

# The Town Manager

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VOL. I No. 8

APRIL, 1932.

TEANECK, N. J.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

## Plan Suggested For Using Vacant Land To Aid Unemployed

**Councilman Samuel S. Paquin  
Urges Property Owners  
To Co-operate**

"Is there any good reason why the large areas of vacant, fertile land in Teaneck should not be used by the unemployed of the township to help them solve their food problems?"

That question was asked of a member of the staff of The Town Manager by Councilman Samuel S. Paquin, in a recent discussion of the unemployment conditions that affect so many citizens, who are anxious and willing to work. Asked to explain his idea further, Mr. Paquin said:

"Like almost every one else who has given the subject any thought, I believe the best possible way to give help to those who need it, is to help them find ways to help themselves. Such chances for employment as it has been possible to offer, in the high school grounds improvement and other projects, have proved that the hundreds listed on the unemployment register are willing to do any kind of work they can get, and would rather a thousand times work for food for themselves and their families than

(Continued on Page 17)

## \$50,000 ADDITIONAL BONDS PURCHASED

Township Treasurer Pearson announces the recent additional purchase of a block of \$50,000. Teaneck 5% bonds due in 1934. These bonds were purchased at 95½ and the saving accruing to the township thereby both in principal and interest is more than sufficient to pay the combined salaries of the treasurer and collector for two years.

This brings the total amount of bonds purchased by the Township before maturity since last July, through the use of idle funds to \$311,000.

The particular block of bonds here mentioned as bought direct from the owner and not through a bank or intermediary.

## Report Shows Town's Cops Rendered Excellent Work; Efficiency And Morale High

The annual report of the Teaneck Police Department, recently completed, shows that "the finest" in Teaneck had a busy and progressive year in 1931. Since this is the most expensive department of the municipal government, citizens no doubt will be more than casually interested in facts and figures relating to the work of the force that is responsible for enforcement of law and the protection of life and property within the confines of the township.

After his report had been presented to Township Manager Volcker, Chief Cornelius J. Harte was seen by a representative of The Town Manager and asked if he wished to make any statement regarding it. He replied:

"I am glad to have an opportunity to make some comments about the progress of my department in 1931, which could not suitably be embodied in the formal report, but which, at the same time, I feel should be made public.

"Beyond question the Teaneck police force has shown marked improvement in the last year, both in morale and efficiency, and this has been made possible by the policy of the present governing body with reference to police matters.

"From the beginning the council and Mr. Volcker have impressed

(Continued on Page 8)

## Says Officials Have Too Much Power

**By Louis G. Morten, Councilman**

The question of local assessments is one that seems to be little understood by the public in general.

Improvements may be generally classified under two divisions, namely, general improvements and local improvements.

Under the laws of 1917, the Legislature of the State of New Jersey defined the term "local improvement". It provided that a local improvement is one, the cost of which, or a portion thereof, may be assessed upon lands in the vicinity thereof benefitted thereby, and it further provided that every municipality may undertake as lo-

## Debt Rate Takes Big Landslide As "Wild Orgy" Of Squandering Halts; Town Now Out Of "Hock"

**Net Debt Reduced From 9.059 to 4.85; No Change In Economy  
Program Contemplated; Darby Surprised At  
Tremendous Drop In Figures**

Former President Calvin Coolidge in his latest published article which appears in a recent Saturday Evening Post and is copyrighted, calls on wage earners and business men to organize on a non-

partisan basis for mutual protection, in the course of a general discussion of the present tax burdens and tax problems of the country.

Cal apparently didn't know when he wrote that article that he was just about eighteen months behind Teaneck, who registered their decision to "organize on a non-partisan basis for their mutual protection" by referendum vote on Sept. 16, 1930. Then again, perhaps he did know something about Teaneck for he says in his article:

"The mounting cost of government has been due to the extravagance of nearly all the states and municipalities." And again he says: "The only relief is through the reduction of public expenditures. Almost all our governmental units have been taxing, borrowing and spending beyond the capacity of the people to pay."

But that is merely a foreword to the most encouraging news it has been the privilege of The Town Manager to present to the people of Teaneck in several months. And the news is that Township Manager Volcker on March 23 received a letter from Commissioner Walter R. Darby, of the State Department of Municipal Accounts to the effect that between Dec. 31, 1930, and Dec. 31, 1931, the percentage of the township's net debt, as based on the average of the last preceding three years' (Continued on Page 8)

## TEANECK TAX RATE LOWEST SINCE 1927

The 1932 tax rate for Teaneck Township has been announced as five dollars and six cents per hundred, a reduction of one dollar and two cents below the 1930 rate which was the highest Teaneck has experienced. This rate is also the lowest that has prevailed since 1927 when it was four dollars and eighty-nine cents.

(Continued on Page 20)

## 'Chaos' In Taxation; One Way Out Of It

**By Chas. A. Wiener**

### CITIES FREED OF TAXES BY UTILITIES' PROFITS

Oklahoma City, Okla.—Five cities in this State assess no taxes because profits from municipally owned utilities pay the cost of government.

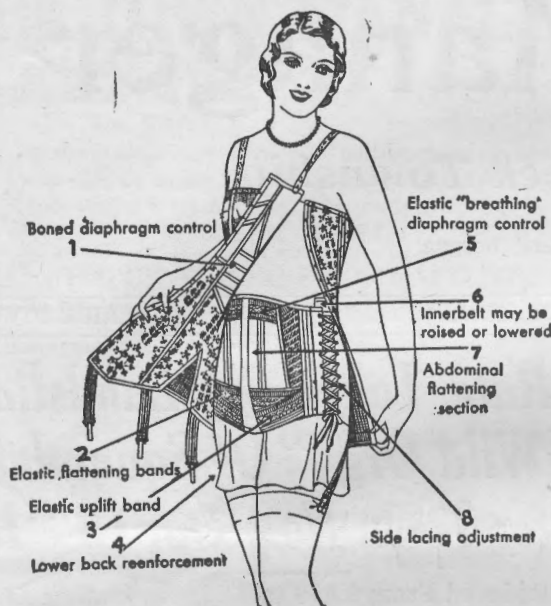
They are Ponca City, Newkirk, Blackwell, Kaw City and Altus. All except Altus are in Kay Co.

Water and light plants are the sources of municipal revenue at (Continued on Page 5)

cal improvements, the laying out, altering, grading, paving and curbing of streets; the construction of walks, beach improvements, sewers, water, gas, light and heat plants and the improvement of waterways; that any or all of such works might be undertaken as a general improvement to be paid for by general taxation.

The law provides that after the introduction of any ordinance authorizing any local improvement, public notice shall be given to all persons whose lands may be affected thereby. Such notice to state the time when and the place where the governing body will consider such ordinance and brief-

(Continued on Page 4)



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## Successful Concert For Welfare Fund

The success of the concert presented at Teaneck High School Auditorium the evening of March 11 by Teaneck Welfare Organization gave ample proof of two things: first, Teaneck's appreciation of fine music; second, Teaneck's readiness to respond generously to a call to meet the needs of the unemployed of the township who require help in their emergency.

The concert was attended by approximately 1,000 persons, and a large number of additional tickets had been sold to others unable to attend on account of the date conflicting with their engagements. With a general admission price of fifty cents, and a large number of patrons and patronesses paying five dollars for two seats to help along the good cause, the total net amount realized for the funds of the organization reached the gratifying figure of about \$800. Added to sums previously contributed by individuals and organizations, this brought the total raised by the Welfare Organization this season to about \$6,400.

The program was presented jointly by Teaneck Community Orchestra and the Neighborhood Glee Club, and with the exception of a few slight changes was the same as announced in the last issue of THE TOWN MANAGER. The orchestra was conducted by Wilbur Hamje. Of the Neighborhood Glee Club, J. E. Corneille was director, Nathalie Adams, accompanist, Edna Porter assistant and Henri Beaugard, of Teaneck, tenor soloist. Every number was so roundly applauded that it would be difficult to say which was most approved by the audience.

When it is considered that the formation of Teaneck Community Orchestra was first suggested by Mayor Van Wagner not more than eight or nine months ago, and that it already has 30 members, the excellence of its performance at the concert seemed remarkable proof of what great possibilities there are for building up in Teaneck a musical organization that in years to come will have a wide reputation, enhancing the fame of Teaneck as a center of culture and artistic appreciation. The applause given the orchestra indicated clearly not only the pleasure but the surprise of the audience that so much progress had been made by the local musical group in so short a time.

The printed programs carried the words of all the songs rendered by the glee club and a message of thanks from James P. Birch, Chairman of the concert committee of the Welfare Organization. It announced as the list of patrons and patronesses the following:

Mr. Richard Ackerman, Mr. and Mrs. James L. Andrews, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson M. Ayers, Mr. and Mrs. Fred C. Baser, Rev. and Mrs. Richard Baxter, Mr. and Mrs. Henri Beaugard, Rev. and Mrs. Carl Bergen, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Wm.

Berghorn, Mr. and Mrs. James P. Birch, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Blankenhorn, Mr. and Mrs. G. J. Bonnevill, Mr. and Mrs. David Bofinger, Dr. and Mrs. B. S. Bookstaver, Mr. and Mrs. James J. Bowe, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Ritchie Brooks, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. William J. Byrne, Mr. and Mrs. C. de C. Brower, Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Watson Conner, Dr. and Mrs. Howard N. Cherry, Mr. and Mrs. James F. Convery, Mr. and Mrs. William De Forge, Mr. and Mrs. Frank S. De Ronde, Mr. and Mrs. James Di Bella, Mr. William Dahm, Mr. William De Graw, Miss Josephine Dowling, Miss Katherine M. Dowling, Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Duffy, Mr. and Mrs. Francis F. Duffy, Mr. and Mrs. Francis J. Duffy, Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Dunham, Mr. and Mrs. J. Charles Emmitt, Mr. and Mrs. A. Ettin, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Ely, Mr. and Mrs. C. V. Everett, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Farrant, Mr. and Mrs. David Fox.

Also, Mr. E. Robert Frech, Mr. and Mrs. George B. Francis, Rev. and Mrs. L. H. French, Dr. and Mrs. Franklin A. Gaylord, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Hallberg, Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Hanks, Miss M. Edna Harris, Mr. and Mrs. Archibald C. Hart, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. W. Hindle, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Alex Hollander, Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Holmes, Mr. and Mrs. R. I. Inglehart, Mr. and Mrs. W. Rand Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Archibald N. Jordan, Mr. and Mrs. William Jorden, Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Kassakian, Mr. and Mrs. Paul E. Katz, Rev. and Mrs. Charles E. Kemble, Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. Lampa, Mr. and Mrs. George A. Lampe, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver F. Lane, Dr. and Mrs. Charles F. Littel, Mr. and Mrs. George F. Lische, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Lowe, Mr. and Mrs. William Ludewig, Mr. and Mrs. Joshua McCarthy, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. McCarthy, Mr. and Mrs. Foster F. McClelland, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. MacDonald, Mrs. Warren A. Miller, Mr. and William E. Mitros, Mr. and Mrs. Frank A. Morrison, Mr. and Mrs. Louis G. Morten, Mr. and Mrs. John L. Murphy, Mr. and Mrs. Albert L. Nelson.

Also, Dr. and Mrs. Lester N. Neulen, Miss Agnes C. Norton, Mr. and Mrs. Chester A. Oakes, Mr. and Mrs. George L. O'Hare, Mrs. M. Anastasia O'Hare, Rev. Benedict J. O'Neill, O.C.C., Mr. and Mrs. Samuel S. Paquin, Mr. and Mrs. N. E. Peieff, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Proctor, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Quinn, Mr. and Mrs. Kenloch V. Ridley, Mr. and Mrs. B. Rossi, Mr. John L. Rosenbaum, Rev. and Mrs. Reginald Rowland, Rev. and Mrs. William K. Russell, Mr. Jacob H. Schilling, Mr. and Mrs. William Schlicht, Rev. Charles W. Schnabel, Mr. Emil Schneider, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Schroeder, Mr. and Mrs. George F. Schulze, Mrs. Katherine A. Selvage, Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Shaw, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Shulenberg, Rev. and Mrs. John J. Soeter, Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Soons, Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Sweeney, Dr. and Mrs. J. L. Taft, Mr. and Mrs.

(Continued on Page 14)



## Planning Board Active At Task

Among the various township boards and commissions perhaps the most active one is the recently appointed planning board.

The board under the presidency of Milton G. Votee has already done some excellent work, the results of which will be evident in Teaneck for all time. From a recent report they made to the Council, we abstract the following:

"Having in mind the future appearance of the property adjacent to New Jersey State Highway Route 4 and the proposed Hackensack River Parkway as is proposed in the regional plan, we are endeavoring to prevail on all owners of adjacent property to make suitable reservations so that this plan which will be of such great benefit to the entire township can be successfully carried out.

"One of our early efforts in this direction was successful, and the Hudson West Shore Realty Syndicate have provided a marginal street north of Route 4 leading from River Road, leaving open the future disposition of the property that will abut on the proposed parkway.

"We now have under consideration a plan of the Halberg-Everett Corporation for property south of Route 4 and east of River Road. A marginal strip fifteen feet in width will be dedicated to the Township on this plan."

The board has also adopted rules laying down certain conditions and specifications by which an owner must be guided in making his subdivisions and in preparing and presenting his maps.

The planning consultant is Mr. Campbell Scott of the Technical Advisory Corporation of New York. Mr. Scott was selected after careful investigation of the experience and reputation of the various men who offered their services.

## New York Builder Starts Development

Real estate development in Teaneck was given a "boost" with the disclosure of the transaction of the Mezick Homes Co., of New York, in purchasing a twenty-five acre tract in Teaneck for a home development.

The land borders on State Highway No. 4 and also on River Road. The purchase price was \$200,000.

It is understood that the Company spent several months inspecting sites in Bergen County and decided upon Teaneck after a thorough study of the advantages offered in various sections.

They agree with the authorities who predict a more rapid growth for Teaneck within the next ten years as compared to the enormous growth between 1920-1930, which was 300%.

This is the first entry in Bergen County of well known New York builders, and probably will be the forerunner of others.

## League Asked To Aid Town Officials In Economy Work

In spite of the inclement weather a goodly number attended the last regular meeting of the Teaneck Taxpayers League on March 9, at the Town Hall. After routine business the President spoke on co-operation and the need of it between the League and governmental bodies.

Mr. Waesche stated that the League in electing the Council and a majority to the School Board had assumed an indirect responsibility and would be judged by the action of these bodies. He stated: "It is our duty to help them to accomplish whatever will meet with the general approval of the people of Teaneck".

A Committee was appointed to investigate valuations in the Garrison Avenue section, where there have been charges of unfair increases. Co-operation of the Assessor's office and the council was requested in order that the committee may function speedily.

The League sent a telegram to Senator Ely asking that he introduce a new bill which would have appointees who fill vacancies on the Council to serve until the end of the term instead of the next general election.

The President stated that holding the election at general election was in direct conflict with the non-partisan idea under which the manager form of government is based, since it allows party lines to have a bearing on the election of Councilmen. Elections on the manager form of government are held at a different time than the general election to avoid political partisan connection.

Senator Ely was also asked to oppose the Byrne Bill which would make the Municipal Manager Act inapplicable to cities of the first class.

The next regular meeting of the League will be held April 13 at the Town Hall.

## TEANECK STRATEGIC POINT IN FUTURE PLANNING

In an address on "Regional Planning" before the Upper Civic Association, George M. Cady, architect and city planner, predicted that Teaneck would be the pivotal point around which a great City of the future would be built.

In discussing the proposed Regional plan for New York and vicinity, he stated that experts who worked out the plan have estimated that the population in this area in 1965 will be more than twenty million and their plan has been drawn accordingly.

It was stated that the County Planning Board will interest itself mostly in through highways, and parkways and that the details in certain localities will be left for the municipality to work out.

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**SAYS OFFICIALS HAVE TOO MUCH POWER IN MAKING IMPROVEMENTS**

(Continued)

ly describe the proposed improvement.

The law also provides that no local improvement shall be undertaken by a municipality where objections thereto in writing are filed by the owners of two-thirds in value of lands proposed to be assessed for benefits accruing from such improvement, such objections to be filed with the Clerk before the final passage of ordinance.

Then follows another provision that if the governing body shall determine that such local improvement is a public necessity, then the municipality may undertake such local improvement notwithstanding such objection and if the persons filing such objections desire, they may appeal to the Judge of the Circuit Court who shall determine the question as to whether or not the local improvement is a public necessity.

Previous to the adoption of this act, there were laws adopted which protected the property owner to a far greater extent.

For instance, take the Act of 1887, which permitted boroughs to lay out, open and extend streets. In this act, it was provided that this work could be done only upon written applications of persons owning two-thirds of the frontage of the property lying on the street to be improved and there were many other similar acts.

Under this class of legislation, no assessment for a local improvement could be imposed upon or levied against the property of private citizens unless and until the property owners themselves had

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initiated the procedure.

Under the present law however, the initiative is taken away from the property owners themselves and is placed with the governing body. If the governing body sees fit to initiate proceedings to improve a street as a local improvement, the property owners are practically at the mercy of the governing body.

It is true that the governing body must give notice but this notice consists only of one publication in a newspaper circulating in the municipality at least ten days prior to the date fixed for hearing. In order to protect themselves from being imposed upon, property owners would be obliged to read every newspaper and every notice therein contained, to see that some ordinance was not going to be passed which would affect their property and even then, if they file objections, their objections may be over-ruled.

Such a law does not seem to commend itself to reason and justice. It places upon the property owners the burden of defending themselves in a litigation with the municipality in a Court of law, in order to avoid liability for assessments for a local improvement which might be deemed as a public necessity by a bare majority of the governing body.

It would seem to be much more reasonable to provide that before a governing body can proceed with a local improvement over the objection of but a majority of the property owners to be affected, it should require at least two-thirds, if not a three-fourths, vote of those who compose the governing body.

As the law now stands, unscrupulous and designing politicians controlling the members of a governing body of a municipality, have it within their power to dictate to the members of the governing body that they shall improve a certain street. The property owners to be affected are not given personal notice of such intention. A short notice is published in the newspaper in fine print, (Continued on Page 19)

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## "CHAOS" IN TAXES; ONE WAY OUT OF IT

(Continued)

Ponca City, Blackwell and Alfus. Power plants make Newkirk and Kaw City tax free.

Ponca City gets the largest income from utilities, its net profits for the last fiscal year being \$260,290. It has levied no general city tax for seven years.

An examination of the above news item discloses the interesting information that several Oklahoma municipalities have eliminated direct taxation on real estate.

Real estate in Teaneck, pays over eighty per cent of the taxes. Under the taxation laws of the State of New Jersey, all kinds of property must be listed by the assessor on the first day of October of each year at its true value for purposes of taxation.

These laws in the light of experience reveal two important defects. They give too much power to the assessor and fail to define true value. The result has been gross and glaring inequalities in assessed valuations throughout the State.

In Bergen County with a population of about 400,000, we have about seventy taxing districts with an army of about 120 assessors; every one of whom has a different conception of true value and its practical application. Courts have defined true value as the amount of money which a willing buyer would pay to a willing seller. No assessor in Bergen County values property according to this definition.

The law says very specifically that property shall be assessed at 100% of true value. An investigation of about 260 real estate sales in Teaneck show that some of these properties have been assessed as low as 16% and as high as 87% of the recorded sale price with an average of 34%.

The law should say: all buildings shall be assessed at replacement cost less accrued depreciation, and the land value on which the structure stands shall be obtained by subtracting the value of the building from the actual or reasonable estimated annual income capitalized at the rate of 12 per cent.

If all real estate in Bergen County were assessed on this basis our total ratables would probably exceed \$1,500,000,000—and this valuation would be reflected in an inventory more in accord with commercial values and the present intention of the law.

Our tax rate would probably go below \$2 per hundred with an assessed valuation for Teaneck of about \$60,000,000.

The second serious defect is the inclusion of personality in the assessors' list without providing any penalty for perjury.

The result has been that such personal property as money in banks, stocks and bonds, jewelry and other valuable intangibles are never included in the assessors' tax duplicate, a practice which has received the tacit approval of the county board of taxation because

people generally would not reveal the amount of their intangible wealth when they know they can refuse to give any information to the tax assessor without going to jail.

By reason of the fact that our taxation laws are ineffectively administered or they are so imperfectly framed that they cannot be rigidly enforced, more than 90 per cent of the wage earners within the \$2500 income class are carrying the burden of taxation, through direct and indirect real estate taxes. Such a condition, outside of philanthropic considerations must be viewed from its practical effects on the general welfare of all the people of this great commonwealth. A low income aggravated by one-sided taxation means low purchasing power by the masses, and low purchasing power means hard times, depression, unemployment, soup-houses, and unbalanced budgets.

The workman out of employment becomes a social liability and a potential menace to organized society. It is the most imperative command of enlightened statesmanship to see that the distribution of the social income in our present economy shall be adjusted through taxation so that organized government shall be carried on by those best able to support it. Our fiscal policy must therefore consider new conceptions of our social wealth production and distribution in accord with 20th century ideals of democracy.

Everybody who has given any thought to our present system of taxation laws in our state arrives at the conclusion that our fiscal policies are archaic, out of harmony with present tendencies and need a thorough revision.

People should be taxed in proportion to the benefits they receive and in proportion to their capacity to pay. These principles were established many years ago by the Supreme Court of the United States as sound public policy and need no comment here but much may be said as to what the legislature of the State of New Jersey can do in arriving at a fair, just and equitable fiscal policy.

Our taxation laws should be revised in three essential particulars.

1. The State government shall not be carried on by any tax on real estate. These taxes shall be reserved to each county and its respective municipalities.

2. All intangibles such as money in banks, stocks and bonds or other evidence of credit shall not be listed by any county assessor for purposes of taxation.

3. A State income tax shall be substituted for the repeal clauses on personality and the revenues

(Continued on Page 22)

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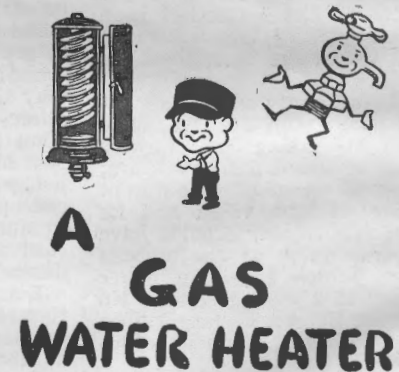
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## Garden Club Plan Would Prove Asset

Teaneck has no garden club of its own. That's not news. But there is great probability that before the present season is far advanced, Teaneck will have a flourishing garden club; and when that probability has developed into a reality, that will be news of real significance and importance to Teaneck.

The probability is based principally on the fact that the conditions are right and the time is ripe for a movement to form such a club, and that the project is already being discussed by several who are interested and who stand ready to help form the organization and get it under way.

One of these was asked a few days ago why it is that Teaneck has no garden club or flower club of any kind, while many other smaller communities in Bergen County have successful clubs that hold annual shows, giving prizes for the best gardens, the finest dahlias or chrysanthemums and in other competitions; which tend to stimulate interest in beautifying their home towns and give the towns the most favorable kind of publicity.

His answer was there is no reason why Teaneck should not have such a club, and every good reason why it should have one. He went even farther, and volunteered the astonishing information that a neighboring municipality has a good, strong club, of which more than half the members are residents of Teaneck—people who joined the neighboring town's club apparently for the sole reason that Teaneck has no such organization for them to join.

Teaneck now ranks third in population among the municipalities in the county, and expert opinion holds that within a few years it will rank first. Under these conditions it should require little effort to develop in Teaneck one of the strongest and most enthusiastic of the county's garden Clubs, since beautifying of residence plots with attractive plantings of trees, flowering shrubs and flowers of all kinds is a marked characteristic of the residents in all parts of the township.

Just to start the ball rolling, THE TOWN MANAGER is willing to help in the preliminary steps. All residents interested in the plan are invited to send word to that effect, with their addresses, to the following address: Secretary, The Town Manager, 249 Grayson Place, Teaneck, N. J.

All names and addresses received will be turned over to some of the gentlemen who have been talking about taking steps to form a garden Club, so that all may be notified later of the place and date for an informal meeting, to discuss the project in detail and organize.

Who'll be the first? How many will help get a Teaneck Garden Club going? Can't it be done at once, so that the Teaneck Garden

Club can have effective and successful competitions at the close of the gardening season of 1932?

Send in your names and addresses without delay!

## Training School For Teaneck Firemen

The ten paid men and thirty-five of the volunteers of Teaneck Fire Department have just completed a month of training in the Fire College Course and drill school conducted by Fire Chief F. A. Murray.

Fire Chief F. A. Murray, who has trained forty-five departments in Long Island alone was engaged by the council after investigation into the work he was doing and the results he had produced. Now that the course is completed all those who attended the lectures and drills are ready to vouch for the fact that it was well worth while. In fact they drew up a petition to the council asking that Chief Murray be retained for a longer period to "finish the wonderful work he has started". The petition goes on to say "We believe he will construct a Fire Department here that will be second to none in the state. We firemen as well as every citizen in Teaneck would greatly appreciate a move of this kind".

Both members of the council and the Public Safety Board attended sessions of the fire college and all were most favorably impressed. Consequently the request expressed in the firemen's petition has been acceded to and arrangements have been made which will keep Chief Murray in Teaneck for some time.

Unquestionably his work with the department will be to the advantage of Teaneck, assuring greater safety of life and property. It is also safe to predict that it will be to the eventual monetary benefit of taxpayers and renters alike in the ultimate granting of a lower basic insurance rate.

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## REPORT SHOWS TOWN POLICE HAVE GIVEN FINE SERVICE HERE

(Continued)

upon the police that they are employees of the public, and owe no obligation except to give the public the best possible police service; and I wish to state emphatically that the Council has lived up to its announced intention to ask no political favors of the police. The police have not been asked to protect anybody, nor to go easy with anybody, and as a result Teaneck today is as clean and free from any undesirable resorts of any kind as it is possible for police watchfulness to make it.

"Another instruction of the council was that the police must be always courteous in their contacts with citizens, and careful as to their appearance and actions in public; and I am sure the people of Teaneck will agree that this instruction has borne fruit, and that the force has shown great improvement in both respects.

"Best of all, the result has been to make every man on the force better satisfied with his job, and more anxious than ever to make good and hold a clean record. There is a rivalry among them to do outstandingly good work and merit citations, and the knowledge that penalties and reprimands will be forthcoming when deserved has lessened materially the number of infractions of regulations, showing that the more rigidly discipline is enforced, the less frequently it becomes necessary to enforce it.

"I am thoroughly confident that if it were put to a vote, every man in my department would agree with me that the police force of Teaneck is under a debt of obligation to the present administration for establishing the Teaneck Police Department on a higher level of conduct and efficiency than it ever reached before, or could reach under conditions of political control."

Following is a complete summary of the body of the formal report itself:

The force throughout the year consisted of thirty men, classified as to rank and annual salaries as follows: 1 chief, \$3,800; 1 captain, \$3,000; two lieutenants, each \$2,800; five sergeants, each \$2,700; twenty-one patrolmen, salaries ranging from \$2,200 for those in their first year and rising to \$2,500 in the fourth and succeeding years.

During the year two men were removed from the force, one still on probation, on account of complaints, and one regular member, dismissed on charges; while a third was retired on pension due to disability. Their places were filled by three appointments from the top of an eligible list established as the result of a competitive examination, in which candidates were submitted to both mental and physical tests. These eligibles before appointment were required also to pass a thorough medical examination.

(Continued on Page 20)

## DEBT RATE TAKES A QUICK LANDSLIDE, AS WILD SPENDING HALTS

(Continued)

ratables in each instance, was reduced from 9.059 to 4.85.

In other words, Teaneck is no longer under the restriction of Chapter 181 of the Laws of 1930, which provides that no municipality shall have net debt in excess of seven per cent of its average ratables in the last preceding three years.

Commissioner Darby in his letter facetiously refers to this as an "alarming reduction" in net debt, but goes on to explain that he could hardly credit the figures until he had rechecked them and convinced himself that Teaneck really had achieved this "remarkable reduction in both gross and net debts."

Here are the figures to which Mr. Darby refers: In the year 1931 the gross debt of Teaneck Township was reduced from "\$6,211,131.64 to \$5,494,675.55, and the net debt from \$1,692,106.22 to \$972,664.78.

This decrease in debt percentage was due in large measure to the fact that the lower ratables of 1927 assessment were dropped from the three-year average and the higher ratables of 1930 assessment taken in, in computing the three-year average. This was helped along greatly by the fact that net debt was reduced by \$720,000, in round numbers, chiefly through retirement of bonds that fell due in 1931 and the buying in and cancelling of \$263,000 of bonds that would not mature until 1933 or 1934.

While the three-year average of ratables effective at the end of 1930 was \$18,678,699 and at the end of 1931 \$20,054,758, and Teaneck is not now within two percent of being up to its debt limit, it is not believed that it will be the policy of the present administration to undertake any bonded improvements at the maximum legal rate of interest, at least until such time as the way seems clear to meet the heavy obligations falling due in 1933 and 1934 without the necessity of a sharp increase in the tax rate for 1935.

The bonds written to mature in 1933 and 1934 aggregate approximately two and a half millions of dollars, of which \$263,000 have been retired. Purchases and retirement of more of these bonds is anticipated this year, and arrangements to that end have already been made. Nevertheless there is still a crisis facing the township, and a great need that bonds be sold for the erection of school buildings. It is to be regarded as certain that the present township administration will make no move that will tend to put Teaneck in financial distress—a condition they inherited when they took office, and which by reason of the referendum and councilmanic elections that placed them in office, they are under mandate of the people of Teaneck to remedy as soon as possible, and to avoid for the future.

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## Teaneck Taxpayers League Organized

### Captain John Wilkins Elected President of League

The following article is reprinted from the Times-Review, issue of May 2, 1929.

The formation of the Taxpayers League of Teaneck, an organization which will support Independent candidates for offices in the Township who adhere to the League's policies, took place Monday night at the Chamber of Commerce office on Teaneck Road with Captain John J. Wilkins occupying the chair as temporary chairman until the election of officers took place.

The principles of the new organization are concise and easily understood. In the main, it provides for efficient government, home rule, administration of affairs of the township by a city manager and civil service system for subordinate employees of the township.

The following, who were present, are founders of the organization: Captain John J. Wilkins, R. E. Talbert, R. B. Suttle, H. Brandow, O. W. Holcombe, W. Ely, Dr. Franklin A. Gaylord, W. J. Senn, G. Heisse, William Baden, Charles Froesch, F. H. Ward, E. W. Proctor, Carl Helm, F. G. Nugent, Chas. A. Wiener, Matthew Turnbull, W. S. Jessorun, A. N. Jordan, A. L. Nelson and H. W. Spange. The latter three were not present at Monday's meeting but took part in the previous, an informal meeting.

Before the adoption of the principles, object and platform, Captain Wilkins and Mr. Wiener gave an interesting resume of township affairs.

Officers elected were: Captain Wilkins, president; Mr. Jessorun, treasurer and Mr. Wiener, secretary.

The following statement was given out by the chairman:

"That there is a widely growing feeling of discontent and dissatisfaction with the affairs of the township and the direction in which they are headed has been and is evidenced to a marked degree, through recent meetings of some twenty or more representative home owning taxpayers of the community. These men, men of responsibility and standing in their respective sections of the town, possessing the confidence and respect of their neighbors, friends and acquaintances; and who have been and are conspicuously free from political activities of any kind, first came together to discuss what practically amounted to three questions: What is the matter with the affairs of Teaneck? What can be done?; and What shall we do?"

"The result of their discussions and deliberations of these three important questions relating to the general welfare and well being of the community is the initiation of action toward the formation of a taxpayers protective association or

league, having for its outstanding purpose the securing of maximum protection for the home owner through absolute and non-partisan business administration of the affairs of the township.

"That this move is a serious one is evident from the calibre of the men sponsoring it, as well as by their sincere determination to carry it through. Free as it will be from political taint of any hue or shade, it is in line with its avowed and underlying policy that the conduct of the affairs of the township should be non-partisan, for, in the last analysis—as the trend of discussions put it—what is the conduct of the affairs of our town, but a business; and what business has ever been or can be successfully conducted under politically partisan procedure of politics.

"Proceedings of this body of men to date has resulted in the appointment of various committees, for the division of work concerned with the completion and perfection of organization and outlining its purposes and policies. It is expected that the complete set-up in full detail will be shortly ready for public announcement, together with the names of the men serving as founders of the movement—which, it is felt certain, will be accepted as guarantees of the honesty and sincerity of purpose behind and fostering this step in an effort to bring economical business order out of the costly chaos of partisan form of government.

"The concerted action and perfect accord," said Captain Wilkins, "as well as the standing of the men fostering this movement augers well for its success. Their unselfish willingness to offer their time and abilities and means to the promotion of a movement having for its purpose the best interests and general welfare of all, should and must appeal to and command the support of those for and in whose interests the movement is undertaken—the home owners of Teaneck—each and every one of whom, subscribing to its platform, policies and purposes, being eligible to membership.

"They—the home owners—will," continued the Captain, "unquestionably recognize that the principles and purpose of the protective organization, if carried into effect, will prove to be the foundation of their happiness, contentment and welfare; and their active support will just as unquestionably follow."

The platform of the league is as follows:

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(Continued on Page 13)

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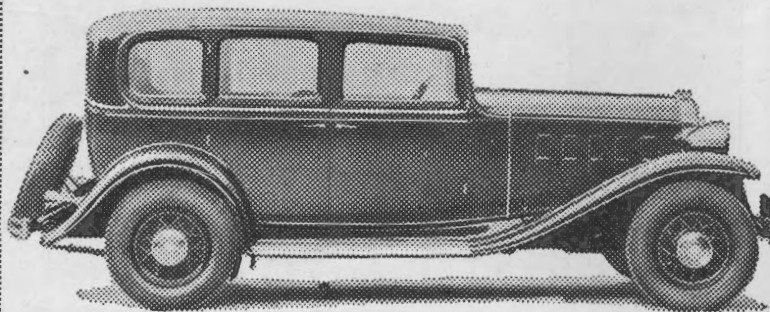
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## DEBT RATE TAKES A QUICK LANDSLIDE, AS WILD SPENDING HALTS

Teaneck Township's record of achievement under the city manager form of government continues to create envy among its less fortunate neighbors.

This week's announcement that Teaneck is now well within the municipal debt limit of 7 per cent is just another of the many progressive results obtained since Mayor Van Wagoner and his associates in the Teaneck Taxpayers' League obtained control of the Township government.

Teaneck's percentage of net debt is now 4.85, compared to slightly more than 9 per cent last year. This tremendous reduction not only signifies careful and competent municipal management but is one of the outstanding accomplishments of the city manager regime. So large was the reduction that experts checked and rechecked the figures several times before they could believe they were accurate.

Walter R. Darby, commissioner of the State Department of Municipal Accounts, complimented Teaneck officials by asserting: "Teaneck had made a rather remarkable in both net and gross debts."

Teaneck seems to have solved its financial problems by living well within its income, spending much less than it received in taxes, and applying the surplus to reducing its bonded indebtedness. This sounds like a comparatively simple method, but few indeed are the municipalities which have followed it.

If the taxpayers of Teaneck permit the city manager plan to continue, and there is every indication that they will, it does not seem too much to expect that Teaneck will set a record for good government which will attract national attention. It already has made much progress in that direction, and its officials are to be congratulated on their excellent showing.

—Reprinted from the Bergen Evening Record.

## Welfare Organization Continuing Program

Total receipts up to March 25 in the campaign for emergency relief funds being conducted by the Teaneck Welfare Organization were slightly in excess of \$6,700. Of this amount \$6,000 has been made available for distribution by the welfare Committee.

While highly encouraged by the generous support received it is understood members of the organization will further their efforts to obtain funds for emergency purposes during the current month. Although the plan of campaign called for a concerted drive over a period of six months starting last November it may be necessary to prolong the life of the committee as distress calls have been increasing rather than diminishing.

With this in mind the committee will strive to complete the block to block campaign so that all subscriptions will be taken care of by April 30, the original date decided upon as the closing day of the campaign. Many local residents have thus far not been approached for a subscription and the committee requests that such residents who may be in a position to contribute to send their donation direct to the office of the Welfare Organization, Hollander Building, Teaneck Road.

A meeting of the committee was held recently with a view to rounding out plans for a card party and dance to be given late this month in the Palm Gardens on Teaneck Road near Cedar Lane. As the affair will be strictly for charity and all receipts will go to the unemployed there is no doubt but that it will be well patronized.

While the plans are not yet complete it is known that many prominent residents have volunteered their services and efforts will be made to enlist the co-operation of others so that the affair will become town wide in scope. It was also considered desirable to have dancing after the card party in order that the younger element in town would become interested.

Further details of what now promises to be a gala affair will be given in the local papers from time to time. As noted elsewhere in this issue the concert held in the High School auditorium on March 11 was most successful. While the bulk of the receipts are now in, several organizations have not up to this time completed returns for tickets.

So that a complete report may be made at an early date such organizations are requested to forward any further returns direct to the treasurer, J. P. Birch, 327 Warwick Avenue, West Englewood.

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## Sewerage Disposal Needs of Bergen and Hudson Summarized

The Hackensack Valley has two major problems in sanitation to face; the proper treatment of its liquid wastes—sewage and the proper disposal of its solid wastes—rubbish and garbage. In many ways these two sanitation problems are closely related. Both are the result of unusually rapid growth of population in this section. Individual action of municipalities has not and cannot adequately correct conditions which are gradually becoming serious menaces to the public health and the public welfare of the Hackensack Valley. Joint action of the entire section is needed to obtain a permanent, satisfactory and economical solution of both problems.

Already serious nuisances exist. Water courses are fouled to an offensive degree as a result of human and industrial wastes; unsanitary and unsightly rubbish and garbage dumps provide breeding places for vermin and insects; the air is polluted by the stench and smoke of our municipal refuse; vacant lots are covered with litter and in many places we find the beauty of our country roads despoiled by rubbish dumped along their margins. These nuisances are too well known to need detailed description. Even casual observation reveals conditions which can no longer be viewed with complacent tolerance.

In many localities in this country and abroad it has been recognized that progress in sanitation can best be accomplished by combined action under a single organization. The Department of Sanitation of the City of New York and the Sanitary Commission of Westchester County are organizations established recently in the Metropolitan area as a result of a realization of the necessity of providing unified action in dealing with sanitation of congested areas. It is only by taking similar steps that development and growth, normally to be expected in Bergen and Hudson Counties as a result of better transportation facilities, can meet the completion of other sections in the Metropolitan area.

The problem of protecting the Hackensack River and its branches from pollution is no doubt the more serious of the two, both as to immediate need for relief and the serious conditions which will exist if proper control methods are not begun at once. A start toward the solution of the sewage problem has been made by the Hackensack Valley Sewerage Commission, which was created by state legislation about a year ago to study the question of pollution of the Hackensack River and report on a comprehensive plan for solving this problem.

The Commission has devoted intensive study and investigation to the question employing the best engineering experience and applying the latest knowledge.

Certain important conditions found by the Commission may be stated briefly as follows:

1. For years and years thousands of tons of sewage solids have been dumped into the river so that it has become a huge basin of filth.

2. The appearance of the stream, particularly at low tide and its utility from the standpoint of navigation because of the sludge deposited in the waterway has been seriously impaired. This reacts adversely upon the riparian values and necessitates continuous maintenance dredging to preserve the navigable depths required.

3. Certain municipalities are unable to make the capital investment required to adequately provide for eliminating pollution contributed by them.

4. Certain municipalities located in the potable water shed above New Milford dam are denied sewage facilities because they have no outlet for sewers which could be built at a reasonable cost.

5. At this time, many municipalities are faced with proceedings against them by the State Department of Health to provide additional treatment works. This action by the State Board has been recently postponed to May 1, 1932, to await action on the report of this Commission.

6. Present methods of dealing with the problem individually by municipalities has proved a failure. Conditions which exist under this method should no longer be tolerated.

7. There is an immediate need for combined action and co-operation of all municipalities in the Valley to secure permanent relief in a solution of the problem. This will assure to Bergen and Hudson Counties their full measures of growth and prosperity, which otherwise will be retarded.

8. Delay in organization of this project and making detailed plans and preparation for construction work means greatly added costs. Rights of way which can be obtained at nominal cost now will be extremely expensive in many cases later as the localities are developed. Difficulties to construction of the trunk sewers are increasing.

The plan developed by the Commission after a year of study is described in the report recently submitted. The Commission believes it to be a practical, economical and completely effective method of solving the problem once and for all time. The plan consists of two separate systems of trunk sewers, pumping stations and sewage treatment works, one to take care of the northern part of the valley and the other the southern part. Trunk sewers will be large enough to take care of the needs of the valley for many years in the future. Treatment plants will completely treat the sewage by modern methods, separating the solids from the liquids and making harmless the solids by drying, incinerating or by other suitable means. Practically clean clear liquid will be returned to the river. Treatment plants will be made large enough to take care of the

flow for the next 15 years and will be laid out so that additions can be economically added to take care of additional amounts of sewage. The proposed plan of two separate systems proves economical inasmuch as deep costly construction and pumping of sewage before it reaches treatment plants is avoided.

The financing of the plan is simple, effective and fair to all concerned. It provides for the counties to act as bankers in furnishing funds, the Counties to be reimbursed by each municipality on the pay as you go plan by paying

a certain amount for each million gallons of sewage discharged into the trunk lines. The system would thus be self-sustaining and the funds provided by the Counties would not be charged to their gross debt.

The plan also provides a feature of home rule which is a protection to each municipality, in that each municipality may collect its annual cost in any way it chooses.

Many communities will find it advantageous to obtain all or a greater part of the cost of the sewerage service supplied by the  
(Continued on Page 12)

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## Sewerage Disposal Needs of Bergen and Hudson Summarized

(Continued)

district by means of a sewer rental charge; that is an annual charge for sewer service per connection, similar to charges commonly made by water service. This method is permitted by a section of the home rule act of 1917, which provides that New Jersey communities under city ordinance may finance sewerage works by a charge for service against individual connections. Within the past few years the method has been used extensively in Michigan, Ohio, Texas and in other states including Massachusetts, New York and Maryland. Cities unable to otherwise finance much needed sewerage works have been able to adequately take care of their needs. It is proved a satisfactory and fair method to obtain necessary funds, and is an equitable way to provide funds required yearly for operation, maintenance, interest and sinking fund charges for trunk sewers and sewerage treatment works.

A brief summary of the benefits of the project to individual communities and to the present and future welfare of the Hackensack Valley as a whole may be stated as follows:

1. Protection of the potable water supply in the upper Hackensack Valley.
2. Provision for adequate and permanent sewage disposal for the entire area within the Hackensack Valley.
3. Elimination of objectionable odors in municipalities by removing existing treatment plants from within their areas.
4. Return to taxable property lists within Municipalities of large areas which are now part of or near sewage plants and cannot be used for profitable purposes.
5. Increase in the value of properties in low areas along the water front.
6. Relief of towns from further expenditures for extensions and improvements on their existing plants.
7. Provisions for better sewage facilities at a more economical operating cost.
8. Ability to use the streams and waterways for recreation and

park development.

The problem of proper disposition of rubbish and garbage in this area is closely related to that of sewerage treatment. An organized effort for a systematic program for sanitary works with advantages and economies incident to combining these two problems should be delayed no longer.

The report recently submitted by the Hackensack Valley Sewerage Commission completes the duties prescribed by the law creating the Commission. No doubt to provide for the disposition of rubbish and garbage at the two main plants as recommended in its report would prove how economical and practical this sanitary problem could be handled. The Commission believes that the present method of dealing with these problems by uncoordinated independent activities of separate municipalities can result only in costly, ineffective, and haphazard development and unsatisfactory conditions. We must coordinate our efforts at once to provide sanitary measures for the protection of the public health and welfare of this fast growing section of the metropolitan area.

## TEANECK GRILL IS GOOD EATING PLACE

Considerable interest has been manifested in the opening of the Teaneck Grill, a \$12,000 newest type Diner at Cedar Lane and Palisade Avenue. This is one of the most prominent sites in Teaneck.

Heretofore vacant land and a waste of red clay, the corner is now occupied by a pleasing and service rendering addition to our growing number of business enterprises.

The proprietor, Mr. Richard Mascolo, of Brooklyn, states his intention to make the corner attractive by landscaping and the planting of evergreens. This he says will be gradually developed and there will also be ornamental lattices at wing position on the Diner.

The personnel of the Grill includes a chef of New York hotel experience, a night man and lady attendant in addition to Mr. Mascolo. Blue plate specials will be served during the day and at night steak sandwiches and grill dinners will be featured. "The Best Coffee in Town" at five cents per cup, says the proprietor and appetizing service throughout at reasonable rates.

With these promises fulfilled the Grill should receive a profitable patronage and deserves its anticipated success.

## LEAGUE MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Taxpayers' League takes place on Wednesday evening, April 13, at the Municipal Building.

All members are urged to be present. Visitors and prospective members are always welcome.

## Persian Art Based On Fine Philosophy

Since my last article on Persian Art, which appeared recently in these columns I have been asked to write a few words about the philosophy and symbolism of Persian design and color.

As this, the possession of a philosophy is the cause of Persia's eminent position in the world of art, I will briefly set down the general ideals of her artists and artisans:

"The floral design is the typical Persian design from time immemorial. (Geometric design being the Mongolian race's conception of the attributes of the Diety, was introduced into Persia from China in the 12th century). For it is the medium by which the Persian conception of the one God is portrayed. The central pattern of the floral design is 'The Tree of Life' which appears either in the form of a cypress, the evergreen nature of whose foliage is the symbol of the everlasting God, exemplified in the Tree of Life, which means a Divine Manifestation, like Christ, Buddha, Zoroaster, etc., and today as Baha Ullah. It also appears as a rose bush or the conventionalized forms of rose trees or floral bushes. The fragrance of the rose symbolizes the fragrant qualities of the Tree of Life, or a Divine Manifestation.

"As, however, the one God has many attributes, the medium of floral design would not suffice in depicting those attributes; hence, Persian artists from the ancient times adopted the medium of color to portray and differentiate the various attributes of the one God. For only thru visible phenomena suggested by the various shades of color, the attributes of the invisible one God can be portrayed. Thus the loftiness of God is symbolized by the heavens and the sky, whose color is blue. The depth of the sea, whose color is dark blue symbolizes the depth of the Divine nature. The creative energy of God is symbolized by the Vegetable Kingdom, whose color is green. The glory of God is symbolized by the sun whose color is yellow or orange. The love of God is symbolized by the Fire, whose color is red, rose or crimson; hence rose is the national flower of Persia.

"The Persians never produced a lasting or rich shade of black, for according to the ancient Persian prophets, including Zoroaster, evil, or the evil one, was to be shunned, and as black is the symbol of evil, even the perfecting of the dye or color black was not attempted. While on the other hand, vegetable dyes were discovered and employed to give a lasting character to the symbols of the noble attributes of God—whenever there was need to use the color black, they used the famous 'Aubergine' or egg plant color, which is a combination of the red and blue.

"Shah Abbas the great, the second ruler of the Persian Sebevi (Continued on Page 15)

TEANECK 6-8244

**PURE ICE**

Every Day in the Year

PETER SCHLICHTING

Teaneck, N. J.



## Woman's Club Has Made Contribution To Town's Progress

On May 5, 1925, the Woman's Club of Teaneck was founded and organized by Mrs. Bernard Lippman, who was elected president and retained that office until 1930. She was succeeded by Mrs. Clara B. Ferry. The club became affiliated with the State Federation of Women's Clubs on the following day, May 6.

A junior branch was organized in 1926; Miss Lucie Cantzlaar was elected president. Miss Vivian McKenna now holds this office.

Due to limited space, only a few outstanding accomplishments can be outlined:

Presentation of flag and pole to the township at the dedication of the new municipal building;

Planting a community Christmas tree, equipped with a 100 lights and holding a community "sing" each Christmas;

Raising funds for the music studio of the New Jersey College for Women;

Endorsing the "Better Homes Movement" and exhibiting a Better Home;

Inaugurating the music contest in public schools and presenting prizes to the winners;

Aiding in the Mississippi and Florida flood relief;

Endorsing and actively engaging in promoting Bergen County Parks;

Endorsing the movement for planting and preserving shade trees on the public highways;

Endorsing the campaign for stamping out Diphtheria by immunization;

Endorsing and promoting the Better Films Movement; also the Church and Drama League;

Endorsing the World Court Movement; the Kellogg Pact; thus manifesting interest in international relations;

Interesting 90 per cent of the club members in voting each year; Donating to the Yardley Memorial Scholarship fund;

Presenting the Teaneck high school with a tablet on which is to be inscribed annually the name of the graduate winning the award for good citizenship;

Bringing holiday cheer to inmates of hospitals and other institutions; donating to the war veterans and participating in all hospital drives;

Organization of a choral, which has sung over the radio and before various Women's Clubs;

Organizing a Girl Scout Troop; Instruction of English to foreigners;

Earning \$370 at a golf tournament and presenting this amount to the Teaneck Welfare Association;

Donating toward the uniforms for the Teaneck high school band; Through the kindness of Mrs. William Lohr, club treasurer, presenting a flag to the township to replace the tattered one on the

(Continued on Page 15)

## Teaneck Taxpayers' Association Starts

(Continued)

for the common purpose of securing and maintaining a non-partisan, efficient municipal government.

### Principles

We, citizens of Teaneck, fully recognize that the formation of political parties upon differences as to the general principles of state and national policy is both inevitable and useful; however, we have learned from long and expensive experience that the real purposes of municipal government are impossible of attainment under partisan political systems.

Therefore, in order to secure for ourselves and our posterity the benefits of impartial, efficient and economical administration of our township government, we do hereby unite and declare our determination to stand together on the following principles:

- 1—Home rule.
- 2—Non-partisan government.
- 3—Business-like administration by the employment of a city manager.
- 4—Reduction of taxes by efficient progressive and economical government.
- 5—Employment of qualified, disinterested and efficient public servants.
- 6—All township business to be conducted in public, and all township records to be opened for inspection by taxpayers.
- 7—Detailed financial statements of the township to be made semi-annually and immediately published in the local papers.
- 8—Public credit not to be mortgaged for private speculation and advantage.
- 9—Comprehensive planning and execution of Public Improvements in the general interest without extravagance.
- 10—Streets, sewers and water-mains to be built with financial protection to the general taxpayers.
- 11—Zoning ordinances for the protection of the individual homeowner.
- 12—Adequate fire and police protection.
- 13—Civil service system for subordinate employees.

Teaneck 6-7238

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Electrical Repairing  
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76

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Teaneck, N. J.

10A

All the principles were adopted unanimously, and further consideration of the problems of the new organization will be given at the next meeting to be held on Monday at eight o'clock in the evening in the Chamber of Commerce offices, Teaneck Road facing the Municipal Building. All persons interested in the league are invited to be present.

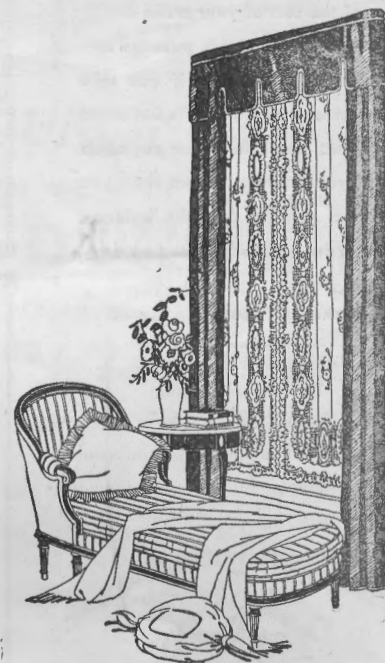
## LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

To the Editor Town Manager:  
"I am delivering to you one copy each of Sept., Oct., and Nov. issues of 'The Town Manager' which you requested in this month's issue.

"You are doing good work with this paper, it is worthwhile. Good luck to you, here is one dollar for my subscription."

O. W. Holcombe.

## Beautify your Home



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### CURTAINS, DRAPERIES, SPREADS

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Seeds, Evergreens and Shrubs

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## Gossip

Teaneck and its suburbs along  
the beautiful Palisades on the  
Hudson has so far enjoyed an open  
semi-tropical winter without the  
usual chilly winds and snowstorms.

Those of our neighbors who closed  
their homes for the winter and  
sped southward to bask in sunny  
Florida have missed the delightful  
concerts given by our Teaneck  
Community Orchestra and the  
many social activities of our met-  
ropolitan life including a vitriolic  
campaign for seats in our Board  
of Education.

If the Gulf Stream continues to  
hug the Jersey coast, many of our  
enterprising real estate developers  
will be planting sun-kist oranges,  
Miami grapefruit or Tampico Man-  
goes along the banks of the Hack-  
ensack as far as the Ramapo Moun-  
tains.

While Teaneck is not situated  
within the glacial morrain of Ber-  
gen County which has been recent-  
ly reported to contain gold dust in  
its gravel deposits, vacant land in  
Teaneck is nevertheless a much  
coveted possession provided one  
can slip by the new army of ap-  
praisers from the Assessor's office,  
who are placing a value on every-  
thing in sight except "the squeal"  
from the owner.

We have been informed that a  
squad of prospectors are about to  
drill for oil at the foot of Cumber-  
land Avenue where surface indi-  
cations have led experienced geol-  
ogists to believe that all the Gar-  
rison Area from the West Shore  
R. R. to River Road is underlaid by  
one big pool.

Scotty, owner of a gasoline sta-  
tion on Cedar Lane, is planning an  
oil refinery and Stalder, the hard-  
ware merchant, is stocking heavily  
on pipe in anticipation of great  
demand by Spring.

Gus Williams, famous for his  
quality homes at quantity prices, is  
planning to build a one hundred  
room, opposite the West Shore Sta-  
tion Plaza and Charley Walker is  
ly having its good effects in spite  
negotiating with a syndicate for a  
movie talkie house opposite the  
bank.

The heat this winter is certain-  
ly having its goo effects in spite  
of dullness in other business lines.

YOUR MONEY'S WORTH  
at the

**Manor Shoe Repairing**  
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Teaneck, N. J.

8

Teaneck 6-8585

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CEDAR LANE  
At the Bridge  
Teaneck, New Jersey

101

## Successful Concert For Welfare Fund

(Continued)

Samuel E. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs.  
Wm. St. John Tozer, Mr. Roland N.  
Tremble, Mr. and Mrs. Karl D. Van  
Wagner, Mr. and Mrs. Donald M.  
Waesche, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel T.  
Walden, Rev. Charles Waldron, Mr.  
and Mrs. George A. Wall, Mr. and  
Mrs. Frederick T. Warner, and  
Capt. and Mrs. Charles A. Wild.

The program also listed the fol-  
lowing organizations as having  
participated in various way toward  
making the concert a success, their  
chief help having been in the sale  
of tickets:

Altar and Scapular Society, St.  
Anastasia's Church; The Delphian  
Society, West Englewood Chapter;  
Chief Justice White Council,  
Knights of Columbus; Holy Name  
Society, St. Anastasia's Church;  
Horse Coal Company; Ladies' Aid  
Society, Teaneck M. E. Church;  
Ladies' Guild, St. Paul's Church;  
Ladies' Auxiliary, Teaneck Tax-  
payers' League; H. C. Lubben  
Sons; Men's Club, Teaneck Pres-  
byterian Church; Mercury Athletic  
Club; Neighborhood Glee Club;  
Folly Wyckoff Chapter, Daughters  
of the American Revolution; Prince  
George Chapter, Daughters of the  
British Empire; Regular Democra-  
tic Organization of Teaneck; Real  
Estate Board of Teaneck and Bo-  
gota; Rotary Club of Teaneck;  
Square Circle of Teaneck; Teaneck  
Athletic Club; Teaneck Board of  
Education; Teaneck Chapter No.  
218, Order of Eastern Star; Tea-  
neck Community Orchestra; Tea-  
neck High School Band; Teaneck  
High School, Parent-Teachers' As-  
sociation; Teaneck Fire Depart-  
ment; Teaneck Municipal Em-  
ployees Teaneck Police Depart-  
ment; Teaneck Post No. 128, Am-  
erican Legion; Teaneck Republican  
Association; Teaneck Schools—  
Faculty; Teaneck Taxpayers'  
League; Teaneck Troops, Boy  
Scouts of America; United States  
Post Office Employees—West En-  
glewood; Woman's Club of Tea-  
neck; Women's Guild, Christ  
Church; Women's Guild, St. Mark's  
Church; Women's Guild, Teaneck  
Presbyterian Church.

The members of Teaneck Wel-  
fare Organization's committee,  
which has had charge of collecting  
funds for the unemployed through-  
out the season, and which sponsored  
the concert, are as follows:

George L. O'Hare, Chairman;  
Frederick W. Scholz, Vice-Chair-  
man; Rev. Richard Baxter; Secre-  
tary; James P. Birch, Treasurer;  
Mrs. Ritchie Brooks, Jr., Mrs. A.  
W. Conner, Mr. James F. Convery,  
Mrs. Richard Copley, Mr. Henry  
Deissler, Mr. I. Doskow, Mrs. R. I.  
Inglehart, Mr. Herbert B. Ivens,  
Rev. Charles S. Kemble, Mr.  
George A. Lampe, Mrs. W. A.  
Miller, Mr. Frank A. Morrison,  
Mrs. O. P. Morrow, Mr. Albert L.  
Nelson, Mr. Andrew F. Oppelt, Mr.  
N. E. Peieff, Mrs. George H. Perry-  
man, Mrs. John H. Ranges, Mrs.  
F. W. Shulenberger, Mr. W. St.  
John Tozer.



## Typical Teaneck Residence



## Persian Art Based On Fine Philosophy

(Continued)

Dynasty, whose capitol was Isfahan and who reigned from 1575 to 1623 was the creator of the Persian Renaissance. All his courtiers were great painters, book illuminators, lacquer makers and artists, while in his reign the art of design and coloring reached perfection.

"He sent Persian artists to China and Italy, brought native artists from those countries into Persia and the rugs of which the wonderful designs are reproduced in the pieces you have bought, were woven at Isfahan in his reign, and are today, some worth many thousands of dollars.

"The so-called 'Palm Leaf' figure, is the tree of life, or cypress, with its head bent to symbolize reverence and worship."

## BULLETIN BOARD

Beginning with the May issue of this publication all card parties, dances, dinners and benefit shows to be held in the Township and to which the public is invited will appear under this heading.

Several requests have been made to Township Manager, Paul A. Volcker, that his office at the Municipal Building act as a clearing house for all Township organizations and thus avoid conflicting dates.

Every organization intending to hold any of these affairs during the months of May, June and July, is requested to consult the schedule of events kept at the Municipal Building. Please be prompt in the selection and filing of dates.

All announcements must be filed 30 days in advance of schedule and must be in the hands of this

publication not later than the 15th of the month.

## Woman's Club Has Made Contribution To Town's Progress

(Continued)

municipal building;

Raising funds for the assessments on the club property;

Planting various sections of the township by the garden department under the leadership of Mrs. Richard Palmer;

The various departments are active throughout the club year, and include art, music, civics, garden, junior, international relations, applied education, institutional cooperative, literature and drama.

The club is justly proud of the fact that Mrs. William Elliot, corresponding secretary, was announced winner of the first prize in the play review contest conducted by the New Jersey State Federation in May, 1931.

The Woman's Club of Teaneck stands for the civic, philanthropic, and social betterment of the community. If you are interested, why not communicate with Mrs. C. H. Chesney, membership chairman; 535 Wyndham Road, or telephone her, Teaneck 6-1388. She is conducting an active membership drive and will be pleased to hear from you.

The club purchased a parcel of land in 1927; paying off the entire mortgage in January, 1930; and has also paid off all assessments on the property. The mortgage was burned at the birthday party in May of that year. Very keen interest is being manifested at the present time for the building of a clubhouse; and it is, with this purpose in mind, that the membership drive is being conducted.

Vivian G. Blood.

Publicity Chairman.



## ...ANNOUNCING...

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Programs  
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TEANECK NATIONAL BANK BUILDING

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## THE CARE OF A CANARY

By N. R. Hoffman

There are very few homes that do not have a canary or two to lend a bit of natural beauty and melody to the surroundings. These charming songsters are favorites in every country, are easily cared for and will live for many years when their few simple requirements are observed.

When selecting your singer do not be governed by its price. A good canary cannot be sold for \$1.98 or \$2.98. Such birds are either females that will never sing, young, weak stock that has been culled out by the experienced dealers, or newly imported birds that have not been acclimated.

There is no economy in buying a bird simply because it is cheap. A cheap bird eats just as much as a good bird, it takes just as much time to look after it, and it usually dies without returning the investment in song. Better to wait until you can afford a good singer, one that is full of pep and vitality, than to be bothered with anything less.

When you have purchased your bird place it in a roomy cage, one that is large enough to give it a chance to flutter its wings and hop about a bit. Most of the larger size canary cages sold by dealers are satisfactory.

#### Feeding

See that the seed cup is filled each day with a mixture of sweet hape and canary seed. The seed should be of the best quality and free from dust, dirt or other impurities. The small red summer rape is the one generally sold and the proportion should be 50 parts rape to 50 parts canary. Be sure that the water cup is cleaned out every day and filled with fresh water. It is not enough to simply empty out the water and put in fresh. Rinse out the slime which accumulates on the inside of the water cup before filling with fresh water.

Give the bird a small finger cup of special seed or song restorer twice a week. This can be alternated with a egg food preparation, there being several good ones on the market. On every third day give a small piece of lettuce that has been thoroughly washed, or a bit of boiled carrot, sweet apple, spinach, etc. Be sure that the lettuce has not been frozen or is wilted.

Keep a sprinkling of clean, white sand on the bottom of the cage, and a small piece of cuttlebone attached to the bars. The cuttlebone is not absolutely necessary but the birds like to nibble on it and it contains a small amount of salt which they relish. It also helps to keep their beaks sharpened and trimmed down.

Do not feed anything in addition to the above. Crackers, bread, cake, potatoes, bananas, etc., are detrimental to the health of the bird.

#### Red Mites and Lice

These pests seem to come out of

nowhere and must be kept down or they will so weaken the bird that it will stop singing and eventually die.

The cage should be examined periodically and disinfected. Black Flag No. 40 diluted according to directions and applied to the joints and seams of the cage wherever mites can hide, is an effective remedy. The bird should be removed and placed in another cage or box for this treatment. The cages should be washed, dried, and the bird dusted with insect powder.

Red mites can be detected by covering the cage at night with a white cloth. The mites are nocturnal and will congregate on the cloth after leaving the bird. They appear as tiny red specks when filled with the blood of the bird.

#### General Precautions

While the bird will enjoy an hour or two of sunshine, do not leave it hang in the sun for any length of time. Birds in their natural state usually seek the shade of trees during the hot part of the day and the canary is no exception. The direct and steady heat of the sun for a great length of time is injurious to the bird.

Never hang the bird in a direct draught. Fresh air is essential but a direct draught on a bird that has been kept in a heated home will quite likely bring on an attack of asthma or cold with perhaps fatal results.

Neither is it advisable to leave the bird fly about the room. It often lights on the top of door or window trim where dust has collected and which it inhales. A bird has delicate lungs and cannot survive dusty air. Gas from a heater or cook stove is also injurious and for that reason the bird should not be placed near a gas stove or coal heater.

Occasionally the bird's nails grow so long that it cannot perch properly. The nails should be trimmed with a small sharp scissor, making sure that the blood vessel in the nail is not cut.

Examine the bird's feet when trimming the nails. If they are rough or scaly they should be treated with leg salve to prevent soreness.

Let the bird bathe twice a week making sure that the water is not too cold and that the room is warm. The small bath houses which are attached to the outside of the cage are ideal for the purpose.

Clean the cage and perches at least twice a week. Roughen the perches by drawing them over a saw blade. The bird can perch more comfortably and the rough wood is better for the feet than the hard smooth perch usually supplied with bird cages.

If these few simple rules are observed and a good bird is selected, you will have your reward in a constant stream of sylvan melody poured out from the heart of the little, golden songster.



## PLAN SUGGESTED FOR USING VACANT LAND TO AID UNEMPLOYED (Continued)

be fed without working.

"The great advantage of the idea my question suggests is that to make it effective requires little more than organization and co-operation. I haven't a doubt that Teaneck's owners of unused vacant land, to a man, will give permission for such use of their land, if so requested. In many cities where it has been tried the plan has worked well. Why not in Teaneck where there is an unusually large area of tillable land in proportion to its population?

"It seems to me this would be a good enterprise to undertake at once. There is still time, before the planting season starts. The land so used would really be benefited, and I think the owners generally would prefer to have their vacant lots under cultivation than growing up to weeds.

"The unemployed would have to be provided with seeds and implements, of course, but I am sure there would be no difficulty in securing these through contributions. Teaneck's generosity has been well proved this year. Every dollar contributed in that way would mean several dollars in benefit to the unemployed and their own contribution of labor would make the plan complete, with very small cash outlay.

"It is possible, too, that seed might be obtained without cost from the National Red Cross organization. I have seen in the newspaper that recently that organization has furnished free seeds in some of the stricken agricultural districts. Why not here?

"To make the plan effective and productive of best results, requires of course, that it must be undertaken in an organized way. Consents will have to be obtained from property owners, then a register set up of applicants for garden plots, and an allotment made that will be fair and practicable. The man with a family of six, and with another in the family able to help work the land, naturally should be allotted a larger plot than an applicant responsible for only two or three.

"The land of course would have to be plowed or spaded up, to get it in shape for planting. Undoubtedly many citizens have spades and other implements they would give or lend for the gardeners. Certainly as little as possible should be spent in actual cash to get the plan going, and there should be a ready cash market for any excess products and at retail prices.

"The chief merit of the scheme is that with very small outlay it offers the unemployed a chance to make the productive forces of nature their partners—to set the sunshine and the rain at work for them and those dependent upon them. And after all, no bread is sweeter than that eaten 'in the sweat of one's brow'; no feeling of

possession stronger or prouder than the feeling 'This is mine because I made it—I produced it'.

"I have talked with Township Manager Volcker about the plan, and he suggests the plowing might be done by using the township's tractor plow, which is part of the equipment of the public works department, the labor being paid for out of available unemployment funds.

"He has also authorized me to say, in order to expedite matters, that any owners willing to give free use of their land may send word to that effect, stating location of land, addressed to Mr. L. B. Patch, Unemployment Bureau, Town Hall, Teaneck.

"Citizens who can contribute garden implements, seeds, or anything else that would help in the scheme, can send word to that effect to the same address; and Mr. Patch will also be glad to receive and make record of applications from those who would like to make use of the land, without any cost to themselves except the work involved.

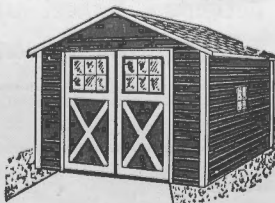
"Any tract, from a single lot, 20x100 feet and up, where the ground is fertile and tillable, can be used to advantage. There are large numbers of vacant lots in Teaneck that were formerly farm land, and these would be especially desirable because of their known fertility.

"In cities where this has been tried, much of the lighter work, such as weeding, watering, etc., has been done by children, after the heavier work of plowing and planting had been done by the grown-ups. I recall that Toledo, Ohio, some years ago made a splendid success of such an enterprise, and there was great rivalry among gardeners to show best results. During the summer vacation school children did much of the work, and liked it.

"I certainly appreciate the opportunity to present the subject to the people of Teaneck through The Town Manager, and I hope it may bring the splendid results that seem to me to be possible."

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11

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89

## Food Sanitation Important Subject

Since food poisoning has the nature of an infectious disease, the investigation of cases is a duty of a department of health. It may be suspected when its symptoms suddenly occur in a group of persons who have used a particular article of food or have eaten together.

When cases are reported, the procedures that a health officer is to take are as follows:

1. Search for a common article of food that has been used by the affected persons.

2. Obtain a sample of the food, place it on ice, and send it to a laboratory for a bacteriologic examination and a determination of the type of its organism, if any be present.

3. Search for the primary source of infection which will be either a human carrier, or an unclean shop or store, or ice-box, or the carcass of a diseased animal.

4. Take the necessary steps for the control of the carrier, or the disinfection of the infected places, or the destruction of the diseased meat.

A special form of poisoning is sausage poisoning. It is caused by the *Bacillus botulismus*. The bacilli do not grow in the living body, but grow readily upon many kinds of food, especially the ground meat of which sausage is made, for the grinding will distribute the bacilli from a small focus through the whole mass. The bacteria produce a toxin which is extremely poisonous when it is taken into the stomach, but it is destroyed by the heat of cooking.

The sources of the bacilli are unclean and infected shops and utensils. The disease may be prevented by cleanliness in food handling and by thoroughly cooking the food. While it is a rare disease, the possibility of its occurrence is an argument for the sanitary control of places for the sale of foods. The decomposition of food may be prevented to a great extent by the use of chemical preservatives.

These substances are antiseptic, and often have a poisonous action on the body. Their use constitutes a form of adulteration which is forbidden by the Federal Pure Food and Drugs Act. The processes of preservation may conceal the true nature of foods and give many opportunities for fraud.

There is a great temptation to preserve food of an inferior quality and that which is about to spoil, and to keep the preserved products for long periods of time until a profitable sale can be made. But if the preserving is done honestly, the products will be as wholesome as the fresh foods. The process by which foods are preserved in their most natural condition is that of cold storage.

The business is highly specialized, and each section of a warehouse is fitted for a single class of food. The temperatures vary from

a few degrees above freezing, for fruit and eggs, and at a lower degree for meat and fish.

The periods of time during which foods will keep fresh and wholesome are known with considerable accuracy. Some kinds of bacteria and molds will grow at temperatures below freezing, and some evaporation of water continually goes on. A year is about the limit of time during which freshness and wholesomeness of cold storage food can be guaranteed.

When foods that have been properly preserved in cold storage are removed for sale, they are in the same state that they were when they were put in storage. Food about to decompose will quickly decay after it is removed from the warehouse, and food that is infected will remain infected.

But food which is fresh and of good quality when it is put in cold storage will remain fresh and wholesome while it is in storage, and will keep fresh for a reasonable length of time after it is removed. The people of cities could not be fed without cold storage.

W. F. Reynolds,  
Health Officer.

## SYRACUSE STUDENT ASSIGNED TO TEANECK

The University of Syracuse conducts a course in municipal administration. Students in this course are required to do individual field work and the Secretary of the New Jersey League of Municipalities was requested to place one of these men with one of the model municipalities of New Jersey.

The choice fell in Teaneck. The young man who is in his junior year is engaged in writing an annual report based on the past years operations. There is no cost or expense attached to the Township in this matter.

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Monday, April 4th

19A

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36



## SAYS OFFICIALS HAVE TOO MUCH POWER IN MAKING IMPROVEMENTS

(Continued)

which is not noticed by the property owners as a rule and before they are aware of it, the governing body has passed an ordinance providing for the improvement of a street that was not desired or contemplated by the property owners to be affected, and the work is started.

No matter what the cost may be, no matter whether the bids had been fairly procured or whether there has been a conspiracy between the politicians and contractors to make the cost of the work abnormally high, and in many cases outrageous, there is no relief. The governing body accepts the lowest bid which sometimes may be three times or more what the actual cost should be. The work is completed and the municipality pays for the work as it progresses and upon its completion, final payment in full is made. Thus the public moneys have been wasted and there is no redress. Then comes the assessment. As soon as the property owners receive their assessment, they recognize the fact that it is several times the cost of what the work should have been.

The statute provides that in making local improvements, such assessments shall in each case be as near as may be in proportion to the peculiar benefit, advantage or increase in value, which the respective lots have received by reason of such improvement, and that such assessment shall not exceed in amount such peculiar benefit, advantage or increase in value. The assessment having been paid for by the municipality in an amount more than three times the fair cost thereof, the property owners institute a litigation and upon a hearing, the amount to be assessed is reduced by two-thirds. The property owners pay only one-third of the cost of such improvement which was paid out by the municipality. What is the result? The result is that the balance of the outrageous prices paid for improvements of this character, is thrown on the municipality at large and thus the ever increasing debt of municipalities mounts up until the debt limit is exceeded and no more improvements can be made. Such has been the experience of many of our municipalities.

The reasonable and fair thing to do would be to provide that whenever the governing body of the municipality desired to make a local improvement without previous application being made therefor by the property owners to be affected, notice of intention of making such improvement should be given to every property owner to be affected by registered mail and proof that such notice had been given should be required before any governing body is empowered to proceed with such an improvement.

Thus, every property owner

would be assured that no assessment could be levied against the property without his having knowledge thereof.

At the hearing to be had on the proposed improvement, the municipality should be required to furnish the property owners with a statement as to the approximate cost of such improvement. The property owners should be given the right to fix a maximum cost of such improvement for which they should be liable for assessment. It should be ratified by a majority of the property owners to be affected. Then, if the municipality should find that the improvement could be completed for an amount not in excess of that fixed by the property owners, the governing body should have the right to proceed.

The governing body however should not have the right to proceed with such local improvement without the approval of a majority of the property owners to be affected, unless the governing body itself should determine by a two-third or a three-fourths majority that such work was a public necessity and then, if the governing body reached such a determination, the property owners should have the right to appeal to a Circuit Court for a determination of the question as to whether or not it was a public necessity and only in the event that such a finding is made by the Court, should the governing body have the power to proceed over the objections of the property owners.

This procedure would afford a much better protection to property owners against unscrupulous and dishonest politicians and governmental officials, instead of placing the property owners at the mercy of those who control public affairs.

No doubt much more efficient protection could be evolved and placed on our statute books if the legislature had the rights of the public in mind when enacting laws of this character.

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Also \$50.00 each to the nine next nearest guesses to be applied to the purchase price of any Hudson or Essex Car in our stock or any used car priced over \$100. during the month of April. Come over and make your guess.

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13A

## TEANECK TAX RATE LOWEST SINCE 1927

(Continued)

The two factors which tended to decrease the rate were, first, the fact that the 1932 township budget was somewhat less than the 1931 budget and secondly, the fact that valuations were increased. The two factors which prevented it from being still lower were that the school budget and the county budget were both higher.

The increase in valuation was roughly two and a half million, some eight hundred thousand of which was due to new buildings erected during 1931. The remainder resulted from a process of equalization of assessable values. These affected mostly the business and acreage properties. From the time that the Finance Advisory Board started its investigations almost a year ago it was realized that this class of property was bearing less than its fair share of the burden of taxation. As a result of this equalization it is certain that the great mass of Teaneck taxpayers, particularly the home owner will pay almost ten per cent less in taxes in 1932 than he did in 1931.

Parenthetically it may be remarked that recent years have seen great increases in valuation of Teaneck property but up to now always with an increased tax rate. For instance, valuations increased four and a half million dollars in 1928 over 1927 and the tax rate increased forty-four points.

In 1929 there was a further increase of two and a quarter million dollars and the rate jumped another sixty-four points.

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## REPORT SHOWS TOWN POLICE HAVE GIVEN FINE SERVICE HERE

(Continued)

amination, to establish beyond question their fitness to become useful members of the force.

The force during the year was kept under stricter discipline than ever before, four officers having been penalized after hearings on charges of infractions of rules, while there were thirty-two instances of penalties or reprimands based on minor infractions, including reporting late for duty.

One formal inspection of the department was held, attended by Township Manager Volcker as administrative head of the department, and by the mayor and councilmen. It included a thorough examination of uniforms, ordnance and equipment, locker inspection and drill.

While discipline has been strict, the council has made it its policy to give recognition for specially meritorious service, and during the year there were eleven instances of citations for merit.

The report shows the equipment used by the department consists of one Oldsmobile car, four Ford roadsters, one Model T Ford used by the dog warden and for marking streets; three Harley-Davidson motor cycles, and one traffic line marker.

After deducting the officers required regularly for desk duty and detective service, nominally twenty-two patrolmen are left to patrol the township in three shifts, or tours of duty. From this nominal shewing must be deducted, however, all shortages of personnel due to vacations, sickness and other causes. These shortages in 1931 amounted to 761 days, divided as follows: Vacations, 403; suspensions, 92; sickness, 256; absences, 10. of the absences, 6 days were on leave and without pay. Members of the force in their first year are given 7 days vacation and after the first year 15 days.

This reduces the average number of the force available for patrol duty to twenty, who have to patrol a township of more than six square miles, having 53 miles of improved streets and 49 miles of unimproved streets; report to headquarters at Town Hall through 38 police telephone call boxes, and in general look after the peace and safety of persons and property for a population of a approximately 19,000. And since each officer is off duty one day a week, this patrol work is really done by 17 men.

For this department the appropriation for 1931 was \$98,180, of which \$77,000 was for salaries and \$3,080 for the pension fund, leaving \$18,100 for all other expenses, including traffic lights, motor equipment, telephones and compensation insurance as the chief items.

Department machines during the year used 18,264 gallons of gasoline, 408 of oil and 25 of alcohol.

During the year the force made 130 arrests for offenses committed

(Continued on Page 21)

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## REPORT SHOWS TOWN POLICE HAVE GIVEN FINE SERVICE HERE.

(Continued)

in Teaneck which were turned over to the First District Criminal Court in Hackensack, and 26 at the request of other police departments.

Offenses for which the local arrests were made were listed as follows:

Breaking, entry and larceny, 1; carrying concealed weapons, 8; concealment of crime, 9; causing juvenile delinquency, 1; desertion and non-support, 4; disorderly person, 4; false pretenses, 3; grand larceny, 1; impersonating an officer, 1; juvenile delinquent, 3; manslaughter by auto, 6; material witness, 6; malicious mischief, 2; non-support, 4; possession of burglar tools, 1; possession of stolen autos, 9; prohibition and enforcement act, 7; possession of game device, 4; robbery, 14.

Offenses for which arrests were made for other police departments are listed as follows:

Assault and battery, 1; abandonment, 1; breaking, entry and larceny, 2; bastardy, 1; disorderly person, 2; desertion and non-support, 1; desertion of U. S. Army, 2; embezzlement, 1; Fraudulent check, 2; grand larceny, 2; immigration laws, 1; non-support, 1; parole violation, 1; robbery 2; issuing false checks, 4; petty larceny, 2.

Four persons were committed to the Bergen County Hospital at Bergen Pines for observation.

For violations of motor vehicle and traffic laws and for violations of various local ordinances, a total of 687 summonses was issued during the year, bringing the grand total of arrests and summonses to 843. These summonses and the disposal of the cases are recorded as follows:

Motor vehicle and traffic violations, total 547; guilty, 408; dismissed, 70; withdrawn, 60; bond forfeited, 8; non-appearance, 1.

Violations of ordinance against vice and immorality and to preserve the public peace, total 96; guilty, 37; dismissed, 48; complaints withdrawn, 11.

Peddlers' ordinance, 6; guilty, 5; dismissed, 1.

Street and sidewalk ordinance, 17; guilty, 11; dismissed, 6.

Sanitary code, 10; guilty 6, dismissed, 3; complaint withdrawn, 1.

Dog ordinance, 7; guilty, 3; dismissed, 3; complaint withdrawn, 1.

Zoning code, guilty, 1; dismissed 1.

Building code, guilty 1; dismissed, 1.

Fire ordinance, guilty, 1.

While the foregoing sets forth a somewhat impressive array of duty performed, by far the most interesting part of the annual report is that which shows the wide variety and great number of instances in which members of the force have rendered assistance, either in response to requests from citizens or on account of conditions discovered in the course of patrol duty. These

give so much more complete picture of the usefulness of the department to the people of Teaneck that the list is given in full, as it appears in the report. The list follows:

Accidents .....	370
Accidental deaths .....	5
Auto operators examined for intoxication .....	24
Articles found .....	27
Articles found and returned to owner .....	24
Abandoned autos found and returned to owner .....	3
Attempted suicide .....	2
Complaints received and investigated .....	3344
County court subpoenas served .....	376
Fires .....	43
First aid rendered .....	13
Gambling machines confiscated .....	25
Lodgers .....	20
Missing persons found including those reported ..	10
Persons bitten by dogs .....	38
Persons stranded in Hackensack River rescued .....	4
Runaway horse captured ...	1
Suicides .....	2
Stolen autos recovered ....	6
Street lights reported out, P. S. E. Co. notified ....	1164
Traffic lights reported out, Town Electrician notified	262
Unsecured premises found and secured .....	387
Vacant houses reported and checked daily .....	612

During the year licenses were issued for 1,080 dogs; 349 dogs were impounded and of these 51 were redeemed by owners and 298 disposed of. Revenue from dogs licenses and redemption fees amounted for the year to \$2,313.

The total valuation of miscellaneous property reported to the police as stolen, lost or missing for the year amounted to \$2,878.10, and the total recovered, including automobiles, amounted to \$7,372.30.

Several members of the force have been schooled in finger-printing and police identification methods, and during 1931 finger prints were made of 96 persons and copies sent to the state bureau at Trenton and the national bureau at Washington, D. C.

Traffic signs were placed at 37 points in the township for the regulation and control of traffic, and for the same purpose a total of 5,676 yards of lines and lettering was painted on the streets.

In 1931 Sergeant Morgan and Patrolman Deckert spent four weeks each at the State Police School at Trenton, and Patrolman Nolan and Klemm attended for three months the New York City Police Department School and Bureau of Criminal Identification.

Target practice for all members of the department was conducted once a month, and the report states there has been marked improvement in the ability of members of the force to shoot straight.

On the whole it seems clear that that part of the taxpayers' expenditure for government which is devoted to the maintenance of Teaneck's police department, brings the people adequate returns in service rendered.

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34J

## "CHAOS" IN TAXES; ONE WAY OUT OF IT

(Continued)

to the State Government from real estate taxes.

Under the first amendment each County Board of Taxation shall be made an independent taxing body in the state under whose supervision all real estate within its jurisdiction shall be assessed according to definite rules established by law of county and local taxation.

The county board of taxation shall consist of five members to be appointed for life by the Governor with the approval of the State Senate. All members of such boards shall be full time employees performing their duties as established by law, shall be recognized experts in the appraisal of real estate and correlated subjects and shall receive adequate compensation commensurate with their responsibilities. All subordinate employees in the county taxation department shall be governed by the state civil service regulations which shall carry severe penalties for their violation.

Such a program would make our county board of taxation as non-partisan and non-political as the Supreme Court of the United States. It would leave each county throughout the state to establish valuations on real estate conformable to existing conditions at the time of appraisal. It would simplify the problem of equalization with a substantial administrative economy to all the seventy political subdivisions in Bergen County.

It would further raise the standing of this branch of our county administration by placing it beyond the reach of partisan political influence and furnish it with a personnel of honest, experienced and efficient public servants.

The second amendment would repeal all clauses relative to intangibles in order to remove a premium on dishonesty and maladministration. The listing of securities, loans and other evidences of credit in the tax duplicate and their appraisal by the assessor is not only unsatisfactory but unfair under present legal requirements. Values of personal property which depend on fluctuating earning power should be taxed on the basis of their earned net income if such form of wealth is to be brought within the realm of the collector

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## FRED I. BALZER

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202 MARKET STREET, Opp. R. R. Sta.  
WEST ENGLEWOOD, N. J.

112

of taxes. For reasons aforesaid, the enactment of a state income tax which shall take the place of revenues now collected on real estate for the support of the State government is a fair and just form of taxation on wealth that now escapes the burden of government under our State laws.

The State income tax shall be applied to earned net incomes according to some such schedule as follows:

\$3,500 to \$10,000	.....1%
\$10,000 to \$50,000	.....2%
\$50,000 to \$100,000	.....3%
\$100,000 to \$200,000	.....4%
\$200,000 to \$500,000	.....5%
\$500,000 to \$1,000,000	.....6%
In excess of \$1,000,000	.....10%

This State income tax should easily produce a net revenue of \$20,000,000. The Public Service Corporation of New Jersey, which reports net earnings, of \$30,541,000 for the year 1931 is just one illustration of the revenue producing possibilities of this form of taxation and a check on individual reports of net income on corporate wealth in this State. A net income of \$30,000,000 capitalized at 6% represents a principal of \$500,000,000.

But whatever reforms in our fiscal system may be inaugurated, these will not reduce the cost of Government. That is another problem of administrative character which every community in the State should be most concerned.

In Teaneck, the Taxpayers' League has taken the first steps toward the solution of this problem by advocating and securing the employment of an expert in municipal administration unhampered by partisan political expediency.

Since the inauguration of the Municipal Manager form of government the problem of tax reduction has been attacked from two angles.

First, by the elimination of waste, extravagance and "pap" from public service, the operating expenses of Teaneck Township have been reduced 17% and secondly: by postponing the construction of public improvements to such time when the wealth of the community could justify their execution without undue hardship.

It is obvious that tax reduction through expert administrative agencies must reach a point beyond which no greater economies can be effected without impairing the standard of our public service—what this standard shall be under the most rigid economy will depend on the criterion proposed by our present administration and accepted by the people as the measure of service.

What else can the people of Teaneck do to reduce the amount of money to be raised by taxation on the home-owning class and real estate holdings will be discussed in a future issue.

EDITOR'S NOTE—This article has been written with the object of starting the discussion on taxation in New Jersey. "The Town Manager" invites letters of criticism or concurrence in the ideas expressed for publication in our next issue.



## TOWNSHIP TREASURER'S REPORT

Following is Township Treasurer R. J. Pearson's statement of Teaneck finances as of date of February 29th, 1932, with a statement of tax arrearages:

RECEIPTS, 1932	
Balance January 1, 1932 .....	\$ 44,534.41
1931 Taxes .....	70,769.13
1930 Taxes .....	35,370.26
1929 Taxes .....	13,658.73
1928 Taxes .....	136.55
1927 Taxes .....	126.65
1926 Taxes .....	87.37
1925 Taxes .....	33.92
1924 Taxes .....	64.40
1923 Taxes .....	133.08
1922 Taxes .....	3.23
1921 Taxes .....	17.50
Tax Title Liens .....	184.48
Franchise Tax .....	25.73
Interest and Cost on Taxes .....	8,050.93
Interest on Assessments .....	25,248.85
Assessments Receivable .....	65,252.24
Assessment Liens .....	1,248.93
Assessment Lien Interest .....	221.70
Local Licenses and Permits .....	1,446.00
Miscellaneous Revenue .....	8,739.63
Interest on Deposits .....	319.81
Tax Searches .....	256.25
Redemption Tax Title Lien .....	34.38
Recorder's Fees .....	61.00
Balance due December Report .....	83,545.16
<b>Total Receipts .....</b>	<b>\$359,570.37</b>

DISBURSEMENTS, 1932	
School Tax .....	\$ 60,000.00
Budget .....	39,139.51
Miscellaneous 1931 Reserve .....	3,456.56
Tax Title Lien .....	202.57
Miscellaneous .....	2,430.11
<b>Total Disbursements .....</b>	<b>\$105,228.75</b>
Cash Balance Feb. 29, 1932 .....	254,341.62
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$359,570.37</b>

## OUTSTANDING TAXES, FEBRUARY 29, 1932

1921 .....	\$ 241.08
1922 .....	360.42
1923 .....	637.20
1924 .....	2,219.04
1925 .....	1,628.39
1926 .....	2,192.67
1927 .....	3,752.67
1928 .....	4,581.32
1929 .....	88,488.54
1930 .....	173,481.01
1931 .....	422,105.54
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$699,688.18</b>

## ASSESSMENTS DUE DURING MONTH OF APRIL, 1932

Collector of Taxes, R. J. Pearson, states that an installment on the following assessments is due on the dates shown for the month of April.

He also states that by paying on or before the due date the taxpayers will avoid the 2 per cent penalty in interest.

No.	Name	When Due
70	W. E. Drain Area .....	April 23
116	Griggs Avenue, West Queen Anne Road, Gen. Imp.	28
119	Garrison Tract, Sanitary Sewer .....	7
125	Grange and Norma Rd., Gen. Imp. ....	28
145	Mildred and Johnson Ave., Gen. Imp. ....	28
146	Vandelinda from Q. A. to Teaneck Rd., Gen. Imp.	14
161	Lincoln Pl., from Washington to John St., sidewalks	14
181	Teaneck Road, widening .....	14
220	Circle Driveway .....	6
221	Roosevelt Street, Improvement .....	6
222	Grange Road, Improvement .....	6
223	Linbergh Blvd., Gen. Imp. ....	14
224	Hamilton Road, Gen. Imp. ....	28
225	Lees Avenue, storm and water drain .....	27
226	Rutland Avenue, Paving .....	27
266	Maple Avenue, Storm Drain .....	18
267	Lincoln Place, Storm Drain .....	18

ANNUAL DEBT STATEMENT  
of the Township of Teaneck, County of Bergen

PREPARED AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1931

	Gross	Deductions	Net
1. (a) Total Current Acct. Debt \$	766,132.41		
(b) Less Deductions .....		\$ 883,240.74	
Net Debt Current Acct. ..			*\$ 117,108.33
2. (a) Total Trust — Assessment			
Section Debt .....	4,165,464.19		
(b) Less Deductions .....		3,636,770.03	
Net Debt Trust—Assess-			626,694.18
Section .....			
3. (a) Total Trust—Utility Sec.			
(b) Less Deductions .....		\$ 883,240.74	
Net Debt Trust — Utility			526,694.18
Section .....			
4. (a) Total Capital Acct. Debt.	563,078.95		
(b) Less Deductions .....			
Net Debt Capital Acct. ..			563,078.95
<b>Total Gross Debt .....</b>	<b>\$5,494,675.55</b>		
<b>Total Deductions .....</b>		<b>\$4,522,010.77</b>	
<b>Total Net Debt, Dec. 31, 1931</b>			<b>\$ 972,664.78</b>
<b>Total Net Debt Dec. 31, 1930</b>			<b>\$1,692,106.22</b>
* Surplus			
Debt Ratio, 1930 .....			9.059%
Debt Ratio, 1931 .....			4.85 %

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# THE TOWN MANAGER

Application for Second Class Matter Pending  
**Official Publication of the Teaneck Taxpayers' League**

Its Field—The Township.

Its Creed—Justice towards all; malice toward none.

Its Purpose—To make Teaneck a good place to live in.

Its Hope—Co-operation from all residents, on non-partisan basis, with an eye single to service for the benefit of all.

**PUBLISHED ON THE FIRST OF EACH MONTH**

Business Manager and Treasurer - - - CHARLES A. WIENER  
 572 Lucy Avenue.

Circulation Manager - - - P. E. McEVOY  
 542 Chestnut Place.

Subscription & Advertising Manager - - - FRANK A. JENNINGS  
 160 Johnson Avenue.

Secretary - - - WARD SHEETS  
 249 Grayson Place.

**OWNERS: THE TEANECK TAXPAYERS' LEAGUE**

## A COMMUNITY PLAN FOR SELF-HELP

In an interview in this issue of The Town Manager, one of Teaneck's Councilmen presents a suggestion that cannot fail to meet with general approval. Indeed, it seems strange that in this period of unemployment, some one has not thought of the plan before now, for local conditions are such as to make the plan logical and practicable.

Why, indeed, should not vacant lots be turned into productive small farms? With so many men eager to do anything possible whereby they can turn to account their periods of enforced idleness for the greater comfort of their families and safety of their homes, there can be no doubt that many will welcome a chance to raise vegetables, for use in their homes, or to sell, or both.

Response to the invitation to offer vacant lots and tracts for such use should be prompt and wide. No rental should be asked. Even if the use of the land brings no other return to the owners, it will benefit the land and the looks of the township, and they will have the satisfaction of knowing that its use has helped others who need it.

Send in your offers of land. Send in your applications for the privilege of using the land. Send in any suggestions or offers of help that you think will tend to make of this project the splendid success that characterizes every worthwhile thing that Teaneck makes up its mind to do. And **DO IT NOW!**

## TEANECK'S FINEST.

In the news columns of this issue of The Town Manager appears a summary of the report of the Teaneck Police Department for the year 1931. Any reader who studies that report will discover how valuable is the service rendered to the citizens of Teaneck by this body of men who, by day and by night, and in all kinds of weather, are faithful and alert in their task of protecting lives and property, and keeping Teaneck within the category of an orderly and law-abiding community.

There are undoubtedly possibilities of improvement in the Teaneck Police Department. That is true of every human organization. It is equally certain that "Teaneck's Finest" are a police unit of which Teaneck may be proud, and one that will bear well a comparison with the police force of any other municipality of similar size and importance. Best of all, it is a police unit that takes pride in its work and aims constantly at improvement. In pursuing this aim, it has the encouraging assurance that the township council and the township manager stand ready at all times to recognize meritorious work on the part of any member of the force.

The force has learned that it is called upon only to give honest and efficient police service—never to show special fa-

vors to any individual, or to help pull any one's political chestnuts out of the fire. It has responded to this policy on the part of the administration with a marked improvement in morale and increased ambition toward excellence in police service.

## A RETROSPECT

In this issue we are reprinting a report of the first organization meeting of the Teaneck Taxpayers League and the pronouncement of its purposes and principles by the late Captain J. J. Wilkins. The work which this organization has been able to perform in behalf of the community during the brief period of three years can be judged by its achievements.

Tax reduction, tax equalization and non-partisan business administration have not been mere campaign pledges. Our net debt has been reduced from 9.059 to 4.85 which is many points below the legal debt limit of 7% and our tax rate reduced one dollar per \$100 in less than two years.

This showing in the Township ledger never would have been possible had not the five Councilmen who received the support of the Taxpayers' League, been guided by a high conception of their responsibilities and imbued with the spirit of service.

While the sound management of the finances of the community is the most important function of public administration, there are many other problems of community interest to which the Council has applied itself in a manner which will meet with the general approval of those who have chosen Teaneck as a good place in which to live. The recent appointment of a town planning commission to prepare a master plan that will protect all residents in the Township's orderly development is evidence of vision and business foresight.

The people should read this issue with care and judge for themselves whether or not the principles as set forth at that first meeting of the League have not been carried out.

## THE MANAGER'S MESSAGE

The management of The Town Manager acknowledges with thanks the receipt of a large number of back issues of this publication, requested in the last issue.

Conforming to the announcement made at that time, each of those who sent in the copies will be rewarded appropriately in due course.

Sufficient copies have now been received to meet the requirements.

