

TOWN OF WOLFVILLE

Annual Report For 1923

MAYOR'S REPORT

To the Ratepayers of the Town of Wolfville,
Ladies and Gentlemen:—

You will find herewith reports and financial statements for 1923. These reports are very complete and should have your careful attention. At the end of 1920 it will be remembered that a deficit of approximately \$10,000.00 was carried over. Part of this deficit was paid off in 1921 and 1922, and the balance in 1923, a small surplus being carried over to the new year.

The report of your Electric Light Commission is very encouraging. Your electric lighting system may now be considered to be in good condition, and the time has come for a substantial reduction in cost to the consumer. The finances of this department are on a very sound basis. The expected revenue at the proposed lower rate will be sufficient to provide for sinking funds to retire bonds at maturity, and also for a depreciation account for future contingencies. A very satisfactory increase is shown in amount of energy sold. A further increase in sales will provide for still lower rates. The increased efficiency of your distribution system is shown by the decrease in line and transformer losses.

The report of your Water Department will reveal the necessity of careful management. The bonded debt for the water system is heavy, and adequate provision has not been made for sinking funds to retire the bonds at maturity. This would not be so important if the system were modern in all respects. Replacements of water mains and other changes must be provided for, probably long before the larger portion of water bonds mature.

Better fire protection has been provided for by the purchase of an up-to-date fire engine, and in this connection it should be mentioned that a generous yearly contribution by the governors of Acadia University has made it possible for us to secure a much better engine and equipment than we could otherwise have done.

The policy during the year has been to keep the expenditures on streets as low as possible. Taking this into consideration, they are in as good condition as could be expected.

Some important improvements have been made in the sewers at a small cost. The sewers are reported in good condition. The proposed extension of this system as outlined in the report of the Sewer Department should be beneficial. The present sinking fund allotment will take care of the sewer bonds when due.

If there is one department of the town affairs which has greater general interest than any other, it is our public schools. We are most fortunate in having a splendid staff of teachers, and such a good teaching staff plus good school room facilities is giving us most satisfactory results.

The bonded debt of \$51,500.00 on school property is large, but not more than the value of the property. When the last of the school bonds mature in 1942, the amount not covered by sinking funds will be about \$20,000.00. Considering the nature of the property, the present allowance for sinking fund may be large enough.

We must bear in mind that while we have good value for our capital expenditures, at the same time our total bonded debt, considering our small population, is very large. The matter of adequate sinking funds to take care of our debt is of great importance.

TOWN MANAGER.

I am confident that whatever criticism there has been of the town manager system has been due to an incomplete knowledge of our situation. One of the problems of your Council and Electric Commission at the beginning of 1923 was the proper care and maintenance of a very valuable electric distribution system. Proper engineering oversight seemed to be essential, but the cost of such an engineering service was a difficulty. This was the real point of the situation, for it was the necessity for an engineer in that department which led to the adoption of the town manager system. It is necessary, of course, to have a competent man in charge of town property, such as water and sewer systems, streets, etc. In these latter departments there can be no question about the value of engineering knowledge, but these services had been maintained in the past and could still have been maintained in the same way.

Arrangements were completed, however, to secure the services of a competent engineer, to have the oversight of all departments; part of the cost to be paid by the Town as part of the general expense, and the balance by the Electric Commission. It was found that an arrangement of this kind would be less expensive than any plan that could be devised. It is pleasing to note that the arrangement was approved by your Town Council and the Electric Commission.

We were fortunate in being able to secure Mr. G. S. Stairs for this important position. His work has been of great assistance in many ways that would not appear in the annual reports, and the benefit of some of this work will be more evident in the years to come. The town manager has taken over the duties of the chairman of all committees, and in this way there is proper co-ordination of all departments. All accounts are carefully checked and charged to the proper department. Greater care is exercised in the purchase of needed supplies. A careful study of the Town accounts, as herein presented, will show efficient and careful management that would not have been possible, I believe, under the old system.

I would call your attention to the testimonial in the Auditors' report of the improved efficiency of the accounting system for which the Town Clerk, Mr. R. W. Ford, is responsible.

The close of the year showed that more improvement is possible in the matter of tax collection.

The yearly report of the Health Officer will well repay reading. The small number of infectious diseases reported during the past year, and the proportion of births over deaths are matters for congratulation.

In submitting this report, I would like to refer to the great care that has been given by all the Councillors and Electric Commissioners to the many details of their departments. Much time is spent in attending Council and Committee meetings, frequently with a good deal of inconvenience to the different members. The attendance at meetings of the Council during the year was almost 100%.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the citizens for their confidence in allowing me to preside over the affairs of town government, and I would further express my appreciation of the support given by the members of the Council, with whom the associations of the past year have been most agreeable.

Respectfully submitted,
H. W. PHINNEY, Mayor.

REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

The Mayor and Members of Council,
Wolfville, Nova Scotia.

Gentlemen:—

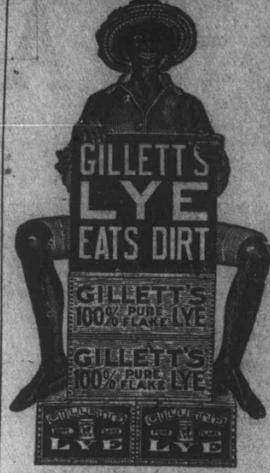
I take pleasure in presenting for your consideration this first annual report as Town Manager, which covers some of the activities of the different departments of town government for the year 1923.

It is gratifying to be able to testify to the very loyal support and kind consideration shown to me by the Mayor and every member of Council since my appointment in May last. In Council and with Committees the work has been very agreeably carried on. I wish to thank Mr. D. G. Whidden, who resigned as Councillor before the end of the year, for much valuable advice. Mr. Ford, Town Clerk and Treasurer, has given much assistance in my work, and the efficient manner in which the accounting has been done is very properly pointed out by the Auditors.

At the present time the office of Town Manager, as such, has no legislative sanction in Nova Scotia. All work must be done in accordance with the provisions of the Towns' Incorporation Act, and through the officers and system of government provided for in that Act. If the office of Town Manager is to be kept up in this or other towns in the province it is very desirable that it be provided for by statute.

As worked out in Wolfville, the office includes that of Superintendent of Streets, Water, Sewers and Electric Commission and Building Inspector. By resolution of Council, the Town Manager is also responsible for the duties of the Chairman of the different standing committees of

(To be Continued.)



IMPROVING THE COUNTRY CEMETERY

(By F. H. Clark, Superintendent, Prospect Cemetery, Toronto, in Canadian Horticultural Review.)
The cemeteries of to-day might properly be divided into three classes, namely; the organized, disorganized and reorganized, with the disorganized ones far exceeding in number the other two classes. The modern cemetery of a large city has been placed upon such a systematic business basis as to preclude the possibility of much criticism, but in regard to hundreds of village, town and country cemeteries many of which are absolutely disorganized, conditions prevail that are astonishingly primitive.

Many of our country cemeteries are nicely situated, with plenty of good monuments, but contain a superabundance of weeds, briars and brush. On nearly every occasion that the writer has attended a funeral in a country cemetery, it has been a most striking fact that the patrons of the cemetery deeply deplored the desolation. Another equally striking fact was that the lack of care does not exist because of any unwillingness on the part of the patrons to pay their money for the improvements of the cemetery. There is to-day scarcely a country cemetery anywhere in Canada which does not have already invested in it in marble and granite, a sum which if placed at interest would produce income sufficient to maintain it in the best of care year after year.

As already intimated, the fact that the people desire better things affords assurance that they will look with favor upon any plan that offers hope of relief, and the fact that they spend thousands upon marble and granite warrants us in believing that when they learn that every dollar invested in a fund to produce interest to be used in care and flowers will be ten times as much to beautify a cemetery as the same amount invested in marble or granite they will invest tens of thousands in such a fund.

Let us now consider whether any plan for the care of cemeteries is feasible, and if so, what are the essential features of such a plan. First, then, business capacity must be had in management. No business worth while of any sort succeeds without a master mind. Second, we must get the money. It will hardly need to be said that a sufficient permanent fund to produce the necessary annual income of interest, must be raised. A cemetery will need to be cared for a long time and any plan that depends upon annual payments for the care from year to year is foredoomed, because the payer will not stay long enough.

This money may be had from two sources. First, from the sale of lots. This should always be a source of income towards a perpetual care fund, whether the cemetery be a public one or one privately owned and managed for profit. In country cemeteries at least 50 per cent. of lot sales should go to the perpetual care fund, but even then, it will hardly be practicable to sell lots at a price high enough to secure a sufficient care fund. And especially in order to care for old cemeteries and all rural cemeteries, we must look to some other source for money. This can be secured by subscriptions from those owning, or interested in, the lots to be cared for. This is where a competent manager is most needed—a man who is a good solicitor, and he should be well paid. His canvass should be pushed until the leading and most liberal ones have been enlisted, then for a year "show them" what can be done. Meantime, secure the names and addresses of all others interested and at the end of the year send them a statement of what has been done, and a list of all who have paid and also a list of all lot owners who ought to pay, and ask them to do a fair share, and promise them another statement next year, and most of them will want to be in the list of payers. There is no pressure that can be brought to bear upon a man to do his duty in a matter of this kind, than to stand him up in line with others in equal circumstance.

KEEP DOWN THE TAXES AND SAVE THE TOWN

This is the slogan everywhere. One hears it, reads it and sees it put into force. There's no need greater today than the need of reducing taxation. Town Councils should make it a primary concern to keep down the tax rate. This requires firmness. It means that a deaf ear must be turned to many requests that in themselves sound reasonable and even desirable; but a merely negative attitude will not be sufficient. There must be a positive reduction.

Perhaps the brightest side of the taxation situation, says the Financial Post, is the growing appreciation by the public that lower levies must necessarily be accompanied by less spending. Boards of Trade which are usually calling on the various governments for local improvements to be financed out of the public purse, are leading

the present campaign for retrenchment. The Bradford Examiner diagnoses the whole question of civic expenditure and taxation accurately when it says:

"After all, it is the taxpayers rather than the city council to decide what rate of taxation we are to have in the future. They must ignore the scriptural injunction 'ask and ye shall receive', remembering that when they receive the payments must come out of their own pockets in the shape of taxation."

Peterboro Examiner: "The cold, hard fact is that the 'city' pays for nothing—it is you taxpayers who pay and you tenants whose taxes are wrapped up in your rent. You pay your share of every civic enterprise that is undertaken, you contribute your little bit to every civic grant that is made, your pocket is touched every time the civic treasury is successfully raided. There is no purse from which the spending bodies can secure the money they pay out to save the purse of the citizens, and if that appreciation of the case could only be driven home to everybody the city fathers would have less trouble in keeping down the tax rate."

WHO IS COMPETENT?

Three million women, according to the New York Times, answering the question, "Who is the better judge of quality in motion pictures, the public or the producers?" tell the world that "the public" is.

This emphatic decision raises another question: What "public"? For there is a motion-picture "public", a legitimate theatre "public", a clean-minded "public" and a "public" whose mind would stand a little "house-cleaning". Even the confirmed picture-goer is not always the supreme authority in what is good. His treatment in New York of that truly excellent picture of Abraham Lincoln's career is proof. While competent reviewers waxed enthusiastic over the artistic perfection of this picture, "the public" was passing it by in order to reveal in "The Sins of Other Men's Wives" around the corner. Perhaps had the title-writer or whatever he is called) dubbed the story of Lincoln something like "Little Love Secrets of Lincoln's Life", or "The Loves of Lincoln", the theatre management could have counted thousands daily instead of merely a few scores.

Thus, the old question: "Who shall uplift motion pictures?" is as far from being settled now as it was 10 years ago. Both the public and the producer virtually confess inability to solve the problem.

THE MAPLE SUGAR SEASON

The sap of the maple tree may start to flow during favourable weather at anytime during the late autumn and winter, but experienced sugar makers do not tap their trees until spring is approaching, at which time a more continuous flow is to be obtained. Conditions are seldom right before March. The proper time is indicated by the condition of the weather—warm sunny days with frosty nights being favourable to a copious flow. It is advisable

to have everything in readiness before hand, including the sugar making utensils and a generous supply of dry mixed wood ready to use. Bulletin No. 30 of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, "The Maple Sugar Industry", recommends tapping with a three-eighths, seven-sixteenth, or one-half inch bit. The hole is bored in a slightly upward direction about one and one-half inches deep in a medium sized tree and two inches deep in an older one. The point of tapping recommended is about thirty inches from the ground, where the bark has a healthy look, and some distance from an old tapping hole. This bulletin, which is available at the Publications Branch of the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, shows types of spouts and buckets to be used, as well as designs and plans of a modern sugar house.

CURE FOR LEPROSY

Sir Leonard Rogers' Discovery Approved by Experts—Drive It Out in Three Generations

LONDON, March 20.—Leprosy, the

most hideous of human maladies, with at least 300,000 victims in the British Empire alone, can at last be cured.

That is the experts' verdict, just announced, on Sir Leonard Rogers' discovery of a vancus injection, derived from an old Indian specific, which, in a few months clears up the symptoms, destroys infectivity, and gives the patient positive cure.

For many years past, Sir Leonard, with a band of colleagues, has been carrying on researches into this disease. The greatest living authority on the subject, he was the founder, in Calcutta, of the most wonderful school of tropical medicine and hygiene in the world. The new cure for leprosy comes as a fitting crown to his life's work.

"Given the right conditions," says Sir Leonard Rogers, "leprosy can be stamped out of the Empire within three generations."

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\$2.50 to the United States

When Men They have Not...
Vol. XLIII.
TOWN
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Bruce Spencer...
D. V. Hill...
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Town Clerk...
Deputy T. C...
Police...
Town Manager...