

"LEST WE FORGET

WHAT HAPPENED

IN

ALLENDALE"



1943
FOREWORD
WHY THIS BOOKLET WAS ISSUED

Our citizens have had a strenuous time with local political issues for a long time and to a much greater extent than have other nearby towns. This can be ascribed to two causes.

The first is that among the people who had moved here during the twenties there were many who clamored for city improvements without the foresight to realize what that would lead to. Allendale was a nice little country town with good commuting service and low taxes. Therefore, they thought, our town would be still nicer if we also set ourselves up like, for instance, Ridgewood. Unfortunately, too, no one seemed to realize that we had a very small population and that there was no indication that it would or could increase rapidly enough to justify any attempt to ape much larger communities. In fact, even today, we have only about four hundred more people than we had twenty years ago.

The second cause of the turmoil was that we had the misfortune to have more than our share of men who were politically ambitious.

The thing to be expected happened. A combination of the gimme element and of the politicians crystallized into an aggressive movement which took over our local government. That was not difficult because the staid and substantial people who constituted the majority did not appreciate that the character of our community was about to change, and change for the worse.

The political drama was set in motion. It was launched by a Mayor who knew what he wanted, and he got it. His administration cost our Borough a King's ransom and it also brought into our local government an element of the city wardheeler type who knew little and cared less for the things which people expect to find in a small suburban community.

This situation festered through the two following administrations. During this time wastefulness grew in all departments, the worst offender being the Police. The upset came at the election of 1938 when the voters turned to the Independent Voters League, a movement which is NON-partisan in local affairs and which promised to administer our local government honestly and efficiently.

The struggle that ensued when the Independents took office was bitter and long. It was watched with deep interest all over Bergen County largely, it may be assumed, because Independent political movements are rarely successful. But the one in Allendale took roots and grew. After four years, it is still in full control.

The revolt against partisan local government and the reasons for the success of our NON-partisan local government should be remembered by everyone. But memories are short, changes in our population are continuous, and the lesson which the citizens of Allendale learned at great cost may gradually be forgotten, until in perhaps ten years the same mistake may be made all over again. At the rate at which people move around in these times, a 75% change in the population of voting age can easily take place over a period of ten years. It is therefore desirable to have available for the benefit of newcomers (and for old-timers, too) a record in which

the salient facts of the Borough's experience in recent years on the subject of partisan vs. NON-partisan government are recorded in sufficient detail to make it useful for the indefinite future. That is the purpose of this booklet.

BACKGROUND

This booklet was designed to serve as a reminder to be referred to again and again, when you are about to make your quarterly tax payments, and especially on the eve of election days when voters are deluged with deceptions and balderdash. A more detailed story would make interesting reading, but because of its length, would be read only once. Therefore this presentation has been made as concise as we know how to make it and still be adequately informative. But it is no exaggeration to say that a writer of the calibre of Westbrook Pegler could find abundant material for a hundred columns were he to write the full story of how our taxpayers' money was wasted. Our taxpayers have already taken ten years to pay for these doings and it will take another eight years to finish paying for them.

As previously stated, at long last our people became disgusted with partisan local government and in 1938 the Independent Voters League was formed. Our Candidate for Mayor, Mr. L. A. Keidel, was elected and after serving one term he was re-elected to serve a second term. The reforms carried out during his administration covered every phase of our Borough's affairs. When he retired at the close of 1942, an editorial in the Bergen Evening Record commented on his administration:

"All residents of Allendale owe him their thanks and respect. He did what he promised: he placed the Borough administration on a businesslike basis, and saved money..... He did the job for which he was elected, and he did it well." See page 38. See also Editorial in the Argus, page 37.

No politician would have dared even only to advocate such reforms as were carried out, much less put them into effect. And no politician would have desired to do that job anyway because a politician wants to be re-elected to the same office or to a higher one, and that ambition cannot be gratified under economy and good management.

Since the election of 1938 the Independents have won every election for local officials, the Mayor and all of the six members of the Council now being Independents. It should be stated here that on National and State matters all our candidates have been and are Republicans, but with respect to local affairs, they are NON-partisan.

ALLENDALE IS ONLY A SMALL TOWN, YET A FEW YEARS
AGO IT GOT ITSELF TALKED AND WRITTEN ABOUT
TO AN EXTENT OUT OF ALL PROPORTION TO
ITS SIZE AND IMPORTANCE.
CAN THIS BE EXPLAINED?

The logical place for this question is farther on in our story. However, it is a question which pops up first in one's mind and for that reason it may as well be dealt with now.

The havoc which is described in this booklet was wrought in the ten years from 1928 to 1938 during which period our population increased by a mere 300. Three things brought about our unpleasant notoriety, as described hereunder. It was the first of these three (a) which bred the other two.

- (a) To attract attention to himself one of our partisan Mayors built a water plant despite the fact that our Borough was not, (and is not now) big enough to support it. It is also an engineering blunder. He also set up a political machine which was organized, (with our Chief of Police as the head functionary) to assure his success in future elections, and that machine became a scandal. He achieved his personal political objectives but our taxpayers suffered severely.
- (b) The above-mentioned Mayor's program was continued by his two partisan successors. The last one was also infected with the bug of political ambition, launched plans for another costly and unnecessary project and nearly got away with it but for his timely defeat of the

- machine at the polls by the Independent Voters League.
- (c) Our Police Chief, whom we no longer have, became increasingly neglectful of his duties and arrogant in his manner. He managed to browbeat a former administration into letting him act as Secretary of the State Police Chiefs' Association and still continue to draw from our Borough his full salary as our Police Chief, even though he devoted most of his time to matters that did not concern our Borough.
(He was elsewhere when our Bank was robbed.) This gave him state-wide contacts and state-wide notoriety. He could not resist telling other Police Chiefs all over the State how he had everybody in Allendale, from the Mayor down, under his thumb. He held "Court" in Hackensack, our County seat, instead of staying on his job where he belonged. He also directed the sale of the Police Chiefs' "courtesy" cards to unwilling subscribers, chiefly truckman, who learned from experience that they had better come across, or else. No one knows how much of this kind of money passed through his hands, but after you consider, for instance, that these Police Chiefs entertained in luxurious hotel quarters in Trenton during Legislative sessions, and also consider that they spent probably \$10,000. for lawyers' fees, court costs, etc., in their unsuccessful Court action to prevent us from abolishing our Police Department, you can see that these "courtesy" cards must yield big swag.

Soon truckmen felt that it was dangerous for them to offend our Chief and that they had better use round-about roads to reach points beyond Allendale rather than pass through our town.

Even some of our shopkeepers who were suspected of favoring our side were made to suffer. It was not unusual for him to lay in wait near stores which were on his black-list and steer or scare customers away.

What with the performance of two of our "enterprising" Mayors and the brazen conduct of our Police Chief, it was only natural that our Borough was singled out for gossip.

WHAT TANGIBLE BENEFITS HAVE OUR PEOPLE DERIVED BY TURNING OUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT OVER TO NON-PARTISANS?

There is an old saying that "the proof of the pudding is in the eating". The proof which we offer, or rather the pudding, has been eaten by our taxpayers by way of improved service and reduced taxes since shortly after Mr. Keidel, our first NON-partisan Mayor, took office in 1939, as will be more fully described under the headline Performance. Upon his retirement, after serving two terms (at the close of 1942) he submitted to the Council a report on the activities of the local government during his administration. In that report, a transcript of which will be found in this booklet on pages 24 to 33, he dealt with the more important phases of the management of our Borough's affairs. Columnist Caldwell described it in the Bergen Evening Record as "a valedictory which will be Allendale's favorite reading for the next ten years but which should be published in pocket edition for every voter and taxpayer in this faction ridden County" see pages 35 and 36.

In order that the reader may more easily comprehend the purpose of this booklet, some relevant details which are not contained in Mr. Keidel's report have been added in this narrative and other matters dealt with in his report have been repeated in part.

under the heading "Grade Crossing" on pages 14 and 15. The "makings" were there for a layout of anywhere from \$40,000. to \$75,000. and, of course, another Bond issue.

We rendered still another important service to our taxpayers when we abolished the Police Pension system (along with the Police Department). Under that system the Borough was legally subject to a heavy liability if any member of the Police Department met with disability while on duty, in which case the Pension Fund would have soon become bankrupt and the full amount of the deficiency would then have had to be met by our taxpayers, in each year, for the remainder of the disabled policeman's life.

But the most important service which has come to our taxpayers is that we have proven that our municipal operation can be carried on for a round \$20,000. less each year than when the politicians were at it, and this advantage accrues to our taxpayers for the indefinite future. You will need neither pencil nor paper to calculate what that will amount to in ten years.

Nor should sight be lost of the improved service which has been developed in spite of a greatly reduced cost.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

You may well be interested in a resume of the struggle to get rid of the Police Department. This alone saved more than \$6,500. a year, besides eliminating a lot of other things that were very bad. (See Press clipping on pages 39 to 44). Some day there may be an attempt to re-establish a Police Department, which, of course, will include the pension system. If that should happen, you will do well to remember that when our former Police Department was abolished, the Police pension system which was in operation up to that time, was also abolished. The money which has been paid into the pension fund by the Borough and by the Police amounts to \$2,311.66. When the Mayor and Council tried to have this money returned to the contributors it was discovered that to do this, an act of the State Legislature was necessary.

For some mysterious reason the Legislature took no action and finally we learned that the State Police Chiefs' and the Patrolmen's Associations blocked the passage of the enabling act. One of these Associations was so arrogant as to write a letter stating that it wanted this money to stay where it was (it is in the Allendale Bank) to be used when we should start another Police Department. Pause here, Mr. Citizen. You and our own Borough employees paid this money into a common fund. Yet an outside organization which has no standing in law and no property rights in this matter has sinister influence enough to prevent the Legislature from authorizing the return of this money to those to whom it belongs. If anything should deter us from restoring a formally organized Police Department until our population has grown up to it, this audacious flaunt by the Police Association should suffice.

GRADE CROSSING

If ever there was an object lesson to a municipality on what happens if an undertaking of major importance is left in the hands of politicians, the elimination of the Erie grade crossing by a Federal grant should be a perfect object lesson. In a matter of such importance the advice of business men of seasoned judgment would naturally be sought and followed, yet this project was carried through by an inexperienced youthful partisan Mayor who saw a rare opportunity to exploit the situation for advantage of one kind or another to himself and to his henchmen. He acted against the protest of our business men and of 700 of our citizens and conducted the negotiations in secrecy. But there was a motive, as we shall see later.

To newcomers it should be explained that up to 1938 the artery for crosstown traffic was a grade crossing in the center of the Borough. You will be curious to know why, since there is plenty of room at the center for an underpass, that artery was closed and the out-of-the-way location at Orchard Street was used. Even the management of the Erie Railroad regarded the old location as the proper one and they prepared and offered plans and specifications accordingly. But the young man could not be dissuaded.

The answer is that the underpass was built at Orchard Street to create a pretext to build an expensive and entirely unnecessary road which would greatly enhance the value of property owned by insiders and in the end would also create a pretext for a still more ambitious program to demolish the hotel and build a plaza. It is anyone's guess what the cost of all this would have been but competent engineers have estimated that it would have involved anywhere from \$40,000 to \$75,000, perhaps even more. There can be no doubt that much more was in the wind than the young man dared tell because Mr. Keidel soon after he took office, turned up the

astonishing fact that no formal negotiations to purchase the site of the proposed road from the Public Service had ever been initiated, in fact it was brought out that the site could not be acquired at all.

But, as the saying goes, "the fine laid schemes of mice and men gang aft agley". The Independents won the next election and our new Mayor, Mr. Keidel, took office. He squelched the whole program but by that time the old artery for crosstown traffic was being closed and nothing could be done to stop it. But that young Mayor had seen so many high-handed things put over in our Borough by the emboldened machine that he agitated vigorously for several months in favor of going through with his program, in the mistaken belief that our newly elected Mayor, Mr. Keidel, would either tire out and give in, or resign in disgust.

A performance such as this Grade Crossing incident just simply could not happen under a NON-partisan local government, and for obvious reasons.

IF THE NON-PARTISAN INDEPENDENT VOTERS LEAGUE DID SO MUCH FOR
ALLENDALE HOW CAN IT BE THAT WE STILL HAVE OPPOSITION?

A foreword should be presented before answering this question. It is not a pleasant undertaking to rehash the story of the bitterness with which our reforms were opposed. We would rather forget it. But people who did not live here while the fight was on are insistently asking the question headlined in this paragraph and it may be confidently assumed that future newcomers will be no less concerned than are those who moved into our Borough within the last year or two. Furthermore, our opponents will doubtless throw sand in people's eyes, for only a short time ago the "hatch" (to be described later) sent their clerk to a Council meeting brazenly to question the integrity of our comparative statements, despite the fact that every figure which we presented was part and parcel of our audited financial records and budgets. These figures can be verified by anyone at any time. We keep our financial records; the old crowd made away with theirs. This incident should also prove that if we leave it to the "hatch" to tell the story, you'll be told that the moon is made of green cheese.

With this background we will now answer the question why we have opposition.

The core of our opposition is a group which pulled a strong oar in our local government for about ten years up to 1938 when they were defeated in our NON-partisan movement. They are "Real Estaters" whose office has been dubbed the "hatch", meaning a hatchery. We did not give it that name; it was in common use long ago. They were the "machine".

It was no disadvantage to them when they ran everything to let a prospective buyer or renter of a house know or feel that they were the big shots in local politics. This means that

they dominated the tax assessor, the tax collector, the Mayor and Council, and indeed, the Police Department. Up to the time of their defeat in 1938 they had made such progress in controlling the functions of the local government that the Mayor came to have his name on the window and the other Borough officials had desk space in their offices, along with the Secretary of the Building & Loan and two of the Directors of the Bank. Every function of the local government had to pass through the "hatch". It was also a hang-out for the Chief of Police, except on the day when our Bank was robbed; on that day he was elsewhere. There is ominous significance in a situation where a real estate setup in a small town which has its fingers in local money-lending concerns, also dominates the local government. The interest of our taxpayers could not have troubled them greatly, otherwise the defalcation by the tax collector, whom they sponsored, should have been detected in its early stages. This situation should not be allowed to exist but we will have it all back again the moment our local government is under partisan control. It should not be difficult to understand why these people want to recover the power which they lost and why they oppose NON-partisan government.

We should remind you of a difference between our municipal housekeeping in these days and what it was like before we took over. Grievances and complaints were flung at us right and left. Some were justified and corrections were made, but most of them were either baseless or framed and inspired by our opponents. Be that as it may, the point is that those who made them did so without fear of reprisal. Go back now to the days when our opponents ran the town. Could such a thing as lodging a complaint be imagined? Not so that you could notice it; and if an uninitiated newcomer tried it, something would presently happen to make him wish that he had kept his troubles to himself.

Much additional evidence could be offered to give further insight into the melancholy fact that there are some people whose mentality, so far as concerns public affairs, is perverted. However, the foregoing should suffice to answer the question why we have opponents. Sinclair Lewis must have had this situation in mind when he wrote his famous book, "Main Street". If voters could only be brought to recognize their enlightened self-interest, the management of local affairs throughout the country would not long remain in the hands of either party.

OUR ORGANIZATION

You may want to know about our organization. The answer is that we have none. We should not need one. We have no Boss, no dues, no headquarters. We meet at irregular intervals in the homes of various citizens who support our effort because of their enlightened self-interest as taxpayers. (Do not forget that those who rent their homes have a stake in this, too). We meet only when there is proper occasion for it. Anyone interested in the NON-partisan concept is welcome. There is no presiding officer and anyone may speak when the spirit moves him, as in a Quaker meeting. Views expressed may be divergent but we are as one on the principle that we will ask the support of the voters for no one who lacks the qualities of honesty and adequate ability or who is suspected of seeking office for personal gain. We expect and get nothing for ourselves, except the satisfaction of knowing that our Borough gets a square deal.

CONCLUSION

Government, like liberty, calls eternal vigilance. Because Allendale is only a small town we may not be able to influence our national government or our state government, but we can sit in the driver's seat with reference to what it costs us to run our Borough, if we heed the lesson of the past and elect NON-partisans to office in our local affairs. Our citizens have now had four full years of experience with NON-partisans and we should not want to replace them with politicians, be they Democratic or Republican.

It would be drawing heavily on one's imagination to believe that there will be a let-down in devotion to the best interest of our Borough by the new Mayor, Mr. Ceely, or by any one of the six Councilmen who now constitute our local NON-partisan government. Their names appear hereunder:

MAYOR

Lyman A. Ceely

COUNCILMEN

John H. Lothian
George Albert
Herman K. Schoenheiter
J. George Christopher
John Borger
Carl T. Wehner

INDEPENDENT VOTERS LEAGUE.

March 1943.

WHAT DOES NOT HAPPEN IN ALLENDALE ANY MORE

1. - No longer are our citizens hounded by police for trivialities if they are suspected of not voting "right";
2. - Nor do any marshals take a resident to wild parties in order to embarrass him with his wife and so hold a club over the "guest" on election day;
3. - Nor is anyone "asked" by us to buy a State Police Chiefs' Association card for nice money - or else;
4. - Nor does anyone who has received a summons for breaking the Motor Vehicle or any other law escape through outside influence;
5. - Nor do any of our marshals park our Police Car for hours in front of the home of a notorious woman and in brazen contempt of neighborhood resentment;
6. - Nor do our marshals, on the Borough's time and by the use of our Police Car, peddle fruit and vegetables on the side;
7. - Nor does any marshal telegraph and telephone all over the country in matters that do not concern our Borough and pay for this with our taxpayers' money;
8. - Nor is any marshal missing from his post for hours while he should be on duty;
9. - Nor can any marshal scare the Mayor, or any Councilman, into putting things into our budget that should not be there;
10. - Nor does any marshal threaten any taxpayer by ostentatiously parading over the taxpayers' property accompanied by a tax assessor;

11. - Nor do we invite the off-color element to move to our Borough and give them Police tolerance in exchange for acting as stooges during the year and as vote-getters on election day;
12. - Nor do we encourage attendance at Council meetings of women with the odor of whiskey on their breath, or who use language which would flush the faces of decent people;
13. - Nor can certain taxpayers let their taxes go unpaid until the accumulated arrearage devours the realizable value of the property and the Borough suffers a loss when finally the property is sold for unpaid taxes;
14. - Nor do we permit any Real Estater who operates on a shoe-string to use the credit of our Borough to finance his speculation in unimproved land and so expose our Borough to a loss if he cannot make money out of his lots and unloads his speculation on the Borough. This happens when the Borough lays down and finances new roads or water mains fronting on unimproved land, expecting to reimburse itself through assessment against the lots on 10-year deferred payments;
15. - Nor do we turn on the Borough water for any non-owner of property until after he has made a proper cash deposit, as is required by law;
16. - No one "pressures" you to vote for our Independent candidates or asks you to help finance our campaigns;
17. - Nor is any transaction of major importance undertaken by our local government without full disclosure in advance;
18. - Nor are any of our records being burned or lost. They are available and open to inspection by anyone who has the right of access to them;

19. - Nor do we serve any special interest;
20. - Nor do our Borough employees neglect their duties to the Borough to use up their working hours at gathering votes.

REPORT OF
Mayor L. A. KEIDEL
submitted to the
council of the Borough of
Allendale upon his re-
tirement from the office
of mayor

REPORT OF MAYOR L. A. KEIDEL SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL
OF THE BOROUGH OF ALLENDALE UPON HIS RETIREMENT
FROM THE OFFICE OF MAYOR

Allendale, N. J.
December 23rd, 1942.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ALLENDALE:

Our local government was placed in office by the non-partisan Independent voters of our Borough in the election of 1938. The reforms which we have carried out are many in number and will, I believe, bear fruit in future years, not only with respect to economy, but also in attracting competent and honest men who are willing to serve our community without compensation or reward.

It so happened that in 1938 I was designated leader of the Independent movement. I have served as Mayor since its inception, for two terms. My second term is soon to expire and it seems to me eminently proper that the minutes of this meeting include a review of our administration to serve as a public record available in years to come. I feel strongly that such a record should be made not only because we have had to struggle against political opposition that was bitter and unprincipled, but also because there should be something with which people with short memories can be kept alert to their own best interests.

In my opinion our greatest achievement is that we proved two things. The first is that men who make or expect to make their living out of politics, waste the taxpayers' money. The second thing which we proved is that local government can be administered on a sound business basis and that the taxpayer can

be given more and better service, and for less money.

As proof of the first point I need only to cite the goings-on during a previous administration when an official used his office to get himself elected to the State Assembly and later to Congress on the record he supposedly made in our town. That record, which turned out to be dismal, included the installation of the Water Department and the organization of the Police Department. When the Water Department was installed no consideration was given to the fact that there were not nearly enough users in our Borough to make it pay. It lost money year after year and has not even now caught up with depreciation. The Police Department functioned efficiently for him on election days, but it soon became the subject of County-wide gossip as a center of petty racketeering, not to mention intimidation of our citizens and even of members of the Council. If the money wasted by these two sad ventures had been used as it should have been, we would not now be owing the present bond issue of \$104,000.00. Besides, our taxes during the last ten years would have been very much lower, and likewise so the taxes for the next nine years.

In another instance, and a more recent one, a former official thought that he would make himself famous by inducing a Federal grant to eliminate the Erie grade crossing. He committed our Borough to this venture in total disregard of the protest of our citizens and without consent of the Council whom he did not even consult. In conjunction with this job he removed our main traffic artery from the center of the town to the outskirts. While the utter folly of this was apparent, it was a necessary build-up to spend a big sum on a project which included a costly, dangerous, and wholly unnecessary new road. The proposed new road would have had no reason to exist unless the existing main artery was closed, and close it he did. This caused a substantial depreciation in property values; ruined the Center of town; drove

trade away from our stores to other nearby towns.

Fortunately for our Borough the plan to build the new road was frustrated. The election of 1938 intervened, our Independent candidate (who happened to be me) defeated his candidate for Mayoralty and we succeeded in nipping the scheme in the bud, but the closing of our main traffic artery had by then gone too far to prevent it. From first to last, a fortune would have gone out the window if we had not been on the job. We were also spared the usual spicy stories about the purchase of property from a henchman at a scandalous price, fees, commissions and what not.

The foregoing should amply justify my assertion that we proved that men who get into politics to make a livelihood, waste our money. As to my second assertion - that local government can be administered on a sound business basis - our performance in this respect should suffice. Yet how many people in our Borough will remember. Therefore, as I have previously stated, a record should be made and this appears to me to be the proper time to do so.

PUBLIC SAFETY

As I previously stated, our former Police Department had become a County-wide scandal. It was becoming increasingly costly. Its elimination provoked such opposition from the hooligan element, aided by our Congressman, as would now seem unbelievable. But the main event was the desperate fight against us, waged and financed in behalf of our Chief by the New Jersey State Police Chiefs Association. At the Council meeting during which the Ordinance to abolish the Police Department came up for final hearing, these men, alien to our Borough, appeared with a platoon of Police Chiefs from far and wide accompanied by a battery of lawyers. If any citizen had doubts about the pros and cons of the desirability of abolishing our Police Department,

he needed only to use his eyes and ears on those lawyers at that meeting to sense that the quicker we got rid of that department, the better for our Borough. But the worst was yet to come.

Upon passage of the Ordinance and abolishment of the Police Department, this Chiefs Association took legal action against us in the Supreme Court. During the course of this litigation the Chiefs Association showed the lengths which they would go to impose their will on our Borough. When I was on the witness stand one of the Police lawyers went so far as to blurt out that he did not respect any constitutional privileges which I might have. He demanded access to my private and personal accounts, doubtless in the belief that I would not dare show them and, when I promptly offered to do just that, he ducked.

I should not fail to pay my respects to some of the perjurers whom these lawyers brought against us, if lying under oath on the witness stand is perjury. One of their witnesses, who at that time was a member of this Council, testified to a story about me (under oath) which, had it been true, would have blasted our case. But it was so obviously a fabrication that the Police lawyers dared not use it against us.

Our success in Court had a wholesome effect on Police Departments in other municipalities of the State in which the local Police are under criticism, and there is no doubt that the Chiefs Association learned a lesson which they are not likely soon to forget.

RE-ASSESSMENT

A review of the assessment of all the properties of an entire municipality (on which the tax payable each year to the County and the State is based) is feared by politicians as is the plague, and we had warning of what would be in store for us if we attempted such a thing. However, we knew that the valuations on

the assessors books, had in the main, not been changed for upward of twenty to thirty years and one did not need supernatural wisdom to see that our assessed valuations could not possibly rest on a fair basis. We therefore closed our eyes to whatever political dangers there might be and proceeded to have all our properties inspected and re-assessed by a competent expert, The result was a big and fair reduction in our valuations and now we are paying for State and County taxes from six to seven thousand dollars less each year than we would have paid if our properties had not been re-assessed. In addition to this large saving, our tax assessors, whom we put in office, developed from the re-assessment a set of records that are equal to any.

HUNTING

For many years there was anxiety on the part of many people during the hunting season, especially so on the first and second days. The number of hunters had increased greatly because our local Rod and Gun Club took in members who lived in towns as far away as Paterson. Many of these hunters were inexperienced, reckless and arrogant trespassers. The result was that many of our citizens were afraid to permit their children to be out of doors. The Council passed an Ordinance forbidding hunting as well as the use of all firearms within our Borough.

ROADS

We believe that newcomers to our Borough will consider that by no means need we be ashamed of the condition of our roads. Those who lived here long enough to remember what many of our roads looked like prior to our appearance on the scene will hardly want them again to look as they then did. At this point I should mention that we brought about a reduction in the fire insurance rates of our entire Borough because of the efficiency of our Water and Fire Departments and of the condition of our roads.

BOROUGH EMPLOYEES

This includes the following: - Tax Collector, Tax Assessors, Borough Clerk, Water Collector, Water Registrar, Dog Warden.

Time was when the incumbents of these offices were expected to be vote-getters first and look after the interest of the Borough next. We got away from all that soon after we took office. Favoritism is non-existent. If anyone has any doubts on this subject we call his attention to the small amount of delinquent water bills and of property taxes. The condition of the records of these employees will pass muster anywhere and the men are respected for their competency and for their efficiency.

LIGHTS

In the good old days it was not difficult, if you could influence a few votes or otherwise had some pull, to get yourself a street light in front of your home even though there was a light on the next corner two hundred feet away. A merry time was had by all while this condition was in process of correction. There are still a few residents who want our streets as brightly lighted as are those of New York, but they do not mention the New York scale of rents and taxes.

BUILDINGS

For a great many years our Fire House was the meeting place for the Mayor and Council, but in the days when our Borough became a nursery for politicians the Council chamber was moved to the old school house. Much commotion was aroused when we closed the building and moved the whole works back to the Fire House. We get along quite well in our present location. I might also mention that we surprised the old building by putting it in good repair.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Next to the big rumpus which was caused by abolishing the Police Department was the excitement concerning a nurse who

functioned under the Health Department. In those days we had a number of noisy women residents who fitted well into the type commonly known as gadflies. These people and their friends agitated for this nurse whose job had come to be in large measure work that is or should be the duty of the Mother in any civilized home. The Health Department also employed a doctor living in a nearby town whose function was trivial, if he had any. The elimination of these two jobs and a few other items did not impair the usefulness of the Board of Health but it did save money for the taxpayer.

EXPENDITURES

I should mention that among the innovations which we introduced in the management of the Borough's affairs is that when the bills for expenditures are formally presented to the Council for approval and payment, the Borough Clerk announces the nature and description of each item, not merely the name of the vendor and the amount. If a taxpayer is interested enough to want to know what his money is being spent for, he needs only to attend the Council meetings and listen.

One other innovation I should call to your attention. I have made it my business, after the annual budget was prepared, to invite as many taxpayers as could be induced to come, to an informal meeting at the Council chamber, at which time I explained each item and furnished such details as were desired by those who were present.

It is my hope that this routine will be continued hereafter. I consider nothing more important to the continued success of non-partisan local government than full disclosure of all matters relating to the administration of our Borough's affairs.

Statistics are a bore and I have so far refrained from

using any in this report. However, a taxpayer's interest is centered in his tax bill and no matter how a situation may be described in words, in the end he wants to know what it all means to the Borough in dollars and cents.

As is well known, the local government has no control of the cost of the school and of the public debt, these two items alone representing a very large percentage of our levy. We do, however, control and are responsible for the cost of local government and to a degree we can exert some influence on our local assessed valuations. Therefore the result of our efforts in the taxpayer's behalf is reflected in the two items of cost of local government and State and County Taxes.

The audited and published financial reports of our Borough disclose that the budget for the year in which the present non-partisan government went into office (1939) the above mentioned two items stood at \$65,346.97. In our last budget, the year 1942, that figure was reduced to \$38,437.91. The 1939 budget included about \$4,000. of unusual expenditures for which allowance should be made in a fair comparison, but it will be seen that after making that allowance, the items which cost \$61,346.97 in 1938 when we took office cost \$38,437.91 in 1942. This means a cut of \$22,909.06. In that one year alone.

The true perspective of our local affairs is really something extraordinary. The improvidence of our local government from the years of the dancing millions back in 1928 and 1929 up to the year 1939 when the Borough threw out the partisan government and turned it over to our non-partisan group, shows up in full relief when one considers that in view of the reduction of twenty odd thousands of dollars in the annual cost of local government which we have brought about, an average of at least \$15,000. must have been needlessly spent for current running expenses and inflated State and County Taxes in each of the ten

years before we took office. That makes \$150,000. If to this you add the installation of the Water Department which cost upward of \$90,000. and the interest on this money for all these years, you can see at a glance an apparition resembling \$300,000. What the exact figures would be could be determined only from the old financial records, but these books had disappeared by the time we came on the job. Some say the books were lost and others say they were burned. We could never find out. At any rate, in this insignificant little town a sum of money was gotten away with that now looks fantastic. One would think that such a thing can't happen; but it did, and right here in Allendale, all because too many of our citizens were voting their pet party ticket for local officials without realizing that all the while they were being bamboozled by brazen four-flushers who live by deception. Will the people ever wake up or do they enjoy being fleeced?

CONCLUSION

The foregoing is by no means a complete story of the problems that had to be met. However, we dealt with each one on a business basis to the best of our ability. I will now endeavor to view in retrospect a few matters of general interest.

If our non-partisan efforts have been crowned with success it was due to the cooperation of the members of the Council. For that I am grateful.

I admonish you earnestly never to give your individual support to anyone who is the beneficiary of a pressure group whose purpose it is to bring about his appointment to a public position, be that a Borough or a school employee.

Organize and keep active some method by which newcomers will become familiar with our non-partisan efforts and what it has done for Allendale.

Finally, let me remind you that we who worked under a non-partisan concept have won every election since we came upon the scene. This can be attributed to only one thing, i. e., our work has the approval and the support of those who say little but think on election day. But our success in the past should not tempt us to let that success go to our heads. We should have ideals, there is a place for them, but good administration is a practical thing in which the effort to achieve the goal must be blended with the available personalities and the means at hand. Neither carelessness nor Messianic notion that we can reform human nature should be indulged in. And don't forget that there is no satisfactory substitute for experience.

As for myself, I do not thank the voters of Allendale for having twice elected me to the office of Mayor and from which I now retire. Those who voted for me did so in their own interest and I hope they were not disappointed. I contributed four years of hard work without compensation and at personal expense to a community which includes some residents who are not worth that much effort but I have the satisfaction of knowing that the majority do appreciate that I pursued my course without quailing before hostility. And if the voters who supported me did so because they believed in my unselfishness of purpose then I am grateful for their confidence in me and for having given me the opportunity to demonstrate that a non-partisan local government can give better service for less money than is to be expected from a government that is partisan.

L. A. Keidel,
Mayor.

Simeon Stylites

By WILLIAM A. CALDWELL

For the last time Louis A. Keidel has set his funny little hat precisely on the top of his head and precisely picked his way down the steps of the firehouse in which for two terms he presided as Mayor over the public affairs of Allendale. He will not be back.

He left behind him, his last official act, a valedictory which—because without names it skins and tans the hide of a veritable gallery of local celebrities—will be Allendale's favorite reading for the next 10 years but which should be published in a pocket edition for every voter and taxpayer in this faction-ridden county.

It's too voluminous for newspaper publication, federal surveillance of newsprint being at its current sensitivity, but among its 3,500-odd words take these for instance, and cherish them:

"As for myself, I do not thank the voters of Allendale for having twice elected me to the office of Mayor, from which I now retire. Those who voted for me did so in their own interest, and I hope that they were not disappointed. I contributed 4 years of hard work without compensation and at personal expense to a community which includes some residents who are not worth that much effort, but I have the satisfaction of knowing that the majority do appreciate that I pursued my course without quailing before hostility. And if the voters who supported me did so because they believed in my unselfishness of purpose, then I am grateful for their confidence in me and for having given me the opportunity to demonstrate that a nonpartisan local government can give better service for less money than is to be expected from a government that is partisan."

Other such findings:

1.—What is the mark of a dangerous character in public life? "I admonish you earnestly never to give your individual support to any one who is the beneficiary of a pressure group whose purpose it is to bring about his appointment to a public position."

2.—How shall the taxpayer protect himself against the groups? "Organize and keep active some method whereby newcomers will become familiar with our nonpartisan efforts and what they have done for Allendale."

3.—Is the public too damned dumb? "Let me remind you that we have won every election since we came upon the scene. This can be attributed to only one thing: our work has the approval and the support of those who say little but think on Election Day."

4.—Is cynicism necessary? "We should have ideals; there is a place for them; but good administration is a practical thing in which the effort to achieve the goal must be blended with the available personalities and the means at hand. Neither carelessness nor a messianic notion that we can reform human nature should be indulged in. And don't forget that there is no satisfactory substitute for experience."

• • •

The Cost Of Carelessness (Loyalty)

What difference there is between good government and government which is merely not quite good is generally regarded as an imponderable. A popular delusion is that cleanliness doesn't save as much on the tax bill as does the efficiency of the professional. Mayor Keidel with a finding in figures:

"The perspective of local affairs is really extraordinary. The improvidence of our local government from the years of the dancing millions back in 1928 and 1929 up to the year 1939 (when the Borough threw out the partisan government and turned itself over to our nonpartisan group) shows up in full

PRESS CLIPPINGS

BERGEN EVENING RECORD, MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1942

relief when one considers that, in view of the reduction of 20-odd thousands of dollars in the annual cost of local government which we have brought about, an average of at least \$15,000 must have been needlessly spent for current running expenses and inflated State and County taxes in each of the 10 years before we took office.

"That makes \$150,000. If to this you add the installation of the water department, which cost upwards of \$90,000, and the interest on this money all of these years, you can see at a glance an apparition resembling \$300,000. What the exact figures would be could be determined only from the old financial records, but these books had disappeared by the time we came on the job. Some say the books were burned, others that they were lost. We could never find out. At any rate, in this insignificant little town a sum of money was gotten away with that now looks fantastic. One would think that such a thing couldn't happen, but it did, and right here in Allendale, all because too many of our citizens were voting their pet party ticket for local officials without realizing that they were being bamboozled by brazen fourflushers who live by deception."

And That's A Fact

Louis A. Keidel, big-time financier and man of management, set out to prove two things: (1) that men who make their money out of politics waste the taxpayers' money; (2) that local government can be administered on a sound business basis. He thinks he has proved it. Costs are down; the municipality as a government entity and as a place to live is infinitely better; the town's pride and morale, and for obscure reasons therefore even its physical aspect, have improved. There is an omission from Mr. Keidel's report, though, to which attention should be directed.

That is the fact that while honesty and skill and even ideals are relatively plenteous in the earth there is still a regrettable shortage of Louis A. Keidels, doughty men with ethics and moral muscle and the divine capacity to get angry about even abstract evil. There are too few, and our system restricts their availability to all of us. In the society I'm devising they will be given circuits to ride: as Mr. Keidel emerges from the old fire hall he goes on, south by west, toward other towns which need him in the mayor's office desperately indeed.

Meanwhile he's done a good job. He wouldn't thank me for saying so, however; he'd ask you to observe how the job got done. Do so.

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Upper Saddle River, Hohokus Township and Waldwick

EDITORIAL

The New and the Old

Mayor Louis A. Keidel, unlike most others going out of office did not lolly about in his "farewell address." Keidel isn't that kind of a man. In the four years which he held public office he never bowed to any man who offered a verbal scrap and wouldn't hesitate to roll up his sleeves if it came to fisticuffs.

Keidel's final report of his administration to the Borough Council is a classic. He didn't put his tongue in his cheek and say a lot of nice things, he just gave a frank review in the inimitable Keidel fashion.

Allendale has never had and probably may never again have a mayor possessing the efficiency shown by Mayor Keidel.

Taking over the chief executive office would be a hard job for anyone except one who has been acquainted with Keidel's methods. Ceely is no carbon copy of Keidel. He has a style all his own, but they do have some things in common.

While Mayor Keidel left office like a great champion retiring from the ring . . . still throwing punches . . . Ceely came into office in a similar manner, listing his principles of government which has governed his star-studded six years as a servant of the public. For those who do not know Ceely, his principles are: "Favoritism for none; always firm in that which I believe is to the best interest of the majority of the people."

MAYOR KEIDEL

Louis Keidel has never been known as an extremely genial fellow; neither is he recognized as a tongue-in-cheek mouther of sentiment. So his outspoken message on his retirement from public life, an occasion when most men overlook past difficulties and don rosy glasses, should not surprise persons who know him, even though it was delivered in the Christmas season of good will toward men.

The Allendale Mayor left office as he entered it, roaring defiance. He wouldn't thank the people for having elected him twice as their administrator; those who voted for him did it in their own interests; most of the others aren't worth working for, he said. He expressed the hope that he had satisfied the people by his administration of town affairs, and he reviewed that administration, supplying as background material his opinion of his predecessors in office.

Persons who understand Mayor Keidel are not offended by his bluntness. Those who do not probably don't like him anyway, and he made it clear that he doesn't care one way or the other.

But regardless of personal likes or dislikes, all residents of Allendale owe him their thanks and respect. He did what he promised: he placed the Borough administration on a businesslike basis, and saved money. That he did not adopt the painless technic of the professional officeholder is beside the point. He did the job for which he was elected, and he did it well. No community ever has too many such officials.

Text Of Mayor Keidel's Statement

Allendale Fought Hooligan Tactics Of J. Parnell Thomas, Chiefs Of Police To Break Machine, Mayor Charges

The text of Mayor Keidel's statement on the Police Chief's Association of New Jersey follows:

THANKS ATTORNEYS

To the Citizens of Allendale:

The people sustained this administration decisively at the November election and now they have won the fight in court with former Police Chief Reimer and his supporters, the Police Chief's Association of New Jersey.

Senator John Milton and his partner Mr. Thomas McNulty, who represented our Borough before the Supreme Court, have earned the gratitude of all of us for their able presentation of our case. And to Senator Milton personally we owe an everisating obligation for his magnanimity in having his firm defend us without retainer. Borough Attorney Walter W. Weber, who prepared the case and led our defense at the trial of the case, has earned for himself our respect and appreciation. Without his help we would hardly have been successful.

I thankfully acknowledge the unwavering support which I received throughout this fight from the three stalwart men who were members of the Council when the ordinance abolishing our Police Department was adopted, George Albert, Lyman Ceely, and John Doehling.

A deep sigh of relief should be permitted us for deliverance from the 10-year-old menace that has bedeviled our affairs.

HITS CHIEFS' AIMS

It is sad to contemplate that in this democratic country, where the will of the people should prevail, a municipality needs the courts to protect us against a bund, foreigners to us, of Police Chiefs from far away places in this State, who rallied, with money and with lawyers, to the defense of one of our own employees whose salary came from our own taxpayers and whom we could not afford to continue in office.

That such a situation exists can be explained only by the voters neglect of their duty as citizens.

If the Police Chiefs' Association interferes in the affairs of other municipalities as they did in our own case, and I am informed that they do so interfere, the people of the State must sooner or later come to a realization of this condition of affairs and destroy that Association.

The chiefs of police are the commanders of our everyday peacetime army. We now know from experience that they gang up against their superiors, the municipalities from which they collect their wages. What would happen to the officers of the U. S. Army if they or any of them ganged up against their superiors? Courtmartial for treason and mutiny would quickly follow.

RECALLS HIS PLEDGES

The officers of the U. S. Army also have a way of dealing with those who are guilty of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman. These U. S. officers are needed to protect us scarcely once in a generation yet strict rules of personal conduct are enforced. Our police chiefs on the other hand, are needed to protect us, not once in a generation, but every day, and should practice conduct as high as that of an army officer. Is it conceivable that our police chiefs ever think of this?

This account of the happenings in connection with the abolition of our Police Department might fail of its purpose if I failed to set it in its proper perspective. For years our local government had been wasteful and I accepted nomination for election on the urgent plea of my friends who believed that I might bring about real economy. I had not

been in politics and let me state right here that I do not intend to take up politics. I make my living as a business executive and have no taste for the sordid thing called politics. However, if there is a boulder in your driveway over which your car bumps several times a day for months and years eventually you become exasperated, stop your car get a crowbar, dig the darn thing out, and then feel better. My friends came along with their urgings at a moment when I myself happened to be in a sour mood with respect to our local affairs and, perhaps because the prospect of a boulder experience lured me on, I agreed to run for election on the condition that for once our little burg would, if I made the grade on election day, be run as the politicians said it could not be run.

ELECTION BEGAN DISPUTES

I was elected and took office as Mayor just one year ago. Immediately I grabbed the crowbar and immediately hell broke loose. I did not have to look for opportunities to economize. I fell over them. They were everywhere. Likewise the crew that had been running the town in their way. How they howled! Even some of the nice people looked at the ends of their noses when they saw me coming. But I managed somehow to convert enough Councilmen to my ideas of what to do with a boulder in the driveway (Albert, Ceely, and Doehling) and the crusade was on. Many of my good friends whose praiseworthy advice had gotten me into this mess were hardly to be seen. I suppose they were at home, perhaps praying for me. We tackled the many smaller items first because they were easier to deal with. The most important one, the Police Department, we took up last, because we knew what we would be up against. But tackle it we did!

To make the story short, in a few months taxes were reduced about 12 per cent for 1939 and I would not be surprised if there will be more of this in 1940. This subject alone would fill pages but, important though it is, it does not form part of the purpose hereof, and therefore a brief mention of actual tax reduction should suffice for the present.

When the ordinance abolishing the Police Department came up at the Council meeting for public hearing and final passage, our Chief of Police, who was about to lose his job, had packed the hall with his hangers-on and there was pandemonium.

He also brought along a whole row of Police Chiefs from nearby towns. He also brought a battery of lawyers from near and far (I think there were six of them) hired by the Association to which the Police Chiefs of the various cities and towns of the State belong. And what a type they were! I was not accustomed to dealing with that sort of people.

Then they opened fire. Alternately they praised me (it was all cheap) and then threatened me. They bully-ragged the three Councilmen who supported me. And there we sat listening to vilification for trying to do the right thing for our taxpayers and not one of us getting a penny for our time, or work, or grief. A half dozen times I was at the point of blasting these interlopers but Walter Weber, whom I had induced to accept appointment as our Borough Attorney and who besides being a good lawyer is also a gentleman, held me down. I suppose he wanted to see them do their worst, and they did. There were 3 hours of this, when I ordered the clerk to call the roll, three Councilmen voting yes and three no. My deciding vote was necessary for passage of the ordinance and I voted yes. Passed! At last.

We began to operate our marshal system, which, I am glad to say, works to the entire satisfaction of our people. They said so on election day last November when our opposition was thoroughly defeated, some say destroyed.

THE FIGHT STARTS

Immediately the battery of Police Chiefs Association lawyers began, on behalf of Reimer, an action in the Supreme Court in Trenton. By this time I had induced an old friend, Merritt Lane, one of the leaders of the New Jersey bar, to join Mr. Weber in the defense of our case. Mr. Lane agreed to take the case for nothing, largely I suppose, because he regarded me as the underdog and enjoyed the thrill of coming to the rescue. Several skirmishes ensued and with two such lawyers as Weber and Lane we won.

Then to our sorrow Mr. Lane died. In my extremity I walked into the office of former United States Senator Milton, who had been Lane's law partner many years ago, and

supplanted for help. God bless him, he promptly took the case, like the late Merritt Lane, for nothing. Now I had the leading lawyer of the State as well as my good friend Weber. What a break! Two months later the case came up for trial or hearings before Commissioner Breslin. It dragged over weeks and months. What happened from the day our Police Department was abolished and during the many sessions at the trial was a cruel experience for me and my friends and of such significance, in my opinion, in connection with orderly processes of municipal government and the menace which besets it, that I make it known to all who will listen.

What happened, in our little town must be only a cross section of the condition of every other municipality large and small, and it calls for a revolt of the electorate against the political setup, regardless of parties. And we must find men to do the job who will defy the politicians and the organized police, and stand behind them, to protect them against the thing that happened to me and my friends. Otherwise our municipalities will never escape from the yoke of taxes which these organizations have grafted onto our bodies.

HITS GANGSTER METHODS

If there are any who doubt this, I can tell them what it has cost our taxpayers under the oppression of our former Police Department, how the daily life of the citizens of our small community was affected. I can also tell them about the treatment accorded to our Borough officials by these lawyers during the trial of the Police case, when respected men who served this community well and without pay, were subjected to outrageous insults. And I can tell them of the anguish of my family and of the desperate illness of my wife caused by the threat on my life that came to me from the son of one of the Chief's principal backers. Instances which smelted of incitement by gangster tactics like the framing of false attacks on girls might also be enlightening, as would the strange fact that the rabble performances carried out at many Council meetings by the Chief's supporters always was made up of the same small group and included locally, notorious women. Birds of a feather flock together.

The secretary of this Police Chief's Association, Reimer, is the same man who was the Chief of our own Police Department and who was ousted by the abolition of that department. It is commonly known that he incited the hooligan element to the scandalous outbursts in one Council meeting after another. Incidentally, he is also—yes, even

now—on the Board of our local Building & Loan Association, where people must go to borrow on their homes and often need tolerance when they run into misfortune. Their quarters are in a real estate office which handles the rents for the Building & Loan. So far as I know the partners of that real estate firm and the members of the Board of Directors of the Building & Loan are to a man the leaders of the bitter opposition to me and my friends. Can you sense the tentaclelike implications?

PRIVACY VIOLATED

To give an instance showing the character of this Police Association, when I was on the witness stand their chief lawyer demanded that I present to him all my personal and private records in order that he could disprove, so he said, an important part of my testimony. Over the protest of our attorneys I agreed to exhibit all my personal records, whereupon that cad of a lawyer decided that he did not want to see them. During the stormy half hour when the lawyers fought over this inquisitorial proposal of the Police lawyers, their leading attorney declared that I had no constitutional rights.

Our plea was that the Police Department cost too much for what we needed and our attitude in this respect stands unchanged today. What is important at this moment is that we have, since the Police Department was abolished, conclusively proved by performance the claim we made before abolition, namely, that we could provide adequate public safety through the marshal system not only much cheaper, but better. This involved only a viewpoint supported by business judgment, yet for having that viewpoint, our Borough officials were treated by the Police Association lawyers as though they had committed a heinous offense. Throughout the trial these Police Association lawyers showed proficiency in the act natural to an animal which has the scientific name of Mephitis Mephitis, against which there is no good defense other than a shot gun, which we were not allowed to use. It is not right that Borough officials, especially when they seek no advantage or compensation for themselves, should be exposed to such tactics. Small wonder that men who are trained in business can rarely be induced to serve the public in any capacity.

CHARGES AGENTS LIED

After seeing all these things happen before my very eyes, I wonder how near we may have come to the

O. G. P. U. of Russia or to the Gestapo of Nazi Germany, except that these sinister organizations are reputedly led by able men.

Shocking was the untruthfulness of certain of their witnesses. When I read their testimony, which they gave after calling on God as a witness and knowing, as they did, that we knew they lied, I am astonished out of my shoes how such people can go to church, say a prayer, look their children in the face, have the brazenness to show their faces on the street or at a Council meeting, or pass me on the street without yearning for a sewer to hide in.

My faith in human character received a cruel shock.

If there are any patriotic members of this Police Association who are aware of all this but who have not yet been aroused to the seriousness of the situation, and there must be such, let them now set their jaws and clean house, beginning with their lawyers, the methods which they employ to raise money, and ending with the elimination of those of their number who hang around the Assembly in Trenton and maintain luxurious quarters in a hotel for entertainment.

WARNS COUNTY G. O. P.

If the high command in Republican party affairs of Bergen County and of the State have an ear for rumblings which may well soon become ominous, they can pardon my suggestion that they will do well to break up this saturnalia of pernicious police activities. It must end, as surely it will. Our Republican leaders would make no mistake if right now they looked at what lies before and all around. It is in our own backyards where our national troubles get their nourishment, not in Washington. The best evidence is that one of the many zero's in Congress who now wallows in publicity for a build-up to higher political office at public expense was sent down there by our County Republican leaders, after he had been hatched out right here in our insignificant little Borough. Our Republican leaders should know him; we do, but more of him later.

The exasperating thing about this police business is that the Police Chiefs' Association has our municipalities, particularly small ones like Allendale, in a viselike grip resembling blackmail. Our case was just, yet we could not save ourselves without incurring a big expense directly, and on top of that run the risk of paying, if we lost

the case in court, court costs of many more thousands of dollars. Our own Police Chief ding-donged this at us often enough and it made me pitch and toss during many sleepless nights before I got mad enough to go over the top anyway. Under the decision of the Supreme Court, now that the decision is in our favor, the court

costs fall on the Police Association. That item, plus the fees of their battery of high priced lawyers, costs them, so I am informed, anywhere from \$5,000 to \$8,000. Where did that money come from? Could the members of the Police Chiefs' Association have saved it out of their salaries? Bring me the smelling salts!

There is reason to believe that our citizens have learned their lesson but no really permanent cure can come unless we deal with the cause. In our case that happens to be a man who planted the seed from which our troubles grew. He is now a Congressman and makes believe that he is not interested in our affairs, but signs are not lacking that he fears the effect of the defeat of the machine which he set up in our Borough and, relying on the short memory of the voters, he may, by furtive and insidious means known to that ilk, insinuate himself again into our affairs. It is the duty of those of us who labored hard and long for clean and economical government to see that this shall not happen and to awaken the memory of those who might otherwise forget.

That man, when he was Mayor years ago, put Reimer in office and used him as a springboard for his own political advancement. With Reimer as Chief of Police, he had an organization which could use the authority of the policeman's uniform for getting votes. That organization worked for this man day and night without costing him a cent, but which cost the taxpayers a lot of money. Reimer also spent time on his other job as secretary of the Police Chief's Association, which reaches into the County and into the State. Can you now understand why our Police Department became so costly, what this setup meant to this man, and why we had to fight so hard to get rid of the Police Department?

HOOOLIGAN NO. 1

Having clamped Reimer on us, and now seeing him about to be thrown out, this man came all the way from Washington to break up the marshal system which replaced Reimer. I can see him now among the hooligans gathered together at one particularly hot Council meeting, directing them right and left. On that very day he did his best to drive away a man who was at the moment essential to the success of the marshal system. Hooligan No. 1!

There is no doubt that the Police Department which he organized together with the many items of waste which ran all through our local government because of the influence of Reimer and of the lawyer group which came with it, cost the people of Allendale a sum of at least \$75,000 during the 10 years of its existence.

He also foisted on us a Water Department a full generation before we had people enough to afford it. He equipped it in the botchy way in which such men do everything which they touch, and if Councilman Lyman Ceely had not been alive to take our Water Works over a few years ago it would now be a wreck. Even after the work done by Mr. Ceely and by Engineer Carr it would be much cheaper today for us to buy our water than to have our own plant. That venture tied up at least \$150,000 of our taxpayers money.

SUGGESTS TABLET

A quarter of a million dollars the citizens of Allendale paid in this manner, much more money than enough to pay off our public debt, in order that one man might become Assemblyman and finally Congressman.

Do not overlook either that he threaded the needle for the Fisher boys to get the Federal and State grants for our grade crossing fiasco which ruined Allendale by splitting it into two parts, and which led to the bright idea to waste another \$30,000, not of the State's money—but of our own, for a connecting road of which you now hear no more.

That we may be spared any more of that man's propensity to live by his wits at our expense I propose a tablet of ample dimensions set up where we will always fall over it reading—

J. Parnell Thomas. Our evil spirit.
L. A. KEIDEL,
Mayor of Allendale

Highlights Of Statement By Mayor Of Allendale

Following are highlights from Mayor Louis A. Keidel's statement on the police department case:

The exasperating thing about this police business is that the Police Chiefs' Association has our municipalities, particularly small ones like Allendale, in a viselike grip resembling blackmail.

If there are any patriotic members of this Police Association who are aware of all this but who have not yet been aroused to the seriousness of the situation, and there must be such, let them now set their jaws and clean house, beginning with their lawyers, the methods which they employ to raise money, and ending with the elimination of those of their number who hang around the Assembly in Trenton and maintain luxurious quarters in a hotel for entertainment.

If the high command in Republican party affairs of Bergen County and of the State have an ear for rumblings which may well soon become ominous, they can pardon my suggestion that they will do well to break up this saturnalia of pernicious police activities.

There is reason to believe that our citizens have learned their lesson but no really permanent cure can come unless we deal with the cause. In our case that happens to be a man who planted the seed from which our troubles grew.

Having clamped Reimer on us, and now seeing him about to be thrown out, this man came all the way from Washington to break up the marshal system which replaced Reimer. I can see him now among the hooligans gathered together at one particularly hot Council meeting, directing them right and left. On that very day he did his best to drive away a man who was at the moment essential to the success of the marshal system. Hooligan No. 1!

A quarter of a million dollars the citizens of Allendale paid in this manner, much more money than enough to pay off our public debt, in order that one man might become Assemblyman and finally Congressman.

What happened in our little town must be only a cross section of the condition of every other municipality, large and small, and it calls for a revolt of the electorate against the political setup, regardless of parties. And we must find men to do the job who will defy the politicians and the organized police, and stand behind them, to protect them against the things that happened to me and my friends. Otherwise our municipalities will never escape from the yoke of taxes which these organizations have grafted onto our bodies.

It is sad to contemplate that in this democratic country, where the will of the people should prevail, a municipality needs the courts to protect us against a bund, foreigners to us, of Police Chiefs from far away places in this State, who rallied, with money and with lawyers, to the defense of one of our own employees whose salary came from our own taxpayers and whom we could not afford to continue in office.

If the Police Chiefs' Association interferes in the affairs of other municipalities as they did in our own case, and I am informed that they do so interfere, the people of the State must sooner or later come to a realization of this condition of affairs and destroy that Association.