

# BUREAU OF MUNICIPAL RESEARCH

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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TORONTO  
CANADA

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## ON JANUARY FIRST, 1936

the electors of Toronto will select 50 directors to conduct their local affairs.

Are they to be selected on the basis of chance, of prejudice or of knowledge as to their stand on vital municipal problems?

Many public meetings during December will be addressed by candidates. Not every one can see and question every candidate. Presumably every candidate, however, may be reached by telephone or letter. Many people may present to themselves and others many excuses for not exercising intelligently their franchise. Few can present a valid reason for such neglect. On January first, 1935, there were on the voting lists 318,841 names. The numbers of individuals represented was, say, 280,000. Of these about 130,000 persons voted. About 150,000 citizens did not vote. This does not mean that non-voters did not exert any influence on municipal government in Toronto. They did—a baneful influence on the quality of that government.

*A \$40,000,000\* business is a large business.* Such an amount is much more impressive to-day than it was in 1929, and it is not becoming less impressive at any spectacular rate. It is an amount to which respectful attention should be paid for some years. Does not reasonable caution demand that you should assure yourselves that those who are to spend this money of which you are one of the contributors should have sound views on municipal finance and administration?

\* Not including T.T.C., Hydro or Harbour.



The greatest needs of the civic corporation at present in the interests of all citizens and of the business and industry which support them are—

A balanced budget,  
Reduced expenditure and taxation,  
Vigorous community planning,  
Continuity of policy.

It has been said that the presentation of a tentative civic budget in December preceding the municipal election is not practical. It may be admitted at once that it might not be good practical politics for those candidates who might be embarrassed by discussing the budget in a concrete way before the election. It might conflict with the necessities of practical politics after the election. Like many things not practical and not practicable, however, it will be practised and will become regular routine before many years. Why not now, when the need is greatest?

Balancing the budget has not been regarded as practical by most governing bodies in recent times. Unless this is done, however, the time is approaching when public budgets will balance themselves because governing bodies will no longer find it possible to issue debentures for purposes which do not leave behind balance sheet assets, and when, perforce, such bodies will either go on a pay-as-you-go basis or not go at all.

NOTE.

Three copies of a leaflet reproducing the two inside pages are included for your use either by mail or personally in securing the stand of a candidate. If you are interested and desire to use more, please telephone or write and we shall be glad to send you extra copies.—B. M. R.