

The CHAIRMAN (Hon. Mr. COPP): As I understand it, the idea of Mr. Boucher is to get the whole thing on record. That being so, you had better read the brief, and if you want to comment on it as you go along, you may do so.

Mr. SOMERVILLE: This is a summary of the relations existing between the Federal Government and the Corporation of the City of Ottawa.

A SUMMARY OF THE RELATIONS EXISTING BETWEEN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF OTTAWA

HISTORICAL RESUME

Bytown was founded in 1827, incorporated as a city when its name was changed to Ottawa in 1854, and was selected by Queen Victoria as the capital of Canada in 1858. The Parliament Buildings were commenced in 1859, and were completed in 1865. Water was supplied to these buildings from the Ottawa River and was pumped through a feed pipe located at the rear of the Library.

In 1869 the Mayor of Ottawa advised the Department of Public Works that it was the intention to construct waterworks to supply the City with water, and petitioned the Government for permission to use as much of the surplus water passing over the Chaudiere Falls as would supply the city with water and drive the machinery necessary for waterworks purposes. This was approved by Order in Council of September 17, 1869. Other than the foregoing, from 1867 to 1877, the Corporation did not receive or ask for any special grant from the Government for the maintenance of municipal services.

In 1877 the Government buildings were connected with the City waterworks and an agreement, dated March 6, 1877, was entered into between the City and the Crown which provided for an annual payment to the City of a lump sum of \$9,000 over a period of five years from January 1, 1877, for water supplied by the City for the said buildings, including Rideau Hall. At the expiration of this contract in 1882 and until 1899, water was supplied the Government buildings by the City and the annual payments fluctuated between \$9,087.10 and \$15,394.25, the increase in the payment being mostly due to additional buildings erected during that period.

In 1883 the City made a further demand based on loss of revenue due to the statutory exemption of Government property from taxation, and to the maintenance of civic services on a larger scale due to the seat of Government being located in Ottawa. This was met by an Order in Council of December 21, 1883, the Government agreeing to assume certain liabilities such as (1) maintenance of Dufferin and Sappers bridges and the bridges over the slides (Chaudiere); (2) maintenance of Wellington street between the Dufferin bridge and Bank street; (3) making free to the public the use of the suspension bridge between Hull and Ottawa. A further Order in Council was passed on January 11, 1885, by which the Government also agreed to assume possession and maintenance of Major's Hill Park.

Hon Mr. LEGER: Are these properties still maintained by the Crown?

Mr. SOMERVILLE: Yes, sir.

(Continues reading brief):

Immediately after the passing of that Order, other demands were made in February, 1885. The City then petitioned that the Government maintain the police force, the McLaren bridge over the Rideau river at New Edinburgh, the Maria street (Laurier Avenue West) bridge, and the sidewalks in front of Cartier Square. The first two requests were refused, the others were accepted by Order in Council of June 17, 1885.