

CITY CLUB STUDYING THE TAX SITUATION

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expects to make a careful analysis of such operating costs, which, in conjunction with the results of their previous studies, should enable them to offer some valuable suggestions for needed economies.

In view of the extremely depressed condition of business with its consequent lack of employment and reduction of income which has seriously affected practically all of those who produce the money for the payment of taxes, it is thought that some radical adjustments should be made in expenses, including the salaries of public employees in order that they might substantially assist their employers. Up to the present time practically no reduction has been made in the expenses of government in this community, while the incomes of the tax payers have been materially reduced for over two years. At the same time, it is not thought that reductions in cost should be effected by maintaining a given rate of salary while reducing the service rendered.

One feature of the recent tax increases which does not seem to be fully understood is that the assessed valuation of real estate in Highland Park was increased \$1,376,409, while the tax rate was increased from \$5.96 per \$100 of assessed valuation to \$6.31, and increase of 35 cents or six per cent.

Items of Interest

The following items relative to taxes in Highland Park will undoubtedly be of interest to all:

1. Highland Park's area is 3% of that of the county.
2. Highland Park's tax is 17% of that of the county.
3. The total assessed valuation increases in the county occurred in four cities and totaled 1,467,409, of which Highland Park's increase is \$1,376,409.

4. The total reductions in assessed valuation throughout the county amounted to \$4,465,798 and occurred in all the remaining cities and villages, 16 in number varying and in amount from \$5,547 in Fox Lake to \$3,199,426 in Waukegan.
5. Highland Park's tax increase totaled \$146,626.
6. Highland Park's 1931 tax amounted to \$97 per capita. Highland Park's 1930 tax amounted to \$75 per capita. Highland Park's 1931 increase amounted to \$12 per capita or about \$50 per family.
8. The increase of tax rate in Highland Park was for the following purposes:

Police Pension Fund	.02
Fire Pension Fund	.02
Mosquito Abatement District	.05
H. P. East Park District	.07
Township; care of the poor	.18
County	.02
Reduction for City	.01
Net Increase	.35

The County rate increased .02 although it was relieved of the care of the poor which accolted for the increase of the township rate.

9. The increases attributable to increased valuation alone, are distributed to some of the taxing bodies as follows:

Public schools in H. P.	\$27,528.
High School	15,278.
H. P. East Park District	6,882.
County	4,679.
State	5,267.
City of Highland Park	15,828.

It will probably be surprising to many to know that of the total tax rate of \$6.313 per \$100 of assessed valuation, \$3.11 is required to operate our schools, also that the H. P. East Park District receives fifty cents and that for the operation of the city other than the library, \$1.15 is levied.

In Other Cities

It is interesting to note that among other cities throughout the country giving serious thought to the reduction of expense, Grand Rapids, Mich., is now engaged in a drive to cut its budget 25%. In connection with this drive, a statement was made that their city and school expenses amount to about \$40 per capital, about \$200 for each family. In Highland Park those items amount to about \$78 per capita—about \$380 per family. And Grand Rapids is sure that its expenses can be cut 25%!!

Superintendent Leslie A. Butler of the Grand Rapids public schools, has voiced the belief that the desired budget reduction can be achieved without sacrificing the efficiency of the schools. The cost in Highland Park for schools alone is about \$48 per capital—\$8 higher than in Grand Rapids for city and schools combined!!

With the increase now in effect, it is obvious that for the present we must look to economy in operation for a partial reduction of our taxes until such time as the inequality of the assessment can be adjusted.

The City Club invites the hearty cooperation of all citizens who are interested in obtaining a really substantial reduction in the operating expenses of all the tax spending organizations in this community.

COMMERCE CHAMBER MEETING IS HELD

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Considerable discussion was had relative to the seriousness to Highland Park and Highland Park merchants in the loss of Ravinia Opera for the coming season. A newspaper clipping by Edward Moore was read proposing the possibility of securing the artists and musicians on a profit sharing basis. A letter is to be written Mr. Eckstein, expressing the regrets of the people of Highland Park in the closing and suggesting that in order to keep up the interest in Ravinia, weekly concerts be presented.

A good deal of comment was heard relative to the violations of the parking ordinances between Central and Park avenues on both Sheridan road and St. Johns avenue. A committee is to be appointed to call on Chief of Police Moroney, seeking his co-operation in effecting a remedy.

THE GOVERNOR OF ILLINOIS

A Proclamation

Bird and Arbor Days

The planting of trees during the coming year is a ceremony which combines two allied civic interests—patriotism and conservatism.

This year is the Bicentennial anniversary of the Birth of George Washington. Many patriotic, national, state and local organizations have arranged programs to commemorate his life, his work and his service to the nation. Under the leadership of certain national conservation organizations these civic groups and public organization have been guided into a plan for paying tribute to this great American by the planting of trees.

Throughout the nation millions of trees will be planted by individuals, by local organizations, by state and national groups of great patriotic service. In planting living, growing trees these organizations will erect vital monuments to the first president of the United States. They will also contribute to the beauty of the country and awaken the conscience of America to conservation and the need for reforestation.

In the cause of conserving the natural resources of our state and nation a legislative enactment authorizes the executive to designate certain days in the spring and fall as Arbor and Bird days.

Now, therefore, I, Louis L. Emmerson, Governor of Illinois, in obedience to this enactment, do hereby designate Friday, April 15, and Friday, October 14, 1932 as Arbor and Bird days, and request the citizens of Illinois to consider the service of tree and bird life on these days in programs devoted to the conservation of these two natural endowments and to the commemoration of the great national endowment which lives in the spirit of George Washington.

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