

Condition of City Finances Best in Years

Improved Balance and Reduced Debt Point the Way to Still Further Tax Reduction.

Plattsmouth finances presented the most cheerful picture for many years at the close of 1937, the annual statement of City Treasurer M. D. Brown published in today's Journal, reveals. Not only is the city free of registered warrants of all kind, but the bonded indebtedness stands at a new low of \$235,000.00 and cash on hand has risen from \$12,093.40 a year ago to \$21,678.00 at the start of the calendar year 1938.

All this has been achieved through strictest economy in city expenditures and with a decreasing instead of an increasing tax levy. Since 1932, the mill levy in Plattsmouth for municipal purposes has been gradually reduced each year. The schedule of tax levies for each of the past six years is as follows:

1932	25.0 mills
1933	24.4 mills
1934	23.8 mills

1935	23.6 mills
1936	23.4 mills
1937	21.0 mills

Since March 1, 1931, the city's indebtedness (registered warrants and bonds) has been cut \$96,200.00—an average of approximately \$14,000.00 a year as shown by the following table:

Bonds outstanding—	
March 1, 1931	\$286,200.00
Registered Warrants same date	45,000.00
TOTAL that date	\$331,200.00
Outstanding indebtedness NOW	235,000.00

REDUCTION of \$96,200.00 in 6 years and 10 months. Bonds retired during 1937 totaled \$9,500.00. Bonds to be paid off this year (1938) \$11,000.00; next year (1939) \$13,000.00—bringing the city's gross bonded indebtedness down to \$211,000.00 on January 1, 1940. This figure is conditional upon no new bonded indebtedness being incurred during that time—something the entire present city administration stands opposed to.

The indebtedness of the city on January 1 of each of the past four years was as follows:

January 1, 1935	\$269,500.00
January 1, 1936	257,000.00
January 1, 1937	244,500.00
January 1, 1938	235,000.00

As of the same dates, the cash balances in city funds amounted to the following:

January 1, 1935	\$ 9,311.97
January 1, 1936	13,005.30
January 1, 1937	12,693.40
January 1, 1938	21,678.00

During the past year, it will be noted, the cash balance has risen \$9,584.60, while all the ordinary operating expenses of the city, including the payment of \$9,500.00 in bond principal and \$11,145.00 bond interest have been met promptly. In fact, there has been no default in bond principal or interest for several years and the credit of the city is now restored to A-1 rating, with City of Plattsmouth bonds once more acceptable investments for trust funds of all kinds.

On June 1 it will become necessary to refund at least \$6,000.00 in bonds which reach maturity that date. If these were to be paid, along with the other \$14,000.00 maturing this year, the total would be so great as to not only deplete the nice reserve built up in the bond and interest fund, but bring grave danger of default in bond and interest payments within another year, thus again jeopardizing the city's credit standing. A two year "clear" period must elapse after any default before trust funds can be lawfully invested in

municipal securities. This also applies to funds of the state, such as school land funds and the 2 million dollar state aid revolving fund that are invested in interest-bearing municipal securities.

Along with the refunding of this \$6,000.00 maturity, there will also be available to include in the refunding issue, \$22,000.00 of optional bonds that mature February 1, 1939 and would have to be refunded there and an additional \$16,000.00 of long term optional issue now drawing 4 per cent, that could also be included if the bond market at that time is favorable. The \$6,000.00 and the \$22,000.00 bear 4 1/2 per cent interest and it is certain a nice saving can be effected by refunding them. Bottom rate on any outstanding city bonds at present is 4 per cent, and the condition of the bond market on June 1st, should determine whether the \$16,000.00 4 per cent issue should also be included in the refunding or only the \$28,000.00 4 1/2 per cent ones be called.

Some non-optional bonds, issued fifteen years ago are drawing 5 1/2 per cent interest, and will continue to do so till the date of their 20-year maturity due to the fact that no optional clause was provided at time of their issuance.

It is now common practice in issuing 20 year bonds to make them optional for call and payment any time after five years. Had this been done when these bonds were issued, they could have been refunded several years ago at a much lower rate of interest. That particular issue was for \$96,000.00—payable \$3,000.00 each year until the twentieth, when the residue balance of \$29,000.00 becomes due January 1, 1942, and will necessitate the first refunding after that of June 1, this year.

With the increased cash balance and reduced bond indebtedness, city officials state it should be possible to cut the mill levy again this year—possibly as much as 3 mills, to a new low level of 18—and still continue paying off bonded debt in the same ratio as the past seven years.

For the first time in years, Plattsmouth citizens pay a lower gross tax than Nebraska City—the total here for all purposes—state, county, city and schools—being \$44.00 per \$1,000 assessed valuation, and there \$47.04.

RETURNS FROM HOSPITAL

From Thursday's Daily—Frank Stones returned home yesterday from St. Joseph's hospital in Omaha, where he underwent an operation for rupture.

Public Support of Recreational Music Projects

Meeting Last Evening at the Recreation Center Attended by a Large Group.

A meeting was held Thursday night at the recreation center in this city for the purpose of arousing public support to the various projects that have been suggested and are now in effect along musical lines.

Mr. A. E. Edgerton, the county supervisor of recreation, stated the main object of the project was to afford latent talent and persons interested means of finding outlets for the talents in the various groups.

Mrs. E. H. Wescott told of excellent musical work that has been developed in the school musical departments and also in the 4-H clubs of the county. Schools and Women's clubs had done much to interest the public in musical work. Formation of both young people and older groups in vocal world would add much to the program.

Lee Meyers of the high school faculty stated that the schools were always pleased to aid in public entertainment from their groups and also that the music department was very appreciative of the recreation project in aid given in the instruction of the school students.

E. A. Wurl, of the board of education, also expressed the appreciation of the aid of the recreational project in the band and orchestra work of the high school.

Rev. G. A. Pahl gave a very fine statement of the value of music in the life of the individual as well as the community, music and music appreciation being something that was more valuable than could be purchased. A project such as exists here was needed to develop dormant talent.

George Stites, mayor of Union, was present and gave approval of hand work as of great value in community service.

Elmer Sundstrom related some of his experiences at Louisville, where a fine municipal band was formed and which was now one of the best in this section. Mr. Sundstrom praised the local American Legion Junior drum and bugle corps and their fine appearance. Mr. Sundstrom also sounded a note that was to be one of the chief causes of discussion for the evening—that of uniforms for the Plattsmouth band which is composed of high school and outside talent.

Mr. Edgerton suggested that if the material could be supplied by the community that the sewing center would be able to make the uniforms for the band. He also desired the cooperation of all of the musical leaders over the county in forming groups.

Mr. Edgerton pointed out that the recreational service had no funds to purchase supplies such as music, uniforms, places of meeting, that their part was in providing instruction and the opportunities to hold together the groups through organization and supervision.

Neal McDonald, of Hastings, state supervisor of the recreation division of the WPA, was present at the meeting and gave a short talk on the work throughout the state. He expressed the view that there were so many that had talent that might be developed if the opportunity afforded, this being what the recreational service provided—the opportunity of expressing themselves.

There was some discussion of the matter of hand uniforms and the necessity of properly fitting uniforms and caps if the band was to be made attractive looking.

The suggestion was offered by E. H. Wescott that the local supervisor appoint a committee to get out

and see what results might be secured in the way of financial support for uniforms for the band. E. A. Wurl suggested that the schools and Kora Klub might be able to assist in the work of procuring uniforms. Mrs. E. H. Wescott, as chairman of the music committee of the Woman's club, agreed that members of her group would undertake for a month to conduct a public group sing each week and to ascertain just what the result would be from attendance and interest shown.

RETURN FROM SOUTHLAND

Mr. and Mrs. Don C. York and sons, Randall and Joe, returned this week from a trip to the southland that carried them to the Rio Grande valley of Texas where for a number of years the York family made their home.

They left this city on Christmas eve when the weather was very disagreeable and the road conditions bad, but from Auburn south they found the travel very pleasant and they were able to make good time on to their destination.

They enjoyed a stay of several days at Cushing, Oklahoma, with Mr. and Mrs. Don Freese York, the former a son. Don Freese York is the manager of the McClelland stores, a system of southern chain stores at McClelland and which has been very successful. This city has 10,700 population and a very fine business center.

The York family made a short stay at Austwell, Texas, with Mrs. Virginia McCord, and family, Mrs. McCord being a niece of Mrs. York and from where they headed into the Rio Grande valley, their old home. They were guests of Mrs. L. V. Copenhaver, a sister of Mrs. York and Mr. and Mrs. Russell Perry, who are living at Harlingen, Texas. While there Mr. York was a soloist in the presentation of "The Messiah" by Hayden, presented by the Methodist church at the Texas city.

PHOTO-FLASHES of the Week

71 Years Old: Goes for 5-mile Walk—Goliath Messiah, 71 years old and a native of Persia, as he started on a 5-mile walk in Bronx Park, N. Y.

Future Streamlined Liner—A design for a funnel-less liner which would be 1,350 feet long and whose speed would enable an ocean crossing in 3 1/2 days.

Rules on Strikes—Trenton, N. J. Vice Chancellor Maia Leon Berry, who recently ruled that a strike is terminated when the pieces of the strikers are filled and the employer's business is being conducted normally.

Zoo Greetings—This African Wild Cat shows strong disapproval as the photographer snaps his picture.

PULCHRITUDE ON DISPLAY
(Left) Miss Los Angeles, 1937 Model—Miss Claire James of Los Angeles, who represented that city in the annual Mardi Gras at Venice, Calif where she competed for the title of "Miss California." (Right) Miss Miti Jehlein, in a striking pose as a modern Diana, displays the latest in beach wear for 1938.

Getting a Winter Sun Tan—Glendale, Calif.—These bathing beauties basking on the beach speed up the work of Old Sol with the aid of a spray sun-tan solution.

World's Smallest Violin—And it actually plays! This remarkable violin, made by a celebrated manufacturer of Vienna is only two and a half inches in length. It has a perfect tone and is identical in every way to a normal sized violin. Its trueness of sound is considered remarkable.

Murder in the Tropics—That's what Quentin Reynolds, above, associate editor of Collier's reports is going on in Haiti where he went as the first American reporter to investigate rumors of wholesale slaughter. He charges that 10,000 Haitians have been killed by soldiers of the neighboring Dominican Republic. He is shown examining evidence of attacks.

Scrubb'n' Slingin' Sam—Slingin' Sam Baugh, professional football star who forward-passed the Washington Redskins to victory over the Chicago Bears recently, sings in the tub as his mother gives his back a good lathering.

Milkman Now Cream of Pro Pitchers—Jim Turner, 31-year-old "rookie", recently named as the National League's most effective hurler for 1937.

A few rows of lacy crochet worked on to the edge of this neck-kerchief and you have a new and delightful accessory. The crochet is done in tatting cotton and will give many a dress new character.

Honors Industry—Mrs. Anna Steese Richardson, associate editor and director of the Consumer Division of the Woman's Home Companion, who states that American business, all the way from farm to factory to retail store, has made the United States the best country on earth in which to live. She gives American industrial research, which protects the consumer and develops new and improved products, a large share of the credit for our fortunate position, as compared with other nations.

Simone Simon relaxes in a two-piece play suit of linen striped in navy and white.

Discovers A-ncient Tear-Jar—A tear-jar used by the Phoenicians in 1000 B.C. to express sorrow on the death of a close friend or relative was found in the catacombs of the ancient city of Rabat on the island of Malta by Albert Muscat of Detroit, Mich. 43

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LAND, FARM and RANCH BARGAINS
FOR RENT: Improved 128 acres, known as Epler land, north of Plattsmouth. Fred E. Bodie, Trustee, 314 Federal Securities Bldg., Lincoln, Nebraska. j24-2tw
FOR SALE
Two Buckeye oil burning brooders. Call Mrs. Ed Gansemmer, phone 2905, Murray. j22-2tw
JERSEY COWS FOR SALE
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FOR SALE
Two Buckeye oil burning incubators. Call Mrs. Ed Gansemmer, phone 2905, Murray. j17-2sw

HELP KIDNEYS
To Get Rid of Acid and Poisonous Waste
Your kidneys help to keep you well by constantly filtering waste matter from the blood. If your kidneys get functionally disordered and fail to remove excess impurities, there may be poisoning of the whole system and body-wide distress.
Burning, scanty or too frequent urination may be a warning of some kidney or bladder disturbance.
You may suffer nagging backache, persistent headache, attacks of dizziness, getting up nights, swelling, puffiness under the eyes—feel weak, nervous, all played out.
In such cases it is better to rely on a medicine that has won country-wide acclaim than on something less favorably known. Use Doan's Pills. A multitude of grateful people recommend Doan's. Ask your neighbor!
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