

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.

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MUNICIPAL POLICE SERVICE

STORY No. 2

Part B—Some United States Cities.

As was stated in the previous White Paper, the facts presented in the series are given only as illustrative of the kind of impersonal fact material which would assist the Board of Control, the City Council and the citizens in their consideration of the Police Estimates.

In studying these facts it is well to consider that conditions in United States cities are usually at least somewhat different from those obtaining in Ontario cities.

In Ontario cities the selection, promotion and discharge of policemen is never relegated in any degree to a Civil Service Commission. In Toronto the police department is administered through a Chief Constable by a Police Commission made up of the Mayor, a Judge of the County Court, and the Senior Police Magistrate, thus ensuring that the local administration of justice shall be divorced as far as possible from considerations of local politics. Judges and Magistrates are appointed (not elected) for life on good behaviour. The population is fairly homogeneous in racial origin. Possibly there are not such aggregations of wealth in Ontario cities as prove a temptation to criminals in some United States cities. On the whole, in Ontario the law has been administered with such despatch, energy and impartiality as to make crime a dangerous career.

Cincinnati.

Population, 415,000. Land area, 72 square miles. The Police Force numbers 547. Force per 10,000 population, 13.2; per square mile, 7.6. "The residential and outlying districts are motorized to the extent of one machine for two patrolmen". The booth system is recommended, but is not yet in use. The system of signal boxes by which the men on beat communicate with the head office at frequent intervals seems to be good and improving in effectiveness, but as yet there are no facilities by which a particular man or group of men may be called by headquarters. A complete system of call lights and horns at each patrol box is regarded as too costly, but such an installation at all police stations and fire halls is recommended. The Cincinnati department is now well organized after a recent survey. "Admission to the patrol force depends upon written aptitude (rather than information), tests (given a weight of 5), oral examination (given a weight of 3), training and experience (given a weight of 2). Certain physical and character standards must also be met". Detectives are "temporary details on the basis of aptitude and capacity for detective work as shown by the manner in which they have handled crimes and complaints assigned to them as patrolmen in the district". "Appointments to the detective force have been made solely from patrolmen". The head of the department is the Chief of Police, who is not subordinate to a lay Commission or Commissioner. He "makes all appointments and promotions as the responsible agent of the City Manager. Discharges are made by the Chief, subject to review by the City Manager".

Cleveland.

Population, 904,116. Land area, 56.65 square miles. The Police Force numbers 1,448. The Force per 10,000 population is 16, and per square mile of land area is 25.6. The patrol force is said to be 50% motorized. The booth system is not in use. Headquarters may get in touch readily with patrolmen by means of red signal lights on patrol boxes. The department operates a school which recruits must attend for from 2 to 3 months and which gives special instruction to regular members under police captains. All the employees of the department are under "civil service" and are drawn in the order of their standing from "civil service" lists; but admission to the detective force, which is invariably from the patrol force, is on "demonstrated capabilities". The Police Chief, a permanent professional officer, is directly responsible to the Director of Public Safety, a lay officer not under "civil service". The department "has an excellent system of reporting crimes". A summary of the criminal statistics for ten months of the

year 1927 shows 9,453 crimes reported with 3,753 arrests. Crimes cleared numbered 3,374. Of the crimes reported, 76 were murders, 27 manslaughter, cutting or stabbing to kill 41, cutting or stabbing to wound 91, shooting to kill 38, shooting to wound 60, 794 robbery, 93 burglary, 801 burglary and larceny, 55 housebreaking, 675 housebreaking and larceny, "safe jobs" 84, picking pockets 20, auto stealing 4,990. In addition there were 26,646 misdemeanors reported.

Detroit.

Population, 1,400,000. Area 139 square miles. Police Force numbers 2,866. Force per 10,000 population, 20.5, and per square mile 20.6. Number of cars for patrolling purposes 109. The booth system is in use to some extent and it is stated has given satisfaction. It is believed that the system should be extended and technique improved. The means of communication between headquarters and the patrol force is the ordinary call box, supplemented by flashlights. The department also has an official radio broadcasting station as yet on an experimental basis. There is a school for recruits only, but "regulars are given Telford test plus efficiency rating for promotion". The requirements of admission to the patrol force are "mainly physical and character—big, healthy men with clean record". The detectives are chosen from the patrol force exclusively on recommendation of detective officers. Appointments and promotions are made by a single lay Commissioner, discharges by a trial Board of Senior Officers. The Superintendent is always selected from the force and is the executive head.

Excerpts from the clear and forthright report of the Detroit Police Commissioner to the Common Council, January 1st, 1927.

"Without prompt and effective judicial procedure the efforts of a law-enforcing agency are nullified. As at present constituted, our laws make it advisable for a holdup man who has committed a homicide to rather plead guilty to the murder than to robbery, thereby assuring himself the lighter sentence". "The growing tendency of the holdup man to make use of his gun without any hesitation whatever, with or without cause, accounts for the alarming increase in murders committed in this city. There is only one answer—the criminal has no respect or fear of the punishment for his outrage upon society."

"It may not be too often emphasized that a system which permits a criminal out on bond only to be apprehended in a short time while in the act of committing another crime, which often includes the killing of a peace officer or respectable citizen, effectively minimizes the

ability of any law-enforcing agency to adequately cope with the situation."

"—Attention is called to the fact that there are at the present time 370,858 motor vehicles registered in Wayne County, as compared with 308,834 in 1925—an increase of 20.8%". (Number of motor vehicles in Canada 838,925 (1926), and in Ontario 390,126).

"17,479 felonious crimes were recorded during the year 1926. Of the total recorded crimes 225 were murder, 783 robbery, 289 breaking and entering business places, and 179 breaking and entering dwellings, 286 for "pickpocketing". There were 17,255 arrests for "felonious crimes" and 3,050 convictions. 2,113 cases were pending in court at the end of the year. In addition to criminal cases there were 41,582 arrests for misdemeanors with 28,046 convictions. In addition to 225 murders there were 101 "considered justifiable killings", as follows:

Killed by police officers in time of duty 44, killed while committing crimes, by citizens, 56, killed by Federal officer—justifiable 1. Total, 101."

The information contained in this paper is given only to show the necessity of considering other things besides population and area and size of existing police force, and not for the purpose of suggesting invidious comparisons. All the special difficulties which police have to contend with must be given due weight.