ADDRESS

To the Ratepayers of the Municipality of St. John's.

I fully recognize that the affairs of the Municipality are such as to call for the earnest endeavors and unceasing attention of those who may be selected by you to administer the city's government during the next four years, and so far as I am concerned, I shall leave nothing undone to forward the interests of the people of St. John's, and to the best of my ability I shall strive to maintain an honest, upright and capable conduct of its business.

During the past eight years public works of much importance to the city have been carried out, notably the construction of the High-Level Water Service, a considerable extension of the sewerage system, and a decided betterment in the street lighting service. The financing of these undertakings, it was thought by some, would have been impossible with the city's limited resources; but whereas prior to that time the Council was never able to pay its interest in full, we not alone improved the city's financial status sufficiently to pay the whole of the existing interest, but also the interest on the outlay for these improvements, and for the past six or seven years the city has always been able to meet its total interest charge, even though the amount thereof has been increasing from year to year by reason of the enlarged outlays for public improvement and the increased cost of the city services.

At the recent session of the Legislature a mea-

ment and the increased cost of the city services. At the recent session of the Legislature a measure was enacted investing the Municipal Council with increased powers, and providing the machinery where the extension of the water and sewerage systems could be gone on with and the Small Homes receive the benefits of these services. If elected, I shall uo my utmost, together with my associates at the Council Board, to carry out the policy of which this measure is the expression. The amount appropriated for those purposes is \$0,000, and this will hnolve a further addition to our interest charge, but in view of the rapidity with which the city is expanding, and of the increased revenue which will accrue to the Council from the assessment on the structures which are now being erected every day, I see no reason why it should not be possible, not alone to meet existing obligations, but also to provide for the carrying out of still other civic improvements.

In my humble judgment the matters which will press most strongly on the incoming Coun cil for action are as follows:

1.-SANITATION.

The reform of the present sanitary systems is imperative. The reduction of the area served by the night carts and their elimination, so far as it is possible, must soon be taken in hand. This will involve still further extension of the water and sewer systems, since the recent monetary provision will be insufficient to carry the benefits of these systems to every home in the city, as should be the case. The constant flushing and care of the surface drains, which, if regularly carried out, would contribute not a little to the improved health of the community, will command my attention.

homes for the workingmen of the city is all too evident. I shall gladly co-operate and give my best aid towards the working out of any project which may be devised for providing such homes and improving conditions for those residents of St. John's who suffer from this drawland at research

3.-MUNICIPAL LIGHTING.

ergy for lighting purposes, I would be disposed to advocate the establishment of a municipal lighting system, feeling satisfied that thereby the city could greatly increase the number of lights and at the same time effect a saving in the cost of proving this

4.—CONGESTED LOCALITIES. the overcrowded condition of several section of the city, which, by reason of their conve on the city, which, by reason of their convenience to industrial centres, have become the home of large numbers of people, demands that such steps should be taken as are found feasible to effect a redistribution of population in these sections, and I shall do my uimost, if favoured with your confidence and support, to promote such measures as will help to transfer the working received from these sections. the working people from these sections to others where they can live under more comfortable hygienic conditions. By this means as well as by improving the sanitary conditions, it should be possible to reduce the presentations of the conditions of

EXTENSION OF STREET

tres might be reached from the outlying parts of the city, I would favor urging the Reid-Newfoundand Company to extend its street car system so as to open up areas within easy reach of the city, with a view of encouraging those of our people who can afford it to erect homes for themselves in the suburbs, and it may be that a means can be devised by which tenement cottages could also be erected, the present municipal boundaries being extended so as to embrace these localities and give the city the advantage of the revenue derivable from the assessment on these properties.

A long felt want is that of a city market, and I shall advocate the providing of it as soon as soon as a circumstances will permit, while the question of establishing fish markets in the coves of elsewhere, dredging the public coves and providing public lavatories will also demand the early consideration of the coming Council.

7.—READJUSTMENT OF TAXATION.

TAXATION.

The present system of civic taxation is a cumbersome and inequitable one as compared with those which prevail in American and Canadian cities, and I would favor the substitution of a similar method which would, at the same time, more equally distribute the burdens of city taxation on the diff-rent classes of residents. In this connection I would point out the unfairness of the existing situation with regard to absentee landlords who receive very large sums every year for rentals, all of which go out of the colony never to return, and yet they have contribution towards the upkeep of the municipality whose progress and prosperity is the prime factor in making their property valuable.

S.-STREET PAVING. I think the time will soon have arrived when think the time will soon have arrived when the paving of other streets in the city might be undertaken, particularly Duckworth and New Gower streets, which are steadily becoming important business thoroughfares. The exper-ience of other cities in recent years has shown that new paving processes have been devised by means of which a satisfactory pavement can be provided at a moderate cost.

The accumulation of valuable plans, documents and records belonging to the city; the inadequacy of the provision that now exists for their safe-keeping, the increasing volume of work which has to be transacted by the city officials, and the need of greater accommodation for the official staff in order to have this work done satisfactorily, all suggest the desirability of providing a municipal building, which would, besides removing these defects, contain a chamber having facilities to enable the public to attend the deliberations of the Council and thereby stimulate greater public interest in its actions. Enormous losses might accrue to the city if a fire were to destroy the only existing records which the city has of important undertakings, and other documents relating to city properties. The providing of such a building as I suggest could be accomplished with very little extra cost to the city.

10.—RETIREMENT OF COUNCILLORS.

I would press for an amendment to the Municipal act which were desired for the city has desired and the council of the council o 9.-MUNICIPAL BUILDING.

I would press for an amendment to the Municipal Act which would provide for members of the Council retiring by rotation, as by this means it would always be possible to have at the municipal board a number of members possessed of the experience gained by considerable term of service in the Council, and a familiarity with the various matters of business embraced

within that period. These are the principal matters which suggest themselves to me as embodying our city problems of the near future, and I shall labor as best ever, that these undertakings cannot be even partially accomplished by any Mayor and Council, however earnes and hard working, unless the enjoy the sympathetic and whole-hearted support of the ratepayers of the municipality. Such support I would be speak most sincerely, feeling confident that the residents of the city will secure a regatly increased efficiency in civic administration if such interest impurification.

est is manifested. To matters of detail, such as aris daily, I shall give the same undivided attention as in the past, and therefore pledging you my best efforts on be-half of the city and its interests, and respectfully soliciting your votes and

influence, I remain, Your obedient servant WILLIAM J. ELLIS.

St. John's, June 16, 1910.

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