

ANNUAL REPORT OF WINNIPEG SINKING FUND TRUSTEES.

The report of the Winnipeg Sinking Fund Trustees for the year ending April 30th, 1918, is strong evidence of the value of the necessity of a responsible board of trustees, free from the influence and trammels of local politics, to administer the sinking funds of each municipality in Canada. For a total annual expenditure of \$8,825 the Winnipeg Trustees administer a sinking fund which last year amounted to \$9,100,139 out of which, after paying all interest requirements, premiums on investments and the expenses above mentioned, they made in profits a sum of \$177,490, to be added to the surplus income account. This from a financial point alone shows good business, but such a statement, from such an independent body as the Trustees, is of inestimable value in maintaining if not in raising the credit of the City of Winnipeg, and consequently the system is an excellent example to follow by other municipalities.

Of course, the strength, or weakness, of any board of sinking fund trustees lies in the personnel, and Winnipeg is fortunate in the present three members (one of whom represents the city council) and the city treasurer who acts as secretary. Each member realizes and lives up to his responsibility and jointly they have, by good management, entrenched the sinking fund of Winnipeg to such an extent that not only will the city be able to retire all its bonds at maturity—provided there is a continuity of the present good management of the sinking fund—but will be able to do so without any extra burden on the next generation. How many cities and towns in Canada can honestly say this at the present moment? Not many, as we know. And yet Winnipeg has not always been in such a good position, and neither would she now without her sinking fund commission, which was created but a few short years ago.

If we have any comment to make it is that under the present system there is not the absolute assurance of a continuation of the present policy in the Winnipeg Sinking Fund. It must be remembered that most sinking funds are many years in maturing and however well they may be administered at the present time there should be safeguards for their proper management in the future. To our mind in addition to independent trustees some trust company should always be appointed to act as co-trustees, and thus assure that continuity of policy that cannot help but be desired by the present administrators. The personnel may change, but the trust company so far as trusteeship is concerned, goes on for ever. Be that as it may, the trustees of the Winnipeg Sinking Fund are to be congratulated on their last report, a synopsis of which appears on page 253.

CHECKING WASTE OF FOOD.

The Toronto Street Cleaning Department is submitting regularly each week to the Canada Food Board a detailed statement of all foodstuffs being destroyed at the municipal plants in that city, and investigation is made where necessary to determine whether the destruction is the result of wilful waste or not. It is noticeable that since the reports started coming in there has been a decided drop in the amount of food destroyed.

On several occasions exhaustive investigation has been made and it has been found that, with a few exceptions, waste has been the result of unavoidable deterioration. A few instances of waste were found to be due to fruit and vegetables freezing in transit during the very cold weather. They were then kept until a later period to make sure that they were unfit for consumption.

In addition to submitting the regular reports to the Food Board various inspectors of the Medical Health Department report any holdings of perishable foodstuffs wherever waste is apt to take place. The most recent case is that of eight hundred barrels of apples in storage in Toronto. They were sorted over, the good ones being sold and the decayed ones sent to the incinerator.

"When at Toronto Exhibition do not fail to see our Exhibit of Concrete Mixers, Situated adjoining the Good Roads Exhibit on Lansdowne Avenue, north of the Grand Stand."

A SUCCESSFUL FREE PUBLIC MARKET.

The public market of Lockport, N. Y.—population about 20,000—is a free public curb market, running three days in the week, during the morning hours, but it is limited to producers.

The market is located in the central part of the city, on a street which is closed during the market hours.

Many of the prices of produce offered on the market are not much below the prices asked in the stores, but the market furnishes fresh vegetables and often brings the price lower than would otherwise exist if the city had no market.

Our public curb market in Lockport opened last year in August and continued through to November. This covers our vegetable and fruit season.

Large quantities of truck produce are raised around Lockport and taken to Buffalo. The Lockport market is patronized not by the large producers, for if they should bring their produce to the Lockport retail market it would be impossible for them to dispose of the large quantities. The variety truck gardener is the man who benefits from the producer's side.

The market opens at 6.30 and continues to 10.30 in the morning; and all classes are permitted to buy, including grocery men.

Many citizens feel that the grocery men should not be permitted to buy as, when any particular vegetable or fruit is short, the grocery men buy up all of it and then the citizens have to pay the increased price at the stores. The suggestion has been made here that certain hours should be designated for wholesale buying, and other hours for retail buying.

Over 200 producers sold produce on the public curb market during the vegetable and fruit season. A conservative estimate of the amount of business done on the market is placed at \$15,000.—(From the annual report of the Lockport, N. Y., Board of Commerce, 1917.)

BEAVER FOR FOOD.

Beaver, Canada's national animal, besides constituting the chief fur resource of the Dominion, has been recognized as food, with the shipment of 600 from Algonquin Provincial Park in Ontario, to the Toronto civic abattoir. The meat sold for 17½ to 18½ cents a pound. Beaver has increased so rapidly that in some parts of Canada, they have become a nuisance and the open season has been extended for the benefit of trappers and farmers.—Chicago Municipal Research.

CROP PROSPECTS GOOD.

"After an extended tour through the west, both over the C. P. R. and other lines, during which I looked carefully into crop prospects, I think it is safe to conclude that, with the increased acreage under cultivation, Western Canada this year will produce at least as many bushels of grain as last year, provided, of course, that conditions continue as favorable as they are at present." This was the statement made on July 15th by Mr. C. E. McPherson, assistant passenger traffic manager of the C. P. R. at Winnipeg, while in Montreal on a business trip.

Mr. McPherson said that in some parts of Alberta and Saskatchewan drought and winds had cut into the possibilities of the harvest very seriously, while in larger districts recent rains had helped the growing grain along wonderfully, so that where a few weeks ago there was little in sight it now seemed likely there would be at least fair crops. In Manitoba, which province had during recent years fallen behind in wheat production, Mr. McPherson said the prospects were particularly good, with a largely increased area of wheat acreage, and every prospect of abundant yields.

So far as passenger business was concerned, Mr. McPherson said that the roads in the west had never done better than during the present year. As to American tourist business, particularly toward the far west, Mr. McPherson said it was too early to make any predictions, but the prospects pointed to at least as good a season as last year, while the number of visitors to the Rocky Mountain resorts was well up to the average.