

a sum amounting to little more than one-fourth of the town's total assets to be met by general tax-

ation, figures which show that the town financially, is in a flourishing condition.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

THE water system installed in 1901, gives Pictou an abundant supply of pure water. It comes from nine artesian wells, one and one-half miles from the town, pumped to a stand pipe 60 feet high, with a capacity of 470,000 gallons, located on an eminence overlooking the town. The water pressure exerted at the town's lower level approximates 110 pounds and forces a stream which rises far above its highest buildings.

The water rates are very low. Factories receive special concessions. The town has about nine miles of water pipes, and 80 hydrants conveniently placed. The fire equipment consists of one steamer, one ladder truck, one hose wagon, three hose reels and 2500 feet of hose. The fire brigade comprises 62 men, whose efficient service, under chief A. S. Stalker, has given the town a fire record of which it may be justly proud.

During 1913, the fire loss was only \$60.00. In 1914, the loss amounted to \$3300.00. In 1915, it was about \$2000.00, and this year the losses so far total only about \$500.00, a service which has placed the town in a first class position on the books of fire underwriters.

In the year 1904 the town purchased the property of the Pictou Gas Company, and installed an electric light plant at a cost of \$58,000, with a capacity of 281 kilowatts, which it began operating

the following year, at the same time discontinuing the gas service.

At present nearly 400 customers are served with electric light and power. The rate from one to four H. P. is 8 cents; five to ten H. P. 6 cents; eleven to twenty-five H. P. 5 cents, and from twenty-six H. P. upwards it is 3 cents per kilowatt with a minimum charge of \$1.00 per horse power per month. Electric light is 10 cents per kilowatt, and the town expects to reduce the rates still further in the near future. Not only has the electric lighting plant paid operating expenses, interest, sinking and depreciation funds, but it has made a surplus from year to year, the amount in 1915 being \$1,892.11.

The greater part of the town is sewered to the harbor. Water Street has concrete sidewalks, and the town expects to have permanent streets next year. Nearly all the streets are well shaded and well graded. The Marconi station is located here and also a weather signal post. The police force consists of the chief and an assistant. The Stipendiary Court is efficiently administered, making the town remarkably free from petty crimes and misdemeanors. All the various county offices are located here. The Custom House is an attractive building. It has two telegraph and two express companies, while an efficient telephone service connects it with every town and village in the Province.