

QUEBEC, P.Q.

(Superseding Previous Reports.)

CITY IN GENERAL

The City is divided into six districts for electoral purposes, designated Champlain, St. Jean Baptiste, Belvedere, Jacques Cartier, St. Roch and St. Sauveur Wards. The city government consists of the Mayor and twelve aldermen (two for each ward), all elected for a two-year term; the *ensemble* being known as the City Council. The administrative duties are vested in a Finance Committee, Waterworks Committee, Fire Committee, Police Committee, Public Works Committee and Health Committee, all of which are formed from the members of the City Council.

Population, as given in the annual report of the City Treasurer of the City of Quebec for the civic year 1919-1920, is 116,850. The more important manufactures consist of boots and shoes, tanneries, lumber, tobacco and corsets, and there are several foundries, general machine and railroad shops, breweries, paper box and bag works, clothing and fur working establishments, beside a variety of small industries. The city is an important inland port, and has an extensive water front with large landing sheds, grain elevators and galleries.

The total area of the city is 9.1 square miles and is mostly built upon. It is bounded on the South by the River St. Lawrence; East, in part, by the same river and in part by the municipality of Beauport; West and North by the municipalities of Sillery, Little River and Charlesbourg. That part formerly known as Limoilou and Stadacona is separated from the older part, or City proper, by the St. Charles River, which is spanned at three points by modern steel cantilever bridges, open to vehicular traffic.

The city proper is referred to as "Upper" and "Lower" town, which parts are separated on the St. Lawrence River front by steep bluffs, but united by built-up streets in other parts. The general contour of the ground is steep and inaccessible from Champlain Street in "Lower Town" to the Citadel in "Upper Town," and rising more gradually to other parts in the North-west by grades varying from 9.5 to 16.5 per cent. The highest part is residential, and at the highest point is at elevation 325.

The principal mercantile district is in "Lower Town," and is comparatively level; elevations

ranging from 16.63 at St. Paul and St. Peter Streets to 59.11 at St. Valier Street and Abraham Hill. A second important but less extensive mercantile district is located in "Upper Town" with grades rising from elevation 107 at Palace Hill and St. John Street to elevation 235 at St. John and De Salaberry Streets and to elevation 142.16 at Mountain Hill and Port Dauphin. Street widths in the mercantile districts are 30 to 58 feet, being mostly about 50 feet; elsewhere they are mainly 20 to 60 feet with a maximum of 105 feet in "Lower Town," and 80 feet in "Upper Town." There are 97.6 miles of streets, of which approximately 30 miles are paved with sheet asphalt, granite blocks, scoria blocks and stone-filled asphalt; 45 miles are macadamized; the balance are in natural condition. Paved streets are, generally, in good condition; others are mainly fair.

Fuel is anthracite and bituminous coal, wood and gas. Records of Quebec Observatory show that for the past 5 years winds exceeding 25 miles an hour have occurred on an average of 111 times a year; the prevailing direction of all winds is from the North-East and South-West. Snowfall is heavy over 4 months in the year; 22 months in 5 years show a fall in excess of 9 inches. Winter temperatures are severe; records for December, January and February in the past 5 years show that the maximum temperature during 6 consecutive days did not exceed 30 degrees above zero 20 times, 15 degrees 5 times, 10 degrees twice, and 5 degrees once only. In recent years there have been 6 extended periods of heavy weather; 6 months of the year averaged 6 days, with a minimum temperature of 72 degrees or more.

The total fire loss between January 1st, 1915, and August 31st, 1920, as given in the reports of the Chief of the fire department, was \$2,392,099. The annual losses varied from \$1,900 in 1915 to \$709,145 in 1919. The annual number of fires averaged 263, varying from 357 in 1915 to 222 in 1919. The average loss per fire was \$1,910, a very high figure. Based on an average population of 100,000, the average annual number of fires per 1,000 of population was 2.63, a high figure, and the average annual loss per fire was \$4.24, a very high figure.