

Sounds Warning that capital expenditure in the Street Department is kept to an absolute minimum.

SCHOOL EXPENDITURES

"If the Board of School Trustees, over which we have a control, embarks on any further program of building or remodeling, desirable as this may be, they will have to assume full responsibility for the financial situation which will ensue."

Dealing with the cost of the High School, Coun. Johnstone said that an interest-free loan from the Provincial Government of \$158,600, repayable in ten annual installments of \$15,860, which will be deducted by the Province each year from the City, has been paid over to the Board of School Trustees.

"When your Committee took office, we were confronted first with heavy expenditure in the Street Department, an item which has to be considered in the preparing of the year's estimates in determining the tax rate for the year."

"The total valuation of Real and Personal Property was \$25,551,000 as against \$24,346,110 for the previous year."

"After considerable work by all Committees of the Council, your committee brought in as the estimated expenditure in all Departments \$864,258. Estimated revenue from licenses, rents, police court, etc., grants, Commissioners of Sewers and Water Supply, parking meters, and poll tax, amounted to \$707,991.00 and left the sum of \$156,267.00 to be raised by Real and Personal Property and Business Tax. To raise this amount on the \$25,551,000 required the rate to be 2.75%."

"The actual revenue for the year 1953 was \$829,951.66 and the actual revenue for 1954 was \$867,163.42."

"The actual expenditure for the year 1953 was \$821,746.01 as against an expenditure for 1954 of \$863,665.07—a difference of \$41,919.06, accounted for as follows:

Increases: General improvement, \$15,320.02; protection of persons and property, \$13,927.87; grants, \$655.25; School Board, \$4,871.59; recreation and community services, \$5,618.30; debt charges, \$25,834.81. Total, \$66,227.64.

Decreases: Sundry, \$15,977.57; public works, \$8,271.74; health, \$859.97. Total, \$24,909.28.

The Committee sold an issue of \$93,500 refunding and \$175,000 permanent works bonds at 3 1/2% to a syndicate composed of Eastern Securities Co. Ltd., Royal Bank of Canada and Wood Gundy & Company, at a price of 97.25.

Details of the funded debt were given in Coun. Johnstone's report.

TAX COLLECTIONS

"The year 1954 showed 85.57% of the year's levy in Real Estate and Personal Property taxes actually collected. The other 14.43% set up as taxes receivable should be entirely liquidated in two years. Total receipts of the year 1954 as compared to revenue shows a figure of 92.23%. This in itself would show that tax collections were very good. Poll tax still is not what we would expect, but there is some improvement over the previous year 1953. Prior to 1953 approximately 60% was collected, as against 62.6 in the year 1954. However, this 62.6% does not represent the actual picture, as a considerable amount of the money collected was applied to years previous to the current year. When these arrears are liquidated under the present system a much higher percentage than this should be collected."

"Total arrears collected for the year 1953 were \$66,381.58—total arrears for the year 1954 \$47,277.14.

"The receipts for 1953 in this Department showed \$42,084.64 as against \$34,041.04 for the year 1954—a decrease of \$8,043.60. This decrease in revenue can be attributed to work on new permanent streets, new equipment, hydrants, etc."

"The Business Tax inaugurated this year made an increase in revenue through this source of \$75,350—but while the sum is \$75,350, the effect on Personal Property taxes was a decrease of \$31,505. Therefore the net gain in revenue amounted to \$43,845.00."

OUT OUR WAY



Civic Financial Statement

The following statement of current revenue and expenditure for the City of Charlottetown for the year ended Dec. 31 last is from the report of the auditors, Messrs. H. R. Doane and Company, as submitted at last night's annual meeting of the City Council.

Table with columns for REVENUE and EXPENDITURE. Revenue items include Real Estate, Personal Property, Poll, Canadian Government Grant, Licenses, Amusement Halls, Auctioneers, Bakeries, Market Tolls, Scale House, Sundry, Police Court and Dog Tax, Interest on Taxes, Grants and Subsidies, Fire Department Grant, Library Grant, Dominion-Provincial Agreement, Per Capita Grant, Commissioners of Sewers and Water Supply, Parking Meters, City's Share, Miscellaneous Receipts. Expenditure items include General Government, Advertising and Collecting, Auditing, City Government, City Hall Maintenance, Civic Election, Insurance, Interest Handling, Bank Overdraft, Parking Meters, Pension Fund Contribution.

"Edna" Proved Costly To City

Hurricane "Edna" cost the City \$12,319 in repairs to the retaining wall at Victoria Park. The report of the Public Property Committee submitted by Councillor George Keefe at the annual meeting of the City Council last night shows that the repair work to the wall started two days after the storm and took two months to complete. The report indicates that considerable improvement was undertaken in the Park area during the year. This included the erection of two sanitation units; the establishment of a trailer camp, extensively used by tourists; and the regrading and seeding of the "cricket field."

DESTROYERS IN INDIA

COCHIN, India (Reuters)—Two Canadian destroyers, Huron and Iroquois, arrived here Friday on a one-day informal visit—the first time Canadian warships have called at this port.

OTTAWA (CP)—Sawn lumber production during the first 11 months of 1954 rose to 6,684,875,000 board feet from 6,651,444,000 during the corresponding period of 1953, the bureau of statistics reported Friday.

By J. R. Williams

Civic Affairs

year's work. As a result of our representations to the Provincial Government, we succeeded in increasing the rate on per capita taxes from \$2.60 to \$3.00 a head. We also presented a brief outlining numerous ways in which we felt the Provincial Government should give extra financial assistance to the city, including the project of the Trans Canada highway through our City; the right to receive taxes from certain properties which have been taken over by the Government from private ownership; the reconstruction of the sea wall at Victoria Park; the stock in the Vendor stores; and an increase in the Fire grant.

We received a good hearing from the Government and we anticipate further financial assistance when the Government bring down their 1955 budget. As a Vice-President of the Federation of Mayors and Municipalities, I, along with other members, waited on the Federal Government. We requested substantial increases in federal grants to municipalities. I believe we can certainly expect something as a result of this meeting—at least a further reduction in the 4 per cent exemption on Federally owned property.

FINANCE

"I congratulate Councillor Johnstone for bringing in a surplus in Current account of \$3,498.35. In looking over the financial statement I believe there has been nothing charged to Capital account which should not have been. This would indicate sound financing under Councillor Johnstone's guidance. While Capital account has been extremely high in 1954, this was done in anticipation of Centennial year. I know the intention of Councillor Johnstone and his Finance Committee to exert the most rigid economy in his financial policy for 1955."

The year 1954 saw the completion of the Queen Charlotte High School. It was the inauguration of the Business Tax, which has proved a good source of revenue. Councillor Johnstone and his committee have given considerable thought to the acquisition of this High School, and I know that only after very serious consideration, and in the interests of the real estate owners, are they bringing in for the year 1955 the Education Tax of \$25 on all males between the ages of 21 and 25, and \$15 on females between the ages of 21 and 25 who are earning a salary of \$1,200 a year. The payment of this tax definitely must entitle this new group of female taxpayers to the privilege of the franchise.

The report contains a lot of thought and study, and I wish to express my appreciation for the work that has been put into this new field of municipal taxation by our Finance Committee. The lifting of the overdraft for the Queen Charlotte High School by the issuance of bonds is a feat being most carefully studied and I have every confidence that the Finance Committee is ever watchful of the Municipal bond market, and will sell bonds at the most opportune time, when the market is at its peak.

STREETS

"The sum spent on streets, sidewalks, pavement improvements, etc., was \$151,908.32. This may seem a large sum of money, but with Centennial Year coming up, it was felt that possibly we should do two years' work in one. This coming year there will be little or no capital outlay. Expenditures for the year will be for street maintenance and for the minimum. There should not be much need of repairs, in view of the new work accomplished last year. As regards concrete sidewalks, except where there is a new development, or where an old wooden sidewalk is to be replaced, there will be no need for sidewalks. Councillor McCormack is to be commended for the great interest evinced by him as our Chairman of Streets."

PUBLIC PROPERTY

"The Public Property Committee, under Councillor Keefe, also had a very busy year. Alterations to the Library, Market, City Hall, Powderhouse, and Edward, Sanitation units at Victoria Park, took much time and attention. Along with this, extensive damage to the concrete retaining wall at the Southwest end of Victoria Park caused by hurricane "Edna" and its repairs, and we were indeed fortunate in procuring the service of Engineer Clive Stewart and foreman Gerald Arsenault. The work had to be done in the Fall and working condition were most difficult. The cost of this repair job was \$12,319.92. I know that for us all when I say we regret Councillor Keefe's continued illness, and wish him a speedy recovery."

"I would like also to express my appreciation to Councillor MacDonald for acting as Chairman of Public Property during Councillor Keefe's illness."

POLICE

The Police Department, under Councillor Gormley, has again carried on in its usual efficient manner. I congratulate Councillor Gormley and his committee on the great interest they have shown throughout the year in the direction of the Police Department. I might also here congratulate them on the number of meetings they have had. Possibly their example might be followed by the other standing committees of Council in the number of meetings they have had throughout the year. The new traffic lights, at the corners of Euston and Queen, and Grafton and Prince were certainly needed. I believe there are a few more intersections where traffic lights are necessary. The Council, I know, will look forward to their recommendations in this regard in the ensuing year. I must express my appreciation to the Police Committee and congratulate them on a year's work well done.

"To Chief Wexler and the members of his Force, I express the appreciation of not only myself but of the whole Council in their splendid work throughout the year. Our Police Force has certainly conducted itself in a most commendable manner."

City School Activities Reviewed In Board Report

Following are excerpts from the report of the Charlottetown Board of School Trustees, submitted at last night's annual meeting of the City Council. The number of pupils enrolled in December, 1954 was as follows:—Queen Charlotte High School, 450; Prince Street School 395; West Kent School 327; Queen Square School 301; Rochford Square School 278; Kindergarten, Prince Street 39; Kindergarten, West Kent 35; total 2625. This is an increase of 85 pupils over same date the previous year. The number of teachers employed was as follows:—Queen Charlotte High School 15; Prince Street School 15; West Kent School 14; Queen Square School 26; Rochford Square School 19; 1-2 time each Prince Street and West Kent Schools 1; Industrial Arts 2; Home Economics 2; Music 3; Physical Education 2; Art 1; total, 100. The total income of the Board for the year was \$191,239.55 with expenditures of \$183,712.14, leaving a surplus of \$7,527.41, which was chiefly used to pay some large bills, rightly due in 1954, not being presented for payment. The amount paid as supplements to teachers' salaries was \$101,109.12 less deductions for City Teachers' Pension Society \$1,767.41, and deductions for Blue Cross \$1,686.00 making a net supplement to teachers of \$97,655.81.

At the closing exercises in June the following pupils were awarded the Governor General's Academic Medal: Prince Street School, Miss Jean MacPherson; West Kent School, Miss Austina Violet Kennedy; Queen Square School, Mr. Parker Lund, Rochford Square School, Miss Rhoda Longphie. A prize of \$15.00 was awarded to Miss Jean MacPherson, a pupil at Prince Street School, by this Board for having obtained a higher number of marks than any other pupil from the City Schools at the entrance examinations to Prince of Wales College in June last.

MARKET

"The Market Committee, under Councillor Gaudet, is also to be commended for the great work it has done during the year. Councillor Gaudet as Chairman has been most zealous, and I believe that the ideas which he has realized in 1954 will become a reality very shortly in the ensuing year. Through his efforts, his interest and his foresight, I feel that the proposed renovations in the Market will materialize and that they will be a credit to him and his committee, not only to the City, but to the Market as a whole. It will be a great focal point of our business area."

LIGHT

"Councillor MacDonald, Chairman of Light, is also deserving of congratulations for the interest he has shown in making Charlottetown a brighter City. Through his efforts we now have several new light fixtures on our streets, and I believe that he is keeping abreast of the newest and latest types of Street Lighting fixtures. The new mercury-type lamp which the Committee is now trying out in several darker spots of our City, is a step in the right direction."

TENDER

"Councillor Hutcheson, Chairman of Tender, has shown a great interest in the purchase made through his Committee, and has at all times displayed a keen desire to procure the best commodities at the best prices for the City of Charlottetown. I congratulate him for not only the work he has done on the Tender Committee, but for the enthusiasm he has displayed as a member of the various committees on which he has been called upon to act."

BY-LAWS

"The following by-laws were passed by the Council during the year:—March 26—A by-law levying and specifying the Rate of Assessment on Real and Personal Property and Business Occupancy. March 26—A by-law to establish the installment payments and to fix the Rate of Interest. April 29—A by-law to authorize the issue of debentures of the City of Charlottetown in the amount of \$175,000.00. April 29—A by-law to authorize the issue of Refunding Debentures of the City of Charlottetown in the amount of \$93,500.00. May 10—A by-law to amend the Debiture By-Law No. B-4. May 10—A by-law to amend By-Law No. B-5 for the issue of Refunding Debentures. May 10—A by-law to establish a minimum wage for Laborers in contract work. July 13—A by-law to regulate traffic. July 12—A by-law to amend the by-law to establish a Business Tax in the City. Sept. 13—A by-law to amend the by-law for the inspection and Erection of Buildings. Sept. 13—A by-law to control bill posting boards or hoarding."

SEWERS & WATER SUPPLY

"I notice from the City Clerk's statement that the returns from the Commissioners of Sewers & Water Supply are down considerably from last year, and this is somewhat of a disappointment. However, we understand that work in connection with the laying of our new streets, purchase of their new equipment, and other miscellaneous items in expenditure, and a certain loss of revenue owing to circumstances beyond their control, have resulted in this decrease. We will hope that this year will see a greater return."

SCHOOL BOARD

"I congratulate the Board of School Trustees on the new High School. I feel that the expenditure was warranted and that we have a building sufficient to take care of the educational needs of our children for a great many years to come."

AUDITOR'S REPORT

"There is one last item which I think perhaps is one of the significant paragraphs in the Auditor's report, and that is 'The Sinking Fund investments are now in the trusteeship of the Eastern Trust Company, and we have accepted their certificate as to the investments they hold. These are listed in the City accounts and are valued at present Sinking Funds are based on refunding 50% of all debentures maturing to 1959, 25% from 1960 to 1968, and payment in full of all maturities in 1969 and subsequent years, assuming an earning rate of 4% on the basis of the Sinking Funds are in excess of actuarial requirements by \$11,545.10, and if this trend continues, the foregoing refunding plan may be eliminated sooner than expected. It was a pleasure for me to meet many distinguished visitors at City Hall during the year. In late August Councillor Gaudet, the City Clerk and I attended the Conference of the Federation of Mayors and Municipalities, which was held at Windsor, Ontario, and we took the opportunity to inquire about the appreciation of not only myself but of the whole Council in their splendid work throughout the year. Our Police Force has certainly conducted itself in a most commendable manner."

Improvements In Home Building Street Lighting

The importance of improving the lighting within the City was stressed by Councillor Elmer MacDonald at the annual meeting of the City Council held last evening. He reported that after making a survey of the lights the illumination was inadequate and antiquated. Councillor MacDonald gave a comprehensive report of a survey made by the Maritime Electric Company to ascertain the cost of providing the business section of the City with mercury vapor lighting, which he estimates an increase of light, four times that given by the 400c.p. lights now in use in the uptown areas. He told of the installation of four of these mercury vapor lamps in the City and indicated that the results from them have been quite satisfactory.

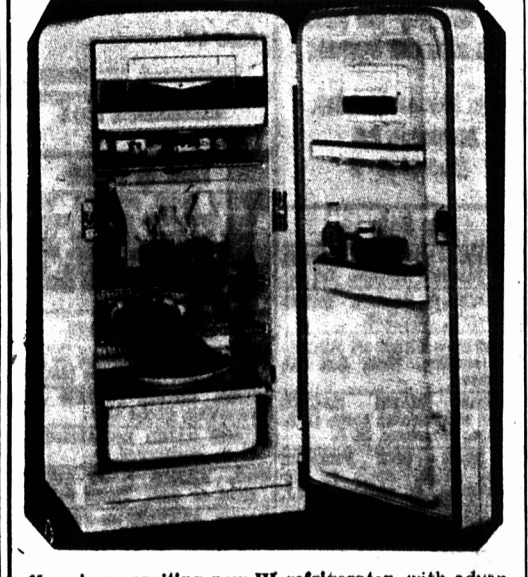
SAFELY FROZEN

If all the natural ice on earth were to melt, the sea levels would be raised by perhaps 100 feet.

OTTAWA (CP)—New residential construction reached record levels in Canada in 1954.

The bureau of statistics reported Friday the number of new dwelling units completed last year rose 5.3 per cent to 101,965 from 96,839 in 1953 while the number started climbed 10.9 per cent to 113,527 units from 102,409. At the year-end the number still under construction was 1.5 per cent higher at 68,641 units compared with 69,925 units under construction at the end of 1953. More dwellings were finished in 1954 than in the preceding year in all provinces except Quebec and Newfoundland. Following is the bureau's table of new residential completions by province, with 1953 figures in brackets: Prince Edward Island 188 (182); Newfoundland 1,160 (1,480); Nova Scotia 2,496 (1,160); New Brunswick 1,415 (1,402); Quebec 26,182 (29,863); Ontario 41,354 (35,137); Manitoba 5,107 (4,794); Saskatchewan 4,889 (4,047); Alberta 10,285 (9,854); British Columbia 9,138 (7,944).

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Water Commissioners Not Sure About Fluoridation

That it would be "unwise to put the consumers to the expense of installing fluoridation at the present time" was the advice tendered by the Commissioners of Sewers and Water Supply in the Commission's annual report submitted at last night's meeting of the City Council. For two years, the report states, "the Commission have kept constantly before them the question of fluoridation of the water supply. They have procured much information on the subject. The Provincial Department of Health kindly gave helpful material. Statements made by eminent men in authority in Canada and the United States have been carefully studied." From the information received the Commission found there were "so many pros and cons on the subject" that it did not feel justified in recommending installation at present.

Following are other excerpts from the Commission's report: The amount of water pumped during the year was 653,223,136 gallons with an average daily consumption of 1,789,553 gallons. The amount supplied through metered accounts was 191,409,169 gallons—12,240,312 gallons less than in 1953. The balance of 475,813,967 gallons represent the amount used for domestic purposes, small commercial accounts, fire fighting, street flushing purposes and other public uses. The sum of \$121,603.33 was collected in water rates during the year, \$2,224.80 less than in 1953. Expenses increased \$3,979.60. The amount paid over to the City of Charlottetown was \$34,041.04, an amount sufficient to take care of the Sinking Fund and interest on outstanding debentures.

Much good was derived from that Conference, and many good ideas were obtained which will help us with our Centennial program. "Before closing my report I must record the passing of an employee of the Street Department, Mr. John Power, one of two former City Councillors Mr. Robert B. Rattray and Dr. F. Charles Dougan, in whose death the City has suffered a great loss. To those left to cherish their memory, we extend our sincere sympathy, and to you, Councillors, and to all Civic officials and City employees, for your good work, I offer my sincere thanks."

LOOK AT These USED CAR VALUES AT

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Table listing car models and prices: 1BA—1954 PONTIAC Maroon Deluxe Sedan, Heater, custom radio, seat covers. Driven only 7,900 miles. Goodwill Guarantee. \$2250. 3530A—1953 BUICK Blue Custom Sedan, Dynaflow, Radio, heater and defroster. One owner, low mileage. Goodwill Guarantee. ONLY \$2300. BARGAINS 3553B—1949 Cadillac \$750. 1NA—1949 Meteor \$475. F121A—1951 Dodge 1 Ton \$650. 3555A—1953 PONTIAC Blue two-tone Laurentian Sedan. In excellent condition. One owner. 18,000 miles. Goodwill Guarantee. ONLY \$2050. 188A—1950 STUDEBAKER Blue Deluxe Sedan. Radio, heater, defroster. One owner, low mileage. Goodwill Guarantee. ONLY \$1200. BARGAINS 1GA—1950 Ford 1/2-ton \$650. F114A—1953 Ford 1/2-ton \$1300. 89GA—1951 Chev 1/2-ton \$850.

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