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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'S CIVIC BUDGET FOR 1946

Story No. 3

Toronto's total **estimated expenditure** for 1946 from taxation (net) and general revenue from all sources, according to the 1946 appropriations, amounts to

\$39,841,362.

The corresponding figure in 1939 was \$40,640,079.

Of the 1946 total \$23,796,625 was set aside for salaries, wages, fees, payments to retirements or pension funds and all payments for the services of persons. This estimated amount is 59.73% of the total estimated expenditure. The corresponding figures for 1939, toward the end of which the second great war began, were \$18,837,148 and 46.35%. Of the 1946 total, \$23,796,625, the amount of \$9,903,475 is for schools and public library, \$13,893,150 for civic departments.

The increase in "Salaries, Wages and Other Payments for Personal Services" fell short of absorbing the total decreases in "Other Expense" and "Debt Services" by only \$798,717.

(Note: This table may look forbidding but will repay study)

CITY OF TORONTO
1946 BUDGET

Estimated Current Expenditures Out of Taxation (Net), Provincial Subventions or Grants, Surpluses, Credits, Other General Revenues for 1946, 1945, 1944, 1943, 1942, 1939 and 1932, Analyzed According to Chief Objects of Expenditures entering into the Cost of the General Functions of the Municipal Government.

OBJECT OF EXPENDITURE	TOTAL							Per Cent of Total							Per Capita						
	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1939	1932	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1939	1932	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1939	1932
Salaries, Wages and other payments for Personal Services.....	\$ 23,796,625	\$ 21,394,759	\$ 20,436,511	\$ 19,262,552	\$ 18,321,616	\$ 18,837,148	\$ 18,852,387	% 59.73	% 58.40	% 57.65	% 55.73	% 52.34	% 46.35	% 46.91	\$ 34.74	\$ 31.40	\$ 30.19	\$ 28.57	\$ 27.38	\$ 29.02	\$ 30.08
Other Expenses.....	(a) 10,236,342	(a) 9,133,026	(a) 8,209,058	(a) 8,464,932	(a) 8,501,903	(a) 11,853,441	(b) 13,800,647	25.69	24.93	23.16	24.49	24.29	29.17	34.34	14.94	13.39	12.13	12.55	12.70	18.26	22.02
Debt Services.....	5,808,395	6,093,272	6,723,242	6,837,939	8,181,229	9,949,490	7,355,757	14.58	16.63	18.97	19.78	23.37	24.48	18.30	8.48	8.93	9.93	10.14	12.23	15.33	11.74
(a) Interest.....	1,895,725	2,030,055	2,318,734	2,472,615	2,734,564	3,477,654	4,139,629														
(b) Debt Retirement.....	3,912,670	4,063,217	4,404,508	4,365,324	5,446,665	6,471,836	3,216,128														
Capital Outlay*.....		15,702	79,440				182,355		1.04	.22				.45		.02	.12				.29
Total Expenditure.....	39,841,362	36,636,759	35,448,251	34,565,423	35,004,748	40,640,079	40,191,330	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	58.16	53.74	52.37	51.26	52.31	62.61	64.13
Population.....	685,000 (Estimated)	681,802	676,887	674,285	669,130	649,123	626,674														

*Since 1932 the City's Budget has not provided for capital expenditures from current revenues, but the City's debt has been steadily reduced. The small capital outlay figures in the 1944 and 1945 estimated expenditures are from the estimates of the Separate School Board.

(a) Discrepancy in these figures as compared with those of earlier Story No. 3 due to inclusion of contributions by senior governments to Direct Relief. The amounts are as shown 1946—\$557,000; 1945—\$501,730; 1944—\$480,000; 1943—\$517,650; 1942—\$792,271; 1939—\$5,296,000.

(b) Modified by deducting Unemployment Relief from 1932 estimated Welfare expenditures (including Unemployment Relief) and adding estimated gross Unemployment Relief expenditures comparable to other years. Figures taken from introduction to 1939 estimates page 14.

COMMENT

1. From 1932 to 1942, personal service appropriations hovered about the \$18 million. In fact they decreased about a half a million dollars in the decade. But they began to increase in 1943 and in five years grew almost \$5½ million to over \$23¾ million. This is the **starting point** in computing tax levies while the City is carrying out a programme of asset rehabilitation and improvement which can only mean an increase in annual cost of debt service. This is what comes

from planning one year at a time and making increases toward the close of one year which will carry over into the next. The various Boards of Control and City Councils must have known what was going to happen. The people who voted or abstained from voting are about to find out in the hard way.

2. In 1932 over a third of the budget went to other services; in 1946, somewhat over a quarter.

QUERIES

1. Is there any good reason why the electors, **before election day**, should not have the salient facts as to the proposed expenditure of the next year and estimated expenditure for the year just closing?

If there is no good reason, why is such information not available? If laws interfere, why cannot laws be changed? If custom interferes, why not change the custom? Who benefits by maintaining the status quo? Why should the electors be always left "holding the bag"?

2. The electors are to vote on a two-year term for members of Council and Board of Education. Why not a "staggered" two-year term? The City of Windsor has had it for years and eight other Ontario Cities have already adopted the two-year "staggered" term. Halifax has a "staggered" three-year term as have all cities in Britain. We are paying **now** for not having it five years ago.