

provements have required 24 per cent., schools 14.72 per cent., and the hydro-electric system 14.42 per cent. Practically two-thirds of the debt has been contracted for what are usually regarded as the five most essential services of a municipality. These are as follows:—

Services.	Amount.	Per cent. of whole.
Local improvements	\$24,143,574	24.06
Education	14,768,919	14.72
Water	14,464,639	14.42
Light and power	7,876,631	7.85
Sanitation	5,910,970	5.89
Total	\$67,164,734	66.94

Forty-five per cent. of the entire debt has been incurred for undertakings of a revenue producing nature as follows:—

Revenue Producing Debts:

Services.	Amount.	Per cent. of whole.
Local improvements, ratepayers' share	\$14,793,757	14.75
Waterworks	14,464,639	14.42
Toronto hydro-electric system	7,876,631	7.85
Toronto street railway pavements	4,231,733	4.23
Civic street railway	2,082,737	2.08
Exhibition buildings	1,230,075	1.23
Civic abattoir	415,608	.41
Total	\$45,095,181	44.97

Regarding the revenue producing debt, the commissioner states as follows:—

"The special assessment in connection with the ratepayers' share of the local improvement debt, takes care of the debt charges of that debt. The surplus revenue of the waterworks system is amply sufficient to meet the debt charges of the waterworks debt. The Toronto hydro-electric system has met all charges on its debt, and the city's share of the revenue from the Toronto Street Railway Company is more than sufficient to meet the charges on the pavement debt.

"The surplus revenue from civic street railway, civic abattoir, and Canadian National Exhibition has, however, been insufficient to meet the charges on those debts, though they have been classed as revenue producing undertakings. According to the general acceptance of this term, the revenue from a service shall not only cover the operating expenses, etc., but also meet the annual interest and repayment of principal involved in the debt on the service. This condition does not hold in these cases. If all these enterprises were conducted on the basis that revenue should be sufficient to meet debt charges, it would tend to equalize the taxpayers' burden, remove the stigma of recurring deficits in the operation of municipally owned enterprises, increase public confidence in civic undertakings, preparatory to the time when the city will be required to deal with the important public franchise which expires during the next few years, and materially strengthen the city's credit and financial position.

"The local improvement debt while, no doubt, heavy, will be rapidly paid off, and by 1925 over 72 per cent. of the existing local improvement debt will be cancelled.

"During the past ten years the gross funded debt has increased from \$27,543,743 to \$100,323,433, the greatest increase being in the year 1913. With reference to the proposed purchase of the hydro-electric system in 1921, Mr. Bradshaw states that during the next four years, \$13,729,205 of the debt will be retired, and if no further debts are incurred, the city should be in an excellent financial condition for an undertaking of that kind. It should, therefore, be the constant aim of the city to minimize the amount of new securities issued."

Sinking Fund is One-Quarter of Debt.

The total amounts in the sinking fund are \$24,427,757; so the net debt of the city is \$75,895,676. This is 6.7 per cent. of the city's assessment of \$505,946,937. The tax rate is 30½ mills. Practically all of the sinking fund is invested in the city's own bonds, the balance of the assets consisting of Dominion government bonds, cash and accrued interest.

The city has also guaranteed bonds to the amount of \$6,725,000, most of which are the bonds of the Toronto Harbor Commission. The annual charges entailed by the debt amount to \$8,898,976, of which \$4,577,107 represents interest and \$4,321,869 repayment of principal.

FARM CONDITIONS IN ONTARIO

No Great Shortage of Help Reported — Crop Yields Should Average Well

The following is a summary issued on July 1st, of reports made by agricultural representatives to the Ontario Department of Agriculture:—

The heavy rain that fell on Thursday night was of much benefit to all field crops, more especially potatoes, roots, beans and tobacco. Potatoes will be early this season, and at present promise a heavy yield, but there are complaints from Haldimand and Welland of injury from leaf curl, mosaic and blackleg. Fall wheat is said to be coloring already in Essex, and has headed out better than was expected early in the spring. Spring grains look well, although reports come from Waterloo and Peel of smut in barley. An increased acreage of buckwheat is reported in different parts of the province. Considerable millet has been sown in Leeds. Peas are doing unusually well, especially those being raised for the canning factories.

Haying is general. Clover is thick but rather short, and will hardly yield as well as was hoped for. Timothy also is somewhat lacking in length. Lanark reports that about a third of the apple trees in that county have been ruined by the severe winter. The trees leafed but have been gradually dying off.

Good Supply of Stock in Sight.

Live stock generally are in fine condition, as there has been an abundance of grass. A larger number of calves are being raised this year. Very few beef animals are changing hands, taking the province over, but Lambton reports fat cattle as moving freely, cars being loaded at local points. Dairy values are being fully maintained. Milch cows bring from \$100 to \$150. Frontenac quotes milk at \$2.25 a hundred-weight, cheese at 22 1-16 cents a pound, and butter at from 43 cents to 45 cents a pound. Hogs are selling at from \$17.50 to \$18 a hundredweight. Little pigs range from \$10 to \$16 a pair. Durham reports that sheep are rapidly increasing in that county.

There does not seem to be the general urgent demand for help that was anticipated a couple of months ago. A large number of National Service girls have recently been placed on mixed farms, as the comparatively short strawberry crop will not cover the entire period that was planned for picking. Prince Edward, however, reports that locally there is a decided tightening up of farm labor on account of the canning factories beginning the season's operations.

VOCATIONAL STATISTICS

Over a thousand courses of re-education for returned soldiers so disabled that they cannot resume their pre-war occupations were approved during the month of May. The table of statistics prepared by the Vocational Branch of the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-Establishment shows that on June 1st 4,876 men had been granted courses while the figure for May the 1st was 3,861. The number of courses in progress on the latter date was 2,077, of whom 2,038 were discharged men. The number of men who have completed their courses and gone out into employment was increased from 351 to 481, a total of 130 during the month.

The number of men who have refused to accept courses of training granted them is 263. In addition 323 men have discontinued their courses after beginning. There are, therefore, at the present time 996 men who have not yet commenced training, chiefly because their health has not reached the point where they can be discharged from the army.

The number of men attending the occupational therapy classes, conducted in the military hospitals by the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-Establishment, increased slightly during the past month, the enrolment in the classes now being 1,699. This does not include the ward occupations such as basketry, embroidery, weaving, etc., which are conducted at the patients' bedsides. Another activity of the Department is represented in evening classes of instruction for discharged men. There are at present 55 attending these classes.—Reconstruction; July, 1918.