

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. 133

December 10th, 1928

The 1928 City Budget

STORY No. 3

As stated in Story No. 2, the net general taxation for 1928 is estimated at
\$27,424,047

and the total general expenditure out of taxation and other available current funds is estimated at

\$31,363,450

These are large sums of money. From the standpoint of revenue, they affect the personal budget of every citizen and the domestic budget of every family. From the standpoint of expenditure, they affect the health, safety, business success and happiness of every individual and family. The raising and disbursement of no other sum affects so directly and fundamentally the well being of every Toronto citizen, adult or infant.

This bulletin deals with the 1928 estimates. Is there any good reason why the 1929 tentative budget and tax rate should not be ready at this time so that its main features could be presented before the municipal election? Would this provide an impersonal election issue? Would it expedite the passing of the final budget by the incoming Council? It is being done elsewhere.

COMMENT

1. It will be noted that salaries and wages (personal services) have increased more than any other object of expenditure. This is due largely to the increase in the police establishment and in salary payments for education and fire protection. Not only has the total salary and wage bill increased, but there has been a large per capita increase.
2. The debt charges are slightly larger in total but are less on the per capita basis and consume a smaller proportion of the total estimated expenditure.
3. The proportions of the estimated total expenditure consumed by the various objects varied but little in 1928 from those of 1927.
4. The general salary and wage bill is considerably more than half of the total expenditure. The city is also a large employer of labour through the various utility commissions. Including all departments of the City's business, the increase in the number of employees and in the size of the annual payroll has been steady. No phase of the civic administration requires greater care and study in order that the greatest possible returns in service may result from the expenditure of the taxpayers' money.

Comparison of Estimated Civic Expenditures from General Current Funds for the years 1928 and 1927

Objects of Expenditure	Total		Per Capita		Percent of total expenditure	
	1928	1927	1928	1927	1928	1927
Salaries, wages and other payments for personal service.	\$16,201,115	\$15,500,915	\$27.66	\$27.20	51.7	51.5
Other Services	1,389,944	1,383,210	2.37	2.43	4.4	4.6
Heat, Light and Power	892,975	883,715	1.53	1.55	2.8	2.9
Supplies other than Heat, Light and Power	2,580,478	2,421,147	4.40	4.25	8.2	8.0
Upkeep and Depreciation	1,418,600	1,268,003	2.42	2.22	4.5	4.2
Debt Service	6,236,927	6,195,804	10.65	10.87	20.0	20.6
Interest	3,653,377	3,591,989	6.24	6.30	11.7	11.9
Debt Retirement	2,583,550	2,603,815	4.41	4.57	8.3	8.7
Unclassified, including capital outlay from current funds	2,643,411	2,474,131	4.51	4.34	8.4	8.2
Totals	31,363,450	30,126,925	53.54*	52.86	100.0	100.0

The figures for 1927 will vary slightly from those in last year's series owing to the use of the actual instead of an estimated population and owing to slight differences in the basis of classification.

*Figure differs from that in previous stories in this series since actual population of 585,742 is used instead of estimated figure of 583,000.

WILL it ever be possible to secure the greatest co-ordination of staff and co-operation in effort until all large operating departments in the general city service, as distinct from overhead departments, are placed under a single Commissioner, with full power to utilize the whole staffs of the operating departments where, how and when the work in hand may require?

Is there any other way of securing 100 cents service from a dollar of expenditure?

What is the experience in private business?

Is it possible that increased economy and efficiency in the Civic Government would supply the best drawing card for industries seeking locations and the best reason for existing industries staying where they are?