The Standard

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ST, JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 1915.

December 31, 1912, are concerned, nothing could be more satisfactory than the figures brought down by the Commissioner. Compared with 1911, which was good, the showing is an excellent one and is as follows:

	1912.	1911.
General assessment	\$576,039.10	\$542,933,45
Tax defaults	55,664.57	63,127.39
Water assessment		174,941.44
Harbor revenue		91,912.81
Rentals, lands and w		21,262.21
Market		16,270.21
Ferries		34,433.92
	0.000.00	7,281.32
Licenses Water sold steamer		9,482.67
Water sold steamer		-
	\$1,010,812.05	\$961,645.42
Ingrasea		\$49,166.63

The bonded debt increased \$29,600 during the year and is now \$5,028,795.51. Regarding the expenditures of the year no information was vouchsafed save there was a balance in the bank at the close of the year.

The total tax collections during the year, including those on default, were \$631,703.67, which was \$25,026.05 less than the total assessment levied. This, however, is much better than usual as in 1911 the total collections were \$31,741.69 short of the amount assessed. From this showing of tax collections it is evident that no effort is spared to gather in everything collectable. Then it must be borne in mind that a discount of 5 per cent. is granted for prompt payment of a very large percentage of the marked gain in revenue. This is due almost wholly to increased consumption arising out of the demand for better sanitation all over the city and an increasing number of water taxes. To a lesser extent the harbor and lands revenues are increasing as well as the returns received from the sale of water to steamers and the revenue The market revenues have remained about licenses. The market revenues have remained about stationary and the ferry makes about the worst showing it ever did, with a revenue apparently \$12,000 greater than in 1911 it has gone behind over \$6,000. The ferry had a small surplus in 1911 and the rates were increased to prevent the necessity of further deficits. The increased contributions of the public amounting to about \$9,000 have all been spent and it is now promosed to tax the citizens a een spent and it is now proposed to tax the citizens a further sum of \$7,350 to keep up the ferry. Perhaps sometime in the dim and distant future there will be a

halt in ferry expenditures,

As a final result of the deliberations of the Council His Worship announced that the warrant issued to the assessors in 1912 was \$605,248.63 and for 1913 it would be Since that time the school estimates with added to the figures of last year have been pre sented, so this amount will have to be added to the total, as the Common Council have no power to reduce the fixet for service in Canadian waters. It promises the school estimates until such time as the limit fixed by law is reached, and the trustees in asking for \$160,000 are thin the legal limit. After the assessors got the estimates last year they added their percentage and the re-sult was a tax levy of \$660,000 on total estimates of If the Mayor's figures are correct and the over-expended in 1911 and owe the bank over \$20,000 ac cording to the nudit of that year)—the warrant will have to be higher than stated by the Mayor. If the assessors will add as much to the warrant in 1913 as they did in 1912 the total amount to be assessed for 1913 will exceed all previous records and is scarcely pleasant to contemplate No matter what happens it will require a careful revalu-ation of city property on the part of the assessors to find sufficient new material to keep the rate at \$1.98.

It must not be taken that the people of St. John can-not contribute seven hundred thousand dollars in taxation if they are asked to do so and it is highly improbable that the assessment for 1913, when it reaches the people, will be as large as that, but the question will naturally arise: Are the people getting good value for so large an expenditure? To transform St. John into a city of the best class would necessitate larger expenditure for streets, improvements on public grounds, garbage collection, a police patrol system, additions of modern apparatus to the fire department and many other things which as citizens we do not enjoy. A more equitable distribution rden of taxation would do much to ease up on some but in the end no matter how the matter ma arranged the consumer has to pay the scorching. It is somebody's duty, however, to think out how matters can be improved at the present juncture, for there is need

ONE SIDE OF ST. JOHN'S GROWTH.

There has been more than the usual advance discussion of the probable tax rate in St. John for 1913. This is far from being a bad sign, as it shows that the people as a whole are taking a deeper interest in civic affairs than they ever did. There is nothing complex in the methods by which the affairs of any municipality are carried on. Running the business of the city is, after all, much the same as running any other business save that there are more interests to be considered and a larger number of persons to be considered and a larger number of persons to be concileted. There is a class of citizens who would curtail all expenditures whether they were were beneficial or otherwise. Another class seems to think that the larger the expenditure the greater the prosperity. Neither of these will ever be successful in making a city prosperous. The correct measure of expenditure is to keep it within the ability of the people to pay and to see that value is obtained for every dollar expended. This means good safe, sane, honest government and is the true test to apply to those who rule the There has been more than the usual advance discus

the school debt, was \$2,938,277.90 at the end of 1889, and \$5.603,195.51 in 1911, an increase of \$2,614,917.61 in the period. The total sinking fined amounted in 1889 to \$324.894.13 and at the close of 1911 to \$352,972.56, an in-

The rateable value of all property, including real estate, personal property and income in 1889, was \$23,130,100 and in 1911 \$29,842,300, an increase of \$6,712,200. Putting the whole matter briefly, the rateable property of the city according to the Board of Assessors, increased only \$6,712,000 between 1889 and 1911, while the bonded debt has increased \$2,614,917 and the assessment levied increased \$339,164. Because civic expenditure has increased at a ratio so much greater than either population or values the taxation rate has gone from \$1.32 on each \$100 to \$1.96, an increase of 64 cents with no outlook apparently for a lesser rate.

stoo to \$1.96, an increase of \$4 cents with no outlook apparently for a lesser rate.

Such is a brief epitome of the financial history of St. John. During the period which has elapsed since 1889 the city of St. John spent largely to develop its resources—notably to bring the winter trade of Canada to her doors. This added \$1,127,000 to the bonded debt, which is still as annual above. The civic budget which was submitted to the Commismon Council and incidentally to the citizens by Comm

the money of the people has been invested.

The increased cost of maintaining the great public services of the city account very largely for the increase in the assessment. Police and fire protection and light all cost double what they did a few years ago, and it is presumable that the people are getting value for their money. We have no more than our share of disastrous money. We have no more than our share of disastrous fires and there is a prevailing opinion that St. John is an orderly and safe city to live and go about in. It can hardly be said that we have good streets, but we have an excellent water supply which, however, is reported to vary in pressure more than it should from time to time. One thing, however, is absolutely certain, we have enormously increased the cost of living in St. John. This was not altogether the fault of successive boards of aldwas not altogether the fault of successive boards of ald was not allogener than the series of the Commission which exists today. In the majority of instances the aldermen merely surrendered to the man-date of the people and gave them the expenditures they asked for, and the Commission seem to be doing th people who were loudest in their demands we be found also loudest in their condemnation when they find their share of it charged up in their tax bills.

There is no doubt that St. John is one of the most prosperous cities of Canada today and there is no city on the Atlantic coast with a brighter future. for those who live in the city and bear the burden of taxation the great development of today and of the future is to be beyond the city limits. There has been a very considerable improvement on the West Side but even there it is crowding over into Lancaster, also beyond the city line. The present is the time to arrange for the exten-sion of the city limits to include the possible area of development where a city could be regularly planned and laid out with a view to perfect sanitation and with some ensideration for the fitness of things instead of some thing resembling a patch work quilt in design.

Germany finds it necessary to expand its currency The abolition of the maximum limit of 300,000,000 marks (\$75,000,000), for issues of Imperial bank notes below the value of 100 marks (\$25), was recommended by Rudolf Havenstein, the president of the budget committee of the imperial Parliament. He put forth this proposal as a means of increasing the gold stock of the Imperial bank, arguing that it was necessary to augment this to \$1,500.

The whole course of the naval situation is summed up Government's plan of providing three Dreadnoughts on behalf of Canada in view of the situation is better than the Laurier Opposition's idea of creating an independent

In a letter to the London Times Hon. W. S. Fielding says that in the last general elections here there was no question of anybody being for or against England. This eads the Toronto Mail and Empire to remark: "Assuredy there seemed to be no question on his part of being for England. No less assuredly Mr. Taft considered the arrangement to be against England."

One of the 68 measures assented to by the Governor was one to prevent cities and towns from bonusing industries beyond granting a free site and tax exemption for not

Current Comment

A Test of Civilization.

An enforceable law against child labor and against sweat shop labor is essential to a respectable civilization But it must imply a condition in which the children and the mothers can live without work at least without degradation, stunting work. Our civilization is at the test It cannot endure half slave and half free, half gorged and half starved.

Charity Versus Justice.

(Montreal Herald.)

It is estimated that \$200,000,000 was donated to charitable and philanthropic schemes in the United States in the year which has just closed. This is, of course, very admirable and praiseworthy on the part of the donors, but does it not suggest the thought that if there had been a little more of the "square deal" meted out last year there would have been less necessity for these great gifts?

The Yellow Hope.
(Chicago Public.)
Though interpreted at first throughout the Occident as "the yellow peril," the ominous restlessness of China, after centuries of stagnation, seems now to be, in greater truth, "the yellow hope." Not a world-devouring dragon, but a world-inspiring democracy, is this re-birth of that

Blind Mindus.
(Toronto Globe.)

The Hindu fanatics who throw bombs at high British icials in India are seeking to murder their best friends.

ore British rule overthrown the Moslem wolf would also short work of the Hindu sheep.

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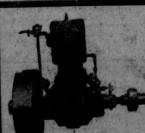
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