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

137 WELLINGTON ST. WEST



TELEPHONE ELGIN 1904

White Paper No. 173

February 8th, 1932

TORONTO GROWS

Story No. 3

The 1932 City Budget must, as in the past, be balanced.

The future growth of Toronto will be affected according as the balance is affected by Expanding Taxation

or

Contracting Expenditure.

SOME FINANCIAL FACTS***

GROWTH OF ESTIMATED AND BUDGETED ORDINARY CURRENT EXPENDITURES, 1916-1931

Objects of Penonditums*	1916			1921			1926			1931	
Out of Revenue	Total	Per Cap.	Total	Per Cap.	Est. Per Cap.	Total	Per Cap.	Est. Per Cap.	Total	Per Cap.	Est. Per Cap.
1. Salaries, Wages and other					(1916 Dollars)x			(1916 Dollars)x			(1916 Dollars)x
vices		\$12.90	\$5,939,799 \$12.90 \$13,250,346 \$25.35	\$25.35	\$17.60	\$14,960,927 \$26.87	\$26.87	\$19.90	\$18,659,092	\$29.75	\$24.59
including heat, light, power											
partments	2,242,045	4.87	3,311,367	6.33	4.39	3,361,716	6.04	4.47	3,548,183	5.66	4.68
buted)	4,145,793	9.00	5,635,652	10.78	7.49	6,062,100	10.89	8.07	7,411,177	11.81	9.76
out of Revenue	2,474,460	5.37	4,070,170	7.79	5.41	3,542,410	6.36	4.71	7,654,570 **12.20	**12.20	10.08
Revenue	156,640	.34	552,007	1.06	.74	262,964	.48	.36	213,403	.34	. 28
eted Expenditures out of Revenue.	14,958,737 32.48	32.48	26,819,542 51.31	51.31	35.63	28,190,117 50.64	50.64	37.51	37,486,425	59.76	49.39

Including expenditures out of educational grants etc. Including debt charges on radial debt, interest payments on harbour debt etc. Based on approximate average for year.

GROWTH, INCLUDING SCHOOLS, OF MUNICIPAL DEBT (not reduced to 1916 Dollars as much is Repayable in United States Funds)

Minister Date	1916		1921		1926		1931	
Municipal Debt	Total	Per Cap	Total	Per Cap	Total	Per Cap	Total	Per Cap
1. Gross General Debt*	\$71,608,554	\$155.49	\$73,275,897	\$140.20	\$79,478,440	\$142.77	\$94,859,498	\$151.23
2. General Debt less Sinking Funds	51,926,185	112.75	51,500,252	98.53	62,081,679	116.91	83,956,264	133.85
3. Gross Public Utility and Special Debt ***.	26,122,367	56.72	56,733,057	108.54	87,528,979	157.23	93,179,542	148.56
4. Public Utility Debt less Sinking Funds	22,742,389	49.38	50,405,751	96.44	77,493,799	139.20	81,115,789	129.32
5. Gross Total Debt**	97,730,921	212.21	130,008,954	248.74	167,007,419	300.00	188,039,040	299.79
6. Total Debt less Sinking Funds	74,668,574	162.13	101,906,003	194.97	142,575,478	256.11	165,072,053	263.17
* Including all Local Improvement Debt.	*	Not includi	** Not including Guaranteed Deb	ن		*** Not	*** Not including Local Improvemen	provement.

B. NON FINANCIAL FACTS

	THE RESERVE AND PERSONS ASSESSMENT OF THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN NAMED IN COLU	***************************************	The same of the sa	
	1916	1921	1926	1931
Population Number of Names on Voting Lists Estimated number of individual voters Votes Cast for Mayor	460,526 137,917 91,945 38,447	522,666 171,507 114,338 59,932	278,579 185,719	627,231 311,682 207,788 114,887
Estimated Number of 1926 Employees Paid out of Full Ave. No Civic Revenues Time Part Ti (Appro-	on Tota me x.)	l Full Time	1930 Ave. No. on Part Time (Approx.)	Total
Municipal 4,748 1,203 Educational* 3,478 ?	3 6,401 3,478		1,749 290	6,855 4,140
Total 8,226 - 1,208	9,429	8,956	2,039	10,995

The total number of full time employees of the City and all its Boards and Commissions in 1930 was over 14,900. The total average number of part time and temporary employees was, say, 2,100, making total average personnel establishment of 17,000, with an aggregate payroll of over \$29,000,000.

COMMENT

- 1. The Bureau has no information as to the increase in incomes of the taxpayers during 1921, 1926 and 1931 over those of 1916. The tax burden, however, may be gauged by unpaid current taxes and arrears of taxes, which together, as of December 31st, 1931, amount to over \$8,000,000. As set forth in the recent report of the Commissioner of Finance the percentage of current levy unpaid, as of December 31st, 1931, is the highest in five years at least, and the percentage of arrears the highest in four years. It is to be noted that according to the report of the Assessment Commissioner, the number of people with sufficient income to be returned on the rolls by the assessors was 10.9% less in 1931 than in 1930, and that the total income assessment returned in 1931 was 3% less than the corresponding figure in 1930. If this is representative of the taxpayers as a whole, there were fewer people able to pay taxes in 1931 than in 1930, and those who could pay taxes had decreased tax paying ability. Whether or not this condition has carried over into 1932, the Bureau cannot say.
- 2. It is evident that if the taxes are to be cut down for the next year, regard must be had to something more than curtailing capital expenditures. Such curtailment is absolutely necessary, but cannot affect appreciably current expenditure until the decreased debt charges begin to make themselves felt.

*Including the Public Library.

- 3. It is evident that the number of electors not personally interested in civic expenditures, which still forms by far the larger part of the electorate, must vote in increasing numbers if those who supply the funds are to exert on the elective spending bodies an influence in proportion to their numbers.
- 4. It is to be noted that the **per capita** net general debt (borne by taxation) has gone up in sixteen years from \$112.75 to \$133.85. **During the same period, on the basis of the 1916 dollar,** the per capita **estimated** expenditure has gone up from \$32.48 to \$49.39. A good way to encourage new industries and business to locate in the city, and already established industries and businesses to expand, and thus increase employment in the city, a good way to retain residents who own their own homes or pay income taxes, a good way to increase the reservoir out of which taxes are paid, is to reduce to a minimum consistent with the efficiency of essential services, the expenditure for local government and therefore of local taxation. Is it consistent or even intelligent partially to neutralize, or make more difficult, the work of the Industrial Commission, to which the city votes \$25,000 annually, by making it harder by say \$1,000,000 annually, for new industries to come into the city or old industries to expand.