

Citizen Control of the Citizen's Business

TORONTO'S CITIZENS CAN CONTROL TORONTO'S AFFAIRS ONLY
THROUGH FREQUENT, PROMPT, ACCURATE AND PERTINENT INFOR-
MATION WITH REGARD TO TORONTO'S BUSINESS.

ISSUED BY THE
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The Toronto Housing Commission

has been appointed and
has agreed to act.

United and hearty support on the part
of all citizens will greatly aid the
Commission in carrying on its work.

IN TORONTO

the need for dwelling houses selling at between \$2,000 and \$3,500 has been felt for many years. As far back as 1911, the Medical Officer of Health presented a Report on Slum Conditions in Toronto and embodied recommendations dealing with the housing problem. The situation has gradually become more acute, and a year ago it was estimated that 5,000 dwelling houses were required.

The following is a resumé of the action taken during the past year to supply such houses (other than by private construction):

- 1918.
- MAY** —The District Labor Council requested that the Board of Control consider the advisability of submitting a debenture by-law to the people, permitting the city to borrow money for the purchase of land and the erection of workmen's dwellings.
- A deputation, consisting of representatives from the Board of Trade, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, the G.W.V.A., the Toronto Housing Company and Organized Labor, waited on Premier Hearst in connection with the housing situation.
- JUNE** —The Ontario Government, by Order-in-Council, appointed a sub-committee of the Organization of Resources Committee to look into the housing question.
- JULY** —Report of the Medical Officer of Health sent on to Council, by the Board of Control, for their information. In this report the dearth of houses for workmen in Toronto was emphasized and attention drawn to the fact that, while an average of 5,000 houses per year was needed, the City Architect's records showed only 902 such dwellings erected in 1917.
- Property Committee appointed Housing Sub-Committee.
- Property Committee approved of scheme for removal of restrictions as to three-storey apartment houses in a designated district of the city. Struck out in Council and referred back to Board of Control for further consideration.
- Premier Hearst announced Provincial Housing Plan whereby \$2,000,000 was made available (at 5% interest) to municipalities—on application—for the construction of moderate-priced houses.
- AUG.** —Board of Control appointed a Commission (consisting of the Commissioner of Finance, the Assessment Commissioner, the City Architect, the Commissioner of Works, and the Medical Officer of Health) to make a survey of Toronto from the housing standpoint and report to the Board of Control and City Council.
- SEPT.** —Property Committee recommended that effort be made to accept the offer of the Provincial Government. The Board of Control recommended that this be struck out. Action concurred in by City Council. Matter referred to Housing Commission appointed by Board.
- OCT.** —Property Committee again recommended the removal of restrictions as to the three-storey apartment houses in a designated district in the city. Board of Control recommended that this be not adopted. Matter referred back by Council to Board for further consideration.
- DEC.** —Dominion Government announced the creation of a fund of \$25,000,000 to be made available to the several Provincial Governments, in proportion to their population, for carrying out a program for better housing.

DEC. —Report of Housing Commission received by the City Council. The report covered the housing question from many angles, and pointed out the absolute necessity for the immediate erection of a number of moderate-priced dwellings. The Commission did not consider that it would be to Toronto's advantage to adopt the Provincial Housing Plan. Recommended appointment of permanent Honorary Housing Commission of five citizens, who would appoint and be aided by an Advisory Committee from representative citizen organizations in Toronto, and act as an Executive body to develop and carry out a housing program for Toronto. This report was adopted by Council.

Recommendation of Property Committee re apartment houses was again brought before Council, but was struck out in order that the matter might be fully considered by the new Housing Commission.

1919.

FEB. —Deputation from the Building Trades waited on Board of Control and asked for action on housing plans. Board of Control resolved to ask Housing Commission to take action at once.

Representatives from the G.W.V.A. and the Building Trades waited on the Board of Control and asked that they be represented by more men on the proposed Advisory Committee of the Housing Commission.

APRIL —A deputation from the Trades and Labor Council waited on Board of Control and urged that advantage be taken of the Provincial Housing Plan. Board of Control explained that plan was not practicable for Toronto.

Report of the Ontario Housing Committee issued.

Toronto Housing Commission urged, since it was impossible to make the Provincial Housing Plan apply to Toronto, that a special housing bill be obtained for Toronto.

Board of Control addressed by deputation of the G.W.V.A. re housing. It was decided that a deputation should wait on the Premier asking for the special legislation necessary to enable Toronto to cope with the situation.

A deputation, with representatives from the Housing Commission, the Board of Control, the G.W.V.A., the Board of Trade, labor men and other interested citizens, waited on the Premier, outlined the situation and were promised all possible assistance.

MAY —Toronto Housing Bill drafted giving city power, under Commission, to borrow money for the erection of houses and to expropriate the land for same, where necessary.

Toronto Housing Bill passed by Board of Control.

Toronto Housing Bill assented to by Premier Hearst.

Toronto Housing Bill considered by City Council, which arose from Committee of the Whole without reporting progress.

Toronto Housing Bill unanimously adopted by City Council and By-law passed appointing Sir John C. Eaton, Sir James W. Woods, Mr. Frank A. Rolph, Mr. J. Allan Ross and Mr. E. H. Williams, members of the Toronto Housing Commission.

Toronto Housing Commission agrees to act.

There are about six building
months left in the current year.
Give the Housing Commission
right of way for full speed ahead!