

The St. John Standard

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CIVIC EXPENDITURES.

Glancing casually over the record of civic expenditures for the past few years, one is struck by the fact that in almost every important department steady increases have been the rule. It is however true that certain departments show up more strongly in this respect than do others, and also that commencing with 1913 these increases have been more pronounced than formerly. For instance it appears from the annual civic reports that on the Street Department the expenditure has run along as follows:

Year	Amount	Year	Amount
1908	\$ 69,722	1914	\$109,135
1909	71,462	1915	115,802
1910	74,802	1916	113,421
1911	76,364	1917	137,041
1912	80,627	1918	148,640
1913	102,981		

From this table it may be seen that there has been expended on the streets in 1918 more than double the outlay of 1908 and \$68,000 more than in 1912. The question will naturally be asked, whether we as a city have received in improvements the value which this increase represents. A jump of thirty-five thousand dollars in two years, as has been noted from 1916 to 1918, means a lot of money.

Again, the Fire Department has been none too modest in its demands on the civic treasury. It, too, has gone ahead at a fairly rapid rate in getting rid of additional appropriations as will be seen from this statement—

Year	Amount	Year	Amount
1908	\$ 51,772	1914	\$ 73,682
1909	51,320	1915	73,592
1910	58,198	1916	73,422
1911	65,167	1917	82,852
1912	67,701	1918	95,777
1913	70,703		

It will be a little difficult to find the improved fire service now enjoyed which can justify such advancing costs. Of course wages are a little better than formerly, but still are not particularly high, and we have a few pieces of apparatus, bought on capital account, but a lot of money has gone out with comparatively little to show for it.

Possibly, too, the town is better lighted than it ever was before, for although the increased costs in this department have not been so marked as in some others, there has been a fairly regular advance from year to year. The estimates presented on Monday of this week, however, call for a considerable increase over last year. The figures in this department are as follows:—

Year	Amount	Year	Amount
1908	\$ 23,027	1914	\$ 30,444
1909	24,344	1915	32,254
1910	27,287	1916	31,780
1911	26,211	1917	31,693
1912	26,813	1918	31,619
1913	26,631		

These show an advance of less than 40 per cent. in ten years, which is not too bad, considering the increases in other departments, and unless the present year brings a much larger assessment the lighting proposition may readily be considered as remaining stationary during the past five or six years.

In the Police Department there has been turmoil. We have had changes galore both in the heads of the department and among the men, with readjustment of work and wages, so that no one now really knows just where the Police Department happens to be. One thing that is known, however, is that the cost of this branch of the public service has been climbing up at an almost alarming rate. Expenditures have ranged as follows:—

Year	Amount	Year	Amount
1908	\$ 42,579	1914	\$ 51,373
1909	43,757	1915	59,020
1910	48,721	1916	63,629
1911	48,277	1917	70,418
1912	50,184	1918	73,043
1913	50,449		

This represents an increase of more than 70 per cent. in ten years.

Thus in these four departments alone, irrespective of ferries, water and sewerage and others, not forgetting the city's capital account on which the interest is climbing every year, there has been an added expenditure since 1908 of \$163,000.00. This is a lot of money, but the present year is liable to see the excess greatly increased, as the estimates recently presented, or now in course of preparation, call for heavy additional expenditure. It is worthy of note that in the five years preceding commission government the increases in these four departments totalled \$34,000.00, while in the six years of commission rule the corresponding increases have been \$128,000.00, apart altogether from additions to bonded indebtedness.

MOTOR LICENSE COLLECTIONS.

The members of the New Brunswick Automobile Association and other motor owners, in the course of their trips through this province, learned the advisability of securing, if possible, better roads. They have, year after year, endeavored to impress upon the provincial administration the necessity of some permanent policy in this regard, and a few years ago succeeded in reaching an understanding whereby money received by the Province in the form of license fees

should be set apart as an interest and Redemption fund for the construction of better roads. At the time this understanding was reached it was not anticipated that the income from this source would increase so rapidly as has been the case, and it was set forth that, after the costs of collecting license fees and other incidental expenses had been deducted, the balance of the money thus received, amounting to \$30,000.00 per annum, should be set apart for interest and Redemption. The \$30,000.00 figure was named in the belief that this would be a sufficiently large amount to cover all collections for some time at least. But certainly the intention was that all remaining to the credit of this fund, after costs had been paid, should be set apart. This was the attitude of automobile owners in making their representations, and it was the sentiment of members of the provincial administration and of the legislature which created the authority under which the work was carried on. In 1918, however, because of the rapid increase in the number of automobiles that are owned in this province, the collections from license reached the very large sum of \$90,000.00. This money was definitely understood to belong to the interest and Redemption Fund, created for the purpose of improving the roads. But the Provincial administration, in the person of Peter Veniot, needed the money and instead of the \$90,000.00 being so set apart, the present party in power put aside only \$30,000.00 as originally specified, which, as stated, was at one time regarded as the probable maximum receipt. Last year \$8,000.00 was spent in costs of collection, and the balance of \$22,000.00 received, which has not been set apart to the credit of the interest and Redemption Fund, has been turned into ordinary revenues and expended on general purposes of administration. The intention of the New Brunswick Automobile Association and of other motor owners throughout the province has thus been defeated, and there has certainly been a breach of faith on the part of the Provincial administration in so diverting money which all understood would be used for particular purposes.

TODAY'S APPEAL.

Today the Salvation Army makes its appeal to the people of St. John of twenty-five thousand dollars. It is a small amount and should be secured without the least difficulty if the organization of the collecting force is up to the mark. All Canadians know of the splendid work the Army has done along the battle-front. We know what it is doing here today in filling the wants of returning men. And everyone must realize that this important work cannot be continued indefinitely without additional funds. The Army has not previously made an appeal; it has gone along in its own quiet way, spending its own hard-earned money in providing comforts for soldiers without cost to them, and it proposes to continue so doing. But it has not sufficient funds, and it asks the Canada to subscribe one million dollars—a very moderate request indeed. Of this total sum St. John's quota is, as stated, twenty-five thousand. Let all do their utmost today to make this appeal a success.

RESTIGOUCHE OBJECTS

So the Restigouche County Council is turning down Dr. Roberts' Health Act. Some of these North Shore counties are displaying unexpected firmness in this matter and do not propose to be sand-bagged into expenditures of thousands of dollars without knowing what they are getting. Down here in St. John County we swallowed this scheme hook, line and sinker, just as we have a habit of swallowing almost anything that is put over on us. Sanbury County also objected to this, but it is intimated that it has been dragged into acquiescence and has agreed to the terms proposed. Perhaps when Sanbury begins to dip into its pockets for the money this pretty plan will cost, the people will change their minds and find exactly where they stand.

WHAT THEY SAY

What a Change Was There!
(Munich Post.)

The fact remains that Wilhelm II, by his cowardly and undignified conduct in the critical days of his downfall, and after has long ago lost every shred of sympathy even in the strictest monarchist circles, so much so, that every attempt to rehabilitate him will be defeated.

Roosevelt—The Plus American.
(Chicago Tribune.)

The United States was a sacrament to him. His best interests were the best interests of humanity. He was a realist in this respect. He did not philosophize. He acted. He had the security and the dignity of the United States because he believed that in such advance the noble interests of a great nation would be served and humanity would be served by it. He "took" the Panama Canal. He dealt realistically with a real problem, stated what he had done honestly, defended his purpose as it could be defended. His imperialism was honest. It never was under cover.

er. He never found himself operating along lines of American destiny and ashamed of the process or trying to cover the result. He could do this because of his honest, intense nationalism. He was the most conspicuous nationalist in the United States. He was an American—the plus American.

State Control of Industries.
(London Morning Post.)

A nation must pay its way by producing and selling goods. If the State could produce and sell more goods at better prices than the present industrial and mercantile system, the position would be improved. But not otherwise. And we leave those who have had experience of State methods during this war to say whether State management is likely to be more or less economical and productive. As the sailors say, if all comes out of the main hatch, there is no way to keep this country going but by the increase of production to meet our increased liabilities. But how are we to increase production? By giving quiet security and settled conditions to our manufacturers? Or by that time the rest are specked.

A Mine of Learning.
(Christian Science Monitor.)

Colonel Roosevelt's depth of knowledge as well as the versatility of his acquisitions find illustration in the statement by the famous naturalist, John Burroughs, that President Roosevelt, during his last term, took him to a favorite retreat in the woods of Virginia, where the two spent three days in identifying and naming birds. "He taught me," says John Burroughs, "two new birds, Bewick's wren and one of the rare warblers; and I taught him two, the swamp sparrow and one other which I now forget." And then there is this incident: "I asked him if he had ever seen the little gray snail-catcher in that vicinity. 'Yes,' he said, 'I saw one yesterday.' He took me to the place, a little run with some old plum trees on the bank, and instantly said, 'There it is now!' And sure enough, there was the tiny bird in a field near by." This was the same man who was the "big stick."

The Threat of Bolshevism.
(The Zion Herald.)

The Bolshevism situation is one to cause apprehension. Some are inclined to think its activities as being limited to a small section of Russia. As a matter of fact, Bolshevism is today practically dominant in Germany and is reaching its apex even in Canada and in the United States. It has not, of course, resorted to arms on this side of the water, but the doctrine of this movement stands in opposition to ordered government, perpetual warfare against the bourgeoisie, that is to say, against success in life in any of its forms are found here. It stands for the rule of the proletariat, and its emblem is the red flag. What is to be done about the situation? It is a folly to ignore Bolshevism on the ground that it will take care of itself. The Peace Conference, recognizing this, will have no doubt a problem more than that of adjusting matters in a way to meet the legitimate demands of the people and to control the action of those who would destroy all law and order.

Princes and the Prize Ring.
(Westminster Gazette.)

The success of the Service boxing matches and the keen interest taken by the King recall the fact that our Royal Family has been identified before with boxing, but not in such pleasant conditions. Frederick, Prince of Wales, used an interest in boxing as one of his means of gaining popularity, and so annoying his father, and set up a monument at Epsom to record his own defeat in an encounter with a tradesman as a boy whom he had challenged. George IV, set up as a patron of boxing, often attended prize fights and took lessons from "Gentleman" Jackson, who, when George boasted of his prowess, made the reply—worthy of his admitted talents as a courtier—"I have seen Your Royal Highness and felt your Royal Highness."

A BIT OF VERSE

Two Sowers.

(An early poem by John McCrae, the author of "In Flanders Fields.")
The late Col. John McCrae, whose poem "In Flanders Fields" has won world-wide fame, was the author of other poems not so well known, and the verses below are published for the first time. They were written on June 15th, 1899, on the leaf of a hymn book, to while away a dull sermon in a Toronto church. A friend of the Star's to whom they were given by the author, has supplied us with a copy.

I saw two sowers in life's field at dawn
To whom came one in angel guise,
And said, "Is it for labor that a man is born?"
"Lo! I am Ease, come ye and eat my bread."
Then gladly one forsook his task un-done
And with the tempter went his slothful way.
The other toiled until the setting sun,
With sweating shadows blurred the dusty day,
Ere harvest time, upon earth's peaceful breast
Each laid down amid the unresping dead.
"Labor hath other recompense than rest,"
Else were the toiler like the fool," I said.
"God mete him not less—but rather more
Because he sowed—and others reap the stored store."
(Signed) Jack McCrae.

Little Benny's Note Book.

BY LEE PAPE.

The Park Ave. News.

Weather. Cold in spots, any day don't half to stay in those spots. Sisistety. Miss Mary Watkins has a tooth out in front, with it makes her look just as bewitching as ever and she says the empty space aint pane-hill.

Sports. Artie Alexander sleep with his cousin Benny Potts last Saturday nite, having a contest to see which one could get undressed the fastest, with Benny Potts won with the same number of buttons as when he started, the only difference being that 2 was under the bed and one under the bureau.

Intresting Packs About Intresting People. Pude Slinkins puts so much butter on his buck weak cakes in the morning that it would be easier if he just put the buck weak cakes on the butter.

Military News. Compinny B took a 5 mile hike last Stidday, nobody getting very tired on account of the intiro compinny hooking on behind a bay waggin half the way out and a ice waggin all the way back.

lers pertaining to St. John, Canada, and the West Indies.

The tariff charged by the R. M. S. P. Company is under the control of the Minister of Trade and Commerce; now that the Dominion Government has renewed the subsidy of about \$840,000.00 a year to encourage the relations by direct service between Canada and the West Indies.

Below are some interesting facts which existed prior to the war, 1914. These rates are supplied by Sanderson and Sons of New York, agent for the R. M. S. P. Company. In comparison are the rates supplied by Wm. Thomson, agent of the R.M.S.P. Company, St. John, N. B. for the Canadian Line.

"Two rates from St. John direct via R. M. S. P. Co.: On fish 4 quintal cask, \$1.92, drum 70 cents; potatoes, 60 cents barrel; flour, 45c. in bags or barrels; oats, 35 cents, 5 bushel bag, plus 5 per cent. primage; fish, 4 quintals, cask, \$1.20, drum 35 cents; potatoes, 45 cents per barrel. These rates are from New York direct to British Guiana, via R. M. S. P.

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