

Here's How America's Second Largest City Became Broke One

Chicago.—When political incompetence and favoritism keep working long enough, the chickens they hatch out eventually come home to roost. Which is why Chicago and Cook county today find themselves in desperate financial straits.

America's second largest city, and the county of which it is a part, are broke. In fact, by the end of the year they will be some \$18,000,000 in the hole—and the end is not yet. This is due, primarily, to two things:

First, the fact that governmental officials here have had a gay and carefree way of spending public funds without always insisting on getting value received.

Second, the fact that these officials have had many friends, and have been very kind of them.

Can't Collect Taxes.

Extravagance and plain, ordinary incompetence have sent expenditures soaring. Favoritism to large groups of taxpayers has brought about a situation in which the city and county are unable to collect a cent of real estate tax money.

Within recent years there has been much inequality in real estate tax assessments in Chicago and Cook county. A certain building would have an assessed valuation, say, of \$50,000; another building on the same street, identical in real value, would be assessed for \$10,000 because the owner happened to be a friend of some influential politician.

This condition became, finally, a public scandal. At last the state tax commission took a hand.

A year ago, the commission ordered a reassessment of all real property in Cook county, and threw out the old assessment. Then, bearing in mind a state law that calls for equality in assessments, it ordered

the assessment here to be made on the same basis as the assessment down state.

This last item was to cause trouble later. At the moment, however, no one noticed it, and the work of reassessing Cook county's 3,000,000 pieces of real property, worth more than \$5,000,000,000 got under way.

Result Is Disastrous.

The reassessment began early this year, and was to have been finished in six months. It is not nearly completed yet, and no one seems to know just when it will be.

The result has been simple—and disastrous.

No real estate taxes in this city or county have been collected since the old assessment was thrown out. None can be collected until the new one is completed. No one in Cook county has paid a dollar in real estate taxes for more than a year. Tax bills can't be mailed out for at least another six months.

To tide over this shortage the city has been issuing tax anticipation warrants, held by local banks. Under the law, however, these can be issued only up to 75 per cent of the anticipated tax levy. Now the city has gone the limit. It can't issue any more warrants, and it can't pay for the ones it has issued.

The result, of course, has been a tremendous drop in the city and county incomes. But that is not all.

\$660,000,000 Below Estimate.

Down state Illinois used to assess property at 37 per cent of its market value. Chicago assessed it at 52 per cent. The new assessment in compliance with the equality law is being made on the down state rate.

Consequently, Chicago's new tax valuation—when it finally comes—will be \$660,000,000 below the old figures.

This means that when tax money is finally collected again, the city's income will be approximately \$5-

500,000 below its former level. To make matters worse, the city authorities estimated that it would show, for 1928, its normal increase of 1,100,000. Thus, it will have some \$6,800,000 less than it had planned on and appropriated for.

"The city will finish this year with a corporate operating fund deficit of about \$13,000,000," says V. S. Peterson, deputy city comptroller. "There are only three possible remedies.

"We could reduce our corporate expenses by 32 per cent to absorb the deficit and get within next year's resources. But that is impossible because it would cripple the fire, police and health departments.

Remedy Is A Puzzle.

"Then we could increase the tax rate, by special authority of the legislature and fund the deficit. Or we could drop the equalization factor and assess property values on the old basis.

"Which will be done I haven't the faintest idea. But city bond holders will not suffer. Our bonded debts will be paid 100 cents on the dollar." Here is an example of the incompetence, favoritism and extravagance that caused all this.

Cook county has a board called the Sanitary Commission, which is in charge of keeping Lake Michigan's water free from sewage pollution. This board, according to a competent authority, could fix all the work it does, be a simple bureau in the department of public works. But it is a separate organization, the original happy hunting ground for grasping politicians.

Spent \$36,000,000.

It is not under civil service. Thus, in 1927 and 1928, it had some 8,600 employees, with a total payroll of close to \$36,000,000 a year. It has been famous for its extravagances. Some time ago it sent a delegation to Washington to appear at a hearing. Most of the delegation never reached Washington, but landed in New York, where they rented most of a hotel floor, made riotous whoopee and eventually got a large sized bill from the hotel for breakage of furniture.

The upshot of the whole situation, thus, is that Chicago and Cook county, because of graft, incompetence and favoritism, are out of money. Employees are getting paid, in many cases, by vouchers. A little later on some of them won't get paid at all. Extended vacations, without pay, are in prospect for a number of them. City contractors are not being paid.

Needle In Haystack Is Found By Science

Science has at last solved the problem of feeding the human race.

Worn-out soils, droughts and weeds no longer hinder the growing of crops.

The "dirt farmer" must go the way of the hand scythe and the spinning wheel, for dirt isn't needed.

The wonder is that farmers themselves didn't discover the truth long ago. For years they have bought commercial fertilizer by the ton, knowing that each pound contained but a few grains of plant food.

The best of soils, like the best of fertilizers, consist almost wholly of elements the plants can't use. In order to survive, the plants must send roots far and wide to search out and absorb scattered particles of food that are hidden in a mass of useless "filler."

Why not give the plants concentrated food, and make it instantly available?

That is what the University of California has done. Dr. W. F. Gericke, head of the University's department of plant physiology, patiently experimenting for a period of five years, has discovered a way to grow bountiful crops without soil and without rainfall.

Plants feed on nitrogen, phosphorus, magnesium, iron, potassium sulphur and calcium.

These elements, placed in small capsules in various proportions to suit the needs of different plants, are fed to growing things as corn is fed to hogs.

The plants are placed in shallow cement tanks or small vessels that contain nothing but water. A capsule dropped in the water quickly dissolves and the plant roots absorb the whole of its contents.

For the first time in history, plants get all the food they can use and their response is amazing. Pansies, five inches across develop as if by magic. Cotton loads itself with full-grown bolls in 90 days. Potatoes, tomatoes and grains double and treble their normal yield and mature in two-thirds of the usual time.

In desert lands an ordinary well provides water enough for ten acres of shallow tanks. And plant food for an acre costs only half as much as the best commercial fertilizer.

No more plowing, no more crop failures. No more praying for rain. Every back yard and house-top a prolific garden. Every family feeding itself.

Dr. Gericke has emancipated the man with the hoe.—Fountain Inn Tribune.

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We have on hand a very limited number of current model Hudson and Essex Super-Sixes that we are offering at attractive prices. These cars are brand new and bear a new car guarantee. Bumpers, spare tire and all other equipment usually included as extras are included in these new low prices.

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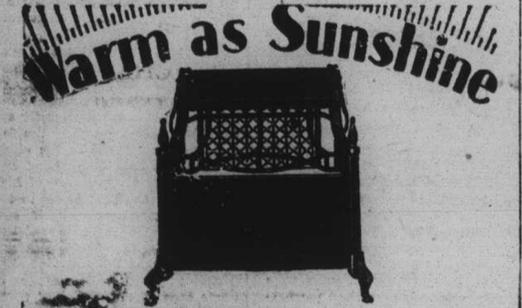
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When it's time to bathe or dress the children, make bedroom or bathroom cozy and warm with a Coleman Radiant Heater. Its heat is as healthful as the sunshine. Flows outward from the glowing radiants and warms the air close to the floor first. It does not rob the air of moisture or cause irritation of the nose and throat.

THE NEW COLEMAN RADIANT HEATER

A generous flood of clean, live, radiant gas heat... any time, in any room in the house... heat that streams out in a fan-like zone of penetrating warmth. That's what the new Coleman Radiant Heater brings to you! Strike a match and turn a valve. The Instant Gas Starter lights at once. In less than a minute the new Thermo-Safety Generator opens... the radiants light automatically. No second match is needed.

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FIVE CONTESTS ON SEATS IN CONGRESS

Washington.—Five representatives face vigorous contests over their seats in the house despite the fact that they have been serving officially since the beginning of the special session.

They were seated following receipt by William Tyler Page, house clerk, of certificates of election from the state secretaries, but throughout the summer and fall attorneys have been working on the cases of both contestants and contestees; and records are now complete and in the hands of Mr. Page.

Three election committees will be organized next week to hear the contests after the regular session convenes Monday. They will go into the records and probably will hold open hearings.

With the exception of the contest over the seat held by Representative Ruth Bryan Owen, Democrat, of the fourth Florida district, the contest deal with disputes over the election returns.

W. C. Lawson, Republican candidate for the Florida seat, charged Mrs. Owen lost her citizenship when she married a British army officer. Mrs. Owen returned to the United States after her husband died and claims to have lived here a sufficient time to have regained her citizenship and thus be eligible for her seat.

Former Representative Harry M. Wurzbach, is contesting the seat of Representative Augustus McClosky, Democrat, of the fourteenth Texas district. He has declined to relinquish his office in the house office building and is understood to have charged irregularities in Bexar county, Texas, elections. McClosky is a former Mayor of San Antonio, seat of Bexar county.

John Phillip Hill is attempting to unseat Representative Vincent L. Palmisano, Democrat, of the third Maryland district.

Jacob L. Milligan, Democrat, of the third Missouri district is stoutly defending his claim to his seat against H. F. Lawrence.

Ralph E. Updike, defeated Republican of the seventh Indiana district, is contesting the seating of Louis Ludlow, Democrat.

After the committees have completed their investigations into the cases they will draft reports to be submitted to the house for disposition. Then it will be decided whether the five holding the seats shall keep them.

If a contestor succeeds in unseating a contestee, both will receive salaries for service up to the time of final action, but if the contestor fails to prove his claims, he will not receive any compensation other than the specified amount which the house provides for defraying the cost.



12 IDEAL HOMES 12 AUCTION FRIDAY AT 10 A. M. DECEMBER 6th Shelby, N. C.

On the above day and hour we will sell at absolute auction 12 nice homes located in the best sections of the prosperous and progressive city of Shelby, with all modern conveniences. These home are all financed and can be paid for on a MONTHLY PAYMENT PLAN. A great opportunity for the man paying rent to buy a home. Please look them over before the sale and make your selections.

— SALE STARTS PROMPTLY —

- At 10 A. M.—The Coy C. Morrison house, 6 rooms and bath, located on the corner of Gidney-DeKalb St.
- At 10:15 A. M.—We will sell four 5-room houses located on Elm Street—Better known as Curtis Town.
- At 11:00 A. M.—The W. B. McSwain house, 5 rooms and bath, located on Norton Street in South Shelby.
- At 11:30 A. M.—The Ethel Morrison house, located on Ware Street near school.
- At 12:00 O'Clock—We will sell three 5-room houses located on Highland Ave. in North Shelby near Hosp.
- At 12:30 P. M.—The M. M. Patterson house, located on Blanton Avenue will be sold.
- At 1:00 P. M.—The M. R. Weathers house, 6 room stucco dwelling, located on Washington Street will go.
- At 1:30 P. M.—The O. E. Starnes house on 4

These home are all in excellent condition, located in good sections on good streets. This is the largest Auction Sale of houses and lots ever held in Shelby. Remember—every house will be a bargain—on Easy Terms of only TEN PER CENT CASH (10%)—BALANCE MONTHLY, LIKE RENT.

FREE — 25 BIG CHRISTMAS TURKEYS — FREE
And a down pour of cash will be given away absolutely free at this sale. Remember the day and hour which is Monday, December 2, 1929, beginning at 10:00 o'clock A. M. Come one—come all. Ladies especially invited. Band Concert.

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