

UTILITIES PAY TENTH OF TAXES IN COUNTY

HOW INDIANAPOLIS PUBLIC IS SERVED

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.

Approximately 7,000 wage earners employed by the local companies whose joint pay roll represented a large fraction of the city's money turnover.

\$5,000,000 Spent

At the same time programs of improvement and extension were completed that approximate an investment of \$5,000,000. The year was the biggest, from this standpoint, in preparations for the future.

According to C. L. Kirk, chairman of the Indianapolis committee of the Indiana Public Utility Association, more work was done and more money expended than in any previous single year.

Indianapolis utilities in 1925, completed programs of improvement and extension that approximate 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 the 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 demand as they arise. The utility that is invested in preparation for future needs is, of course, spending time in earning a return."

Mains Cited

"Gas 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 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 turnover."

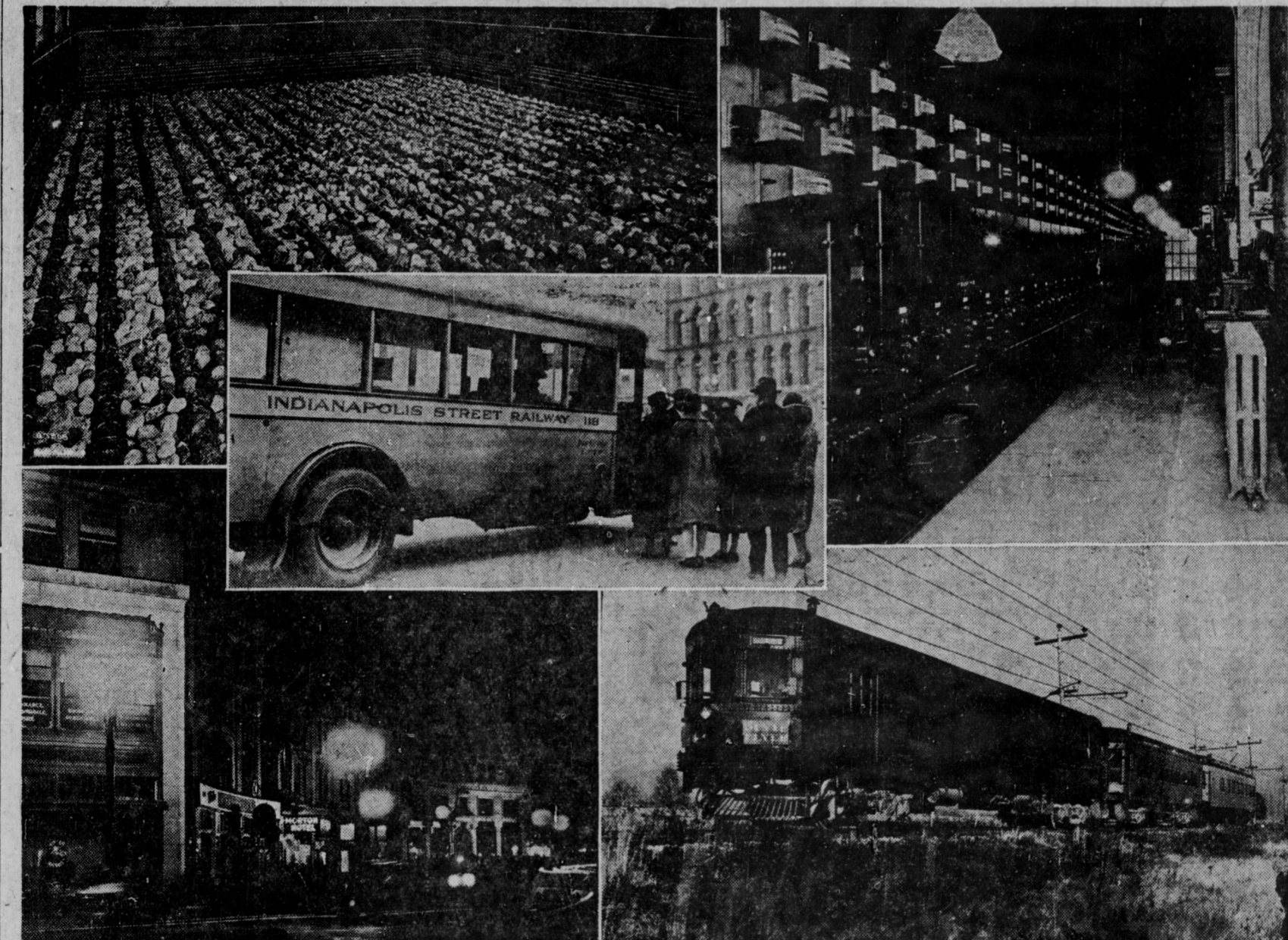
Good Service

"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 as 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 sys-



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.

tem up to 733 miles with \$5,000 service pipes. Perhaps the biggest addition to the distribution system was a sixteen-inch pipe high pressure main from the Langdale 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.

The street railway company, besides carrying on a program of track improvement, began the use of buses for feeder lines in outlying territory where connections could be made with existing street car lines, and added some long distance bus lines for suburban districts not hitherto directly connected with transportation facilities to the downtown district.

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."

MILLION SPENT TO GIVE BETTER WATER SERVICE

Improvements Include Pipe Lines, Filtration and Pumping Plants.

BIG YEAR IS PLANNED

Fire Protection Increased, Says General Manager.

The Indianapolis Water Company in the year just closing made extensive additions to its equipment. Among these are six new rapid sand filters. The new filters automatically clean themselves when the water flow is reversed.

The picture shows the underdrain system of one of the filters, consisting of cast iron pipe laterals, perforated to receive the purified water which filters down through sand and gravel.

These perforated cast iron pipes are surrounded by coarse gravel, carefully placed around the perforations to prevent finer gravel or sand from entering the pipe. There are six more layers of gravel placed upon this first course, varying in size from about three inches in diameter to coarse sand. Each layer of gravel is very carefully selected and screened to obtain particles of uniform diameter and quality and finally a layer of quartz sand two feet thick is placed upon the supporting gravel. This sand is very carefully screened for the size and for the uniformity that produces the best filter medium. It is shipped in from Michigan.

In the purification process the raw water filters downward through the sand and gravel, enters the strainer-pipe system and is collected and metered.

After a time, impurities collect upon the sand surface and are removed by back washing or reversing the flow of water from the underdrain system upward through the gravel and sand and overflowing into collecting troughs, which carry the impurities off into the drain.

The Tree of Light

Where once there shone a single star

To guide the wise men from afar,
Now millions glow in welcome cheer
Proclaiming wide, Christmas is here!

They deck the dark boughs of the pine:

From every branch the bright lamps shine,

Fed by the distant dynamo

To brighten up Kris Kringle's show.

Clear lamps that dull the orbs above,
Lighting the sign of hope and love:
With all our hearts we come to thee,
Thou merry, cheery, Christmas Tree!

—Don C. Seitz.



Comfortable, Roomy Sleeping Cars

Travel By Tradition
THE INTERSTATE WAY
Indianapolis - Louisville



A National Symbol of Good Will



THE men and women of the Interstate Public Service Company feel a deep sense of pride in the fact that electricity contributes so much of warmth and beauty to the celebrations in homes and churches and public squares all over Indiana this year. As these lights gleam forth, symbolic of peace and good will, we are deeply inspired to put forth even greater effort in serving Indiana communities electrically. Wishing you a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.

INTERSTATE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY

General Office: Wild Bank Building - Indianapolis, Indiana

The Romance of the Utility Industry

The romance of the utility industry is already with us. It is here to those who will stop to analyze the wonderful advance Indiana has made during the last year.

An outstanding feature of the utility industry has been its success in the application of electrical art to the complex daily needs of an ever widening community.

In every field of human activity, in the home, office, workshop and on the farm, will be found one of the products of this Company—and the results of its work.



De Luxe Parlor-Buffer Cars

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