

# Police Patrol Systems and Their Advantages to Municipalities

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Any municipality having a police department which does not provide itself with a modern police signaling system derives only a partial benefit from the money it expends for the establishment and maintenance of almost all its other departments, because of the fact that the value of the other departments depends to a certain extent upon the initiative of police officers and patrolmen.

From the opinion of many prominent police chiefs having modern police signaling systems, it appears that these systems contribute to increase the efficiency of their departments on an average of not less than 40 per cent. That being the case, it must be conceded that full measure of service from the police department depends on a signaling system, and, considering the fact that the full value of other departments depends upon the policemen in proportion to their efficiency, the importance and value of the signaling system to a municipality is apparent.

Where municipal districts are properly patrolled, it is the patrolmen who discover and report a large percentage of fires started within their territory. Therefore, in the matter of fire prevention alone, it can be said that water furnished by waterworks for putting out fires is of no use for that purpose unless someone discovers and reports the fires. Fire-fighting apparatus and fire alarm systems are all in the same category — absolutely worthless unless there is someone to discover the fire and to report the fact that there is one and where it is. It is the watchful patrolmen, moving about the city, who discover and report the fires in the majority of cases. It has been often stated by those who know from experience and observation, that the patrolmen report almost all of the night fires, provided they move about in a systematic and proper manner. Here is where a police signaling system comes in, for it is the very thing that furnishes the necessary incentive to the entire police department for complete and efficient work, and which, at the same time, gives assurance to the citizens of a municipality that proper and systematic patrol service is being performed. No stronger evidence of the importance of a police signaling system to a municipality in the matter of fire prevention can be found than that contained in the fire insurance rules for grading cities and towns with reference to their fire defences, wherein

a proper signaling system, in connection with adequate patrol service, is positively required.

In the matter of life and health, the same importance attaches to a police signaling system as in the matter of fire prevention. Its promotion of systematic patrol efficiency among members of the police department prevents the spread of contagious diseases through a quick discovery and report to the health department, and through a rigid enforcement of the municipal health ordinances. Violations of these may not be discovered unless patrolmen visit every portion of their territory at frequent and regular intervals. This they have little incentive to do unless provided with a signaling system that furnishes automatic-made evidence with which they can prove faithful service.

Every municipality is also more or less dependent upon the police for the discovery and reporting of violations of building ordinance. It is only when the men move about and discover such things that a municipality gets full benefit from the enforcement of these important rules and regulations; hence the city's interest in this regard also depends on having a police signaling system.

Another phase of benefit that a police signaling system brings to a municipality lies in the fact that it invariably extends police operations into new districts and brings the department, and all other city officials and employees connected with its work, into more prominent notice, and establishes increased harmonious relations with the taxpayers.

If the efficiency of the police department, upon which the full value of other departments depends, is enhanced 40 per cent. by having a police signaling system, then, without question, each citizen is proportionately benefited by such a system, and therefore the municipality will also be benefited as a whole.

Everyone naturally wants credit for what he does well, and, as a rule, the best men prefer to have their conduct and acts speak for them. A proper signaling system gives due credit to all, by evidence that cannot be disputed.—From a paper presented at the annual convention of the International Association of Municipal Electricians.

## The Dominion Government and the Municipality of Ottawa.—(Continued.)

to the municipality. In its working out great injustice has been done by reason of changed conditions. The new agreement should be of such a character that changes in conditions can be taken care of. It is difficult to see how any better scheme can be suggested that the payment of taxes in the ordinary way.

### Payments by Other Governments.

The proposition that government buildings should pay taxes is not new. The British Government has for many years paid rates on the House of Parliament and other government property situated in London.

At Dublin the government contributes annually an amount equal to what it would pay if it were rated like other property and maintains the police force.

In the United States the government pays one-half of all the cost of administration of the District of Columbia. In 1917 the amount paid by the government of the United States was \$6,813,903.00. Of this sum \$3,147,367.00 were paid for educational purposes.

### Federal District.

It is submitted that the adoption of the suggestions made here cannot interfere with any general scheme for the development of the capital. On the contrary it is believed that the suggestions outlined proceed along the line which future action must take. The Government should first be just before it is generous. It should first pay its just share of the municipal expenditure. A payment of \$15,000 plus the contribution to local parks included in the grant to the Ottawa Improvement Commission is only a small part of what could legally be exacted from the Government, to say nothing of the equitable obligation which the Government should assume. After the Government has done justice to the municipality it must consider its duty to the nation in the way of making a capital city.

For years the people of Ottawa and men in Federal

political life have talked of the establishment of a federal district at Ottawa. Few of those who have discussed the matter have ever stopped to define what they mean by a Federal District. In a general sort of way the idea has been that we should have something similar to the District of Columbia.

Any one who will make even a hurried study of the constitution and administration of the District of Columbia will oppose any slavish copying of what has been done there. The people of the District of Columbia have no voice in the government of their city, or of the country at large. They have in effect become wards of the state. The people of Ottawa would never voluntarily consent to be disfranchised in Federal and Provincial affairs. Further there can be no object in creating in Ottawa avoidable difficulties. We have for many years been part of the Province of Ontario and so far as education and many other Provincial matters are concerned there is no reason why Ottawa should not continue to remain a part of the Province.

Washington is, perhaps, the most uniformly beautiful capital in the world. This has resulted, not because Washington has been better governed than other places, but because work has been done according to plan and because the people of the United States have spent vast sums of money in beautifying their Capital.

It is submitted the only problem for the future of Ottawa is to devise some scheme by which the physical development of the City may be planned and carried out according to plan. Whatever Federal control may be necessary to accomplish this object the people of Ottawa must submit to. Beyond this there is no reason to interfere with existing conditions.

It is earnestly suggested that the government should at once appoint a competent commission to report on a scheme for the control of the future development of Canada's capital and to advise as to constitutional changes incident to the scheme proposed.