

of a city prior to Union. Its streets had been graded and sewers and water mains were laid over its greater area. St. John, (west), had not done as much in this direction, preferring rather low taxation without modern conveniences. Portland was practically in the same condition. The equalization of taxation over the entire community naturally led to demands on the part of the less favored districts for the same conveniences that existed in the more favored localities. After a lapse of fifteen years the bulk of the necessary work has been done, some of it at the expense of general assessment, but the greater part out of capital account. Had there been no union, the debt of St. John (east) would have been constantly decreasing, while that of the west side and Portland would have been greatly increased, or the people living in these districts would have been compelled to do without the conveniences they now have. Now that these have been largely supplied, the time has come to call a halt in expenditures and to formulate a general plan of civic improvement, spreading over a number of years which can be carried out without, increasing either the bonded debt or the assessment.

The Common Council have much to do in the future to dispose of the incomplete business they have been pushing to one side for the past ten years. The harbor works are now nearly completed, or a stage has been reached where the end is in sight. There are still one or two properties on the eastern side of the harbor which the city ought to own to be in position to transfer the whole harbor interests to the federal authorities, when the time for such transfer comes, and it is nearer than most people imagine. The west side terminus will have to be completed by the erection of a new wharf on the site of south Rodney wharf. A