

# Citizen Control of the Citizen's Business

TORONTO'S CITIZENS CAN CONTROL TORONTO'S AFFAIRS ONLY THROUGH FREQUENT, PROMPT, ACCURATE AND PERTINENT INFORMATION WITH REGARD TO TORONTO'S BUSINESS.

ISSUED BY THE

189 CHURCH STREET



TELEPHONE: MAIN 3620

White Paper No. 82

December 27th, 1924

**ON JANUARY 1st, 1925**

**In addition to the election of a**

**Mayor**

**Board of Control**

**Aldermen**

**Board of Education**

the Citizens of Toronto will be given an opportunity to express their opinion on two matters of public policy.

## THE FIRST QUESTION

will be submitted to the electors qualified to vote on money by-laws and calls upon them to state whether or not, in their opinion, the City should spend

**\$14,000,000**

on an extension of the present water works system.

### SEVERAL QUESTIONS NATURALLY ARISE.

1. "What does the proposed extension involve?"

Ans. The extension will provide for an additional pumping station, a tunnel through rock for an intake, and a filter plant, at a site other than the present, as well as pumping mains to connect with the present system throughout the City.

2. "Why is it desirable to have an additional intake and pumping plant?"

Ans. (a) The present situation is dangerous because the present intakes are on a bottom, the formation of which is constantly changing. Repairs in case of a break would mean, possibly, months, not days. The danger to health is obvious. Again, an explosion at the present pumping plant, or similar accident, might put the whole plant out of commission and a fire might render the electric installation useless, resulting not only in inconvenience, but in great dangers from the standpoint of health and fire.

(b) The present system is at the limit of its capacity. During periods of maximum demand in certain years with very hot summers, thousands of citizens have been without water even for drinking and sanitary purposes. At certain periods the City consumes 8,000,000 gallons of water per day more than is produced, reservoir water supplying the difference. There have been occasions when it was necessary to turn raw water into the mains. Undoubtedly, if universal metering were already in force, the necessity of an extension from the standpoint of producing an adequate amount of water would have been put off for, say, five years; but, the refusal of the City to allow any water works surplus to be used for such purposes as extensions and meters and the indefensible use of these surpluses for reduction of taxation has made it impossible to secure universal metering. It would cost, say, between \$4,000,000 and \$5,000,000 to instal meters and, at the end of, say, five years, the proposed extension would have to be made in any case, and in the meantime the danger referred to above would continue to exist. After the extension is made, a forward policy

as to the metering services could be adopted by setting free, after taxes are paid on the system, a part of any surpluses, as soon as these appear, for the installation of meters when and where they will do the most good. At present  $3\frac{1}{2}\%$  of the services using 30% of the water are metered. This is a good advance over the past.

3. "What will the extension cost the Taxpayer?"

Ans. The Bureau has been informed that the additional debt charges will be \$1,000,000 annually. If the surplus on the present basis is placed at \$600,000, it would leave \$400,000 a year for the taxpayer, if there were no increase in consumption and if the policy of operating public utilities at a loss were adopted. It would seem quite within the bounds of possibility that 25 years from now the population of Toronto might be 750,000 or even 1,000,000. This, or even a much smaller increase, would greatly augment the number of services assisting in carrying the overhead. In any event there is no service more vital, possibly no service so vital to the family, as an adequate and certain supply of pure water. Users should be willing to pay whatever it costs to produce water for domestic and industrial purposes, and taxpayers what it costs to produce water for safety purposes. It must further be remembered that the debt charges will not be fully operative until the end of, say, five years, by which time the City should, and could if it earnestly desired it, have improved greatly its relative position as to non-revenue producing debt and as to its costs of current operation.

## THE SECOND QUESTION

is to be submitted to the electors on January first, 1925. It has to do with "amendments to certain acts governing the Consumers Gas Company".

The voter will naturally ask himself two questions:

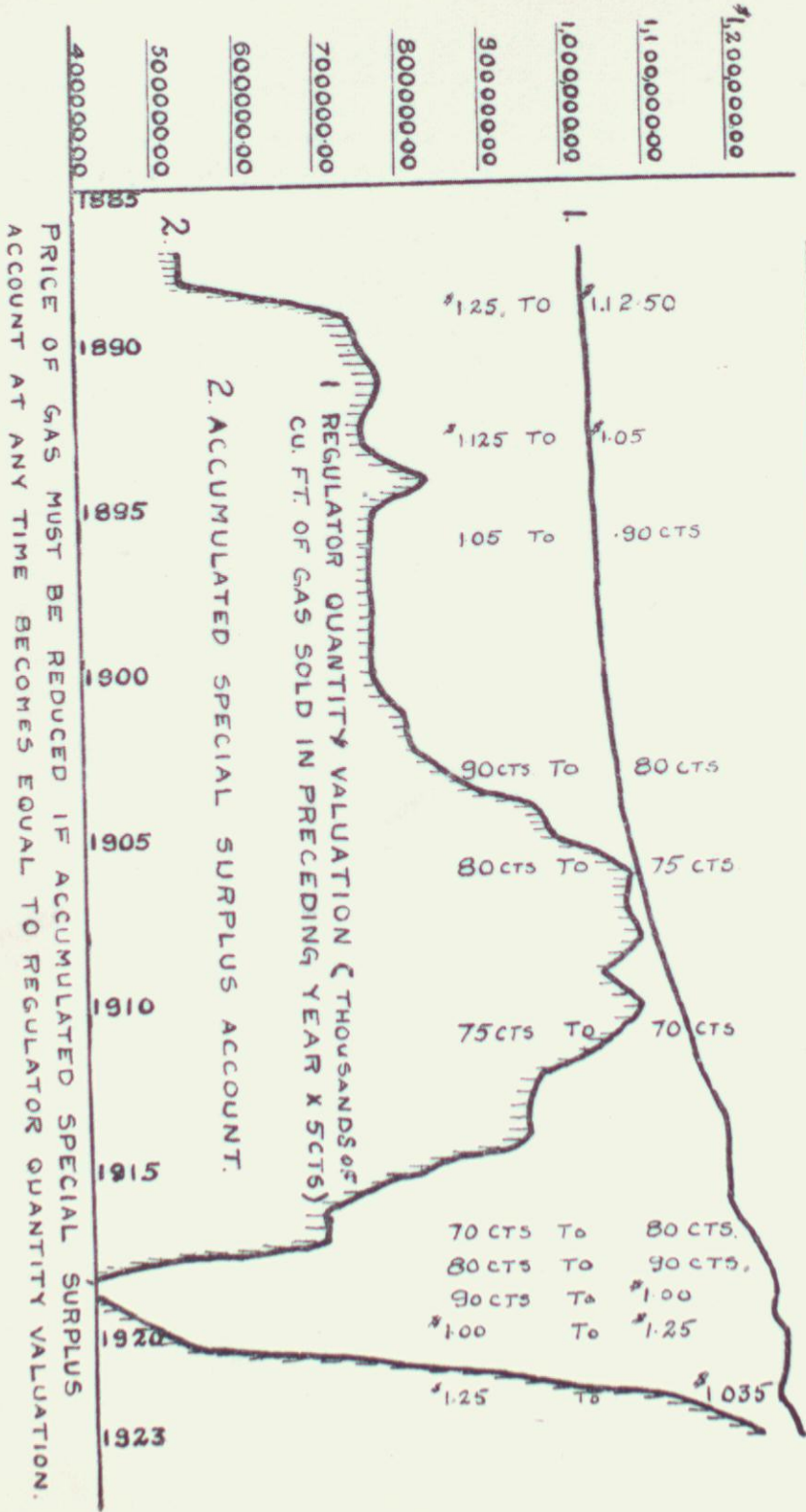
1. "What guarantee at present has the user of gas that the provisions of the law which automatically regulate the price of gas are being honestly carried out?"

Ans. The City has, and exercises, the right of financial audit. The City Auditor conducts each year a thorough audit of the books of the Consumers Gas Company and makes a very full report thereon to the Mayor, Board of Control, and Council.

2. "What guarantee at present has the user of gas that the management of the company is such as to give him as full advantage as possible of efficient manufacture?"

Ans. The City is a shareholder in the company and has not only the right of being represented at the annual meeting, but, in the person of the Mayor, has a director on the Board who has the same right as any other director to obtain full information as to actual operations and to inspect the plant and equipment.

# CHART SHOWING AUTOMATIC CONTROL PRICE OF GAS



PRICE OF GAS MUST BE REDUCED IF ACCUMULATED SPECIAL SURPLUS ACCOUNT AT ANY TIME BECOMES EQUAL TO REGULATOR QUANTITY VALUATION.