

OFFICE OF THE  
**COUNTY CLERK.**  
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

M. W. RYAN,  
CLERK.

Chicago July 12<sup>th</sup> 1886

A. F. Walcott Esq.  
Dear Sir

I returned from St Louis this morning badly used up being snowed in for two days, I investigated the Gas fight going on there now and I must say it would take volumes to properly describe it.

The Philadelphia crowd have suffered from what I can learn. Plunger Walton lead the fight in the interest of the New Gas Co. and it is amusing to hear how he splurged around with the Aldermen from gambling houses to Hotel where he would give an elegant lay-out

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and then from there to other places  
of resort not necessary to mention they  
got an ordinance and the Mayor  
vetoed it and as I understand they  
will have a hard time to pass it  
over his veto.

It has cost them Forty  
thousand in the lower house they  
have two houses an Upper and  
Lower; The lower house has passed  
it over the Mayors vetoe but I think  
it will fail in the upper

There are two gas companies in  
St Louis the Laeclde which charges  
\$150 per thousand and the St Louis  
gas co. which charges \$250

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I understand the Philadelphia Capitalists as they are called have bought a controlling interest in the St Louis Co. which has exclusive rights to certain portions of the City until 1890 and those who think they know, they are trying or will try to get control of the LaCade and do not intend to build works.

If you think of looking for an ordinance in St Louis I have no fear but I can get one but the price of gas must not be over \$1<sup>25</sup> per thousand Lamps \$20<sup>00</sup> and if you could light

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City Hall free, so that the people would think you were great public benefactors that is the way it was put to me by the man who can get anything he wants from the Council. I can knock the Philadelphians out if you only say so but I would like you to go to St Louis first and form your own opinion.

I will send you an ordinance of the new St Louis Co. and if you think of looking for an ordinance send it back to me and I will have a similar one drafted with any amendment

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You may suggest and I will have it presented to the Council. It would be well to charter the Equitable Gas Light and Coke Co of Ills. to do business in all the States and Territories if you charter in Missouri you have to put up half the Capital Stock in the hands of the Treasurer who will have to be a resident of that State, you can have Mr Lowry look up the laws of Missouri on that point, A Company chartered in Illinois to do business in Missouri

I sent you some St Louis

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papers with considerable gas  
 matter

Mr Ryan's Father-in-law  
 has just died and I will not  
 be able to go to Kansas City  
 for a few days and hope to have  
 an answer to this letter before  
 I leave. Excuse mistakes and  
 errors as I am in a great hurry  
 hoping soon to hear from you

Remain Respectfully Yours &c.  
 Henry H. Gurren