

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. 142

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The 1929 City Budget

STORY No. 3

Net general taxation \$28,580,929.61

Total general current expenditure out of general
taxation and other available current funds

\$33,009,077.25

If there are 126,000 families in Toronto and if the average income per family is \$2,500, this public expenditure from general current funds, not including the ratepayers' share of local improvements, means 10.48% of the average family's spending capacity or 28 days' work per annum. When the city spends too much money for the service rendered or too little money to produce the service required; when the city makes improvements out of their order of importance; when it makes expenditures in advance or in excess of requirements, or delays expenditures until costs become excessive; in fine, when the city fails to plan expenditures effectively or to co-ordinate properly the various parts of its policy-carrying-out machinery, citizens, whether paying taxes directly or indirectly, are deprived of a part of the fruits of their labour.

Comparison of Estimated Civic Expenditures from Current General Funds for the years 1929, 1928 and 1927

OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE	TOTAL			PER CAPITA			PER CENT. OF TOTAL EXPENDITURE		
	1929	1928	1927	1929*	1928	1927	1929	1928	1927
Salaries, wages and other payments for personal services	\$17,043,319	\$16,201,115	\$15,500,915	\$28.50	\$27.66	\$27.20	51.63%	51.7%	51.5%
Other Services	1,374,943	1,389,944	1,383,210	2.30	2.37	2.43	4.17%	4.4%	4.6%
Heat, Light and Power	937,490	892,975	883,715	1.57	1.53	1.55	2.84%	2.8%	2.9%
Supplies other than Heat, Light and Power	2,498,200	2,580,478	2,421,147	4.18	4.41	4.25	7.57%	8.2%	8.0%
Upkeep and Depreciation	1,698,404	1,418,600	1,268,003	2.84	2.42	2.22	5.14%	4.5%	4.2%
Debt Service	6,048,920	6,236,927	6,195,804	10.12	10.65	10.87	18.33%	20.0%	20.6%
Interest	3,492,750	3,653,377	3,591,989	5.84	6.24	6.30	10.58%	11.7%	11.9%
Debt Retirement	2,556,170	2,583,550	2,603,815	4.28	4.41	4.57	7.75%	8.3%	8.7%
Unclassified	2,663,728	2,583,411	2,108,011	4.45	4.41	3.70	8.07%	8.2%	7.0%
Capital outlay from current funds	744,073	60,000	366,120	1.24	.10	.64	2.25%	0.2%	1.2%
Totals	\$33,009,077	\$31,363,450	\$30,126,925	\$55.20	\$53.55	\$52.86	100%	100%	100%

*Based on an estimated population of 598,000.

COMMENT.

1. The total payments for salaries, wages and other payments for the services of persons have continued to increase both in total and per capita. The increase is more than in the previous year and is much greater in total than for any other object of expenditure.
2. Of the three decreases in total expenditure for the various "objects," the most significant in character and amount is in the debt service. The citizens of Toronto are paying less for interest in 1929 than in 1928 both in total and per capita. In fact there has been a continuous per capita decrease and a continued decrease in percentage of interest of the total expenditures for the three year period.
3. The salary and wage bill has remained at nearly the same percentage of the total during the three year period. Out of every dollar of taxation and miscellaneous revenue other than taxation, over 50 cents goes to salaries and wages, etc. If the contribution of the average family, directly or indirectly, to the city's expenditure be estimated at 28 days' work, about 14 days' pay goes to employ men and women to perform its share of the civic services. It is further to be borne in mind that the city is also a large employer of labour through its various utility commissions. Altogether the city, with its various Boards and Commissions, gives employment to over 15,000 people and thus maintains from 45,000 to 65,000 people, representing possibly nine per cent. of the total population and contributing possibly nine per cent. of the total electorate. As a rapidly growing city, and a large public ownership city, the matter of civic personnel administration is of growing importance to citizens.

To use one's time most effectively one must plan. To best conserve one's financial resources one must operate under a budget. To secure the most complete use of the space in one's home or office, one must lay it out in the light of the facts. Cities are not different in this respect from their citizens. Cities are just extensions of human service, which, without the city, the individual would have to secure for himself or go without. The conservation and economic management of the city's resources is the conservation and economic management of the resources of the citizens. The interest of the citizens in city planning is, therefore, vital; and, in the last analysis, no one can protect these interests but the citizens themselves. Have you studied the report of the Advisory City Planning Commission? The Bureau has available a few copies of its analysis of this report.