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.

137 WELLINGTON ST. W.



TORONTO

White Paper No. 211

December 2nd, 1935

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.

For example, why not ask each Aldermanic Canditate:

YES

NO

- 1. Will you use your influence to have a tentative budget for 1937 ready by December, 1936, as a basis for public discussion during the next civic election campaign?
- Will you use your influence to bring about a really balanced civic budget, in 1936, that is a budget which will provide a revenue adequate to meet all current expenditures, i.e., expenditures which do not leave behind balance sheet assets, and will set current appropriations at a figure which may be met by revenues actually collectible in the year?
- 3. If the budget cannot be balanced in 1936, will you use your influence to reduce the estimated deficit to as small a figure as possible after including one-fifth of current direct unemployment relief costs among the items to be financed out of current funds as recommended by the Commissioner of Finance in the introduction to the 1935 estimates?
- 4. Will you support a reduction of the 1936 estimates to the level of the 1930 estimates?
- 5. Will you support a reduction in the number of civic departments?
- 6. Will you support a thorough study of the civic personnel establishment to determine
 - a. Where co-ordination and amalgamation might best be effected.
 - b. In what units there are too many and in what too few employees in relation to the needs of the service as a whole.
 - c. How civic salaries and wages compare now, and how they have compared since 1926, with pay for similar work in private employment?

| | | YES | NO |
|-----|---|-----|----|
| 7. | Will you support a move to tax all provincially and municipally owned public utilities and trading undertakings on the same basis as that on which they would be taxed if privately owned? | | |
| 8. | Will you support the preparation of a long term capital budget, subject to annual revision? | | |
| 9. | Will you support a two or three-year term for aldermen, one-half or one-third being elected each year? | | |
| 10. | Will you support a by-law providing that no "outside" Board or Commission shall undertake negotiations with provincial or national governments on matters of policy involving capital or current expenditure without receiving previously the official consent of the City? | | |
| 11. | Will you support a regulation that the annual financial statement of the City include balance sheets and operating accounts of <i>every</i> "outside" Board and Commission whose operations have any relation to the City's credit, debenture debt or debt guarantees? | | |
| 12. | Will you support the gradual adoption of a pay-as-you- go policy to the extent of including in the current budgets each year increasing amounts of capital ex- penditure in order finally to effect a reduction in the tax burden? | | |
| 13. | Will you support the appointment of a City Planning Committee? | | 1 |
| 14. | Is the City Council too large? | | |
| | | | |

VES NO

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.