

TAX RATE HERE IS LOW, NATION SURVEY SHOWS

Only Washington, D. C., and Cincinnati Have City Tax Rates as Low as Indianapolis, Report.

The exceptions of Washington, D. C., and Cincinnati, Ohio, Indianapolis had the lowest tax rate of any city in the United States in the group of cities between 100,000 and 500,000 inhabitants.

Taxes for State and local government costs collected in 1925 from homes upon property in Indianapolis amounted to \$2.58 per \$100 of valuation for that part of the city inside Center Township; \$2.67 in the Perry Township portion; \$2.83 in the Wayne Township part; \$2.84 in the Washington Township part and \$2.86 in Indianapolis in Warren Township. Center Township is bounded by Thirty-Eighth St. on the north, Emerson Ave. on the east, Belmont Ave. on the west, and Troy Ave. on the south. Wayne Township is West Indianapolis, Washington, north, Warren, east and Perry south.

The valuation of property subject to taxes collected in 1925 in Indianapolis was \$636,844,930. Sixty-nine per cent of this value represents realty and 31 per cent personal property. Considering cities having a population between 300,000 and 500,000, it is disclosed that realty represents a proportion of valuation larger than 69 in per cent in New York, Minneapolis, Seattle, Rochester and Jersey City and a smaller proportion than 69 per cent in Washington, New Orleans, Cincinnati and Kansas City.

In the year 1925, significant improvements were made in the form and structure of city and school budgets. The changes were designed to facilitate review of proposed budget expenditures by citizens and organizations having an interest in local governmental costs. The tax rates established in 1925 for taxes to be collected in 1926, were somewhat higher than the rates of the year previous. But, the taxes collected are to be devoted to wise and necessary expenditures. A large burden of responsibility in provision of suitable school building facilities was properly assumed in the budget for 1926. This in itself accounted for most of the increase in tax rates. Marion County showed a small increase over the previous year. This was accounted for by reason of the fact that no sizable balances will exist at the end of the year 1925, for use in 1926, as had been the case in the year before.

CITY'S GROWTH SEEN BY AYRES

Head of Local House Speaks Optimistically.

Indianapolis is in sound condition, according to Frederic M. Ayres, head of L. S. Ayres & Co. The year 1925 was marked by "sound Hoosier progress," he said.

"Indianapolis has had another year of good, solid growth," declared Ayres. "The growing prosperity of the Nation, building slowly, quietly, soundly, has been fully reflected here. More home building, of a permanent type, is in evidence. There is no flurry of wild speculation—just good, sound, conservative Hoosier progress."

"Better taste in dress, more emphasis on sound new styles, a demand for better home furnishings are evidence of a return to that balanced state of mind which prevailed before the war."

"For the next year I believe we may reasonably expect that the present rate of progress will continue."

STORE EXPANDS FLOOR SPACE

One of the really veteran business houses of Indianapolis, L. Strauss & Co., in 1925 completed an expansion of floor space that makes it one of the best equipped men's furnishings stores in the Middle West. Though founded in 1853, nearly seventy-three years ago, the company is one of the liveliest in the city, and its ads are read by followers regularly as others follow their favorite columnists.

The history of the company has been one of steady growth, involving several changes of location, until the store is now located just east of Illinois St., on the south side of Washington.

The policy of the firm, of which A. L. Block is president, is to advertise Indianapolis, as well as itself. The store has a pension system for employees which takes care of accident, sickness and age. Employees have a cooperative association which shares in profits.

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Mayor Shank Points With Pride to Achievements of Last Four Years



BY MAYOR SHANK

You see, it was this way. I figured when I went in as mayor I'd try to pass out a little stuff to some part of town except the north side and to help the ordinary fellow a little.

Now you know they kid me about being an informal sort of a fellow, but that helps if they think you're so stupid because they're not on their guard.

I claim our administration has done as much for the average citizen as any this city ever had and I'll prove it.

Take the municipal theaters at Brookside and Garfield Parks. Why, they gave me the devil for them, but the thousands of poor people that see those shows G. Carlton Guy stages there for nothing, people who haven't the money to see a real show, have had a little sunshine. And we did it along with building ten or twelve new playgrounds for a smaller recreation department budget than the previous administration.

Taxes Lower

Yeh, and you know our general tax rate has been lower too.

We inherited bills of \$300,000 from the Jewett administration, but we're leaving all bills paid and about \$100,000 in the pot. And we've reduced the bonded indebtedness too. The city hospital we found \$113,000 in debt, but Sol Schloss and his bunch actually crawled out from under and built a surplus. And they raised the hospital's rating from 3C to A plus, in addition to building a new nurses' home and administration building and starting construction of an \$85,000 surgery ward. We also put in a psychopathic ward out there, where they keep people

suspected of insanity, instead of in jail. Ask the doctors, too, about that new X-ray equipment they installed there.

Less Crime Here

You can curse the police department all you want, but our town has less crime than any other city and boy, you know it's dry as a bone!

Why, Ernie Kingston and the board of safety members got the cops to clean up the town right. They pinched ten thousand bootleggers in four years, and all my friends have been giving me the devil since because they've interfered with their supply. Capt. William Paulsell of the booze squad has made a national reputation.

And our night riding squads have sure brought in the burglars and crooks. The big boys in this criminal game now give Indianapolis the cold shoulder.

Guess you've noticed how we're ahead of most towns in stop-and-go signs. Why, we've put in more than fifty and are making a lot of cops

they replace available for duty changing handits.

One-Way Traffic

And this one-way traffic on Meridian St., they say, is one of the best stunts we ever pulled. It clears the downtown district evenings faster than ever before.

But you can't deny Fire Chief O'Brien and his aids have made the fire department absolutely the best in the country. The class for fire insurance has been reduced from 2 1/2 to 1 1/2, and I don't mean maybe when I say that means dollars and cents to these business men. The fire prevention department we started on nothing now gets prize of all the country.

The policemen and firemen are with us, too, because we didn't forget them on the high cost of living. We gave them 50 cents a day raise and they sure needed it, with potatoes and eggs as high as they are. And we kept the firemen warm by installing steam heat in the fire houses.

We've tried to make golf a poor man's game here and have kept up all courses, in addition to adding Brightwood and South Side links.

Then we built nine bridges over Pogue's Run, a \$33,000 swimming pool for the west side at Rhodus Park and established a number of municipal beaches and pools along the river and over the city.

Street Car Service

Now I knew the Indianapolis Street Railway Company couldn't get along on a nickel fare and we let them charge 7 cents. But we made them fix their tracks and give better service. Don't forget too, they now take you to Broad Ripple at city rates.

John Duvall won't have to come across much for his home town, Broad Ripple, because we've done it already. We gave them paved streets and sewers out that way and then turned around and built a three million dollar sewage disposal plant and started the Bean Creek interceptor sewer people had been trying to put over for fifteen years.

And those men on the board of works have sure made good. They built 350 miles and resurfaced fifty miles of streets in the last four years. And, oh, boy, how rough they were and full of chuckholes when we went into office. Brightwood, Haughville and southeast Indianapolis never had streets like these before.

Our board widened Delaware St. in connection with building the bridge across Fall Creek, widened Illinois St., Senate Ave., East St., Ohio St., from Alabama to East St. and built a fountain for Fountain Square.

Clean Streets

John Walker kept the streets clean, 350 more miles of them, on less money than in the last administration.

The street commissioner's department got so good they gave almost ambulance service on repairs to streets and sewers, a thing unheard of before.

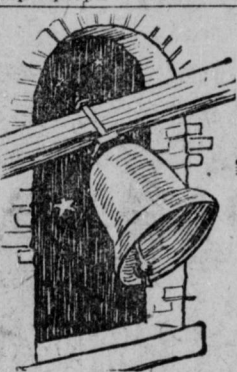
Our board of works signed contracts for track elevation and work totalling millions of dollars and work already is under way. Tell me the south side won't bloom like a rose!

Then the board went ahead with flood prevention, and we just a few days ago opened the Oliver Ave. and Kentucky Ave. bridges across White River, completed in record time.

**THORP
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COMPLETE**

We Wish You a Very Prosperous New Year

The
Thorp Awning Shoppe
2407 College. Har. 4092



A Happy New Year

This has been a wonderful year and we are not unmindful of the fact that our success during the past twelve months is due in a great measure to the thousands who have found pleasure and profit in the patronage they have so freely given us.

We are known throughout the city and state as the store where one may always find "Everything in Music." It has been a pleasant privilege to be of service to so many during the past year.

May the New Year bring to you and yours peace and prosperity in abundance.

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Vegetable Oil Antiseptic Soap**

It cleans, heals and invigorates the skin. Is pure, safe and it satisfies, 10c per bar.

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640 N. West St. Lin. 8117 Indianapolis, Ind.



The Automobile Accident Age

E. G. Ferguson Illinois

No Protest No. 7016

July 6th, 1925

At sight pay to the order of Delia Toms Administratrix of Estate of Frank Toms, deceased, and Beasley & Zulley, her Attorneys, *****Five-Thousand-Two-Hundred-Sixty and 41/100 (\$5,260.41)

in settlement of claim of Delia Toms against

Johanna Ketterer, and in full settlement of judgment obtained in the case of Delia Toms Administratrix of the Estate of Frank Toms, deceased vs Johanna Ketterer in the City Court of St. Louis, Case Numbered 34300.

The Federal Underwriters, Inc. Attorney in Fact

On the Fletcher Savings and Trust Company Indianapolis, Ind.

A. A. Schell

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