

in 1902, \$3,101. The east side lamps cost \$9,512, in 1892 and \$14,682 in 1902. If the experience of the city is worth anything at all, it clearly demonstrates that civic ownership of a street lighting plant is the best, and more light can be obtained for less money than under the contract system.

If the water powers on the Mispéc are sufficient for the purpose and are not too far away from the city to admit of their economical use the city will be in a position to furnish light and power cheaper than any company which generates with steam. The cost of coal in the generation of electricity is a very important item. The average cost of the North End light station was \$5,762 for three years and the average coal bill \$3,208. Where water power is used no coal is necessary and water motors are no more expensive than steam engines but the capital expenditure for dams and the cost of bringing the light to the city from Mispéc would be very considerable. Still if the coal bill for lighting one third of the city is more than \$3,000 there is quite a respectable margin to work on. Besides St. John city pays out an average of \$3,000 for lighting its public buildings all of which could be done by the civic service, if it did not enter into competition with the Railway company for private lighting, which there is nothing to prevent the city from doing if it has sufficient water power at its disposal. There are a good many different views about the strength of the Mispéc water powers but the Council has taken the wise expedient of having them measured. Before any action is taken the cost should be carefully calculated be-

cause St. John has about all the unprofitable assets on its hands that it can take care of at present.

There remain but two departments of civic government to review before disposing of the question of civic finances; the police and fire departments. In 1900 the total cost of maintaining the police department was \$35,737 of which \$26,474 was obtained from the assessment. In this year the salaries amounted in the total to \$29,848, of this \$5,429 went for salaries and \$24,418 for the pay of the force. The total cost of maintaining the force in 1902 was \$31,157 but in 1890 the sum of \$2,087 for interest was charged which does not appear in the account of 1902, all charges of that character appearing in the Interest payable account. The taxes collected for the maintenance of the police in 1902 was \$25,680 or nearly a \$1,000 less than in 1900. There is no report from the Chief of Police published in the accounts of 1890 but in 1902 the numerical strength of the force is given as 41 which was an increase of five as compared with two years before. This is the one account that has been kept down but it has made an upward start.

The record of the fire department shows a very considerable increase in the cost of maintenance since union. In 1890 the salaries and pay of the firemen totalled \$16,847 and in 1902 \$21,080. The total cost of the department in 1890 was \$30,236 and in 1902 \$34,550—the increased cost was therefore almost wholly on account of wages and salaries. Since Union two new fire stations have been built and there have been considerable additions to the apparatus. The increase in the