Mayoralty Campaign
Radio Address

Delivered by

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A gifted poetess once wrote a verse that is peculiarly applicable to all men who occupy positions of responsibility and more particularly public officials.

It is easy to sit in the sunshine
And talk to the man in the shade,
It is easy to float in a well trimmed boat
And point out the places to wade.
It is easy to tell the toiler
How best he may carry his pack,
But no man can rate a burdens weight
Until it has been on his back.

Perfection is a goal to which all aspire but few if any achieve, yet despite this truism it is common to criticize and condemn, too often, without just grounds for such a course.

The most unfortunate feature of our system of municipal government is the custom of determining elections upon personal rather than economic issues. In the present campaign experience that in private employ would be rightly regarded as an asset, is termed a liability, and without facts to support the contention the query is made—has he not had enough.

The best answer to this query is the tax rate plus the degree of efficiency and economy humanely exercised in discharging the duties of the office of Mayor. The burden of government is borne by everyone—business man, home owner, and rent payer, and the price which they have in the past been compelled to pay in increased taxation may properly be charged to executive inexperience.
In 1914, the first year of my first term as Mayor, the tax rate was $17.50 per thousand, and at the end of the four year term was $17.70, despite the fact that for the first time in the history of the city all school land taken and all school buildings erected were paid for out of taxes.

I was succeeded in 1918 by Mayor Peters, the Good Government candidate, and the tax rate was increased from $17.70 to $21.20 per thousand, an increased burden of $6,000,000 imposed upon the tax payers during the first year of the Good Government administration.

The second year of the Good Government administration saw a further increase of $2.40 per thousand, representing over $4,000,000 added burden. The third year of the Good Government administration found another increase of fifty cents per thousand in the tax rate, representing about $2,500,000 added burden, and the last year of the Good Government administration showed a further increase of sixty cents per thousand, representing $1,500,000 additional for the year.

This represented during the four year period an increased burden to the tax payers of approximately $43,000,000.

At the close of the Good Government Association administration in 1921, the tax rate was $24.70 per thousand as against $17.70 under Curley.

The next year, 1922, marked the beginning of my second administration and I maintained the same tax rate of $24.70 per thousand, for my first, second, and also for my third year.
In the last year of my second administration the tax rate was advanced to $26.70, the only increase of any appreciable amount during my entire eight years, and this in spite of the tremendous increase in cost of government and tax rates throughout the entire Common-wealth.

As a continuance of this story we now come to another Good Government administra-ration at City Hall, succeeding that of my second term and strictly according to Good Government standards the home owners and the rent payer were immediately called upon for a tremendous increase in taxes with resulting increase in rentals.

It will be noted that the tax rate in the last year of my second administration was $26.70 and the total tax warrant was $50,000,000. The tax rate of the Good Government admin-istration for the first year was immediately jumped to $31.80 and the tax warrant increased to over $60,000,000, an increase in one year of $10,000,000, or twenty per cent.

It will be noted that the Good Government methods never change. The two succeeding years of the second Good Government admin-istration have shown slight decreases in the tax rate and tax warrant due to the tremendous increase in contributions from the Common-wealth of Massachusetts to the City of Boston from income taxes.

Here you have the difference between two Curley administrations and two so-called Good Government administrations in the one
vital question that affects every home owner, every rent payer and every business man in the city.

Summed up in one vital question the voters at the coming Mayoralty election must decide:

Do the home owners, rent payers and business men of the City of Boston desire to entrust the administration at City Hall to James M. Curley with his official record of economy and accomplishment, or do they wish to continue with so-called Good Government with its official record of increased taxes, increased burdens upon real estate and business due largely to the selection and election of men as Mayors who have had no experience in municipal affairs.

The problems to be solved in the next four years are of such magnitude that they should not be committed to any individual lacking in executive training as against one whose experience, capacity and ability has been tested and not found wanting. The relief of traffic congestion through street widenings, the smooth surfacing of existing highways, the construction of the East Boston Tunnel, the installation of a traffic signal system, if supervised by an honest, energetic and experienced Mayor, may represent a saving of many hundreds of thousands of dollars, as against a loss of a like amount if conducted by one lacking municipal training and experience even though he be an honest and well intentioned man.

The hospital, health and social welfare program started in 1922 by me if carried out as determined upon in accordance with plans of
competent medical authorities should result in making Boston rank first in health and hospitalization service of all American cities, and there is grave danger in delegating this work to an inexperienced man.

The adoption of a system of subway extension and the insistence of a beginning on electrification of steam railroads coupled with a dependable and adequate street car service calls for an experienced executive to insure results rather than continued irritating and costly delays.

The establishment and maintenance in every department of the city, of a wage scale equal to that paid in any other American city without unduly or unfairly burdening the tax payers is not the work to delegate to a novice in municipal affairs.

During my terms as Mayor more consideration was given for the welfare of mothers and children through the establishment of playgrounds and notwithstanding the fact that more land was taken under me than other Mayors there was never a scandal in connection with a single taking experience here meant a vast saving to the people.

The City of Boston gives promise of being the premier convention city of America and this has been made possible in large measure through the removal of the obstacle which had so long prevented major organizations from considering our city, namely, adequate hotel accommodations and a sizable convention hall. In 1924 I secured a change in the height of the buildings law to permit of construction
and reconstruction to a height of 155 feet and induced the late E. M. Statler to erect the Statler Hotel.

It was upon my initiative that the restriction upon building height was removed upon Arlington Street making possible the erection of the Ritz Carleton Hotel, and compelling other hotel owners to remodel and reconstruct with a view to meeting the competition created.

The coming of the American Legion next year and the large number of organizations who are considering or have already decided to convene in Boston during the tercentenary year means an observance in keeping with the importance of the occasion.

The need of the hour is united, harmonious work by all persons and organizations interested in the city and its people and as your Mayor I pledge my every effort to the consummation of this program without which worthwhile progress is impossible.