

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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137 WELLINGTON ST. WEST



TELEPHONE ELGIN 1904

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The 1931 Budget of Current Revenues and Expenditures for the City of Toronto

Story No. 1

The total estimated net revenue from which the current civic appropriations have been made for 1931 is \$36,343,228, compared with \$33,767,365 for 1930 and \$32,106,832 in 1929.

This does not include revenues from Government subventions to education, reserves for deferred expenditures, etc. Such items will be included in succeeding numbers. The net figures for special services will however be used throughout the series.

Both revenues and expenditures are set forth in estimated totals and their equivalents in mills on the taxable assessment, as if all revenue available for appropriations were raised through the tax rate and all net current expenditures were made from tax funds.

CITY OF TORONTO
Revenue Corresponding Mill Rate, Etc.
1931 - 1930

(Based on Official Estimates for Each Year)

PURPOSE	Amount of Levy		Mill Rate		Assessment Basis	
	1931	1930	1931	1930	1931	1930
Education in schools— Public school supporters.....	\$10,399,978	\$9,842,965	10.45	10.25	\$995,213,192	\$960,289,296
Separate school supporters.....	786,884	754,544	14.80	14.60	53,164,457	51,681,183
Total schools.....	11,186,812	10,597,509	23.15	21.55	1,048,377,649	1,011,970,429
General purposes.....	22,612,264	20,284,657			976,771,653	941,283,372
All purposes (gross).....	33,799,076	30,882,166	33.60P*	31.80P.*		
Less reserve for taxes uncollectable, etc.....	379,824	484,547	37.95S.*	36.15S.*		
Total net taxation.....	33,419,252	30,397,619	.39	.51		
			33.21 P.	31.29 P.		
			37.56 S.	35.64 S.		
B.—REVENUE OTHER THAN TAXATION						
Surplus available for appropriation.....						
General revenue.....	\$ 361,378	\$ 910,130	.87	.966		
Waterworks surplus.....	1,675,751	1,559,650	1.72	1.65		
	886,847	899,966	.91	.97		
Total revenue other than taxation.....	2,923,976	3,369,746	3.00	3.58		
Total revenue (including net taxation).....	36,343,228	33,767,365	36.21 P.	34.87 P.		
			40.56 S.	39.22 S.		

*The official tax rates.

P.—Public School Supporters. S.—Separate School Supporters.

CITY OF TORONTO
The Equivalent of Expenditures in Mills on Assessment
(Based on Official Estimates)

Service	Amount of Expenditures		Equivalent in Mills	
	1931	1930	1931	1930
Education in schools				
Industrial.....	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,328	.013	.013
Secondary—				
Technical.....	1,230,765	1,026,186	1.174	1.014
Commercial.....	704,872	677,643	.673	.669
Collegiate.....	1,509,893	1,423,614	1.440	1.406
Elementary—				
Public.....	7,115,013	6,864,780	7.15 P.	7.15 P.
Separate.....	611,392	594,333	11.50 S.	11.50 S.
Total school expenditures....	\$11,184,935	\$10,599,884	10.45 P.	10.25 P.
			14.80 S.	14.60 S.
General—				
Telephone Exchange.....	8,350	8,150	.008	.009
Court of Revision.....	5,000	4,000	.005	.004
City Relief Office.....	25,835	18,606	.026	.020
Special Grants.....	38,050	35,950	.039	.038
Audit Department.....	109,935	108,035	.113	.115
Law Department.....	104,254	92,640	.107	.098
City Council.....	125,097	121,405	.129	.129
Unemployment Relief.....	400,000	150,000	.410	.159
Architect's Dept.....	170,195	169,178	.174	.180
City Clerk's Department.....	161,550	164,310	.165	.175
Courts, Inquests, etc.....	245,895	234,335	.251	.249
Mothers' Allowance Comm.....	275,000	248,000	.282	.264
Assessment Department.....	324,230	295,690	.332	.314
City Planning Dept.....	65,304	32,660	.067	.035
Treasury Department.....	379,860	372,370	.389	.396
Public Libraries.....	507,225	467,010	.519	.496
Items at Large.....	1,634,050	1,161,238	1.673	1.234
Hospitals and Homes.....	975,000	925,000	.998	.983
Health Dept.....	1,283,804	1,232,737	1.314	1.310
Property Department.....	1,335,730	1,253,000	1.367	1.331
Parks Department.....	1,335,794	1,277,205	1.368	1.357
Works Department.....	1,557,769	1,547,418	1.595	1.644
Street Cleaning Dept.....	2,057,125	1,973,640	2.106	2.097
Police Department.....	2,522,834	2,452,023	2.583	2.605
Fire Department.....	2,643,710	2,594,354	2.707	2.756
Undistributed debt. charges	5,241,330	4,687,195	5.366	4.980
Total Department Exp.....	\$23,532,926	\$21,626,149	24.093	22.978
Deficits on Special Services				
Housing.....	\$ 16,610	\$ 17,040	.017	.018
Abattoir.....	39,048	28,368	.040	.030
Island Ferry.....	40,000	48,500	.041	.052
Can. National Ex.....	115,590	137,886	.118	.147
Royal Winter Fair.....	84,513	104,538	.087	.111
Radials.....	271,354	315,000	.278	.335
Harbour Board.....	1,058,252	890,000	1.083	.946
Total Deficit on Spec. Serv....	\$1,625,367	\$1,541,332	1.664	1.639
Total General Expenditure....	\$25,158,293	\$23,167,480	25.76	24.62
Total Expenditure.....	\$36,343,228	\$33,767,365	36.21 P.	34.87 P.
			40.56 S.	39.22 S.

P. Public School Supporters. S. Separate School Supporters.

COMMENT

1. It will be noted that although there is a substantial increase in the tax rate, the increase would have been larger if the City had not departed from the sound policy largely pursued during many years of providing for Fire Halls and Police Stations out of revenue and not out of borrowed funds. Such recurring expenditures should undoubtedly be financed out of taxes, and to depart from this policy for one year is **equivalent to loading this year's burden on succeeding years and will lead to an unnecessary burden in interest.** As each Council is elected each year, next year's Council will tend to hesitate to return to the former correct procedure, even if, as the Commissioner of Finance words it, "owing to the abnormally heavy uncontrollable expenditures this year, and in order to keep the tax rate within reasonable bounds," it was decided to depart temporarily from the customary 'pay as you go' policy with respect to the structures referred to above for which \$302,688 is to be raised by borrowing. **It is easier to "stay right" than "get right."**
2. It is also to be noted that only one department or activity (the City Clerk's Department), out of 26 listed under General, shows a decrease in dollars as compared with the 1930 estimates, although on the mill rate basis there are eight reductions, including the important departments of Works, Police and Fire.
3. In the Special Services Section, there are decreases in the estimates for all units except for the Abattoir and the Harbour Board. If the increase in the city vote for the Harbour means that the City has adopted the policy of paying the total deficiency of the Harbour Board on interest account, less the surplus on operation, the taxpayers are to be congratulated. In any event, everyone recognizes the valuable asset the City has in the Harbour property as well as the great difficulties the Harbour has laboured under during the last 15 or 20 years, and are willing that the City should bear the burden of the net annual interest deficiency, so long as this stops the pyramiding of interest charges and the dissipation of assets.

The recurring deficits of the Abattoir, however, are in another category. Many are doubtful whether the annual benefits received from the Abattoir are equivalent to the annual additions to taxation caused by the Abattoir. Is it not time that the whole matter be re-examined?

While the term "uncontrollable" which used to be prominent in the official estimates, does not now appear in the tables, the idea behind the term continues to exercise, though in a less degree, an undesirable influence on municipal finance. To quote from a Bulletin issued by the Bureau, June 9, 1916, "As a matter of fact, every large group of the City's expenditures is controllable,

In some degree,
By some method,
At some time,
By somebody."

The time to control debt charges is before the debt is incurred. In the last analysis, the electors of Toronto have the power to control municipal expenditures if they care to exercise it.