

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. 124

February 9th, 1928

MUNICIPAL POLICE SERVICE

STORY No. 4

The 1928 Police Estimates

(Extract from Story No. 1.)

"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 preceding five White Papers have contained some information given as illustrations of the sort of impersonal fact material which would assist the Board of Control and City Council, who vote the appropriations, and the citizens, who directly or indirectly bear the resulting taxation, in their consideration of the Police Estimates.

The information so far published would tend to show:

1. That in view of extremely variant conditions in other countries and other cities, it is quite impossible to decide action on police estimates solely on the basis of size of force, etc., in relation to total population in comparison with other cities, although for the same city the relation of the number of police to population may supply valuable information if taken over a period of years.
2. That Toronto has in comparison with most cities a system of police control calculated to keep consideration of local politics as far removed from police policies as possible.
3. That Toronto does not suffer by comparison with most large cities as to the incidence of serious crime.
4. That police expenditures since 1913 have not increased quite as fast as general taxation (omitting school taxes).
5. That the amount of serious crimes has fluctuated greatly throughout the years, apparently for the most part from quite other causes than the size of the force.
6. That the Toronto police force has not been supplied in the past to as great a degree as some other cities with mechanical aids such as signal systems in connection with patrol boxes, patrol booths at strategic points and motor equipment.
7. That the detective force is recruited on the same basis as most cities by assignment from the patrol force.
8. That the practical problems of crime control have greatly changed in recent years and—not only in Toronto, but elsewhere—that methods of police administration, in the ways indicated above, and possibly others, have not kept pace with these changes.

9. That the training of a police constable, and particularly of a detective officer, is an extremely difficult process.
10. That the calling of those engaged in the direction of crime control and prevention has risen to the importance of a profession, dealing as it does for the most part with human values.
11. That some of the crimes might possibly have been prevented if owners of private cars had exercised due care in locking their cars.

In View of These Facts a Few Questions Suggest Themselves as Pertinent.

1. To what extent is the recent apparent increase in crimes of violence the result of permanent conditions, and to what extent to temporary conditions which may right themselves to some extent in the process of time?
2. Is the apparent increase in crimes of violence more significant of a permanent change for the worse than the recent increase in motor accident fatalities?
3. In view of the fact that only about 17% of the applicants qualify, how many new recruits can be taken on in 1928 without lowering the present high standard?
4. In view of the fact that quality is even more important than quantity, might it not be possible and advisable to raise gradually the standard of education and intelligence for admission to the force to keep pace with the heavier demands made on the department by the changing conditions it has to meet, even if its present standards compare favourably with those obtaining elsewhere?
5. Has not the relative importance of the detective branch increased in recent years, and might it not be possible with advantage to broaden the basis of recruitment to its ranks so as to draw more largely from all classes of the population?
6. Would it be possible to increase the efficiency of the detective force by practical and scientific courses of study, in a special branch of the police school, by a more extended use

of lectures by competent authorities and possibly by exchange arrangements with some English Criminal Investigation Departments?

7. Has not the force a moral right to the best possible equipment and organization for its work?
8. Should the booth system in the outskirts of the city be given a fair trial, should the motor equipment of the force be increased and should the patrol telephone system be strengthened by the installation of a modern police signalling system which would make it possible for Headquarters to get in touch at will with all men on duty and so that the public may get practically instant connection with police stations?
9. If the force is supplied with the most up-to-date and efficient physical equipment and facilities for its work, will as many men be required as would otherwise be the case? It is claimed, for example, by one manufacturer of modern police signalling systems that such a system adds 40% to the efficiency of a force without any increase in working hours. If it were but 20%, allowing for the partial system now in use, such an installation in Toronto would be the equivalent of the addition of about 180 men to the force.
10. If during the past five years the city had had the use of a modern police signalling system would so many of the exploits of gunmen which actually occurred have been attempted, and if attempted would so many have been successful?
11. In view of experience in other cities, the increase in ease of communication, and possible improved facilities for communication with men on patrol, is there any possibility that the number of police stations might be considerably reduced, thus reducing the overhead of the force and increasing its personnel in the field?
12. If the classification terminology of the more serious crimes and the reporting of results of police activity in solving crimes were standardized for Canada, and this should not be too difficult since Canada has a Criminal Code, would not this supply a valuable means of comparing results in crime control?