

MUNICIPAL BOND MARKET

The Monetary Times' Weekly Register of Municipal Activities and Financing

London, Ont.—The city is calling for tenders for \$1,000,000 5 per cent. 3-year notes.

Redcliff, Alta.—The by-law to provide for the deficiency of \$5,500 on the sale of debentures was defeated by three votes.

London, Ont.—A representative of United States interests, said to control considerable funds, offered the city a \$1,000,000 loan on Monday.

Edmonton, Alta.—The city has at present approximately \$4,000,000 worth of bonds for sale. If these are sold, they will be sold to United States interests.

Halifax, N.S.—The issues of bonds this year will be small, and they will probably be taken up by local people, is the comment of city treasurer W. L. Brown on Halifax's 1915 expenditures.

Toronto, Ont.—Mayor Church has stated that he is in favor of having tenders for the city's bonds opened in public, and a list of the bidders and their prices given out, as suggested by *The Monetary Times*.

Moose Jaw, Sask.—The disposal of this city's bonds is handled by the fiscal agents, Messrs. Wood, Gundy and Company, Toronto. At the present time about \$800,000 unsold bonds remain in the city treasury.

Outremont, Que.—Owing to an error in the circular sent out by the municipal authorities, and which caused a misunderstanding as to the date of issue of \$700,000 debentures, only one legal tender for the bonds was received—viz., Messrs. Hanson Brothers at \$96.74. Under these circumstances the city council decided not to accept this offer.

Moose Jaw, Sask.—A committee from the board of trade has waited upon the city council at an informal meeting, asking a reduction in the business assessment of the city of 50 per cent., and also that the tax on improvements be reduced from the present rate of 45 per cent. to 30 per cent. of their value.

Guelph, Ont.—Mr. J. Orr Rose, city treasurer, tells *The Monetary Times* that the city of Guelph is not undertaking any local improvements for any large amount this year. In a short time there will be issued some local improvement bonds, such as sidewalks, sewer connections and street sewers, which the city intends putting in its sinking fund.

Victoria, B.C.—The following are the principal figures of the city's estimates for the year:—City debt, \$441,203; municipal council, \$7,000; legal department, \$15,537; civic salaries, \$40,143; city institutions, \$333,218; buildings, \$14,095; miscellaneous, \$86,900; education, \$339,184; board of health, \$57,536; works department, \$307,015; waterworks, \$309,650.

Lachine, Que.—The issue of \$250,000 5 per cent. general debentures, maturing June 1st, 1954, were acquired by the Merchants Bank of Canada, the highest bidder, the price being \$92.05 and accrued interest. The other bids were:—Hanson Brothers, \$91.93; Hochelaga Bank, \$91.01; Ames and Company, \$86.36; C. Meredith and Company, Limited, \$91.87, all with accrued interest.

Calgary, Alta.—The city of Calgary has negotiated a sale of \$2,000,000 in treasury notes through the Molsons Bank. The money will be used in paying the school indebtedness, in the repayment of bank advances, in meeting forthcoming demands for debenture interest, in taking up outstanding notes and other purposes. The notes are for three years and were sold in the United States.

Renfrew, Ont.—The following bids were received for \$16,000 6 per cent. bonds, maturing August 12, 1944:—W. A. McKenzie and Company, \$16,845; W. L. McKinnon and Company, \$16,697.76; A. E. Ames and Company, \$16,603; A. H. Martens and Company, \$16,507; C. H. Burgess and Company, \$16,545.60; G. A. Stimson and Company, \$16,504; Canada Bond Company, \$16,503.36; Emilinus Jarvis and Company, \$16,406.40; MacNeil and Young, \$16,363.20; E. B. Butterworth, \$16,192; Brent, Noxon and Company, \$16,231; Kerr and Bell, \$16,177.60; R. C. Matthews and Company, \$15,840. The bids were awarded to W. A. McKenzie and Company. The proceeds of the issue will be used to instal an electric light system.

Port Arthur, Ont.—The only financing the city will undertake is the borrowing for current expenditure. The policy of the council for 1915, appears to be retrenchment, is the

statement of Mr. W. G. Gurney, city treasurer, to *The Monetary Times*. By-laws have been passed for proposed works, but as the bonds have not been issued, and are unsold, and the undertakings are not imperative at the present time, the work will not be proceeded with until general financial conditions improve. The city has on hand bonds unsold amounting to \$924,827. With regard to the sale of debentures, Port Arthur has received numerous enquiries from Toronto, Montreal and the United States, but as the city is not in the need of funds, the bonds will probably be held for a more favorable market.

Saskatchewan.—The following is a list of debenture applications granted by the Saskatchewan local government board:—

School Districts.—Chinook, No. 3358, \$1,000. N. Burrows, Robsart; East Lynne, No. 1229, \$1,600. B. W. Hill, Wynyard; Omar, No. 3339, \$1,000. Oscar J. Ralph, Meadow Bank; Yellow Quill, No. 3433, \$1,200. C. A. Clark, Elfros; Marcliffe, No. 3355, \$1,200. O. J. Johnson, Shaunavon; Fenelon, No. 3406, \$1,600. Robt. Webster, Elbow.

Rural Telephone Companies.—Walpole, \$10,500. J. Ferguson, Walpole; Whitewood-St. Hubert, \$16,000. F. Jordens, Whitewood; Juniata, \$1,000. David Suter, Juniata; Willow Hill, \$7,200. W. C. Barrie, Davidson; Deep Lake, \$10,000. A. Leash, Indian Head.

Red Deer, Alta.—City Treasurer Stephenson tells *The Monetary Times* that the city of Red Deer does not anticipate issuing debentures for more than \$3,200 this year. This amount is for boulevards completed last year. About three years ago the city adopted the plan of voting money by-laws and selling the debentures for capital expenditures before the work was commenced. At the time war broke out it was advertising money by-laws authorizing the issuing of \$18,400 debentures. This included the by-law for boulevards. These were at once withdrawn and all work abandoned, except the work on the boulevards which had to be done to protect the cement walks already laid. This city has never raised money by the issue of treasury notes. The last small issue of debentures was sold locally and the above small issue will probably be sold in the same manner.

Prince Rupert, B.C.—The city has outstanding, and due in June, treasury certificates to the amount of \$1,366,000, and it is anticipated that these will have to be taken up when the time comes. They are for three years, and have, of course, been approved by the lieutenant-governor-in-council. Prince Rupert desires to have section 96 of the Municipal act amended so that the renewal of treasury certificates may be for a period not exceeding five years, and at any rate of interest which the municipality may be able to arrange. The act as it stands compels the redemption of treasury certificates within three years, and restricts the interest rate to an agreed rate not to exceed 6 per cent. For the protection of the ratepayer, Prince Rupert proposes that the renewal should be subject to the approval of the lieutenant-governor-in-council, just as with the original issue. Mr. R. Baird, the inspector of municipalities, agreed that Prince Rupert was in a position where it must get some consideration, and the department was willing, but it desired that the term of renewal should not be more than three years. The only way Prince Rupert could get over the situation in which it was placed, was either by renewal of the certificates, which was impossible, according to the representatives of the city, by the sale of 50-year bonds, which was impracticable now, or by the issue of new certificates. On the motion of Mr. Frank J. Mackenzie the committee of the legislature unanimously endorsed the application and asked the inspector of municipalities to draft a section to cover the case.

St. John, N.B.—City Chamberlain Lingley's report for 1914 shows that bonds amounting to \$86,425, matured during the year and were paid as presented from sinking fund. Bonds to the amount of \$124,000 bearing interest at 5 per cent., were issued during the year for the following purposes: Water and sewerage, \$40,700; public works, street paving, plant, squares, etc., \$50,675; public safety, fire motor apparatus, etc., \$27,500; ferry approaches, \$5,125. These bonds will mature as follows:—\$11,000 in 1919, \$32,000 in 1924, \$81,000 in 1934.

The city chamberlain states that the plan of selling these bonds by inviting the citizens to subscribe, was tried with success, subscriptions being received for \$250,000, or more than double the price being par. The net increase in St. John's bonded debt for year 1914, was \$40,025. The de-

(Continued on page 41.)