell system has been uncovered by his office.

Crossed wires, thought impossible under the automatic system, are said to be a common occurrence lately.

Ferry reiterated his determination to put a stop to interference with service on the lines of the automatic by the use of a talking device which he ordered removed Monday, an order entirely ignored by the Illinois Telephone & Telegraph Company.

"I will report the matter to the city council," said Ferry. "The automatic corporation is grossly violating the terms of the franchise under which it is operating in granting, for the sake of financial gain, to the talking device corporation the right to use its lines for the benefit of a restricted service and to the detriment of the general service obtaining on those lines."

Several automatic subscribers have complained to Ferry that wherever the megaphonic attachment objected to was in use the clarity of the telephone bell was affected, a buzzing in the horn of the attachment resulting instead. Ferry points out that the installation of the attachment is a violation of the franchise inasmuch as a charge is made for additional service.

In section 6 of the franchise of the Illinois Telephone & Telegraph Company it says: "And the company shall make no further charge for any improvements or devices used for the benefit of the service."

Ferry also says he has enough information to hasten action in the matter of having all nickel-first phones equipped with push-buttons, with which to attract the operators attention.

"Hundreds of dollars are lost to subscribers in Chicago every month through the imperfections of the nickel-first system," said Ferry. "It's a greater robbery than was practiced by means of the old slot devices which long ago were outlawed. And it is more, than that, for the nickel-

first telephone as at present constituted, is an absolute menace to life, home and safety. Fire may break out, burglars may ply their trade, and men, women and children may lay moaning from pain in slot beds without relief possible, simply because of the absence of an emergency button on the nickel-first phone."

The Women's Party of Cook County fired the first shot in the people's war against the telephone merger at the session of the city council.

A resolution protesting against the merger and urging the city to take over the plant of the automatic and operate it as a municipal venture was read to the aldermen.

The council referred it to the gas, oil and electric light committee, where the deal now reposes.

EIGHTEEN MORE OF VOLTURNO PASSENGERS SAVED

New York, Oct. 16.—Wireless confirmed the report that the Dutch oil tanker New York, not included in the roster of the Volturno rescue fleet on the first day, has on board 18 survivors—15 women and 3 children. She is proceeding to Rotterdam. This reduces estimates of the Volturno dead to 118.

Money for the relief of the survivors coming here penniless is coming in so slowly that Jacob Schiff, treasurer of the Red Cross Society, advanced \$5,000 for immediate use. This is to be refunded if the other contributions amount to enough to make it possible. The fund today only totaled \$1,493.

DIGGING FOR MINERS

Cardiff, Wales, Oct. 16.—Rescuers today continued to work in the wrecked Universal colliery, despite the fact that there were no signs of any of the entombed miners being alive.

The bodies of 53 have been recovered and 371 are still in the mine,