

## News of Municipal Finance

**Calgary Will Lose By Transfer of Collected Tax Arrears To New York—Regina Sinking Fund Report Shows All Required Provision Made—Good Tax Collections—Reported By Oak Bay—Saskatoon Anticipates Big Deficit on Street Railway This Year**

**Ottawa, Ont.**—The Eastview council will negotiate with the Ottawa city fathers in the near future, with a view of annexing their municipality to the city.

**West Kildonan, Man.**—School board estimates for the year 1920-21, amounting to \$71,258, have been passed. This amount is for five schools and is an increase of \$20,823 over last year.

**Woodstock, N.B.**—The board of school trustees in submitting its report for the year ended June 30 last, shows receipts of \$16,986 and expenditures of \$17,507 for the twelve months, leaving a debit balance of \$521.

**Timmins, Ont.**—Assessment of the town has been increased from \$2,025,613 to \$2,445,264. The principal increases are in land, buildings and income. The population is given as 4,018, as compared with 4,663 last year.

**Devon, N.B.**—The tax rate this year will be \$3, as compared with \$2.71 for last year. Assessment has also been increased about one-third. The big increase in the money requirements of the town this year is due largely to the increased cost of schools, the expenditure in that department being increased from \$5,400 last year to \$11,500 this year.

**Calgary, Alta.**—Since July 1, the date when payment of 1920 taxes began, the city treasurer has taken in more than \$153,920, most of which were current taxes. Until July 20, taxpayers are allowed 10 per cent., which rate is lowered to 6 per cent. to August 20, and reduced 2 per cent. each month thereafter. At the end of the year unpaid taxes become delinquent.

**Quebec, Que.**—City representatives have decided to act upon the following plan in all future negotiations for tax exemption: New industries will be tax exempt for ten years for real estate tax only. Nothing the first year and 10 per cent. each year up to the eleventh year when they will be paying their full tax. Where conditions warrant, extensions of factories will be tax exempt for five years, the first year nothing and 20 per cent. each year until the sixth year.

**Oak Bay, B.C.**—Tax collections up to the end of June, after which a penalty is added, were 82 per cent. of the entire levy. The levy in Oak Bay last year was \$182,000, while this year it is up to \$215,000. The amount collected up to the end of June last year was \$140,000, while this year it amounts to \$175,000. Outside of properties protected by the War Relief Fund, Oak Bay has at the present time practically no tax arrears on its books.

**Lennox and Addington Counties, Ont.**—The following equalization of the townships for assessment has been made by the council: Adolphustown, \$408,679; Amherst Island, \$430,091; Bath, \$111,000; Camden, \$2,097,900; Denbigh, A. and A., \$57,209; Ernesttown, \$1,986,184; N. Fredericksburgh, \$753,534; S. Fredericksburgh, \$762,659; Kaladar, A. and E., \$76,512; Napanee, \$880,000; Newburgh, \$117,983; Richmond, \$1,093,350; Sheffield, \$604,194; total, \$9,387,295.

**Saskatoon, Sask.**—Decision has been made by the city council to reduce the street car service, in view of a deficit of over \$40,000 which the city faces on its street car lines for 1920. A report by Commissioner Yorath brought to light that the loss on the system up to May 31 was \$11,382, and the city would also have to pay out \$11,700 for the Smith claim. The estimated loss for June would be \$6,500, making a total up to June 31 of \$29,582. Total capital charges monthly are \$5,229, so that the road is losing approximately \$1,300 per month on operating alone. This condition has existed only twice before—June, 1916, caused

by jitney competition, and November, 1918, caused by the flu epidemic.

**Ontario.**—Provincial legislation which will go into effect on July 31, will mean an increase in civic revenue in municipalities all over the province of several millions, according to an estimate by City Treasurer Baker, of London. This law permits municipalities to levy taxes on the incomes of citizens derived from dividends declared on stock held in industrial and manufacturing corporations. Hitherto, this source of income has been without the jurisdiction of civic corporations, but the new law passed at the recent session of the Ontario legislature puts all these matters on a new footing.

Mr. Baker points out that a visible reduction in the city tax rate will be made through it, and some Ontario cities are preparing to take advantage of the new order this year. Brantford, he states, is seriously considering the preparing of a second assessment after July 31, and that the proposal may be made in the city which he represents.

**Montreal, Que.**—Approximately \$1,250,000 on gross revenue, covering a period of two years and a half, is owing to the city by the Montreal Tramways Co. This money is payable at the rate of \$500,000 a year, and the company has paid nothing on this account since the new contract was signed early in 1918. The clause in the agreement regarding the payment of this money reads:—

"The city shall receive out of gross revenue over and above all other amounts to which it may be entitled under this contract or otherwise, the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) per annum during the continuation of this contract, payable quarterly."

The administrative commission when questioned on the matter stated they had allowed the company a delay in making payment, for the reason that if they insisted on payment it might have for effect an increase in car fares. Meanwhile, the company pays the city interest on the amount owed.

**Alberta.**—The new tax recovery act as passed by the last legislature is now going into effect, being dated as operative from July 1. Under its terms proceedings are to be taken for the recovery of all taxes in arrears at the end of 1919. The municipal authorities in each case will be responsible for putting through the tax recovery, and they will include in it not only their own taxes, but those levied by any other taxing authority, so that overlapping may be avoided.

Lists of assessable lands in arrears in all parts of the province will be prepared at once and will be furnished by the department of municipal affairs to the reeves. These lands will then be advertised for sale, and tax sales will follow in due course, the date set under the act being on or before December 15.

One year's time will be allowed for redemption, and if not so redeemed the delinquent lands will be taken to a judge for final action. It is estimated that the total amounts outstanding in tax arrears of all kinds in the province, even not counting the cities, run into the millions, and the new act now going into operation is expected to result in substantial increases in overdue payments during the balance of the year.

**Regina, Sask.**—The report of the sinking fund trustees for the year ended December 31, 1919, shows that adequate provision has been made by the city, as required by the city act, for sinking fund purposes, and all levies in this respect have been paid into the fund in full as at December 31, 1918. There is a balance of \$29,836 due by the city on account of 1919 levy. The corresponding balance which was due from