

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

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PENALTIES FOR NON VOTERS

There is a general impression that there is no penalty in any part of Canada for non-voting. This is not correct. There are penalties for non-voting in all parts of Canada. In Toronto they are very heavy.

It is to be presumed that you have already satisfied yourself as to candidates. On January 1st, 1927, Vote As You Like, But Vote.

NO STATUTORY BUT NATURAL PENALTIES.

It is true that there is no statutory penalty. A non-voter cannot be haled before the courts and fined or sent to gaol for not discharging his duty to himself, his family, and the community by exercising his right to vote. But there is a natural law from the penalties of which there can be no escape. This law is that "if a function is not used, the power to discharge it is ultimately lost." A citizenship which despises its rights and privileges, and the duties based on these rights and privileges, will be weighed in the balance and found wanting, and will finally lose the status of citizenship. This right of self-government is not an inalienable right. It is alienable, and in the past has often been alienated by failure to exercise it.

There is another natural law of equal validity which governs the case. That law is that "When a valuable privilege is relinquished by one person or group it is always taken up by another." Such a valuable privilege once lost can hardly be regained, certainly not without a struggle.

It is said that the successful politician always has his ear to the ground. If so, he only hears the noise of those who make a noise. Those who have no voice, or having voices do not use them, are not heard. Public money is spent in accordance with the wishes of those who make the noise. This noise may not be audible to the general public. Those who are by choice dumb also tend to become deaf. The noise may be only a whisper, only a rustling in the leaves, but it is audible by those who are intended to hear it and who desire to hear it.

WELL, WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

This is a questions always raised by a large part of the general public, either in actual words, or by its general attitude. Taking the municipal field alone, without considering the national or provincial fields, does it make any difference:

1. How \$28,000,000 of the citizens' money is spent on current account?
2. Whether the expenditure of this money is controlled by men and women capable of controlling it or by men and women who in private business would not be given the control of the expenditure of a tithe of this sum of other people's money?
3. Whether the legislative and administrative machinery which expends this money for public services is adapted to the purpose by its directness and simplicity of action, or, is obsolescent and clumsy or cumbersome, with too many parts, involving friction and waste motion?
4. Whether or not the permanent civic service which involves an annual salary and wage bill, outside of the municipally owned utilities, and including only the regular departments of the City and Board of Education, of almost \$14,700,000, is uniformly recruited, promoted, demoted and retired on the basis of merit and the needs of the service?
5. Whether or not the purchasing power of the city and "outside" boards is concentrated and contracts awarded so that the taxpayers, in purchases and contracts, receive 100 cents value of every dollar

expended out of taxation, general revenues and public utility revenues?

6. Whether or not improvements involving the expenditure of capital funds are based on a city-wide plan with a tentative financial plan of capital expenditure for five or ten years ahead?

TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE ELECTORS ON JANUARY 1st, 1927.

1. **The question:** "Are you in favor of continuing 'Daylight Saving' time during the next five years?"
2. **A proposed By-law** to "authorize the issue of debentures to the amount of \$415,000 to raise the sum of \$400,000 required to provide for the cost of a new eastern entrance to the Exhibition Grounds." (To be voted on by electors entitled to vote on a money by-law.)

With regard to the by-law, the following information was supplied by the Board of Directors of the Exhibition to the Board of Control in setting forth their request:

"In view of the fact that there is an incessant demand for increased and more suitable accommodation on the part of several large groups of exhibitors, two of which have already guaranteed to provide the interest charges and sinking fund upon the construction of two suitable buildings already planned, and as such buildings cannot be constructed until prepared sites are available, it is the opinion of our Board that if the degree of development and progress that has marked the past history of the Exhibition is to be maintained and the future success of the Exhibition thus assured, the proposed new eastern entrance, with the central boulevard, together with the sewers, lighting, fencing, gateways, etc., should be constructed in time for the 1927 Exhibition, so that sites and approaches may be prepared in the eastern section of the Exhibition Grounds for the much-needed buildings.

"The Board therefore requests that the Board of Control should give the matter their favorable consideration and, if same meets with their approval, they should recommend to the City Council, at its next meeting, that the necessary money by-law be prepared and advertised to enable the citizens to vote upon the matter January 1st next.

"The total amount of the estimates for the work proposed is \$398,222.00, made up as follows:

"Entrance structure as shown on photographs.....	\$160,000.00
"Flood-lighting, fencing, gateways, etc.....	25,000.00
"Roadway lighting	8,000.00
"75-foot roadway with pavement, storm sewers and plaza in front of Coliseum as indicated on plan.....	185,803.00
"12,000 cubic yards of fill for road grading at 50 cents per cubic yard, on assumption that building operations in the vicinity will provide most of the fill required	6,000.00
"Sanitary sewers to provide for future buildings.....	13,419.00

"\$398,222.00"

In considering this request the most of the taxpayers have acquired, through personal experience, a true appreciation of the value of the Exhibition to the City of Toronto. The following extract from the 1925 "Annual Report of the Commissioner of Finance" gives the salient financial facts of interest to the citizen as a taxpayer:

"Management of the Exhibition is entrusted to a board of capable business men known as the Canadian National Exhibition Association. Attractive buildings have been erected for the purposes of the Exhibition on improved park lands ideally situated on the waterfront. The Association leases the grounds and buildings from the city for the two weeks the Exhibition is in progress. Throughout the rest of the year Exhibition Park is open to the public. All revenue in excess of operating expenses is turned over to the city. For the past few years this excess has been more than sufficient to pay all debt and maintenance charges and still leave a substantial surplus."

QUESTIONS WHICH MIGHT BE ASKED OF CANDIDATES FOR CITY COUNCIL.

1. Should the size of Council be reduced?
2. Should the existing standing committee system be abolished and the Board of Control be constituted the only standing committee?
3. Should the term of aldermen be one year, two years or three years?
4. Should wards be abolished, reduced in number, or increased in number?
5. Should purchasing and the awarding of contracts be on a purely business basis in the interests of the taxpayers and producers as a whole, or should other considerations effecting only a portion of the taxpayers or producers or facilitating candidacy at municipal elections be allowed to have deciding weight?
6. What is the effect on the real prosperity of business and industry in the city of unbusinesslike administration of any phase of municipal affairs?
7. Could any improvements be effected in the civic administration and, if so, what?

ON JANUARY 1st, 1926,

making estimated allowances for duplications and other factors, 216 out of a thousand possible votes were cast for aldermanic candidates; 239 out of a thousand for candidates for Board of Education; 335 out of a thousand for candidates for Controllers; 473 out of a thousand for candidates for Mayor. These figures are a considerable improvement on those of the year before tabulated on the same basis. There is still tremendous room for improvement.