

# 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

*White Paper No. 266*

*December 27th, 1941*

## FREEDOM

to express opinion is one of the marks of democracy. A freedom which if not used is soon lost, even if that freedom has been purchased by much blood.

### VOTING AS AN EXPRESSION OF OPINION

At the last civic election 352,691 names were on the municipal voters' list. In this total there was an unknown amount of duplication, particularly of voters for Mayor and Board of Control, but probably there were 300,000 individuals who were free to vote. Those who thought it worth while to vote numbered

**92,327**

This was about 30.8% of those free to vote. If one assumes that one name in every three was a duplicate, or dead, or absent, those who voted for Mayor were only 37.7% of those who were free to vote for Mayor and those who voted for Controllers were only 26.6% of those who were free to vote for Controllers.

The number of potential voters for ward representatives is much nearer the total number of names on the voters' list than is the number who were free to vote for Controllers or Mayor. Of those in the wards with contests who were free to vote for Aldermen, between 20% and 25% actually voted.

### THE HOME OWNERS' AND PROPERTY OWNERS' VOTE

There are in Toronto 56,338 persons who own their own homes. They have, to use a common expression, "a stake" in the city. If there are two voters in every home who have, or should have, the home owner's point of view, the potential home owners' vote is about 112,000. There are many property owners in Toronto in addition to home owners. Altogether the potential vote of the property owning class is probably about 120,000. Yet the total vote for Mayor in 1941 was only 88,793 and this included many votes of tenants. It is evident that neither property owners nor tenants measure up to their freedom. Why?

### THE CAUSE OF NON-VOTING

The chief cause undoubtedly is a sense of frustration. The question uppermost in the minds of many is "what's the use?" The answer is "there is no use—"

1. Unless more people interest themselves in getting out candidates, and
2. Unless more people vote."

The full exercise of the franchise is in two stages. If the selection of candidates is left to interested parties or even to the candidates themselves, the voter is left to a choice between more or less acceptable candidates or candidates unknown to him. Such a choice is often futile and

always unintelligent. At present an active minority of 15,000 acting as a unit behind candidates can in practice in a light vote decide the outcome of civic elections. The time has come, in fact it is overdue, when in self-defence those interested in the welfare of the city and the nation must make a determined effort,

First, to secure worthy candidates for civic office,

Second, come out on election day to support them.

One may have neglected the first duty. He still has a choice between candidates. This need not be neglected.

### TORONTO MAY LEAD THE WAY

In addition to raising an average of \$1,000,000 per month since February 1st, 1941, in War Savings Certificates, Toronto exceeded its quota of \$180,000,000 of this year's War Loan. Another huge loan will come later, in raising which the citizens of Toronto must do at least their full share. This cannot be done, or will be made more than difficult, unless municipal and provincial expenditures and federal expenditures for non-war purposes are cut to the bone. The citizens of Toronto have a responsibility to discharge, which they can readily do if they will make an investment of determined energy well within their powers and only a fraction of the human investment being made by the citizens of Britain. It comes with a shock that any member of Parliament can be found to defend patronage. But the taxpayers of the country are sound. All that they ask is that none of the money they are contributing in war taxes or loans is frittered away by waste or patronage.

Toronto can lead the way in her own house. Her example will be followed and will influence the course of the war.

Starting now, let us leave nothing undone to ensure an efficient thorough-going civic administration for 1942.

For over a quarter of a century the Bureau of Municipal Research has maintained a watch tower in the interests of citizens and taxpayers. Its services have been limited by the extent of the financial and moral support given to it. Its services were never more needed. Each citizen may think that alone he or she cannot do much. Co-operative effort supplies the key to effective action.

**Toronto can set an example  
in civic leadership not only  
by expressing its determination  
in words, but in action.**