

UTILITIES PAY TENTH OF TAXES IN COUNTY

HOW INDIANAPOLIS PUBLIC IS SERVED

al of \$1,750,000 Turned in to Courthouse Yearly, Summary Shows—Pay Roll of 7,000 Aids City's Prosperity.

Indianapolis public utilities in 1925 paid in city and county a total of \$1,750,000, roughly one-tenth of the amount collected at the courthouse.

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\$5,000,000 Spent

At the same time programs of improvement and extension were completed that approximated an investment of \$5,000,000. The year was the biggest, from this standpoint, in preparations for the future, the utilities have known. According to C. L. Kirk, chairman of the Indianapolis committee of the Indiana Public Utility Association, "The work was done and more money expended than in any previous single year."

"Indianapolis utilities in 1925 completed programs of improvement and extension that approximated an investment of \$5,000,000," said Kirk, who is vice president and general manager of the Citizens Gas Company.

"Service facilities of the Indianapolis utilities were already above the average for American cities. This new construction work, therefore, was based chiefly on future requirements."

"The utility industry in Indianapolis believes the city must and will continue to grow and expand. Each utility therefore invests in the city's future, preparing facilities for use of a greater population than the city now has. This is a necessary part of the operation of a successful utility company, for no utility can succeed unless it has facilities available at all times for service demands as they arise. The utility that is invested in preparation for future needs is, of course, in the best position to earn a return."

Mains Cited

Mains and service lines in outlying, thinly populated districts, represent a loss until homes fill these regions. But on the other hand, if the city is to grow, utility services must be ready for builders when they want them. Indianapolis utility operators are confident the city's growth will continue unchecked, and have therefore in 1925 carried on a tremendous program of new construction.

"The wisdom of such a program is to be seen in the reports of various companies as to new services supplied. One company reports more

than 6,000 new customers in 1925, a second lists some 3,700 new service connections, while a third provided service to 4,400 new consumers. The various companies now serve from 65,000 to 85,000 customers, these figures showing the widespread use in this city of modern conveniences and necessities.

"Provision of service on such a large scale naturally requires heavy investment, expert management and the employment of many people. Some idea of the magnitude of the utility industry in Indianapolis may be had from a statement of the taxes paid by the local companies. In 1925, Indianapolis utilities paid in city and county taxes, a total of \$1,750,000. This is roughly one-tenth of the taxes collected at the courthouse. Approximately 7,000 wage earners are employed by the local companies, whose joint pay roll, if assembled, would be found to comprise a huge fraction of the city's money over."

Good Service

Indianapolis utilities are willing to stand on comparison of the services supplied in this city with the services in other progressive American communities. They are confident consumers here are served as well as consumers elsewhere, and even feel that Indianapolis service is better than the service in many other cities. As far rates charged the consumers, Indianapolis rates are generally below the average in other cities of similar size, and in no case are they above the average."

Kirk reviewed several of the more notable construction programs undertaken by the local companies, and said that interurban, electric and telephone companies connecting the city with the rest of the State also have been active. In fact, he said, the year has been marked by building activity on the part of utilities throughout Indiana.

Among improvements made by the local companies during the year was a 12,000,000 gallon daily capacity addition to the water company's filter plant, with two new pumping units, each having a daily capacity of 6,000,000 gallons. The water company laid some thirty-three miles of new water mains.

The gas company put down approximately thirty-one miles of mains, bringing its total pipe system up to 733 miles with 85,000 service pipes. Perhaps the biggest addition to the distribution system was a sixteen-inch pipe high pressure main from the Langsdale Ave. plant to Tibbs Ave. and Sixteenth St., with a twelve-inch low pressure main from Riverside Pkwy. to the same point. The company also made a number of improvements in production facilities.

Both the electric light and power companies made numerous improvements. The Merchants Heat and Light Company began work on the new street lighting system and carried on its part of an interconnection program linking Indianapolis with the new power plant at Dresser and other plants out in the State. The Indianapolis Light and Heat Company added considerably to its investment in generating equipment, and continued development of its underground cable system. Interurban companies serving the city improved service by the addition of bus lines and a bus terminal station, and in several cases by the purchase of new steel rolling stock for the traction lines.

The Indiana Bell Telephone Company's new work during the year consisted mainly of additions to central office equipment in both the manual and machine switching exchanges. The company installed a large amount of aerial and underground cable.

"The utility industry," said Kirk, "is one that can never stand still. The utility company that does not go forward will slip backward. In the same way, a city that enjoys

progressive, modern, forward looking utility services must go forward. When the utility companies are not able to extend and improve facilities, anticipating future needs, the city cannot develop. No city in America can develop commercially or industrially without the best facilities that can be provided by the power, gas, water, traction and telephone companies."

Indianapolis is well supplied in all these fundamental necessities."

Upper left, interior of one of six new water filters of Indianapolis Water Company; upper right, battery of storage batteries in Kentucky Ave. station of Indianapolis Light and Heat Company; lower left, new street lights of Merchants Heat and Light Company around Circle; lower right, De Luxe electric train of Interstate Public Service Company. Inset one of new Indianapolis Street Railway Company buses.

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