

## Municipal Facts—City of El Paso

10c for the first ten fixtures, and five cents for each additional one. Electrical outlets first ten 25c, 2nd ten 15c, additional, 10c. For a gas permit, the charge is on the same basis as the electrical permits. For a plumbing permit, a charge of \$1.00 for the first fixture, and 50c each additional one is made. A sewer permit costs five dollars for each of the first five taps, and \$2.50 for each additional one. From these permits the city received last year \$3,500.00. Since the department of public buildings was established August 1st, 1912, there have been 10,000 permits issued. Inspections have been made over an outlay representing \$13,969,594 with the view of enforcing the city's building ordinance. Fees have been received and turned over to the city treasurer to the sum of \$9,735.00.

The city assessor issues a group of occupation licenses such as auctioneer's license at \$25.00 per year; pawn shop at \$75.00 per year; pool hall license at \$10.00 per table; shooting gallery at \$15.00; theatre license at \$12.50 per year, etc.

The amount collected from the licenses for the fiscal year ending March 31st, was \$13,641.04. A dog license and hawker's license are also collected in this office.

The inspector of weights and measures, the city engineer, the health department, the scavenger and disposal department, all collect miscellaneous fees for issuing various permits, and carrying on inspection.

### Law Department.

The head of this department is the City Attorney who is appointed by the council at a salary of \$3,000 per year. The city attorney has one assistant, who draws \$1500.00.

One of the most important duties of this department is to render legal advice to the mayor and council, to the city assessor, to the chief of police and to the health officer. The city attorney is also responsible for the preparation of all the city ordinances and contracts.

In case of an appeal in the corporation court, the assistant attorney takes charge of the case for the city. The assistant also takes charge of the legal proceedings, necessary in making the collections on the street improvements made prior to September, 1915, the time the El Paso Bitulithic Company started to make these collections.

The legal department is also active in recovering the delinquent taxes as now appear on the assessment rolls.

### Corporation Court.

The judge of the Corporation Court is elected for a two year term at a \$1800 salary; presides over the corporation court; in this court are tried all misdemeanor offenses, such as, petty larceny, assault, vagrancy, traffic violation, etc. The number of these cases tried before the Corporation Judge during 1919 was 4245. The most appearing before the judge during one month, was during the month of September, 1919, when 565 appeared. The fines collected by the corporation judge during the last fiscal year was \$11,000.00

Persons arrested for felony are tried in the county courts.

### Cases Before Corporation Court, 1919.

January .....	172
February .....	128
March .....	242

April .....	385
May .....	322
June .....	295
July .....	440
August .....	455
September .....	565
October .....	372
November .....	361
December .....	508
	4245

### City Clerk.

The City Clerk is appointed by the Council for two years. He keeps the minutes of the Council, and has charge of all city documents. He also grants such licenses as are authorized by the council. The clerk acts in a confidential capacity to the mayor. He is responsible for signing all warrants and presenting same to the mayor for final signature. He keeps no financial records.

### Municipal Civil Service Commission.

The civil service commission of three members is appointed by the mayor. The commissioners serve without pay for a two year term. The commission appoints a secretary who holds office at its pleasure. The secretary's duties are prescribed by the commission, and his salary is fixed by the council.

The ordinance establishing the commission gives it jurisdiction over the organization, government, and discipline of the police and fire department. So far its activities have been confined to the police department. In the police department the commission has held civil service examinations, with a view of certifying to the mayor the names of persons eligible for appointment in the police department. A candidate for the police department must obtain an average of not less than 70 on mental tests, and 70 on physical development and strength.

### Police Department.

The head of the police department is the chief of police. He is appointed by the mayor from certified candidates made by the civil service commission and receives \$3000 per year.

The department has a total force of sixty-seven employees, of these patrolmen, such as patrolmen, traffic men, mounted men and motorcycle men, 11 are detectives and 11 are officers. Promotions and appointments are certified by the civil service commission, as result of competitive examinations, and are made by the mayor.

The patrolmen enter the uniformed service on a salary of \$110 per month for the first year, and receive an increase in their salaries of \$5.00 at the end of each six months, contingent upon service record. The maximum salary paid to patrolmen is \$120.00.

### Education.

The Board of Education consists of seven members elected at large for a two year term. Members of the board receive no salary. The board is organized into three committees. The Finance Committee, the External Committee and the Internal Committee. The board elects two chief officials, one, the school superintendent, who is the executive officer over the schools, and the other is the purchasing agent and auditor, who is the executive officer over the business functions. Under the general supervision of the board are 310 teachers and 14

buildings which together with the equipment are valued at over \$1,400,000.

The schools receive money from three sources—from the State, from the County, and from the City. The money received from the State is based upon the school census. Last year the State paid the schools seven dollars and fifty cents for each pupil of school age. There were 15,893 pupils in the school census, which made a total amount of \$119,197.50 received from the State. The money received from the county is based upon certain trust funds, established by the State. This amounts to five or six thousand a year. The money from the city comes from direct taxation, as collected by the city assessor, and is turned over to the school treasurer.

The amount of money coming from taxation is limited by the State law, and the school tax rate cannot exceed fifty cents on each 100 dollar assessed valuation. This limit only regulates operation and maintenance costs. The cost of the school's debt service is not included in this limit but is borne by the city. In this way the school system is independent from the city in matters relating to operation and maintenance, but is dependent on the city in regard to buildings and improvements. The school tax rate for the last nine years has been as follows: 1911, 46%; 1912, 44%; 1913, 36%; 1914, 35%; 1915, 41%; 1916, 40%; in 1917, 46%; in 1918 and in 1919 .50.

Every child between eight and fourteen years of age is required by the compulsory education law, to attend school throughout the school year. The number of pupils in the school census in the El Paso district during the last eight years is as follows: 1911, 7,698; 1912, 8,920; 1913, 9,706; 1914, 11,863; 1915, 13,704; 1916, 14,792; 1917, 17,447; 1918, 15,893.

Teachers in the elementary schools receive between \$900 and \$1200 per year and the high school teachers receive salaries between \$1200 and \$1700 per year. This salary schedule amounts to about a 20% increase over the previous salary schedule.

With the after war period came a slight change in the public school policies and curriculum, which resulted in reducing the teaching force by elementary special work in the lower grades and concentrating upon the essentials in education. The reduction in the teaching force enabled the granting to the teachers the salary increase above referred to.

The city and school board are also concentrating upon the development of better buildings for the elementary schools, and two new elementary school buildings are now under way.

### Auto Club Takes Over Highways Work.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the El Paso Automobile Club March 4th, 1920, details of taking over the work of the good roads committee of the Chamber of Commerce were discussed with Manager K. M. Roberts. The Automobile Club will hereafter be known as the El Paso Automobile Club and good roads department of the Chamber of Commerce. The directors of the club will constitute the good road committee of the Chamber of Commerce.

A new real estate firm under the name of Adams & Edge Realty Co., has opened offices in room 710 El Paso Bank & Trust Building. Horace M. Adams and Z. J. Edgs are the organizers of the firm.

