

## How Come Some Don't Pay City Taxes?

By Charles Johnson Post.

In regard to the current expose of Tax Department and tax methods, the charge of under-assessment for fortunate friends raises the question: Did they pay taxes at all—even on the under-valuation? For the official records of the Tax Collector's office show a most amazing list, running into thousands of pages, and not even yet fully published, of those who have paid no taxes for years—back to 1930 and even before—and of parties who have been speculating, tax free, by official complaisance or neglect. The City of New York is now owed over \$150,000,000 in unpaid taxes.

Here is one of them, picked at random from one of the current catalogues of "Tax Lien" sales to be held June 21st. This gentleman owns 15 parcels of real estate in my borough of Queens. Their total value is \$1,096,000, of which \$318,000 is the value of buildings on the land. His unpaid taxes date from 1930 and include unpaid sewer assessments, for which the city

paid cash, to \$28,414. They are tax liens that begin at No. 128,636 and on. For the past 20 years—from the time he began to pay no taxes—I and my neighbors of the city have paid taxes for sewers, streets, paving, fire protection, police, courts, schools and all the administration expenses that make New York City a valuable place in which to live. This owner of all this vast property in real estate has paid nothing.

Again, in my own community, a property not three blocks from me and on the main street is valued at \$20,000. It has paid no taxes since 1930 including a sewer assessment of \$1280. I, and my neighbors have paid our taxes during that period. How and why are these individuals thus favored—and there are not merely hundreds, but thousands carried tax-free for years in the city's records!

Does Mayor Impellitteri propose to ignore this?

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