COMMMISSIONER'S REPORT ON SOUTH VANCOUVER

We are indebted to Mr. F. J. Gillespie, Commissioner for the Corporation of the District of South Vancouver, for a report on the operations of the municipality since he took charge, which is very good reading and, to our minds, is an object-lesson in efficiency in municipal administration which many municipalities should take to heart. Mr. Gillespie says:

"I took charge of the municipality on the 1st day of May, 1918, and, therefore, on the 31st of December I had completed eight months as Commissioner for this Municipality.

"It will be remembered that the Municipality was about to default in the payment of some of its treasury certificates and debenture interest, and at the urgent request of the then Council, the Government came to the rescue on one condition, viz., that the Government would appoint a Commissioner who would be responsible to them. We have in this Municipality:

9,004 acres, or	14½	sq. miles
Streets cleared and rough graded	179.41	"
Streets macadamized	47.14	"
Streets paved	6.60	"
Streets planked	12.85	"
Sidewalks planked	118.00	"
Street car lines, double track	5.57	"
Street car lines, single track	5.02	"
Interurban, double track	2.08	"
Interurban, single track	4.70	"
Concrete catch basins	154	
Wooden catch basins	188	
Storm sewers	7.60	"
Sanitary sewers	9.20	"
Concrete manholes	152	
Concrete lampholes	24	
and an estimated population of	35,000	

"Personally, I do not think we have quite that many people, but that the municipality has been going ahead very rapidly during the past year is beyond question. The total number of pupils during the month of February, 1918, was 4,617, while this February there were 5,425, which is a gain of 808, and it further sets the highest attendance of any month in the history of the municipality.

"There are 14 schools, including the High School; the total number of divisions in those schools are 155, and the total number of teachers on the staff at the present time is 154. The salaries run from $65.00 to $210.00 per month in the Public Schools, and in the High School from $130.00 to $250.00 per month for the Principal. The total levy on the municipality for 1919 for schools, exclusive of Government grants, will be, in round figures, $175,000.

"During the eight months that I have had charge of the municipality, up to the end of 1918, there were no new financial burdens placed upon the municipality, but instead, the monies that came in reduced the indebtedness slightly over $60,000.

"From the 1st of May up to the 1st of March, a period of ten months, slightly over 800 new water services have been put in, which means that that many families have come to reside in South Vancouver, or, in brief, that the population has increased by not less than 3,000. I am not claiming any credit for this, as it is but in keeping with the progress that is being generally made on Burrard Peninsula.

"$100,000 is to be expended this season by the Dominion Government on the North Arm of the Fraser River, which forms the southern boundary of this municipality for about four miles. Ultimately this arm of the Fraser will, in all probability, be the main channel for navigation purposes from its mouth at Eburne to New Westminster. Already very many industries have been established on the South Vancouver shore, and as there is a great deal of most suitable and cheap land, it is anticipated that many other industries will in the near future find their home along this magnificent waterway.

"There is a first-class opening here for a big woolen mill that would receive and manufacture the wool, not only of the lower mainland, but also the immense quantity that comes in from Australia, converting the same into woolen goods of all descriptions, not only for the people of British Columbia, but for Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. One of our small manufacturers here in the City of Vancouver has sold a considerable amount of their output as far east as the city of New York.

"During the past ten months, Spitzer-Rorick & Co., who made a loan of $450,000 to this municipality in March, 1917, have been repaid $200,000 of that money, and a further sum of $35,000 is now in the bank ready to be turned over to the same firm, and it is hoped that the municipality will be able to liquidate the balance of $450,000 in March, 1920, when the same matures.

"For a number of years past, buildings were not taxed in this municipality, but last year they were taxed one-third of their assessed value, and this helped materially. I have every reason to believe that, in the course of a few years, the municipality will find itself in good shape financially. A tax sale will be held during the mid-summer, when some 3,000 lots will be offered for sale for arrears of taxes. It is confidently believed that this tax sale will be a success, and if so the future of the municipality is beyond question.

"The great majority of the heavy taxpayers of South Vancouver who have the interests of the municipality at heart, are co-operating in every way with the administration."

Provincial Forestry Returns for January, 1919

TIMBER SCALED IN BRITISH COLUMBIA IN MONTH OF JANUARY, 1919.

Districts	Douglas Fir	Red Cedar	Spruce	Hemlock	Balsam	Yellow Pine	White Pine	Jack Pine	Larch	Cotton-wood	Cypress
Cranbrook	2,081,013	19,126	118,597	70,678	857,189	857,189	14,048	4,794	470,892	...	...
Fort George	...	144,044	1,186,711	...	74,892	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kamloops	3,329,385	957,604	11,585	...	...	2,725	...	...	...	...	...
Nelson	322,276	1,491,966	4,887	220,883	...	7,651	114,959	...	195,985	...	...
Vernon	1,957,972	36,387	171,664	...	...	335,440	2,418	...	73,169	...	...
Total Interior	7,690,646	2,649,127	1,493,444	291,561	87,178	1,203,005	131,425	4,794	740,046	...	...
Island	3,846,590	191,195	3,501,790	2,138,531	25,699	...	14,490	...	...	...	...
Prince Rupert	...	874,920	31,270,256	943,730	6,731	...	...	...	...	...	...
Vancouver	28,415,228	16,711,048	2,204,932	4,470,432	516,070	...	144,523	...	...	400,181	2,600
Total Coast	32,261,818	17,777,163	36,976,978	7,552,693	548,500	...	159,013	...	...	400,181	2,600
Total for B. C.	39,952,464	20,426,290	38,470,422	7,844,254	635,678	1,203,005	290,438	4,794	740,046	400,181	2,600

Total Interior	14,291,226
Total Coast	95,678,946
Total All Species	109,970,172