

fund stand at the end of 1918 at \$1,924,907 in cash, \$9,580,337 invested, making a total of \$11,505,244. The sinking fund required is \$16,669,546, making a total shortage of \$5,206,093. Of the cities all are short with the exception of Cranbrook, Fernie and Port Alberni. The largest amount of those short are Victoria \$1,982,348, Vancouver \$1,765,802, New Westminster \$169,348, Vernon \$136,589 and Kamloops \$109,416. Of the municipal districts the suburban districts of Victoria are the most fortunate. Esquimalt has an excess of \$1,047, Oak Bay \$21,860, Saanich \$13,289. Salmon Arm has an excess of \$3.54. South Vancouver is in the most aggravated condition with regard to its sinking fund, being short \$334,719 with West Vancouver short \$35,840 and Penticton \$31,510. Burnaby and Point Grey are short by reason of mortgages foreclosed and unpaid interest. Liquidation of these assets at some future time may recompense these two districts for their shortages.

The rectification of these shortages in the sinking funds will probably take a number of years to effect. The abuse of administration in the conversion of monies that were apportioned to sinking fund for ordinary municipal expenditure occasioned this condition of affairs. Not all of the shortages can be made up from arrears of taxes and various ways and means will have to be devised to correct this condition. It may require the sale of certain municipal assets such as land now unused or since acquired through tax sales or the institution brought up to the requirement. The investment of sinking fund monies in Victory Loans is proving quite productive of revenue since the increase in return is much greater than was calculated at the time of issue.

Of course what has brought about the serious situation in regard to sinking funds is in reality arrears of taxes. These arrears for the incorporated cities total in 1918 \$11,551,567. The great bulk of these arrears occur in Vancouver and Victoria where respectively the figures are \$5,456,453 and \$3,428,632. North Vancouver has arrears of taxes of \$570,896 and New Westminster \$360,432. Of the incorporated districts tax arrears as at the end of 1918 were \$3,079,648 of which South Vancouver's tax arrears amount to \$1,113,877 the next largest being Burnaby \$496,024 followed by Point Grey \$417,869 and North Vancouver \$202,866. It is interesting to note that Oak Bay while having a surplus in its sinking fund has tax arrears of \$123,037 and a similar condition obtains with regard to Saanich, the tax

arrears being \$105,184. The administration of these two municipalities is to be commended.

The total municipal receipts from all sources for cities amount to \$11,055,718 and districts \$3,679,081, making a total of \$14,734,800. Of taxes imposed, ordinary land taxes received for both cities and districts total \$10,593,177. Thus about 75% of the total revenues of municipalities in the Province are raised by taxes on land. The total expenditure for the cities was \$11,733,635 and all the districts \$3,833,062 making a total of \$15,556,697. Of this amount, interest on debenture debt, exclusive of schools and public utilities amounted to \$2,850,187, sinking fund required \$1,843,277. The maintenance of roads and bridges cost \$1,266,277, street lighting \$255,142, parks \$105,739, sewers \$205,938, fire protection \$587,191, public health \$200,612, administration of justice \$600,507, schools \$3,154,418, interest on temporary loans \$487,352, donations and grants \$284,782, council's salaries \$80,940, other salaries and office expenses \$620,018, public utilities including interest and sinking fund \$2,385,942 and sundry expenditures \$638,374.

Further details of the report cover the total levy of taxes for all municipalities, the comparative statement of monies collected from principle sources of revenue, comparative statement of expenditures, and a financial statement of those cities operating public utilities including water works which so far as their operation are concerned in British Columbia does not present a very favourable indorsement of the principle of public ownership. If any one wishes any information with regard to the financial condition and position of any incorporated city or district in the Province of British Columbia, he has it at hand in the report of the Inspector of Municipalities, a few items of the detailed information of which is presented above.

PROPOSED BONUSING OF SHIPBUILDING

Representatives of seventeen shipbuilding companies waited on the government on January 7th, to urge assistance to shipbuilding in Canada. They requested that for a term of ten years the government should grant a bonus of \$10 per displacement ton and \$10 per indicated horsepower on steel ships built in Canada and completed after April 1, 1920. Without this assistance, the delegation claimed, existing plants could not be continuously employed and the breaking up of the organization would necessarily follow. This, it was added, would throw large numbers of men out of employment and undo "much of the good which the government had achieved by means of the encouragement given to the shipbuilding industry and in the employment of returned soldiers and men previously at work on munitions."

Sir George Foster, on behalf of the government, promised earnest consideration of the request for a bounty. It was agreed that the delegation should appoint a committee to confer further with members of the cabinet.

Among the firms represented on the delegation are: Port Arthur Shipbuilding Company, Limited, Port Arthur; Yarrows, Limited, Victoria, B. C.; Prince Rupert Drydock & Shipbuilding Company, Limited, Prince Rupert, B. C.; Victoria Machinery Depot, Limited, Victoria, B. C.; Wallace Shipyards, Limited, North Vancouver and Coughlan & Sons, Vancouver.

In presenting their case, the delegation represented that capital actually invested in shipbuilding in Canada at the present time was approximately \$47,000,000, exclusive of working capital; that the industry furnished employment to approximately 23,500 men in the shipyards (not less than 25 per cent. of these men having served overseas), and almost another 23,500 were engaged in the construction of ship plates, machinery, furnishing and equipment. Adopting the usual standard of dependents for each worker, over 200,000 persons were, it was claimed, at present subsisting on the shipbuilding industry.

The Standard Bank of Canada

Quarterly Dividend Notice No. 117

A Dividend at the rate of three and one-quarter per cent. (3¼%) for the three months ending 31st January, 1920, has been declared payable on the 1st of February, 1920, to shareholders of record as at the 17th January, 1920.

The Annual General Meeting of the shareholders will be held at the Head Office of the Bank in Toronto, on Wednesday, the 25th of February next, at 12 o'clock noon.

By order of the Board,
C. H. EASSON,

Toronto, December 26th, 1919. General Manager.

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J. F. MACDONALD, Manager

446 Hastings St. West - - - - Vancouver, B. C.