

tures the Council have undertaken still have to go on, because they are necessary. What is mainly wanted is some man who has the courage and the ability to apply the curb to all expenditures which do not appear in the estimates and thus prevent over expenditure. But such a man is difficult to find.

The city has several important works now on hand. There is the completion of the new ferry steamer which will require, an expenditure of at least \$10,000 before the steamer is ready for work, and as it will cost more to maintain three boats than it formerly did to keep up two, the citizens may look forward to an annual assessment for ferry purposes for some years to come. Then there is the water extensions. These will cost at least \$400,000 and possibly half a million. The present surplus of receipts over expenditures in this department is about \$10,000. Unlike the expenditure on the West side the extension to Loch Lomond is not likely to produce any large increase in the earnings of the water department. The usual increase will go on as the sanitary condition of buildings is improved, but an additional \$10,000 will be directly added to the taxation. The city of course has as an asset the pulp mill at Mispec, and whatever can be realized from this investment will go towards the reduction of the cost of the Loch Lomond extension. The improvement of the harbor is again to the front and this important question will have to be dealt with immediately. There can be no turning back now. St. John has spent upwards of a million of dollars of her own money to bring the winter trade of Canada to her doors. The benefit derived from

this trade is almost entirely indirect and it is not putting the case too strongly to state that the tax payers are contributing about \$20,000 a year to the cost of harbor improvements beyond the income from that source. For three years there has been no growth in this trade because the limit of facilities has practically been reached. But it is evident that with greater facilities more trade can be done. For the past two years dredges have been at work on the West side cleaning out the city property there, but as they are incapable of digging deep enough; another dredge will have to be brought here to complete the work before wharf building can be commenced. Up to the present time the only assistance the Federal government has given St. John to bring the winter port here has been in dredging, and now the city authorities are asking that a dredge be sent here to prepare the foundation for the proposed new wharves. These wharves must be built this year or St. John may run the risk of losing the trade now done here. It is not proposed to hand these wharves on completion to any corporation free of charge but to charge a sufficient rental to pay interest on the cost and up keep of the property. In addition to the harbor expenditure the streets will require large expenditures which will have to be provided very soon. There is an idea abroad that whatever work, excepting necessary repairs, is done on the streets should be of a permanent character. Altogether the outlook for lower taxation is not cheerful. If any citizen has the idea that any council can greatly reduce taxation, he is seriously mistaken.