

MAYOR HOIT TO CITY COUNCIL

Municipal Affairs Are Comprehensively Set Forth; Achievements in Economy.

DEPARTMENT EXPENSES REDUCED \$8,282.81 PER MONTH.

Floating Debt Decreased from \$127,181.37 to \$51,373.52—Method of Making Up Budget Includes Total Figures and All Current Obligations.

Below is the message of Mayor Hoit, submitted to and read before the council yesterday in accordance with the requirements of the city charter.

As forecasted in yesterday's Post, it shows a remarkable decrease in departmental expenditures and in the floating debt of the city and embraces a change in the manner of submitting the budget allowances for 1903.

These statements show the actual cost of conducting the various departments of the city government for the year 1902, upon which I base my recommendation of the following appropriations which should be made for the current year, and which, in my judgment, are necessary for an economical administration of the various departments of the government as is consistent with thorough efficiency.

Table with columns for Department, Amount, and Total. Includes items like Police department, Fire department, Health department, etc.

THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION HAS REDUCED THE FLOATING DEBT FROM \$127,181.37 TO \$51,373.52.

Running Expenses Reduced. I FURTHER DESIRE TO CALL YOUR ATTENTION TO THE FACT, AS SHOWN BY THE AUDITOR'S STATEMENT THAT THE DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES FOR THE FIRST THREE AND ONE-HALF MONTHS OF THE YEAR 1902 UNDER A FORMER ADMINISTRATION AVERAGED PER MONTH \$47,608.95, WHILE FOR THE LAST EIGHT AND ONE-HALF MONTHS, UNDER THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION, THE AVERAGE PER MONTH HAS BEEN BUT \$28,788.78, A NET REDUCTION PER MONTH OF \$18,820.17.

ON CASH BASIS. The Plan of the Administration is to Pay as It Goes.

Reviews Work of Accountants. Among the first acts of this administration was entering into a contract with Messrs. Haskins & Sellie, certified public accountants, to make an examination and audit of the records and accounts of the various departments of the city, covering a period from January 1, 1899, to April 14, 1902.

First Pay for Franchisees. This administration has been the first in the history of the city to secure any substantial remuneration for the granting of a franchise. I refer to the settlement recently consummated with the Houston Electric company, under the terms of which the city not only settled a long contented claim against the electric company, receiving what was demanded and thus averting a long, costly and tedious litigation, but we secured a contract under which the city receives, in consideration of a ten-year extension of franchise, an annual revenue of 1 and 2 per cent upon the gross earnings of the company, the

THE MESSAGE IN BRIEF.

There is a change in the manner of making up the budget. The aggregate allowance is \$921,970 as against \$850,100 in 1902. This is explained by the fact that the gross amount instead of the net amount for the maintenance of a department is submitted. Revenue yielding departments are thus provided for at this cost, allowing the revenues to go to the credit of the general fund. This involves a budget increase of over \$40,000.

The total net liabilities due April 14, 1902, amounted to \$127,181.37 and during the present administration's incumbency in 1902 these were reduced to \$51,373.52.

The amount of taxes assessed for the year 1902 upon an appraisal of \$11,287,027 was \$625,740, of which \$420,592.75 were collected. The present demands of the city will not justify a decrease in the tax levy this year, but with the present policy of economy maintained it will be possible to reduce it next year to 1 1/2 per cent instead of 2 per cent.

The police department turned in \$12,000.50 for the year, the market \$9415.25, the electrical \$1501.40, the boiler inspector \$300, the scavenger \$15,006, the engineer \$1008.50, which with the taxes and other revenues bring the total deposit to the credit of the city for the year to \$500,073.20.

The balance to the credit of the street paving fund on January 1, 1903, and the accretions since make a total to the credit of that fund for the year of \$251,867.74. The carrying out of contracts of former and the work done by the present administration leaves a balance on hand of this fund of \$21,189.94.

As shown by the city engineer there are 37.34 miles of sewers in the city, and the building permits during the year indicate that \$68,858 have been expended, compared with \$60,448 in 1901. Fire losses amounted to only \$61,292.65.

The contract and work of the certified accountants for auditing the city books and installing a new system are indorsed.

The administration has been the first in history of Houston to receive a valuable price for a franchise, which was obtained by the concessions made by the street railway company for a ten-year extension of their franchise.

The differences which began in previous administrations over the debts of the city with the water company and the light and power company are still to be disposed of, with the prospect of settlement very much brighter.

The negotiations pending for the purchase of the water plant, the work in framing new charter and the provision for building a new city hall are mentioned.

The aggregate minimum of which is guaranteed not less than \$200 per annum, which is in addition to a further guarantee of several betterments of the service, in the way of a transfer system, vestibuled cars, extension of lines, etc., all of which I regard as a very acceptable settlement for the additional expense he incurred, and the funds to meet these expenses are forthcoming, otherwise the principles we are bound together to maintain will cease to have organized support.

Other difficult problems with which this administration was confronted and which we inherited from preceding administrations, were the differences existing between the city and the light and water companies, both of which corporations still hold large accumulated claims against the city.

The negotiations now pending with the city of purchasing the water plant is a subject with which you are thoroughly familiar.

Another important work accomplished by this administration has been the formulation of a new charter, the general purpose of which is to more clearly define the line of demarcation between the legislative, executive and administrative departments of the government and the administration of municipal affairs upon a business basis.

We have also provided for the construction of a new city hall and market house, to cost approximately \$800,000.

In conclusion, I desire to compliment the harmony which has characterized your work and to urge upon you to continue the same, and to give up your own pocket, and to give up the pocket of the city, and to give up the pocket of the city.

Respectfully,  
O. A. Hoit, Mayor.

TO MAINTAIN U. C. V. Resolutions Passed and General Order.

The following orders from General Gordon have been received in this city: Headquarters United Confederate Veterans, New Orleans, January 19, 1903.

General Order No. 233.—In recognition of the most difficult and arduous duties faithfully performed for many years without any compensation, and on the recommendation of the executive and finance committees, Colonel W. E. Mickle of Raphael Semmes camp No. 11, of Mobile, Ala., aide on the staff of the commander in chief, is hereby promoted to assistant general and chief of staff of the office.

He will be obeyed and respected accordingly.  
J. B. Gordon, General Commanding.

To All Commanding and Staff Officers, Adjutants and Comrades of the United Confederate Veterans.

New Orleans, January 26, 1903.—At the recent meeting of the finance committee, held in this city on the 19th instant, the following resolutions were adopted by a unanimous vote, and the assistant general directed in place them in the hands of those interested at the earliest possible date.

Resolved, That the assistant general be authorized to make a salary of not less than \$100 per month, with the finance committee, recommend the following assessment to be devoted to the maintenance of the order, to-wit:

Upon lieutenant and major generals, \$5 upon each member of staff, regardless of rank, \$2.50. We recommend also that each member of staff be allowed a travel allowance to general headquarters make a reimbursement as a free gift of \$100, and that such an amount be paid to the member of staff who is sent on such a trip.

We also urge upon our comrades to bear in mind that Hoit's latest charge to his

AUDITORS' STATEMENT.

Tabulated Report of City Secretary and Ex-Officio Auditor.

One of the most satisfactory portions of the message to the general public is the statement of City Secretary and Ex-Officio Auditor, D. D. Bryan. It shows a marked reduction in expenditures of an average of \$8282.81.

Table showing Comparative Statement of Departmental Revenues and Costs of Maintenance for the years 1901 and 1902.

Table showing Revenues for the year 1902, broken down by department.

Table showing Net Excess of Revenues 1902 over 1901, \$4974.39.

Table showing Available Assets—Cash in Hands of Treasurer.

Table showing Total Available Assets.

Table showing Current Liabilities.

Table showing Total Liabilities.

Table showing Bonded Debt of the City of Houston.

Table showing Total Bonded Debt.

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The negotiations pending for the purchase of the water plant, the work in framing new charter and the provision for building a new city hall are mentioned.

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Other difficult problems with which this administration was confronted and which we inherited from preceding administrations, were the differences existing between the city and the light and water companies, both of which corporations still hold large accumulated claims against the city.

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In conclusion, I desire to compliment the harmony which has characterized your work and to urge upon you to continue the same, and to give up your own pocket, and to give up the pocket of the city, and to give up the pocket of the city.

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PEARLINE GET a character with your washing powder. Consider the damage it can do, and the risk with unknown, untried powders. For twenty odd years PEARLINE has been making washing easy and saving women and fabrics. Satisfy yourself of its safety and economy from women who have used it all their lives. The new, womanly, sensible way of washing began with PEARLINE. It's Trustworthy.

The report of the treasurer shows the following amount of money turned in from the various departments of the city, outside of tax collections, and the reports from the heads of these departments generally correspond with the figures as reported by the treasurer:

The report of the city auditor shows that the number of suits against the city aggregate \$350,000, and that the city has suits against the water company for \$115,000, and against the insurance companies for \$24,000.

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