

Citizens Do Not Favor Disposal Of City Property; Tax Board Should Be Given Fair Trial Is Opinion

Assessments To Be Taken Up By Board Of Review

COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO LOOK INTO MATTER OF INCREASED VALUATIONS OF CITY REAL ESTATE

That there was considerable misunderstanding of the recommendation of State Board of Tax Commissioners was brought out during the meeting at the Clark Hotel Monday night for the discussion of the proposed increase of real estate valuations in Jeffersonville.

Judge George C. Kopp, who spoke on the matter said that in fairness to the County Board of Review, criticism should be withheld until after the board had made decision. He said he was surprised at some of the statements made in the newspapers on this matter.

Judge Kopp said that he went with County Assessor Millard Badger to Indianapolis to the State Board of Tax Commissioners where they were given every consideration, but where they were told what must be done in this matter of taxes in this community.

The speaker said that the 15 per cent reduction in the township valuation and the 50 per cent increase in the city valuation was not arbitrary, but that it was simply a recommendation to the local Board of Review, which could exercise its own judgment up to these percentages.

Unequal Valuations

Judge Kopp stated that this question was not a new one in the city. That it had been up for years and came from the fact that property in the city was not equally assessed. He illustrated by stating that as an example there is property on East Maple street, valued on the tax duplicate at \$11 a front foot, while some property on Front and Market streets is valued on the same duplicate as high as \$18 and \$20 a front foot. This, he said is all out of proportion to the valuations in these locations. He told of how property at certain places on Spring street was valued at one figure while just around the corner it was valued at an entirely different figure.

Judge Kopp said that the proper method for assessment was for the people to allow the local Board of Review to make its decision and then if this did not meet with the approval of the taxpayers they could appeal to the State Board of Review or to the Clark Circuit Court. He further stated that the present assessors were not to be blamed for the conditions as this dated a long ways back and that there was no question but what something would be done in this matter

Bridge Approach Plan Includes The Park Site

ADMINISTRATION HOWEVER, WILL NOT GIVE COMMITTEE HEARING AT COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY NIGHT

Nearly 100 representative men and women of the city met at the Clark hotel Monday night at a dinner and meeting sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the matter of a possible 50 per cent increase in the assessed valuation of Jeffersonville real estate and the matter of the city administration's proposal to sell two pieces of ground now owned by the city.

After a splendid dinner served by J. C. Seelbach, manager of the Clark Hotel, the meeting was opened by Harry T. Ferguson, president of the Chamber of Commerce who outlined the purpose of the gathering and who stated that everyone would be given an opportunity to voice an opinion on the matters up for discussion.

Owing to the fact that Mayor Harry C. Poindexter was compelled to attend a meeting of the city council, the matter of the sale of city property was taken up first.

To Sell Property

The administration proposes to sell four pieces of property, two of these pieces being vacant lots on which there was no discussion. The other two parcels up for sale are what is known as Rader Park, taking in the block south of Fourth street between Illinois avenue and Broadway, and a triangular piece of ground on West Court avenue.

The discussion centered on the Rader Park property. Mayor Poindexter in defense of the administration's plan to sell this property made a lengthy speech. The Mayor said, "This proposal has been before the council for a period of two or three months. This piece of property has been a source of expense to the city ever since it has been in the city's possession. It is planned to sell it because it is of no particular value to the city. For years the city has had to pay for keeping down the weeds; trees were planted and blown down; it is not suitable for a playground, for with the coming of the new bridge no mother would allow her children to play there unless she had more children than she had use for."

A Park Fund

"It is not our plan to sell this property and put the proceeds into the general fund there to be spent in a short time and no one know what has become of the money. There will be an ordinance presented and adopted

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