

## THE DAY BOOK

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### A LETTER TO LAWSON

Victor F. Lawson, Publisher Daily  
News:

My Dear Vic—I thought I would sit down and write you a few lines about a piece I read in your paper Wednesday evening. Being a newspaper man myself I like to set my brother publishers right when I see their trolley's off, and having noticed that your batting average has been low lately, I thought perhaps I might help you get your eye on the ball.

What caught my attention was this paragraph in a very able editorial, which I assume you wrote yourself:

"The ordinance vetoed by the mayor on Monday evening was that intended to utilize the power of the city government to help the street car strikers win their strike against employing corporations that stood ready to arbitrate all differences with the strikers. It forbade the employment as conductors and motormen of any persons who had not had a certain period of instruction by the men on the strike. Mayor Thompson made it known that the corporation counsel held the ordinance in question to be in violation of both the federal and state constitutions. Even if valid a measure of that kind should not be passed without full consideration of its probable effects."

Now, to readers who don't think that would appear to be a very wise observation. But if they really did

stop to think, Vic, they would realize that Ald. Kennedy's ordinance would not have amounted to shucks unless passed the very Monday night it was introduced.

The strike was on. Thieves, thugs and gunmen were then in Chicago or on their way to operate the cars. If council had gone to sleep and thought deeply over that measure for even one short week hundreds of people might have been killed or injured.

Waiting a week would have been about as wise as calling a council of doctors from the next county before using a pulmotor on a drowning man.

The ordinance may have been faultily drawn. It may have been unconstitutional. BUT IT HELPED DO THE WORK. And that was the important thing. I think it made it much easier for Mayor Thompson to bring Blair, Busby and Budd to their knees.

I'm no lawyer, Vic, but I think I could draw up an ordinance, or show a lawyer how to draw one, that would stand the constitutional test. I think you can do a whole lot of things to preserve life and health under the health and police laws. And certainly if the city can regulate chauffeurs or drivers of vehicles in order to protect life and limb, the same authority can protect the people by requiring efficiency examinations of men who are to run street cars through the public streets.

And I think council should still pass an ordinance that would have the permanent effect that the Kennedy ordinance was intended to have. It is a mighty good way to prevent Rockefeller tactics in Chicago.

Only I would make it even broader than Kennedy made it. I would make it broad enough to prevent newspaper publishers as well as street railway managers from hiring thieves, crooks, thugs and gunmen and swearing them in as deputy policemen to make war on locked-out workingmen.

Now, honestly, Vic, don't YOU