

THE PUSH GREEDY AS EVER.

HARD TIMES DO
ON CITY

STOP THE DRAIN
ON CITIES.

Public Work I
Find Time
Pleasure
and Officials
to Fair and
the Municipality's Expense.

These are hard times for the business man and the laborer alike. Business interests throughout the country are depressed, money is scarce and hard to get and thousands are seeking vainly for employment. But the "push" and the city hall "machine," with the component and various parts thereof, do not seem to be affected.

While banks and business houses, individuals and firms are reducing to a minimum the expense of conducting their business, there is no talk of retrenchment in the city hall.

Public improvements of all kinds have been practically suspended for an indefinite period. No new work that will cost any considerable amount of money is projected and none will be undertaken until the financial clouds have lifted and it is possible to see daylight ahead.

Notwithstanding this the maw of the "machine" in the city hall is as wide open as ever and the handlers and manipulators thereof are feeding it with good, hard money that comes as the direct tribute of the property owners to the dynasty in control.

Next Monday night at the monthly meeting of the common council the appropriation ordinance for the month of July will be introduced. It will aggregate \$80,000. No public work of any consequence has been done in four weeks. Heads of departments and their understudies have had time to visit the World's fair, or to spend two or three weeks at some summer resort. But the salary list will be as large as ever. No reductions have been made in any of the departments. The "push" has not been affected by the financial crisis.

OVER 1/2 MILLION FOR SALARIES.

While Mayor Cowherd has been playing a farming down in the country property owners have been doing some figuring on the cost of running the city hall as "she is run" at present. The figures are somewhat startling. The maintenance of the city hall "machine" alone will this year cost property owners \$585,000.

This is for salaries alone. It does not include \$150,000 for water and gas, nor does it take in any of the other burdens that fall upon the property owner in the shape of special tax bills for improvements, cleaning and sprinkling. The entire revenue, estimated, for the fiscal year from the ten mill levy and other services is about 3/4 million dollars. When it is considered that six-sevenths of this entire amount is to be expended in salaries it is easily explained why the city secures no public improvements that are permanent.

It takes all the money it can rake and scrap to fill the pockets of the politicians of the "push," who swarm from cellar to sub-basement in the city hall and let no chance escape to lower the city's cash balance.

The same property owners figure that when Mayor Cowherd retires from office next spring his administration of the municipality will have cost for salaries in all the departments \$1,070,000!

The street department is doing little this year towards cleaning and sprinkling streets. Yet it is spending just as much money, while in addition to the burden of \$67,000 in salaries and wages expended by John May, property owners are compelled to pay the special tax bills against their property for sprinkling and cleaning the streets.

With every branch of business dull, with public improvements at a standstill, with time galore for officers and employees to catch fish or flies, as fancy or impulse dictates, the "push" continues turning the wheel of the big machine in the city hall, and the taxpayer contributes the dollars to pay for the oil.

In times of financial depression the softest snap above ground is to have a card of membership in the Kansas City "push."