

Taxes

I paid my taxes, I'm proud to say,
And I bought some civilization today.
I helped build a bridge and a highway, too:
I bought my three children a park and a zoo

When I paid my taxes.

I helped build a library, paid for more books;
Paid for having the streets cleaned, improving their looks;
Paid for drinking founts street corners to crown,
And paid for new street lights in the old town

When I paid my taxes.

I helped hire a free doctor and a firemen's crew;
I paid for a nurse and some policemen, too.
I helped buy a young man a very fine job
At the bathing beach for my Dorothy and Bob

When I paid my taxes.

I helped build a school and hired teachers, too;
I helped buy a golf course for my son to play through.
I helped build a museum of music and art;
Now, friends, don't you think I really was smart

When I paid my taxes?

This poem first appeared in June 1938, in the "Washington Clubwoman" of Seattle, Washington, official organization of the Federation of Women's Clubs of that state. Reprinted in *Tax Collecting in New Hampshire: A Book of Laws and Court Decisions Applying to Assessment and Collection of Poll and Property Taxes as of January 1, 1941*, by William F. Howes.