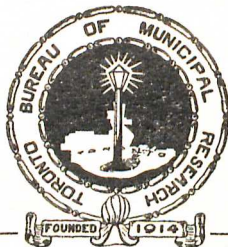


Citizen Control of the Citizen's Business

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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TELEPHONE ELGIN 1904

White Paper No. 168

October 22nd, 1931

TORONTO GROWS

Story No. 1

Since 1913 Toronto has grown in population from 445,575 to 627,231* or 40.76%. Her general† taxation per person **on the basis of the 1913 dollar** has increased 104.88% from \$19.06 to \$39.05 (\$53.89 on the 1931 dollar.)

Are the services which these taxes buy, on account of increased amount or improved quality or both, worth twice as much to the citizen, on the average, as in 1913?

To what extent has private expenditure been replaced by expenditure from municipal taxation since 1913? How much has the ability of the citizen to pay municipal taxes increased since 1913?

How much has business and industry, upon which the majority of citizens depend for income, increased in ability to bear the burden of taxation as part of their "overhead?"

At the same rate of increase, in 1949, Toronto would have a population of 882,890 and municipal taxation per person of \$80.00 (based on the value of 1913 dollar). But would a city with this burden of taxation have grown to such a population?

*Assessors' Census—Dominion Census 627,582.

†Inclusive of School Taxation, but not levy for Ratepayers' share of Local Improvements.

THE DRIFT IN TAXATION*

Year	Population	**GENERAL TAXATION		Per Capita General Taxation on Basis 1913 Value of the Dollar.
		Total	Per Capita	
1913	445,575	\$8,494,405	\$19.06	\$19.06
1914	470,151	9,865,068	20.98	20.37
1915	463,705	12,982,209	28.00	26.17
1916	460,526	13,076,642	28.40	22.90
1917	473,829	14,897,063	31.44	21.98
1918	489,681	18,341,143	37.46	23.13
1919	499,278	17,659,688	35.37	21.10
1920	512,812	19,471,100	37.97	19.98
1921	522,666	23,076,988	44.15	27.42
1922	529,083	24,003,993	45.37	28.90
1923	538,771	24,333,814	45.17	28.41
1924	542,417	24,414,972	45.01	28.85
1925	549,429	24,969,846	45.45	28.41
1926	556,691	25,069,980	45.03	28.68
1927	569,899	27,599,758	48.43	30.85
1928	585,628	28,029,719	47.86	30.29
1929	606,370	29,189,590	48.14	30.09
1930	621,596	30,882,166	49.68	32.90
1931	627,231	33,799,076	53.89	39.05

*First four columns from the Annual Estimates of the City. The fifth column calculated on cost of living figures from Dominion Labour Gazette; those of December in each year except in 1931, the figures used were those of August.

**Inclusive of School Taxation, but not levy for Ratepayers' share of Local Improvements.

In dollars, Toronto raises in taxes or current account, four times as much as in 1913. **Per Person** the taxation in dollars is almost 3 times as great as in 1913. In 1913 dollars, the citizens of Toronto, per head, pay over twice as heavy taxes as in 1913.

The cumulative effect of comparatively slight annual changes, if for the most part in the same direction, is large and may even be startling. Has the increase in taxation been paralleled by an equally striking increase in Citizen interest?

THE DRIFT OF VOTING

The table below gives the official figures for population, number of names on the voting lists, and the number of votes cast. The number of individual voters is based on an estimate of 33-1/3%, duplication throughout. The percentages were developed from these figures. All years in which there were acclamations were omitted.

Year	Population	No. of Names on Voting List	Estimated No. of Individuals on List	Per Cent. of Total Cast for Mayor	Per Cent. Possible Cast for Controllers	Per Cent. of Total Cast for Aldermen
1913	445,475	114,191	76,128	48.9	32.8	24.8
1915	463,705	135,793	90,529	50.4	32.7	23.9
1916	460,526	137,917	91,945	41.8	28.3	20.6
1920	512,812	164,416	109,611	47.5	32.9	21.9
1921	522,666	171,507	114,338	48.9	36.	24.
1923	538,771	187,154	124,769	64.6	49.1	35.4
1924	542,417	258,373*	172,249	47.9	34.3	22.5
1926	556,691	278,579	185,719	46.8	33.5	21.6
1929	606,370	296,249	197,499	38.7	28.9	18.8
1930	621,596	305,895	203,930	53.1	37.2	24.6
1931	627,231	311,682	207,788	55.3	39.1	26.1

*Large increase due to change in Legislation increasing the number of possible women voters.

The reader will note the fluctuation in percentages, due in all probability to the effect of the various issues on popular interest. One year stands out above the others viz. 1923, in which the so-called radial election was held. The year 1929 seems to have struck the lowest point as to voting efficiency, but there has been a decided improvement since that date—at least, apparently, as the percentage of voting for Mayor is 13%, that for Controller 19% and that for Alderman 5% greater than in 1913.

TORONTO GROWS

It is evident that the increase in actual participation by citizens in municipal affairs has not kept pace with the increase in expenditures. If citizen participation had increased a little faster, would expenditures have increased a little slower?

Why Should Toronto Citizens be Increasingly Interested in Municipal Affairs ?

Assuming that citizen participation in municipal affairs has a practical as well as an emotional value, why should Toronto citizens increase their interest?

1. The City will spend on ordinary current account in 1931 nearly \$60 for every man, woman and child in the city, or between \$290 and \$300 for every family of five.
2. Such an expenditure which buys, and should buy, safety from crime, safety from fire, safety from epidemics, protection of food and water supplies, clean streets, effective schooling, welfare assistance when necessary, a share of good sidewalks and good pavements and many other community services, is the most important expenditure that any family makes or has made for it.
3. The City is going to spend out of money directly contributed by the citizens of Toronto to supply work to citizens in need of work over \$1,250,000 (net), over \$2,500,000 (gross) during the coming year, beside other large sums in the way of direct or indirect relief. Whether or not these sums are so spent as to leave behind the greatest possible amount of permanent public assets should be a matter of great moment to the citizens, not only from the material standpoint but that of human values.
4. There comes a point in public expenditure, when the necessary tax burden becomes a handicap on business and industry, from which most citizens draw their income. When this point is reached, incomes of citizens begin to decline, tax-paying ability decreases, industry and business tend to seek other communities less highly taxed, tax paying ability further declines, and so on in a vicious circle. In the present trying times, a real stimulus to prosperity, would be an increase in the efficiency and economy of governments including municipal governments. Everyone who has a stake in Toronto—and who of its citizens has not?—should give some patient consideration to these facts.