

public had been sufficiently educated on the theme the Common Council was invited to dispose of the question, and that body generally carried out the public demand, if there was an expenditure to be made. If the public demand was for retrenchment the Council was slower to obey and often some members had to be unseated before the demand was complied with or even listened to.

It is not argued that the works which have rolled up a debt of four millions on a population of less than 40,000 people were not necessary. In nine cases out of ten the demands of the taxpayers were backed by the urgent needs of the city for the improvements asked for. The fault is to be found with the lack of system, with which the various works undertaken have been carried out, and the consequent large unnecessary expenditure. It has been shown that there were frequent clashes of authority between the water and sewerage departments which entailed heavy losses to the city and which also kept the streets in a constantly torn up condition. No man can estimate how much the mismanagement of these departments has cost and is costing the rate payers. Had all the water mains and sewers been laid together, or some consecutive plan of operations been pursued the cost would have been fully twenty five per cent. less, and we would have had better streets. Instead, by the method pursued in the past, the water mains were often laid after the surface of the street had been placed in fairly good condition and then not half the connections with properties made. Had the water mains and sewers been laid in the same trenches, and all the connections made for both services,

there would have been one digging up of the streets, which, after it settled could have been repaired. Instead, the sewer followed the water mains, and the connections were made whenever it suited the owner of the real estate, or not made at all, as too often occurs. This system has been slightly improved on under the present management, but it too often occurs that a street is kept in bad condition for three or four years after a sewer or water main is laid, by private individuals digging trenches to enter the former, or by the water department laying service pipes. All this work should be done at the one time, and that it was the intention of those who originated the services, that this should be done, is shown by the character and provisions of the legislation under which these works are undertaken. What the object of the powers that be have been in doing the work in the way they did no mere man can fathom. But it is abundantly apparent that thousand upon thousand of good dollars have been wasted by the methods employed.

There is no department of the public service wherein there has been such gross mismanagement and genuine incapacity shown as that of the streets of St. John. With an average of \$1,000 a mile spent annually on the streets, for the past 15 years, there ought to have had good highways by this time, but the man has not been born as yet, who would risk the fate that befell Annanias, and say that the streets of St. John are good streets. For the year 1905 the Council assessed \$60,000 on the ratepayers for the maintenance of the streets. The department was in debt at the end of the previous year \$50,883