

In this report the Chairman, Mr. Southard, speaking of George Washington's plan for the district of Columbia, said:—

"It is a plan calculated for the magnificent capital of a great nation, but oppressive from its very dimensions and arrangements to the inhabitants if its execution to any considerable extent is to be thrown upon them. No people who anticipated the execution and subsequent support of it out of their own funds would ever have dreamed of forming such a plan. It would have been the most consummate folly."

What happened in Washington must not be repeated in Ottawa. In the early years the development of the District of Columbia was left to the people of the District with little assistance from Congress. The result was that in 1874 the District of Columbia was bankrupt. At that time Congress was obliged to guarantee the principal and interest of the indebtedness of the District and undertook to pay its proportionate share. In 1878 it was determined that this proportionate share should be one-half and every Congress since has annually appropriated that amount.

Ottawa is not bankrupt, but in a fairly good financial condition and it may seem that this discussion is beside the mark. It is submitted that this is not so. Already Ottawa is suffering from the failure of the Government to pay its way. Any new agreement between the City and the Government must be based on a proper appreciation of the principle of national responsibility for national undertakings.

The principle that the making of a capital must be undertaken by the nation is of special importance if the work of the Ottawa Improvement Commission is to be continued. It will be of still greater importance if the work of the making of a capital is to be commenced in real earnest. The Ottawa Improvement Commission has for some years had charge of most but not all of the parks in Ottawa. To the extent that these parks are reasonably necessary for an ordinary City the work of the Commission may be looked upon as done for the benefit of the residents of Ottawa and a contribution to local municipal government. In so far as the expenditure made exceeds the reasonable requirements of the citizens of an ordinary city it should be looked upon as capital-making and charged to the nation.

In Ontario under the Public Parks Act the rate for park purposes must not exceed one-half mill on the dollar upon the assessed value of all rateable real and personal property. It is suggested that the Ottawa Improvement Commission or the Government should take over all the parks of Ottawa and that the City should as a contribution to parks pay one-half mill on the dollar. If this suggestion were adopted the residents of