

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

21 KING STREET EAST



TELEPHONE: ELGIN 1904

White Paper No. 112

April 12th, 1927

The 1927 Current City Budget STORY NO. 1.

Toronto is to Raise in General Taxes During 1927

\$26,972,984

on an estimated population of 567,825. This represents
general taxation per person of

\$47.50

The General Taxation for 1926 was

\$24,450,686

or \$43.92 per person.

There was an increase over 1926 of \$2,522,298 on the total and \$3.58 on the per capita.

That is, the general taxation on the total went up over 10.3%, and on the per capita over 8.1%.

This is due largely to postponed payments for accumulated Harbour and Radial deficits amounting to \$1,193,125. The City itself never funds or postpones the payment of current deficits on operations under its immediate control. It is expensive to do so in the case of other deficits for which it is liable.

TOTAL TAXATION.

The totals given on the preceding page do not include the rate-payers' share of local improvement taxation. As all City property presumably has paid, is paying, or will pay, such taxation as the City is developed, local improvement taxation entails a tax burden as truly as does general taxation. As many can testify, it sometimes constitutes a heavy and almost unbearable burden. All taxation is for the purpose of rendering services. Different methods of collecting taxes have no bearing on their general classification as taxes.

The net amount of the Ratepayers' share of Local Improvement Taxation for 1927 is

\$1,832,673

This makes the total taxation for the year

\$28,805,657

or \$50.73 per person (est.).

It has been said that Toronto voters will come out to vote if there is an important civic issue before them. There is, **every year**. The election of representatives to control the expenditure of nearly \$29,000,000 in taxes and to see that the people whose trustees they are get full value for the expenditure, is such an issue. If it is not, then there never has been and never will be an important civic issue before the electors of Toronto. As long as people do not regard this as an important issue, they can have no assurance that money is not being wasted by putting off essential improvements, by postponing the payment of current liabilities, by neglecting to classify and reorganize the civic service, by failing to modify the policy-forming and administrative machinery to meet the changed and changing conditions and by giving undue attention to unimportant details at the expense of vital questions, etc. In the face of civic indifference what guarantee is there that worse than inefficiency will not make its appearance?

HOW THE TAXATION FOR 1927 IS ARRIVED AT.

Requirements.

Proposed gross expenditure of City and elected Boards	\$31,959,598	
Less: Ratepayers' share of L.I. (net).....	1,832,673	
	<hr/>	\$30,126,925
Less: Reserve for deferred expenditure.....	\$ 273,071	
Surplus from 1926.....	262,060	
	<hr/>	535,131
		<hr/>
		\$29,591,794
Less: Anticipated revenue other than taxation for the City (including surpluses on Water Works and C.N.E.), the Board of Education and Separate School Board, including local revenues, payments by the Province, surpluses, etc.....		2,618,810
		<hr/>
Total to be raised by general taxation.....		\$26,972,984
Total to be raised by special taxation, Ratepayers' share L.I., Debt Charges (net).....		1,832,673
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Total Taxation Requirements.....		\$28,805,657

Taxation.

Taxation on General Assessment of \$840,492,347 at 22.05 mills	\$18,532,856
Taxation on Public School Assessment of \$861,375,593 at 9.75 mills	8,398,412
Taxation on Separate School Assessment of \$47,410,643 at 14.10 mills	668,490
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Total Gross General Taxation.....	\$27,599,758
Less: Taxes uncollectable — allowances, reductions, losses, etc.	626,774
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Total General Taxation (net).....	\$26,972,984
Total Special Taxation (net), Ratepayers' share of L.I. Taxation	1,832,673
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Total Taxation	\$28,805,657

1927
29,505,320
850,000 = 850.0

The Toronto Bureau of Municipal Research is an independent non-partisan citizen organization, for the promotion of informed citizenship and, through it, of efficient municipal government. Its methods are:

1. The ascertaining of the facts regarding municipal government.
2. The study and analysis of these facts.
3. The publication of these facts in clear, concise form, with constructive suggestions based on the facts.

The Bureau is conducted in the interests of all the citizens and taxpayers of Toronto. Its work is not spectacular, but persistent and calculated to exercise a wholesome influence on municipal affairs.

The Bureau receives no municipal grant, but is supported by the contributions of public-spirited citizens. The Council of the Bureau welcomes the cooperation of an even larger number than at present of citizens and taxpayers in supporting the work.