

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. 118

December 14th, 1927

MUNICIPAL POLICE SERVICE

STORY No. 1

The peoples of British countries as a rule have confidence in the administration of justice by their public authorities. The police as a part of the machinery have contributed their full share to the creation of this confidence. The people of Toronto have a real feeling of pride in and very frequently of warm regard for the police of their city force. For appearance, courage, courtesy and willingness to assist the force has achieved an enviable record. Like all other police departments, the Toronto department has not been uniformly successful in bringing malefactors to justice, but it has had many outstanding successes, the memory of which unfortunately is more apt to drop out of the public mind than the memory of failures.

In view particularly of the hazardous and exacting nature of police work, the citizens owe to the police department the duty of providing it with the equipment and personnel in the amount, quality and place where equipment and personnel will do the most good. In view of what citizens have at stake, and the fact that they directly or indirectly defray the expenses of police service, the Corporation owes the citizens protection of life and property as adequate as can be attained by a thoroughly equipped, organized and manned police department.

The question therefore is not "Shall the police be given sufficient help in men and equipment to enable them to render the best possible service?" but "How best can the citizens and taxpayers help the Department to attain the greatest possible effectiveness in discharging its duties."

Naturally the requisite information on which to base a decision is available to the Police Commission and Police Administration, but it should also be readily available to the City Council which has to vote the money and to the people who have to provide the money, the former in order to enable it to form a considered judgment and the latter because the best results can only be obtained through the co-operation of a fully informed and sympathetic constituency.

The information available to the Bureau is not at all complete or adequate for purposes of deciding policy. The information given below, therefore, is simply intended to illustrate the type of information necessary to guide the authorities and citizens in coming to sound conclusions.

1927 (1-10-27)	5	596	402	55	2,018	1,596	4,736	8,748	7	1	14	17,929	58,526	30.6
1928	1	702	51	55	2,225	1,446	4,665	8,265	5	1	13	17,552	56,997	30.8
1927 (1-10-27)	7	731	72	122	2,225	1,446	4,665	8,265	5	1	13	17,552	56,997	30.8

OFFENCES OF A SERIOUS NATURE

AS SET OUT IN THE ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE CHIEF CONSTABLE OF THE CITY OF TORONTO

Corresponding figures for 1927 may be filled in after the 1927 Report is issued.

	Burglary	House and Shop Breaking	Robbery	Picking Pockets	Auto Thefts	Bicycle Thefts	Other Thefts	Miscellaneous	Murder	Attempted Murder	Man-slaughter	Total	Population	Occurrences per 1,000
1926	4	698	62	36	1825	1111	4115	7147	3	2	18	15,021	556,691	27
1925	4	612	67	44	1399	1474	3940	6896	3	1	5	14,445	549,429	26.3
1924	5	591	44	52	1414	1371	3847	6602	4	3	12	13,945	542,187	25.7
1923	3	652	48	42	1067	1317	4029	6378	6	5	16	13,563	538,771	25.2
1922	9	559	39	95	973	1565	4290	5767	5	0	18	13,220	529,083	25.1
1921	4	808	132	268	914	1801	5044	6413	10	3	26	15,423	522,666	29.5
1920	12	1034	155	170	1149	1510	5695	6200	4	—x	22	15,951	512,812	31.1
1919	11	1038	104	273	1660	2128	5229	6432	5	—	18	16,898	499,278	33.8
1918	20	556	39	132	1106	1609	4087	5679	3	—	—x	18,231	489,681	27.4
1917	5	365	31	90	811	1479	3403	5651	1	—	—	11,336	473,829	25
1916	3	330	23	42	277	1387	3120	5822	0	—	—	11,004	460,526	23.9
1915	19	272	23	90	120	1841	4352	5439	1	—	—	12,157	463,705	26.2
1914	28	531	40	108	44	2286	4873	5675	4	—	—	13,589	470,151	28.9
1913	15	457	41	94	—x	1719	4567	5255	0	—	—	12,145	445,575	27.3

xThe dashes are used when the figures are not segregated in the annual reports.

PLEASE NOTE:—

- That in the first four columns the figures rise and fall without apparent relation to population or size of force.
- That auto thefts have increased and bicycle thefts have decreased, as would be expected.
- That the totals are greatest during the three years following the War.
- That the occurrences per one thousand population vary as influences bearing on crime vary, but are not greatly different for 1913, the year before the war, and 1926.
- That the spectacular crime of robbery or highway robbery has, next to theft of automobiles, shown the greatest percentage of increase in 1926 over 1913. There seems, moreover, to be a definite relation between the two forms of crime

with the upsurge of murders,

THE NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF THE POLICE FORCE OF TORONTO AS OF END OF EACH YEAR BETWEEN 1913 AND 1926, BOTH INCLUSIVE

In studying these figures it must be borne in mind that the eight-hour day rule came into effect in 1919. This, and changes which may be made in regard to rest days, of course, affect the number of police available at any period in the day although the increase in efficiency due to better conditions of work may partially or entirely offset the reduction in the average number of men on duty. The increase in offences relating to motor traffic has also undoubtedly increased the pressure on the force.

	Chief	Deputy Chief	Assistant Dep. Chief	Chief Inspector	Staff Inspector	Inspector of Detectives	Inspectors	Sergeants	Detectives	Patrol Sergeants	Acting Detectives	Constables			TOTAL	Population	Police per 10,000 Population
												1st Class	2nd Class	3rd Class			
1926	1	1		1	1	1	14	41	30	46	26	592	91	52	897	556,691	16.1
1925	1	1		1	1	1	14	38	30	49	26	563	116	32	873	549,429	15.9
1924	1	1		1	1	1	15	39	30	50	26	553	84	69	871	542,187	16.1
1923	1	1		1	1	1	15	38	25	49	27	482	154	53	847	538,771	15.7
1922	1	1		1	1	1	16	38	25	48	22	392	239	39	824	529,083	15.6
1921	1	1		1	1	1	16	38	27	49	21	356	167	147	826	522,666	15.8
1920	1	1		1	1	1	15	35	26	46	25	391	58	142	743	512,812	14.5
1919	1	1	1	1	1	1	14	33	25	42	15	427	1	99	662	499,278	13.3
1918	1	1	1	1	1	1	13	29	17	38	15	389	3	..	510	489,681	10.4
1917	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	30	18	39	15	310	145	..	574	473,829	12.1
1916	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	30	18	40	15	257	209	12	598	460,526	13.0
1915	1	1	1	1	1	1	13	30	16	41	17	245	241	81	689	463,705	14.9
1914	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	31	16	36	13	205	282	89	690	470,151	14.7
1913	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	31	14	37	12	184	227	103	626	445,575	14.0

NOTE:—

- That during 1916, 1917, 1918 the police were seriously depleted by enlistments, vacancies being left open.
- That the population dropped very slightly in 1915 and 1916 but not sufficiently to restore the balance with size of police force.
- That the police force in proportion to population has fluctuated during the period.
- That the chief increases proportionately have been in the detective service.
- That per 10,000 population the city had no fewer police in 1926 than in 1913.
- That the problems of the police may have become serious more rapidly than population has grown.

**Questions which are frequently raised in
discussions of police questions
among citizens**

1. Could the efficiency of the force be increased by further increasing and strengthening the detective branch?
2. Would the complete or partial establishment of a flash-light signal system or some other method, by which headquarters could get in touch rapidly with men on beats, increase the mobility and flexibility of the force?
3. Would the establishment of police booths, for outlying districts at strategic points, as suggested by the Chief of the Police Department, with two men each and with motor equipment, increase the mobility of the police, make possible the cutting down of the number of police stations and the increasing of the number of men in the field?
4. Would the addition of a number of high-powered cars to the police equipment give the police a better chance to catch bandits using high-powered cars?
5. Would the further "substitution of rubber tires for rubber heels"* be of advantage?
6. Could traffic control be still further improved so as to release men for other duty?
7. Could citizen co-operation make it more difficult for bandits to steal high-powered cars to use in their operations?

*P. 35, Report of N.Y. Crime Commission.

Succeeding numbers will contain further facts illustrative of one type of information necessary to arrive at sound conclusions.