

SHANK CHARGES PROPERTY HIDDEN

Is Informed Merchants Sequester \$23,000,000 From Tax Books.

Merchants within the mile square hid \$23,000,000 worth of personal property from assessors who fixed tax valuations this year, Mayor Shank today said he was informed.

"I am going to take the city council and others on a trip through some of these downtown stores to see whether valuations the owners have made affidavit to are fair," said the mayor.

"George Gay and John Feasey of the Pettis Dry Goods Company told me last night in my office they would testify before the State tax board the city is getting cheated out of \$25,000,000 worth of valuation right in the mile square."

Orders Work Stopped

Pending his investigation the mayor ordered all work on the city tax levy stopped. If the mayor can get something added to the valuation, which the county auditor said would be reduced \$20,000,000, the tax rate will not be so high in 1923.

Controller Joseph L. Hogue had just estimated on the reduced valuation the city levy would be \$1,031, an increase of 8.3 cents over this year.

The mayor discussed the situation with the State board of tax commissioners. He said they told him they were very interested, had not thought of such a thing, and wanted him to collect his evidence and bring it before them after Aug. 8. The mayor said he also would go before the county board of review.

Mayor's Ire Aroused

Ire of his honor was aroused by discovery of a small furniture store in E. Washington St., is valued at \$100,000, while a big one in W. Washington St. is the same. He said he was informed the latter had at least a million dollars' worth of goods out on payments which it still owns and should be paying taxes on.

Upon indication the city council would cut the recreation levy from 2 to 1 cent, Hogue decided to ask for only 1 cent. This will give the department about \$50,000 to operate on. It has \$113,000 this year.

ARE YOU THIRSTY? THERE'S THE RIVER

Only Eight Public Drinking Places for Thousands Downtown.

A reporter, thoroughly in accord with prohibition, set out to find a drink of water.

He tramped the business district over and found:

Four streams oozing from iron pipes at the four corners of the monument.

Another from pipe fountain on the indescribable pile in the north court-house yard.

An honest to goodness sanitary fountain at Massachusetts Ave. and Pennsylvania St.

And that was all.

He thought he might quench his thirst at the public comfort station, Kentucky Ave. and Illinois St. It was marked "Closed." Board of works office reported repairs in progress.

The park board intends to install two fountains in University Square.

Then there will be eight public places where the thousands of persons who tread hot downtown pavements may drink water.

ROAD TESTS PLANNED

Purdue University Signs Contract With U. S. Bureau.

LAFAYETTE, Aug. 2.—Studies to determine the wearing qualities of gravel and stone roads and the wearing ability of different types of concrete roads under various conditions of traffic have been arranged in a new contract just drawn up between the engineering experiment station of Purdue University and the United States Bureau of Public Roads.

It is expected the United States Bureau of Public Roads will station two research engineers at Purdue this fall to help carry on the tests.

BOOST INDIANA RATES

Discrimination Shown as Compared to Illinois Freight Tariff.

Freight rates from Indiana to Missouri River points have been subjected to three increases which did not apply to Illinois, railroad representatives admitted yesterday at an interstate commerce commission hearing at the Federal building. Indiana shippers are fighting for a reduction of rates to the Illinois level.

FOUNDRY MEN STRIKE

One Hundred Workers Join Walk-out at Muncie Plant.

MUNCIE, Ind., Aug. 2.—A hundred chippers and grinders at the Muncie Foundry and Manufacturing Plant walked out today in protest against a reduction of wages. The plant will be closed unless the men return.

PLANT SHUTS DOWN

Lack of Coal Forces Terre Haute Factory to Suspend.

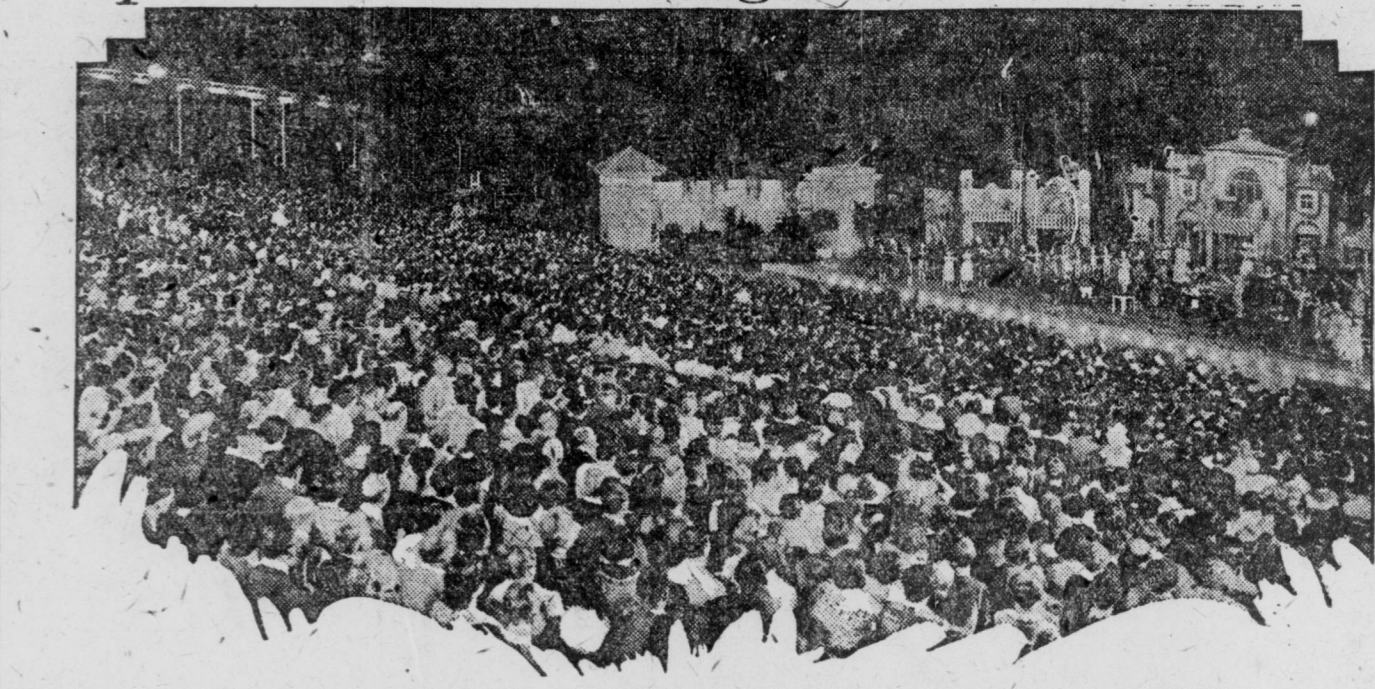
By Times Special
TERRE HAUTE, Ind., Aug. 2.—Two hundred men were thrown out of work here when the Terre Haute Paper Company plant was forced to shut down from lack of coal.

HART HEADS K. C.

By United Press
ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., Aug. 2.—Luke E. Hart, St. Louis, was today elected supreme advocate of the Knights of Columbus at the annual convention here.

Says He Stole \$600
Charles E. Miller, 42, London, Ind., was arrested today on the charge of grand larceny growing out of a warrant filed by Esther Westley, 841 Birch St., which alleged he stole \$600 from her.

St. Louis Profits Financially Through Free Opera in World's Largest Out-Door Theater



By NEA Service
ST. LOUIS, Aug. 1.—When most cities go into the opera business there is sure to be a follow-up of financial deficit and consequent city-wide wailing.

St. Louis is not only regularly in the opera business, but is running the entertainments at a big financial profit, and in addition is providing free entertainment for 1,700 persons who otherwise could not afford to attend shows.

In the world's largest open-air theater, this municipality has, for four years every night during two summer months, entertained from 6,000 to 9,000 people with good music and clean fun. It has made light opera an art for all the people. It has provided a free school to which St. Louis is indebted for a chorus of singers and dancers that the best of private impresarios can well envy.

How It Started
But does it pay in dollars and cents? It does, indeed. It wasn't for financial profit that it was founded, but it has done so well in that respect that the management has been puzzled once or twice to decide what to do with accumulated funds.

"Material greatness isn't everything in the life of a city," remarked a group of leading St. Louis business men four years ago. "Entertainment and encouragement of the arts and mental improvements are to be considered, too."

There was a deficit at first but the backers met the loss cheerfully. The next season the venture did better financially. Last year there was a profit of \$24,000.

Have Free Seats
"What shall we do with all this money?" asked the surprised management, for the association's charter requires the re-investment of such funds in the enterprise itself. Part of the

\$24,000 was spent for new seats and other theater needs, but a goodly sum still remained.

"Let's spend it in training our own chorus, and develop finally a Free Municipal School of Light Opera," some one suggested.

And this is what's being done now. During the present eight-week season, eight operas and operettas have been given at a cost of approximately \$20,000 each, and when the books are audited a profit of some \$40,000 will be shown.

Municipal opera audiences are as democratic as any crowds at a baseball game. For those who could not attend otherwise, there are 1,700 free seats.

Thereupon they formed the Municipal Theater Association, established the present beautiful open-air auditorium in the cool setting of Forest Park and proceeded to produce a series of high-grade musical entertainments.

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INSPECTOR QUILTS; WHITE IS NAMED

Cletus L. Weaver, Officer on Police Force for Twenty-Two Years, Resigns.

Cletus L. Weaver, inspector of police, and for twenty-two years a ranking officer in the local department, today handed his resignation to Chief of Police Herman Rikhoff. He and his wife will take a trip to Asheville, N. C., and from there go by boat to New York. They will then make a tour of Canada.

Capt. Walter White was promoted to inspector, Lieut. Roy Pope to captain, Sergt. Arthur McGee to lieutenant, Patrolman Walter Coleman and Barrett Ball to sergeants.

Fireman Suspended
Fireman John E. Doyle was found guilty of conduct unbecoming an officer and suspended thirty days, dating from July 23.

Charges of unbecoming conduct were placed against Patrolman Charles Mitchell and Fireman William P. Metzler.

Weaver has had twenty-three years of service in the police department.

Detective Reinstated
William Feeney, former city detective, was reinstated as patrolman.

Public Likes to Pay More for Thrills, Confectioner's Experience Indicates

"If it is out of the ordinary you can charge more for it," said a veteran confectioner and soda dealer today.

"I have been in business for thirty-five years and have learned a lot about human nature in that time. Back in the old days when natural sodas were in use at 99 per cent of the soda fountains I got hold of some of the artificial paper kind, which were a novelty at that time. By putting an extra club-dub or two on the

fountain and using artificial straws I was able to charge 10 cents for ice cream sodas when the prevailing price was 5 cents.

"Now the situation is exactly reversed. Today paper straws are in universal use. So I have gone back to the old natural straws and by having them packed in little paper tubes holding two straws each our store now has no trouble getting 15 cents for a 10-cent soda."

HITS MILK TRUCK
William Beck Arrested On Four Charges.

William L. Beck, 3035 Kenwood Ave., was arrested on four charges today when a car he was driving struck a milk truck driven by Dolphus Carmichael, 907 W. Twenty-Seventh St., at Forty-Eighth and Meridian Sts., and injured Carmichael. Failure to stop after an accident, assault and battery, speeding and failure to display certificate of title plate were the charges lodged against Beck.

REED RUNS FIRST IN VOTES COUNTED

Senator Appears Winner Over Wilson Favorite in Missouri Primary Election.

By United Press
ST. LOUIS, Mo., Aug. 2.—Senator James A. Reed, bitterly denounced by former President Woodrow Wilson, in the Missouri primary election fight, was running ahead of his opponent, Breckinridge Long, for the Democratic senatorial nomination, in returns from yesterday's primary.

Returns from more than two-thirds of the State's 3,434 precincts show Reed leading by nearly 20,000 votes.

R. B. Brewster, Kansas City lawyer, apparently has won the Republican nomination for the United States senatorship. In the six-cornered fight, Brewster was plying up a substantial majority over William Sacks, "wine and beer" candidate.

Meanwhile some citizens of West Indianapolis announced intention to seek disannexation before standing for either continuance of the present smelly garbage plant or construction of a new one.

If West Indianapolis gets Sellers' farm, where the plants are located, disannexed along with its own territory, Indianapolis can annex Sellers' farm again and go right ahead, Elliott said.

SENATOR DIES



WILLIAM E. CROWE

By United Press
PITTSBURGH, Aug. 2.—Senator William E. Crowe died here today. He has been ill for some time.

Crowe was appointed to fill the unexpired term of the late Senator Knox.

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