

PARKS SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT 1914

To the Mayor & Commissioners,

City Hall.

Gentlemen:

I beg to submit the following reports and recommendations for your consideration.

The system that was installed this year enabled us to record more details than previously. I am able to submit clearly expenditures under various appropriations hoping that the statistical information furnished may afford an intelligent idea of necessary expense in the caring of Calgary's parks.

\$99,492.00 was appropriated and \$80,555.75 spent, leaving a balance of \$18,936.95. \$61,679.24 represents actual park and boulevard development and maintenance, the remainder covering extraneous purposes, as shown hereafter.

The year's revenue is \$10,266.07, and was mostly derived from the Cemetery, \$4,340.00 and \$1,343.00 representing the sale of grave lots and grave digging respectively. I would particularly call your attention to an item of \$984.95 for the loaming, seeding, and maintenance of grave plots. This is quite a new departure, being the first year that the city has received revenue from this source. In this connection I beg to suggest another possible source of revenue, viz., the placing and replenishing of a supply of flowers on graves throughout the season at certain fixed charges. This is quite a common practice in cities that have greenhouses situated in their cemeteries, and helps considerably towards the cost of maintenance of those greenhouses.

Acting on instructions received from you early in August, work under bylaw (boulevard construction), was discontinued absolutely, and work under the estimates was very considerably curtailed. This was no doubt unavoidable, but tended in many ways to cripple the work of the department. For instance it was not possible to make preparations for rinks before the ground was frozen, consequently they cost more to construct. Again, in all probability it will be necessary to fill the morgue with bodies during the winter. These bodies will have to be buried in May when some five or six feet of frost will have to be dug through. *

We are behind with very much of our necessary work, very little progress has been made at the time of writing with tree pruning and dressing, and this work is being done during the coldest period of the year, when it can be done less expeditiously than in milder weather. We ~~are~~ were very late in getting our mulching done, and had it not been for a good snowfall I am afraid much of our stock would have suffered.

As it will be necessary to still further economise this year, I would suggest that the energies of the department be directed along these lines whereby revenue may be made or citizens materially assisted. . . . Something has already been done in this direction by the preparation of Shouldice, Tuxedo, and part * of Riley Parks, for crops and preparation of about 100 vacant lots for cultivation. I would recommend that we prepare as many vacant lots in the spring as there may be demand for, and that all other available land that is suitable be prepared and cropped.

The season, as regards weather, has, on the whole, been a favorable one though the spring, particularly at planting time, was very dry, with the hot winds prevailing. The very severe hailstorm and deluge of rain that passed across the city early in July did much damage. The latter part of the summer was very favorable to growth, however, and it was surprising how rapidly vegetation recovered and made up for the backwardness caused by the adverse conditions that prevailed earlier in the year. The winter, with steady cold and good blanket of snow has, so far, been ideal for the horticulturist and I anticipate very few losses.

I consider the past years work a success so far as serving the public is concerned, and that is our aim at all times. The credit is due to a large extent to the interest evinced by the regular employees and their desire to please the people they were paid to * serve. It has been the policy of the department to give constant encouragement to all citizens to make full use of the parks and every demand made for facilities for out-door sports has, so far as possible, been responded to, to the extent of our abilities and resources.

Flowers have been sent regularly to the General, Holy Cross, Tuberculosis, and Isolation Hospitals, Children's aid, and * Convalescent Home, some being taken daily to at least one of these institutions so long as flowers were to be had.

I continued the practice of saturating the soil around the roots of all trees, shrubs, and plants just before the ground was frozen as I am yearly becoming more convinced of the necessity of this practice, if stock is to winter satisfactorily,

The labelling of plants in the parks was much appreciated by the public.

The summary of our planting on all parks and boulevards exclusive of nursery planting, is as follows:-

6181 trees.
5476 Herbaceous perennials.

5083 shrubs.
34,834 bulbs.

Much of the time of the park caretakers is taken up with the gathering of refuse scattered broadcast by the public, Receptacles have been provided, but these are not used to the extent they ought to be. I have refrained from posting notices with regard to this particular matter as I do not care to besprinkle the parks with these, but some method should be adopted to induce the public to abandon this practice.

I would again remind you that several of our small park sites are without names, also of the recommendation contained in my last year's report, that cottages for the park caretakers be built. These could be made to pay for their cost in a few years.

CENTRAL PARK

This park was maintained in good order throughout the seasons, Most of the paths have been resurfaced with cinders, about 100 loads being used. The park furniture has been painted. Plant tubs were made for the box trees used in this park so that it was not necessary to plunge these shrubs. This added to the appearance of the park, being in keeping with the general formal style. Window boxes were used on the library for the first time. During the season 1,085 shrubs, 2,246 perennials, 18,508 annuals and 13,370 bulbs have been planted. The lawn space surrounding the South African Memorial, which adhad been destroyed during the erection of the monument, was repaired. A large bin has been made and placed at the back of the band stand in which to deposit refuse until sufficient has accumulated to be hauled away. Bicycle stands have been made at the library entrance. The use of a horse lawn mower has lessened the cost of grass cutting considerably. I am eliminating the use of annuals wherever possible and substituting herbaceous perennials as this will tend to reduce the cost of maintenance. Of course it will be necessary to continue the use of annuals where there is need for formality, as for instance, in the geometrically desigge designed beds of Central Park. To some extent this formality is indespensible, in fact, is desirable in dealing with city squares and smaller parks, provided the design is not too intricate.

I would call your attention to the fact that the comfort stations have to be closed during the winter months, as there are no means of heating these. This is condition that should be remedied.

I beg to recommend that a plain low wire fence be placed on the outside of the shrubbery borders surrounding this park, as dogs do very considerable mischief on these borders.

MEWATA PARK.

The baseball diamonds and football grounds have required quite a lot of attention to keep them in order to the satisfaction of the players. Players' boxes have been constructed on the diamonds and the athletic apparatus repaired and improved. A close wire fence was placed part of the way along the riverside. A sand pit for the children was constructed in the North east corner and this proved a

great boon. A commencement was made on the construction of tennis courts at the west end. A good deal of levelling has been done on the park, the ruts and other depressions being filled. The rinks * made during the last and present winters have been very popular, there being at times as many as 1000 visitors daily. The horse mower has been used in this park during the summer to good advantage.

I would again remind you that water and sewer connections have been made on 11th Street West for the purpose of constructing a comfort station in this park.

I beg to recommend that trees and shrubs be planted on the outskirts of this park. This could be done without curtailing the space available for sports, and would give a more park like appearance. Backstops, goalposts, and bleachers, are at best unsightly objects in large open parks, therefore it is necessary to counteract this unsightliness as far as possible by tree planting. It is * essential also that some shade trees be planted on the children's playground. The shade is very necessary during the hot summer months when the playgrounds should be rendering the greatest possible enjoyment to the children of the community.

RILEY PARK.

As much work as circumstances permitted has been done on this park, towards the development of the plan prepared and submitted last year. In the beginning of the year the finishing touches were put to the toboggan slide, and this proved very popular. On at least * two occasions there were an estimated number of 500 people on these slides. With the opening up of spring, walks and drives were laid out and the borders remodelled, in the process of which there was much transplanting. Some pruning was then done and the border thoroughly cultivated once deeply and twice on the surface. 10 beds were prepared, 50 loads of manure were worked in and shrubs were then planted. In preparing for grass the 9 acres at the east end of the park that had not been seeded the previous year, 329 loads of well rooted manure were plowed in, the ground harrowed, levelled, seeded to grass, and rolled. 400 lbs. of grass seed were used. but, in spite of hand weeding and every possible care and attention the drought hindered germination of the grass and weeds proved very troublesome, these weeds having to be mown by the grass cutter. 2 regulation notices were posted, one at each entrance, and the flag pole from the old site of the R.N.W.M.P. barracks, (a gift to * the City from the G.T.P.) was transferred to this park. During the dry part of the season one man was continuously employed watering the border and beds and much time was also spent in an endeavour to keep the hill to the north west of the lake site looking green. 1738 trees, 3,998 shrubs, 3230 perennial and annual plants and 16,000 bulbs have been planted during the season. 142 large spruce trees * were transplanted from the old R.N.W.M.P. barracks site. The season was late and the weather anything but favorable when this work was done, but if 50% of the trees survive it will be worth while. During the season the grass was cut by the horse lawn mower and the edges of the beds were trimmed by hand mowing. About 4 acres of grass failed to make a successful start owing to a very weedy condition. This idearea was later prepared for cleaning crop, the land being plowed, and about 80 loads of manure being incorporated.

It is intended to plant with potatoes in the spring. During the fall 12 new beds were dug up and 70 loads of manure trenched in, in preparation for planting next spring. In the planting of these beds they will not be considered individually, but each as a unit of a harmonious whole so fitted together as to form a normal state of completeness. It was this harmony that was kept in mind in the preparation of the plan. A four foot grass strip as a verge to the outer shrubbery border was made up and prepared for seeding in the spring. At present it extends along the east and south sides, half of the north and part of the west side. About 10 loads of manure were used here. 50 loads of well rotted manure were used in the late fall for mulching and topdressing the old beds. A portion of the gravel bank near the west entrance was left unimproved last year for the purpose of getting gravel for concrete for the pool. This gravel is being hauled, 71 loads having been moved up to the present, so that next spring the at present rather unsightly area near the west entrance can be improved. As was the case last winter manure is being collected and prepared in this park, there being at present about 200 loads already for use. The surface of the children's playground has been coated with cinders and a sand pile has been constructed. This playground has been thoroughly well patronised during the year, The 550 children attending the schools in the vicinity taking full advantage of it. There is very urgent need for additional playground apparatus. I would also recommend that a wading pool be constructed.

I recommend that a comfort station be erected in the south east corner of this park with access from 10th Street N.W.

HILLHURST PARK.

At the opening of the year we had two skating rinks in this inclosure. One was reserved for hockey and some 20 properly organised games were played on this. On the larger rink the ice was extremely good and it was no uncommon thing to see 600 or more people making use of it. As soon as the ice was off the field football was started, and the following are the totals of the various league games played:- 14 senior games, 14 junior games, 14 intermediate games, 4 international games, 1 inter-city game, and 7 rugby games. At most of these matches, especially the "senior" there were large crowds of spectators. During the year various improvements were carried out in the park. The west fence was rebuilt, being raised so as to come above the level of the newly graded sidewalk, 41 posts and 200 feet of new lumber being used, besides making use of the old material. A rail fence was also erected along the touch line to the north side of the playing field. Sawdust was supplied for the games; grass was cut, weeds raked off, grading done to prevent water holes; and the pavilion etc., cleaned after matches. Satisfaction was expressed more than once in the public press and elsewhere on the condition of the grounds during the playing season. A great deal of plumbing repairs have been made necessary on this park owing to wanton destruction by people using the comfort stations.

ST. GEORGE'S ISLAND.

A small amount of piling has been done on the south shore for the purpose of saving three good trees that would certainly have been carried away by the river last spring had this not been done. The whole of this shore is gradually being undermined and washed away during high water. The banks here are well furnished with large trees, these trees forming the principal feature of beauty of the

island, and, unless a retaining wall of some kind is built, a great many of these will be lost and the island damaged irreparably. Fences were built in dangerous spots near the bridge approaches to prevent accident. To such an extent have picnics increased that the supply of tables and benches has had to be more than doubled. These were made by the department at small cost. A number of rustic seats and fences have been built. 4 large flower borders were made on each side of the approach to the pavilion and these when filled with flowers brightened the park considerably. It was found that the gravel with which the children's playground was coated last winter would not bind, and created an undesirable condition. This has been remedied by surfacing with cinders, 50 loads being used. The concrete lighting columns are still lying in the ditch in which they were placed nearly 2 years ago, awaiting erection. This work could be done at very small cost by employees of this department. The surfacing of the driveway with cinders has effected a wonderful improvement, and this work is being continued, 300 loads being used. The work of tree doctoring is being continued, this being, in my estimation, of extreme importance in prolonging the life of the old trees. This work consists of removing dead and decaying wood, tarring wounds, cleaning out cavities and filling with cement to exclude moisture and disease. Some of the loam that had been lying piled up for several years, was used to begin the formation of a terrace around the pavilion. Rope swings have been placed on the trees in suitable locations and these have proved a great attraction. 800 bulbs and 2,676 annuals have been used in this park on the new borders. It is necessary, both here and at Shouldice and Bowness Parks, to have the caretakers always keep a supply of kindling at the fire places to prevent picnickers breaking the trees and shrubs for the purpose of obtaining fire wood.

It is estimated that 20,000 children used the playground during the season and 477 picnics were held in this park.

An improved water supply is still an urgent necessity. I would like to be able to construct tennis courts here this coming season. Level stretches of the lawn can be utilized and put in shape at small expense. I am certain that these would fill a long felt want, the public demand becoming more and more insistent each year.

VICTORIA PARK.

The sunken garden has been kept in shape and 4040 flowering plants used for the summer display. A rink has been made each winter, and this season this is being used for curling. This sunken garden would make an excellent site for a swimming pool. 244 trees were transplanted from the south east corner to the Cemetery. Considerable repairs have been made to the football field fence and this has been remodelled, so as to make it more portable with less risk of damage. A building has been purchased for the use of players as a dressing room. The football ground and baseball diamonds have been kept in as good shape as conditions permitted. Acting on instructions from you, men have been kept at the manure dump in this park to control and regulate the depositing of same. These men also stacked and turned as much of this as possible to get it in condition for use. I have received very numerous requests for manure and I would recommend that yards be established in suitable locations where manure can be prepared and sold to citizens at cost.

TUXEDO PARK.

A small rink was made here last winter but nothing was attempted in this way this season, as, owing to some grading having been done on the park during the summer the site was not in suitable condition. retain the water. The park was plowed this fall and prepared for a crop of some kind. If this ground is cropped it will be necessary to fence and I recommend that a fence such as was erected at Shouldice be placed around the park. This fence cost 10 cents per foot including labor and material. The band stand has been partly painted and seats placed in it for the use of bands.

SHOULDICE PARK.

80 acres have been plowed 8 inches deep and thoroughly and carefully prepared for cropping next year. This land is however badly in need of manure. Additional tables and benches have been made and comfort stations placed on the park. A fence has been placed along the river side to prevent stray horses and cattle getting into the park. The boulders and stones with which the park was littered have been gathered and hauled away.

BOWNESS PARK.

Owing to the embankment that enclosed the stream dividing the island from the mainland having given away. It was impossible to keep a good body of water in the stream. This has been to a great extent remedied by carefully piling and repairing the embankment. As a result a good body of water can now be maintained, bathing and boating has been made possible and these pastimes have been indulged in considerably by people visiting the park. Numerous rustic seats have been built. The bridge has been re-built and re-floored and the approaches at either end improved by grading. Most of the old buildings and coralls have been torn down and the wood is being hauled to address furnished by the Associated Charities. Roads through the island have been improved by filling in the deep ruts, and paths have been cut through the brush on the previously inaccessible areas. These paths being carried through the most picturesque portion and by the waterside as much as possible.

A good deal of the dead brush has been cut to prevent fire and areas have been opened up under the large shady trees for the convenience of picnic parties. Comfort stations have been placed in suitable locations, a large number of tables and benches provided, and rustic seats built. As much tree doctoring as possible has been done to prolong the life of the large trees and I recommend that this work be continued. The beauty of this park depends on its trees. Though many of the trees may appear strong and healthy, yet, on close examination numbers prove to be very far from that condition. Unseen decay and destructive insect pests are eating out their life. Not only is examination and attention required to prolong the lives of the trees, there is also the menace of injury or even death through the sudden snapping and falling of unsound limbs on persons who may happen to be beneath. It was my intention to make football and baseball grounds, tennis courts and running track here, but, as I have been repeatedly instructed to devote my energies mainly to the closer in parks, this has not been possible. I recommend that these be made however, during the coming season as there is an ever increasing demand for them.

This park is becoming more popular each year as a picnic resort, some thousands of people having visited it during the season. People go there with the idea of getting into the Country and having a quiet unconventional time. It is ideal as a natural park for this purpose and it would be a great pity if it were not maintained as such. It seems to me that it is not a park to be developed into intensive recreational use, but should be so maintained as to give all the sense of freedom that the unspoiled country gives.

SHAGANAPPI PARK.

Is an unsought and uncared for area at the present time. This might be made to serve a purpose by the construction of a 9 hole golf course, and might incidentally help the street railway revenue by that means. I believe there is sufficient space, as only 40 to 60 acres are required for a 9 hole course.

CITY HALL GARDENS.

327 plants have been used for the window boxes and interior decoration and 6700 plants and bulbs for the embellishment of the beds. For the sake of economy the greenhouse men now have the care of this garden added to their other duties. The bare plot of land east of the City Hall has been cleared, levelled and seeded to grass.

BOULEVARDS.

Under Local Improvement By-Law 1610, 39,075 feet (7½ miles) of new boulevard have been constructed at a cost including overhead charges of \$17,768.58¢, or approximately 45 cents per foot frontage (\$225.00 per block) This is slightly less than the cost of similar work in 1913. There are now 40 miles of boulevard in the City.

The blocks constructed this season are as follows:-

| ON | From | To |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| 7th St. N.W. | 2nd Avenue | 4th Avenue |
| 1st Avenue | 5A St. N.W. | 2th St. N.W. |
| 4th Avenue | 7th St. N.W. | 10th St. N.W. |
| Park Road | 18th Avenue | 2nd St. East |
| 3rd St, West | 3rd Avenue | 2nd Street E. |
| 3rd St, West | 3rd Avenue | 4th Avenue |
| 5th St, West | 3rd Avenue | 6th Avenue |
| 6th St, W. | 11th Avenue | 12th Avenue |
| 7th St, W. | 20th Avenue | Durham Avenue. |
| 7th St, W. | Prospect Ave. | Hillcrest Ave. |
| 9th St, W. | 17th Avenue | Durham Ave. |
| 10th St, W. | 19th Ave. | Hillcrest Ave. |
| 10A St, W. | Cameron Ave. | Colborne Cres. |
| 11th St, W. | Colborne Cres. | Prospect Ave. |
| 12th St, W. | Colborne Cres. | Prospect Ave. |
| 13th St, W. | 17th Avenue | Prospect Ave. |
| 15th St, W. | 17th Ave. | 21st Ave. |
| 16th St, W. | 17th Avenue | 21st Avenue |
| 16A St, W. | 17th Avenue | 21st Avenue |
| 17th St, W. | 17th Avenue | 21st Avenue |
| 19th Avenue | 7th St, W. | 13th St. W. |

| ON | FROM | TO |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| 22nd Avenue | 14th St. W. | 16th St. W. |
| 25th Avenue | 4th St. W. | 5A St. West |
| 26th Avenue | 1st St. W. | 4th St. W. |
| Durham Ave. | 8th St. W. | 10th St. W. |
| Colborne Cres. | 10th St. W. | 13th St. W. |
| Sydenham Rd. | 8th St. W. | Carlton St. |
| Prospect Ave. | Hope St. | 13th St. W. |
| Hillcrest Ave. | Hope St. | 8th St. W. |

7,655 feet (nearly 1½ miles) of narrow strip have been levelled and seeded in the following locations.

| ON | FROM | TO |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| 8th St. East | 10th Avenue | 19th Avenue |
| 3rd Avenue | 1st St. E. | 2nd St. East |
| 4th Avenue | 2nd St. East. | 4th St. East |
| 11th Avenue | 2nd St. East | 6th St. East |
| Centre St. | 10th Avenue | 11th Avenue |
| 6th St. West | 8th Avenue | 9th Avenue |
| 7th St. West | 8th Avenue | 9th Avenue |

Trees have been planted on the boulevards as follows:-

| | | | |
|---------------|------------|----------------|--------------|
| 5th Avenue | 7th St. W. | Bow River | 229. |
| 15th Avenue | 4th St. W. | 14th St. W. | 538 |
| 18th Avenue | 7th St. W. | 9th St. W. | 128 |
| 19th Avenue | 2nd St. W. | 5th St. W. | 79 |
| 20th Avenue | 2nd St. W. | 5th St. W. | 144. |
| 21st Avenue | 2nd St. W. | 5th St. W. | 132. |
| 22nd Avenue | 2nd St. W. | 5th St. W. | 134 |
| 7th St. W. | 11th Ave. | 20th Avenue | 285 |
| 6th St. W. | 13th Ave. | 17th Avenue | 102. |
| 11th St. W. | 17th Ave. | Colborne Cres. | 41 |
| 5th St. W. | 14th Ave. | 22nd Avenue | 224 |
| 8th St. W. | 17th Ave. | 20th Avenue | 86 |
| 11th St. W. | 8th Avenue | Bow River | 77 |
| 26th Avenue | 1st St. W. | 4th St. W. | 38 |
| Replacements. | | | 167 |
| | | | <u>2404.</u> |

All the boulevards in Section 15 that it is advisable to plant, have been completed. I recommend that Section 16 be completed in the same way during the coming season. This will require 2,309 trees.

The horse machines proved a great boon in keeping in order the 32 miles that had to be mown, costing no more than the 11½ miles of the previous season, when the work had to be done entirely by hand.

The spraying machines were purchased early in the season, and the boulevards and park trees were regularly sprayed. It was quite time that this work was undertaken, as tree pests are beginning to establish themselves here. If these pests are to

be kept in check, co-operation on the part of property owners is necessary. We have sprayed trees on private property whenever requested to do so, the actual cost of the work being charged.

All the trees are being carefully pruned. It was necessary to prune those planted two years ago, somewhat severely as the heads had developed more rapidly than the stems, causing them to be top heavy and straining badly during wind storms when in foliage. Each tree is accorded individual treatment according to its needs and not pruned at random or in a haphazard manner. After the pruning is completed all wounds will be dressed.

The trees have required constant care as regards staking and tying. Not only is this necessary to prevent damage but is essential to preserve their symmetry. Crooked and ill-proportioned trees look picturesque as a feature of the landscape in a wood or park, but on the streets symmetry is desirable.

The boulevards infested with dandelions were sprayed 3 times with sulphate of iron. One more spraying would have proved effective in destroying most of these pests. Unfortunately it was impossible to obtain a further supply of sulphate, and as a consequence the good work that had been accomplished was completely negated.

The cutting of weeds and grass on the narrow strip between sidewalks and property line has cost quite a considerable sum, and yet the work has not been as effective as I would like. If these could be made level with the sidewalk and seeded, they could be kept much neater and the work done very cheaply by running a small machine over them.

The boulevards in Roxburgh Place have been in charge on this department during the season.

As a protective measure guards have been placed around all trees east of 4th Street West. This very necessary protection should be given to all trees on the streets.

After much loss of time and unsuccessful experimenting we seem to have hit ^{on} the right method by which to make Calgary a city of trees. It will be unfortunate if for the sake of economy the program of tree planting on our streets is curtailed at the present time. If a city can be described as a city of trees, it at once suggests that it is a beautiful city and will attract the population on account of the pleasing character of its residential sections. The present hard times will not, we hope, continue and it is necessary to think of the future in this connection, as a tree takes a few years to develop.

I have viewed with concern the running of gas mains through the boulevards during the past season. I am afraid that the practice will result in serious trouble in the future. It will be most unfortunate if at some future time, when the boulevard trees have developed into really fine specimens, they are poisoned wholesale by leakages of gas. This is very likely to happen as the roots are sure to disturb the pipes and

cause these leakages. I cannot think that the placing of conduits of any kind in the boulevards is good practice, for the roots are sure to cause considerable trouble and the trees will suffer by the destruction of their roots when repair work has to be done.

I would like to say a word of appreciation of the kind courtesy shown me by the other departments in the matter of notifying me of any work that was contemplated that effected the boulevards and in the case of the Electric Light Department, notifying me when tree branches were in contact with light wires, This co-operation has been exceedingly helpful.

I beg to call your attention to the fact that boulevard maintenance is provided for in Winnipeg, Vancouver and many other cities by an annual frontage tax.

I beg to recommend that residents be compelled to remove fences, hedges, and other inclosures from the boulevards where such exist. The rights of the community should take precedence of the rights of individuals.

CEMETERY.

The grading of the roads has been continued, and where these contained loam, this has been removed for use on the grave plots and replaced with the surplus soil from the graves. *

The surfacing of the roads with cinders has been continued, about 1000 loads being hauled, and this has effected a great improvement.

Many parts of the cemetery being most unsightly owing to depressions and sunken graves, a start was made to regrade the section, surface with loam, and seed, the whole of Section M. and a portion of Section A. being treated in this way. In doing this work I endeavoured to eliminate as much as possible the small banks created by the grading of lots also along the margins of the sections. The ugly wood markers are gradually being replaced with cement one which are placed level with the surface. When this work is completed the whole area can be mown and kept in very much better condition and at less cost than has been the case in the past. Not only so, but the general appearance of the cemetery will be wonderfully improved as it will be easier to keep the ground free from weeds and the edges of the walks and drives even and true. These cement markers can be made by the department and cost less than the wooden ones.

2037 trees have been planted and 3,314 flowering plants, and bulbs have been used for the embellishment of the borders. *

The water service has been considerably extended. This was absolutely necessary to meet the demand for care of plots.

The work of installing a system of road drainage was started and is now well under way. The great necessity for this was made apparent at the time of the great storm in July, when some of the roads were literally washed away. *

Acting on instructions received from the City Clerk, I, sometime ago, submitted for the consideration of the Legislative

Committee of 1915 a detailed list of the necessary changes in the by-laws affecting this department, which included a proposed new cemetery by-law. There are many important matters concerning the regulation of the cemetery that are not at present provided for by By-law and it is important that this condition be remedied. The proper administration of the cemetery entails the necessity of legalised rules and regulations. Here as else-where people have various opinions and views. Without such rules individual action as regards planting, tombstones, etc., might soon destroy the effect of the general arrangement or be an infringement of the rights of owners of neighbouring lots.

The old cemetery records previous to January 1914, have been kept in a more or less haphazard way. During this winter these are being arranged tabulated, as as to bring the numbers of lots into sequence and also shown the names of interred in alphabetical order. This entails quite an amount of work but is very necessary, as up to the present, considerable delay and more or less annoyance has been caused to those seeking information with regard to burials, the finding of the information required often taking considerable time. When the new tabulation is complete, that, together with the new system of marking the lots, will make the locating of the same and furnishing of any information required with regard to burials, exceedingly easy.

Cemetery Record -----1914.

| | | |
|---|-------|-------------|
| Number of Family plots sold. | ----- | 33. |
| Number of 12' x 8' sold | ----- | 27. |
| Number of single grave plots sold | ----- | 367. |
| Total number sold. | ----- | <u>427.</u> |
| ----- | | |
| Number of bodies interred. | ----- | 650 |
| Number of bodies removed from the Cemetery. | ----- | 1 |
| Number of lots loamed and seeded. | ----- | 102. |
| Number of lots maintained. | ----- | 187 |
| Number of lots plotted. | ----- | 268 |
| Total number of lots of all descriptions available in Cemetery. | ----- | 2128. |

NURSERIES.

5571 trees, 3229 shrubs and 2797 herbaceous perennials have been purchased. Of these 6929 were permanently planted on the parks and boulevards. 4461 planted in the nurseries, and the balance sold.

Of the 6500 trees, shrubs, and roses that were already in the nursery 1753 were transplanted permanently and 682 sold.

3,200 trees were lifted by the Department at Canmore and shipped to Calgary. Of these about 600 were sold and the balance planted on the parks and boulevards.

80,000 cuttings of Russian Poplar, Dakota Balm and other trees were planted. 90% of these young cuttings are growing. They have been carefully watched and cared for during the year and are making splendid growth and developing good root systems.

3 lbs of Caragana seed, 8 lbs of Ash seed, 3 lbs. of Maple seed, and 11 lbs of various other tree and shrub seeds were sown. About 50 lbs of various kinds of tree, shrub and flower seeds have been collected, cleaned and stored this fall, and so far, about 50,000 cuttings of trees prepared for planting.

The vegetable grown between the lines of trees etc., in the Cemetery nursery are being distributed to the needy through the Associated Charities, Salvation Army etc., but most of the potatoes are being preserved, as a large quantity will be required for planting next season.

A small crop of potatoes was grown in the St. Patrick's Island nursery.

Nursery stock we have on hand at present is as follows:-

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Cemetery Nursery | Trees. | 2717 |
| | Shrubs | 231 |
| | Perennials | 4015 |
| | Roses | 1450 |
| | Rooted tree cuttings | 11700. |
| Victoria Park Nursery. | Trees | 196 |
| | Shrubs | 2690 |
| | Rooted tree cuttings. | 11000 |
| St. Patrick's Island Nursery. | Trees | 2075 |
| | Shrubs etc. | <u>13700</u> |

TOTAL - - - - -48,774.

The estimated value of these is \$3,500.00

If the practice of annually propagating trees is continued an ample supply will, in a few years be available both for our own and citizens' needs at a minimum cost.

GREENHOUSES.

With a view to economy 2 men only have been employed in the greenhouses, instead of 3 as previously.

57,589 plants have been raised and these have been disposed of as follows:-

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| City Hall garden and boxes | 6,750 plants valued at | \$ 338.20 |
| City Hall interior decoration | 287 plants valued at | 216.75 |
| St. George's Island | 2,675 plants valued at | 77.75 |
| Plot on 17th Avenue | 4,500 plants valued at | 130.90 |
| Central Park | 18,508 plants valued at | 1117.85 |
| Public Library boxes & tubs | 1,700 plants valued at | 66.00 |
| Cemetery | 3,314 plants valued at | 130.45 |
| Victoria Park, Sunken Garden | 4,040 plants valued at | 146.30 |
| Fire Hall garden & boxes | 11,460 plants valued at | 317.10 |
| Miscellaneous | 4,355 plants valued at | 139.05. |
| | TOTAL VALUE ----- | \$ 2,680.35 |

The palms and decorative plants have been loaned for use at public functions, entertainments and church festivals, on 18 occasions. *

There is still a great demand for plants and flowers in the Cemetery, visitors being very anxious to purchase these at the Civic Greenhouses.

Greenhouse stock at the present time consists of 2,850 plants valued at \$2,350.00.

SKATING RINKS.

Besides those in Mewata, Hillhurst and Victoria Parks and the Cemetery, rinks were made last winter at 18 schools, and on private property in about 20 locations. *

This winter so far rinks have been made at the following locations:-

Victoria Park, Mewata Park, Hillhurst Park, Cemetery, Sunnyside, 4th Ave. & 5th St. West, Bridgeland, 13th Ave. and 4th St. West, Calgary Tennis Club, St.Mary's, St.Anne's, Sacred Heart, Crescent Heights and King George Schools and 17th Ave. N.E.

About 1 1/2 miles of good ice is being cared for on the Elbow River and free dressing rooms provided. This stretch of ice is proving very popular and incidentally shall be helping the Street Railway Revenue. *

BAND CONCERTS.

A program of band concerts was prepared as follows:-

| | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Mewata Park. | 9 concerts. |
| Central Park | 9 concerts. |
| St.George's Island | 9 concerts. |
| Riley Park. | 4 concerts. |
| Tuxedo Park | 4 concerts. |

TOTAL - - - - -35

This was curtailed at the beginning of August to 26 concerts. The Sunday concerts being abandoned for the balance of the season.

BATHING.

Early in the summer a suitable location on the Elbow River was selected, the debris removed from the stream, ropes stretched across where deep holes existed and two dressing rooms provided for the convenience of bathers. A man was stationed here and a boat was kept in readiness in case of need. The facilities thus provided were greatly appreciated and bathing was continued until quite late in the season. *

PLAYGROUNDS.

In almost every city throughout the United States are to be found elaborate children's playground systems in operation, where all forms of both physical and mental enjoyment can be indulged in by the children, the same being conducted under proper supervision and instruction. This work is largely in the hands of the parks departments of these cities, sometimes working in

co-operation with the school authorities. If a comprehensive recreation system of this kind could be built up in Calgary it could include park property and athletic fields and also the school grounds and these latter would be of service during that period when they are practically abandoned, a period which should be a most active playground season, namely, during the time that the public schools are closed. The City owns numerous small plots either a temporary or permanent character. By using these small plots together with parks and school property, playgrounds could be brought within reasonable distance of all the children in the City. Recreation is necessary in one form or another for everybody but particularly for children. As the City provides opportunities in this way, so in turn will its children be better, happier and healthier, and develop into useful citizens. *

STORE AND REPAIR SHOP.

I beg again to call your attention to the very urgent necessity for building of the above description. Our stock of large implements has been considerably augmented during the year by the purchase of horse lawn mowers, grass cutter, spraying machines, and other implements made by the employees of the department, and yet we are in worse plight than we were last year, as we have had to give up to the military the little storage room which we had in Victoria Park. Some rough sheds have been built in at the Cemetery as a temporary expedient to prevent our implements being absolutely ruined. *

VACANT LOT GARDEN.

This innovation, which proved extremely popular, constituted quite an item in the season's work of the department 255 lots were prepared in the early part of the season and these were all taken and planted. Many of them produced very excellent crops. Only in one or two cases was it necessary to complain to holders of these lots, with reference to weeds. During the fall 134 lots have been prepared, in readiness for cropping next spring. To help along this movement, I have also made arrangements to have a supply of potatoes on hand, for the use of lot holders. This work has also entailed a good deal of office work, as in many instances, the department had to locate lots and owners of same, also prepare plans etc., showing location of the lots, for the use of the secretary. *

WEED CUTTING.

This work was commenced in July and continued until the middle of October. So much was there to do, that two grass cutters were purchased and teams put on to the work. Not only were the unmade boulevard, streets and back lanes cut, but this work was also done on private property, 2816 lots being cut over. The assessing of this entailed considerable office work.

SNOW FROM SIDEWALKS.

The sidewalks at City Hall, Labour Bureau, City Market, and all vacant city property have been kept clear of snow this year by this department.

SEEDING GRADED STREETS.

52 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles of newly graded streets were seeded with brome grass, in accordance with your instructions.

POLICING.

5 convictions for removing black loam, 27 for horses roaming at large and 22 for damage to boulevards have been made during the year.

CONCLUSION.

A progressive park extension program is inseparably associated with the public welfare. It is not nowadays a question whether parks can be afforded, but rather whether we can afford not to have them. The improvement effected by the planting of trees on our boulevards and the improvement of our parks adds to the value of adjacent property and makes the city more attractive as a place of residence. It will furnish comfort and pleasure to many who would otherwise be without the facilities afforded and will tend to raise the level of citizenship. It is to be regretted that Calgary lost considerable time, in dealing with these matters. For a number of years very little was done, and then several more years were wasted in useless experiments. Since I have been in charge, this department has been badly handicapped financially. No by-law has been passed for parks purposes during that time. A large portion of the 1913 appropriation had to be used to meet indebtedness that had been incurred during the previous year and this seasons it has been a case of continually cutting down and economising in every possible way.

I beg respectfully to suggest that these facts be taken into consideration in dealing with this year's estimates.

Respectfully submitted,

sgd. Wm.R.Reader,
Superintendent of Park

/ED.

E X P E N D I T U R E.

CENTRAL PARK.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Maintenance & Improvements to paths | \$129.00 |
| Painting furniture etc., | 100.00 |
| Cleaning up & hauling refuse | 198.80 |
| Mulching | 85.33 |
| Snow from sidewalks & paths | 273.29 |
| Patrolling | 155.54 |
| Plant tubs | 74.85 |
| Removing mulching | 107.09 |
| Manuring | 84.07 |
| Cultivation | 347.96 |
| Planting | 200.46 |
| Plumbing repairs | 62.84 |
| Repairs to buildings | 48.68 |
| Library window boxes | 32.99 |
| Watering | 96.78 |
| Renovating lawns | 87.85 |
| Pruning | 38.93 |
| Mowing (hand) | 204.26 |
| Mowing (horse) | 51.29 |
| South African Memorial. (Labor) | 101.93 |
| Bedding | 124.88 |
| Tree spraying | 24.58 |
| Refuse bin | 10.50 |
| Material | 483.30 |
| South African Memorial (Material) | 24.99 |
| Water | 500.00 |
| Miscellaneous | <u>503.59</u> |

\$4,153.78

MEWATA PARK.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| Cleaning refuse | \$290.44 |
| Patrolling | 173.03 |
| Repairs & Improvements to Ath.Appts. | 26.00 |
| Repairs to children's Appts. | 22.30 |
| Sand Pit | 22.60 |
| Maintenance of Athletic field | 486.20 |
| Plumbing Maintenance & Repairs | 46.48 |
| Cultivation | 169.34 |
| Baseball Player's boxes | 29.60 |
| Mowing (horse) | 64.85 |
| Cutting rough grass & Weeds | 43.45 |
| Tennis courts | 105.16 |
| Levelling and seeding | 141.61 |
| Fencing along river | 25.60 |
| Watering | 26.00 |
| Rinks (2 seasons) | 619.71 |
| Material | 185.41 |
| Water | 300.00 |
| Miscellaneous | <u>165.57</u> |

\$2,943.35

RILEY PARK.

| | |
|---|----------|
| Toboggan slide | \$195.24 |
| Manuring | 260.13 |
| Patrolling | 84.55 |
| Repairs to children's appts. | 25.35 |
| Surfacing children's Playground | 43.05 |
| Repairs to fence | 24.23 |
| Sand Pit | 37.47 |
| Plowing, harrowing & Rolling | 122.46 |
| Planting | 194.41 |
| Survey and plans | 52.94 |
| New beds | 192.14 |
| Cultivation | 375.65 |
| Plumbing | 35.00 |
| Watering | 159.43 |
| Remodelling border | 150.15 |
| Cleaning up & hauling refuse | 71.21 |
| Sowing grass seed | 21.90 |
| Mowing (Horse) | 111.71 |
| Pruning | 59.26 |
| Painting fence, flagstaff & Furn. | 85.93 |
| Removing and Planting trees from C.T.P. | 180.55 |
| Cutting rough grass and weeds | 187.79 |
| Grass verge to border | 136.16 |
| Reparing manure | 82.97 |
| Loading & Hauling gravel | 162.65 |
| Mulching | 41.60 |
| Material | 552.38 |
| Water | 500.00 |
| Miscellaneous | 374.59 |

\$4,420.90

HILLHURST ATHLETIC PARK.

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Plumbing repairs | \$ 26.65 |
| Snow from sidewalks | 64.17 |
| Patrolling | 44.65 |
| Remodelling & Repairs to fence | 126.93 |
| Cleaning up refuse | 69.07 |
| Repairs to Ath. apparatus | 54.05 |
| Maintenance of Ath. fields | 137.39 |
| Cutting rough grass | 27.04 |
| Material | 64.80 |
| Miscellaneous | 100.00 |

\$ 714.75

ST. GEORGE'S ISLAND.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Cinders to roads. | \$322.43 |
| Painting & repairs to Bldgs. & Furn. | 172.49 |
| Lavatories | 45.68 |
| Removing snow from roads and bridges | 63.90 |
| Patrolling | 154.50 |
| Road Maintenance | 59.40 |
| Children's playground apparatus | 25.75 |
| New Park furniture | 165.88 |

ST. GEORGE'S ISLAND cont'd.

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Tree doctoring | \$269.29 |
| Rustic seats and fences. | 122.50 |
| Cleaning up refuse | 165.24 |
| Painting bridges | 10.25 |
| Storing & distributing furniture | 38.20 |
| Resurfacing children's playground | 52.63 |
| Sand pit | 19.20 |
| Making new flower beds. | 60.84 |
| Planting St. Patrick's Island Nursery. | 127.50 |
| Cultivation " " " | 76.75 |
| Potatoe crop " " " | 58.12 |
| Manuring " " " | 76.05 |
| Plumbing Maint. and repairs | 74.33 |
| Mowing (Horse) | 120.00 |
| Cutting rough grass and weeds | 187.82 |
| Levelling, loaming & re-seeding lawns | 247.80 |
| Piling on shore | 95.95 |
| Bedding | 30.72 |
| Rope swings | 14.65 |
| B. of L.E. & F. Picnic | 101.73 |
| Terrace around pavilion | 54.50 |
| Fencing dangerous embanks at bridges | 138.47 |
| Water | 500.00 |
| Light | 527.92 |
| Material | 418.02 |
| Miscellaneous | <u>167.32</u> |

\$4,773.84

VICTORIA PARK.

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Snow from sidewalks | \$ 57.41 |
| Plumbing repairs & Drinking founts. | 16.97 |
| Rink (2 seasons) | 313.95 |
| Manure dump | 389.85 |
| Painting & repairs to furn. etc., | 92.78 |
| Cultivation Nursery | 157.09 |
| Planting Nursery | 51.55 |
| Cultivation Strawberry borders | 158.33 |
| Pruning | 63.92 |
| Tree doctoring (dressing wounds) | 8.01 |
| Cleaning up refuse | 106.54 |
| Repairing & Remodelling football fence. | 198.83 |
| Maintenance of athletic field | 170.97 |
| Sunken Garden | 185.98 |
| Digging dandelions & cutting weeds | 444.30 |
| Painting football fence | 35.00 |
| Dressing room for football ground | 90.00 |
| Material | 57.01 |
| Miscellaneous | <u>136.36</u> |

\$2,344.85

TUXEDO PARK.

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Rink | \$168.33 |
| Seats for band stand | 6.50 |
| Painting band stand | 17.40 |
| Grading | 252.50 |
| Plowing, discing & preparing for cult. | 65.45 |
| Material | 30.60 |
| Light | <u>4.00</u> |

\$ 544.53.

SHOULDICE PARK.

| | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|
| Lavatories | \$ 44.74 | |
| New Park furniture | 26.55 | |
| Plowing, discing, harr. roll. & seeding | 141.56 | |
| Fencing along river. | 39.83 | |
| Mowing & weed cutting | 53.46 | |
| Rope swings | 6.25 | |
| Clearing up refuse | 21.45 | |
| Preparing for potatoe crop | 425.53 | |
| Picking up stones | 35.38 | |
| Shack | 31.00 | |
| Material | 347.60 | |
| Miscellaneous | <u>20.10.</u> | |
| | | \$1191.45 |

BOWNESS PARK.

| | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|
| Lavatories | 58.82 | |
| Cutting brush & opening paths | 192.21 | |
| New furniture | 35.46 | |
| Repairing & storing furniture | 54.08 | |
| Patrolling | 69.30 | |
| Cleaning refuse | 96.44 | |
| Rustic seats | 28.25 | |
| Piling & repairing embankment | 134.00 | |
| Cleaning debris from stream | 47.94 | |
| Road Improvement | 69.15 | |
| Repairs to bridge | 68.46 | |
| Rope swings | 21.85 | |
| Tree doctoring | 14.15 | |
| Collecting & hauling wood for Ass.Char. | 60.23 | |
| Material | 202.90 | |
| Miscellaneous | <u>46.06.</u> | |
| | | \$1199.30 |

CITY HALL

| | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|
| Interior decorations | \$125.47 | |
| Snow from sidewalks | 23.64 | |
| Garden | 154.88 | |
| Zinc trays | 32.01 | |
| Fencing | 38.43 | |
| Leveling & seeding, grassplot east) of City Hall) | 20.80 | |
| Material | <u>155.61</u> | |
| | | \$ 550.84 |

BOULEVARDS.

| | | |
|--|----------|--|
| Turning water on & off, emptying pipes) and repairs to water service) | \$349.95 | |
| Tree spraying | 250.43 | |
| Painting tree stakes | 100.61 | |
| Re-staking and tying | 344.91 | |
| Dressing tree wounds | 155.73 | |
| Raking and rolling boulevards | 201.14 | |
| Hauling refuse | 266.32 | |

BOULEVARDS Cont'd.

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Cultivating trees | \$678.34 |
| Tree planting | 1766.28 |
| Renovating and seeding | 855.94 |
| Spraying dandelions | 287.81 |
| Mowing grass on boulevards | 2458.50 |
| Cutting grass & weeds on strip next property) | 389.58 |
| Cleaning unpaved crossings | 204.20 |
| Watering trees | 213.32 |
| Watering grass | 127.50 |
| Replacing dead trees | 123.20 |
| New Boulevard strip | 502.85 |
| Tree guards (labor) | 171.32 |
| Cutting trees interfering with light wrs. | 38.92 |
| Tree pruning | 200.98 |
| Material | 1267.27 |
| Water | 1500.00 |
| Miscellaneous | <u>2254.01</u> |

\$14630.11

UNION CEMETERY.

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Grave digging | \$1373.07 |
| Surplus soil from graves | 289.89 |
| Caretaking | 1320.00 |
| Cutting rough grass | 526.34 |
| Painting fences, furniture etc., | 58.91 |
| Painting cottage | 38.40 |
| Rink (2 seasons) | 139.89 |
| Plumbing repairs and alterations | 90.46 |
| Snow from roads | 180.01 |
| Cleaning up refuse | 143.40 |
| Cinders to roads | 321.50 |
| Surveying, laying out plots &) correcting plans) | 188.87 |
| Road maintenance & improvements | 271.82 |
| Grading road | 442.57 |
| Tree planting | 1030.42 |
| Grading loaming and seeding sects. | 498.04 |
| Fencing | 71.04 |
| Patrolling | 50.59 |
| Loaming and seeding plots | 215.50 |
| Maintenance of plots | 470.93 |
| Watering | 77.96 |
| Cultivation | 117.48 |
| Mowing (Hand) | 111.22 |
| Mowing (Horse) | 76.23 |
| Staking & tying trees | 84.00 |
| Flower borders | 166.98 |
| Tree spraying | 29.45 |
| Draining roads | 213.84 |
| Preparing manure | 92.91 |
| Water service extension | 216.90 |
| Tabulating old records | 39.88 |
| Cement lot markers | 203.89 |
| Grading by public works dept. 2nd St.E. | 122.22 |
| mulching | 183.50 |

UNION CEMETERY Cont'd.

| | | |
|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| Material | \$464.24 | |
| Water | 500.00 | |
| Miscellaneous | <u>113.75</u> | \$10,494.70 |

✓ GENERAL NURSERY 2,590.52

✓ GENERAL GREENHOUSES 3,930.81

✓ FIRE HALLS 32.95

RINKS

| | | |
|------------------|--------------|-------------|
| School rinks | \$304.72 | |
| Elbow River rink | 408.60 | |
| Other rinks | 1282.70 | |
| Material | 101.46 | |
| Water | 600.00 | |
| Miscellaneous | <u>96.50</u> | \$ 2,793.98 |

BANDS 2,771.00

SUNDRIES.

| | | |
|---|----------|--|
| Bathing facilities | \$190.75 | |
| Vacant lots gardens | 980.95 | |
| Weed cutting | 1795.42 | |
| Removing snow from sidewalks | 201.39 | |
| Seeding newly graded streets | 569.96 | |
| Spraying trees for Citizens | 70.55 | |
| Flower show | 123.04 | |
| Repairs to private lawns (Elbow Park) | 278.74 | |
| Patriotic Fund Flower sale | 33.26 | |
| Sundry decoration | 81.37 | |
| Delivering vegetable for Ass.Charities | 17.94 | |
| Christmas Tree Central Park | 60.49 | |
| Stable work (Driving horses labor) | 390.75 | |
| Repairs & Painting tools & equipment | 307.10 | |
| Stable work (Teams Labor | 58.09 | |
| Shoeing | 185.80 | |
| Road drags, snow scrapers and other) | | |
| new implements made by department) | 92.98 | |
| Public playgrounds outside parks | 181.45 | |
| New Auto | 667.50 | |
| Auto Maintenance & repairs | 202.33 | |
| Labor bureau Grounds | 154.50 | |
| Remodelling Lathwell's garden | 123.83 | |
| Remodelling Christie's garden | 28.55 | |
| Civic Clean up | 237.68 | |
| Labor lifting trees (Canmore) | 123.30 | |
| Material | 2520.42 | |
| Stores charges | 304.59 | |
| Machine shop charges. (Repairs, labor) | | |
| and material) | 138.34 | |

SUNDRIES Cpnt'd.

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| Tools, plant and equipment | \$1250.61 | |
| Maint. Tools, Plant and equipment | 191.33 | |
| Trees for sale | 904.28 | |
| Stationery | 460.45 | |
| Printing | 88.52 | |
| Stable a/c (Vet, Harness etc., | 162.09 | |
| Horse feed | 1748.54 | |
| Salaries | 5028.68 | |
| Transportation | 141.80 | |
| Telephone | 11.20 | |
| Miscellaneous | 515.45 | |
| | | \$20,624.02 |
| | | TOTAL-----\$80,555.75 |

Invoices received since compilation of
Annual report

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------|-----------|
| Horse feed for December | \$319.88 | |
| Office Furniture | 24.45 | |
| Stationery | 2.50 | |
| Shoeing | 8.46 | |
| Machine shop charges | 1.57 | |
| Stores charges | 17.22 | |
| | | \$374.08. |

6-----