

REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT

Annual Report of the Commissioners Submitted.

INFORMATION OF CONGRESS

Recommendations Renewed for Advances From Treasury.

THE EXTRAORDINARY IMPROVEMENTS

The District Commissioners today forwarded to the President their annual report relative to the affairs of the District of Columbia during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1903. The report was transmitted to Congress by the President simultaneously with his annual message. It contains the recommendations of the District authorities relative to legislation for the benefit of the District, reviews in detail the operations of the various departments of the District government during the year, and mentions the important events in connection with the municipality which have occurred since the last annual report. The report is as follows:

The President: The Commissioners of the District of Columbia herewith submit for the information of Congress, pursuant to the requirements of section 12 of an "Act providing a permanent form of government for the District of Columbia," approved June 11, 1878 (20 Stat. L. 109), a report of their official duties for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1903:

Financial.
The total expenditures for the year, exclusive of those for the water department and expenditures on account of special and trust funds, were \$9,088,554.67. This amount embraced \$9,051,980.09 appropriated for the fiscal year 1903 and prior years, and \$36,574.58 appropriated for the fiscal year 1904 and made immediately available, the details of which appear in the accompanying report.

During the year the indebtedness of the District for advances from the United States Treasury in pursuance of the following law was reduced from \$1,750,258.34 to \$1,005,517.51, and \$5,184.76 applied in payment of interest on the former amount.

Sec. 3. That until and including June thirtieth, nineteen hundred and four, the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized and directed to advance, on the requisition of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, in the manner now prescribed by law, out of the moneys in the Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated, such sums as may be necessary from time to time to meet the general expenses of said District, authorized by Congress, and to reimburse the Treasury for the portion of said advances payable by the District, and the portion of the taxes and revenues collected for the support of the government thereof. Provided, That all advances made under this section and under the act of February 22, 1901, shall be repaid by the District, within five years beginning July first, nineteen hundred and four, together with interest thereon at the rate of two per centum per annum until so repaid.

Provided further, That interest on advances made prior to June thirtieth, nineteen hundred and two, in the accounts of the District of Columbia with the United States shall be computed for the fiscal year nineteen hundred and three and paid immediately after the close thereof from the revenues of the District of Columbia, and the same rule of computation and payment of interest shall apply to all advances made for the fiscal year nineteen hundred and three, and subsequent fiscal years. Provided further, That the Auditor of the State and other Departments and the Auditor of the District of Columbia shall each annually report to the President the advances, stating the account of such advances, and also the reimbursements made under this section, together with the balances remaining, if any, due to the United States; And the Auditor of the District of Columbia shall also report, that nothing contained herein shall be so construed as to require the United States to bear any part of the cost of street extensions, and all advances heretofore or hereafter made for this purpose by the Secretary of the Treasury, shall be repaid in full from the revenues of the District of Columbia.

That all laws and parts of laws inconsistent with this act are repealed.
If the total appropriations for which the District funds were liable up to June 30, 1903, had been expended, advances from the Treasury aggregating \$3,266,987.74 would have been required; the difference between the actual advances and the total authorized by the act of February 22, 1901, the fact that a large part of the latter, embracing among other items those for sewage disposal and the filtration plant, had not been expended, and the fact that the Treasury had advised by the Comptroller of the Treasury that the District has a further matured liability of \$900,000, if two payments of \$100,000 each to the Treasury of the United States in trust for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, to meet the matured liability with the railroad trust, had been paid in connection with the railroad improvements under the act of February 12, 1901.

Water Department.
The revenues of the water department during the year 1903, including repayments, amounted to \$404,800.02, which were \$21,180.98 less than the expenditures by requisition during that period. The balance in the water fund at the beginning of that year was \$419,233.92, thus leaving a balance in the Treasury to the credit of \$226,065.94, most of

projects of improvement demanding large sums of money within short time, and extending their benefits into the future. Everywhere else it is recognized that the cost of such improvements cannot be met out of current revenues and ought to be spread over a series of years, and therefore it is customary to meet it by an issue of bonds with the usual provision for redemption by sinking fund. The District of Columbia must borrow money like any other municipality to meet its share of the cost of such improvements, because its current revenues cannot meet immediately extraordinary demands without compelling such a reduction in current expenditures as would cripple the municipal services.

Congress has authorized and directed in recent years extraordinary municipal improvements for the District of Columbia, notably the filtration plant, the sewage disposal system, the new District building, all heartily approved by the Commissioners and the community, of which the District of Columbia is required to pay the cost, besides the contributions which it is required to make toward the new railway terminal improvement. All these projects would be provided for elsewhere by a bond issue. Congress was not willing to authorize the issue of bonds for this purpose, and thus far it has made no permanent arrangement to carry its share of the burden. For three years Congress has made temporary provision from year to year for advances from the Treasury of the United States to the District, to be repaid with interest, to meet any deficiency in the District revenues for the general interest on both extraordinary and current expenditures. This legislation expires the 1st of July, 1904, and the amount then due on that account is to be repaid within the year from that date. Congress has made no provision for the District's share of the cost of the extraordinary improvements after the 1st of July next, although it is evident from the projects authorized that larger amounts will be required on that account after that day. It is apparent, therefore, that the matter will be considered by Congress at the coming session.

Recommendations Repeated.

The Commissioners earnestly repeat their recommendations that the Secretary of the Treasury be authorized to make advances from the United States funds to enable the District to meet its share of the cost of the extraordinary improvements, the advances to be repaid by the District in installments with interest. This can be done by the District out of its current revenues without hampering current expenditures. It is submitted that the District should be authorized to deal with such matters and that if it is not adopted the District finances will be left in an uncertain and embarrassed condition, and the projects for current needs may have to be unduly cut down. This ought not to be done any more than the extraordinary projects for improvement should be suspended or abandoned.

The aggregate amount of the estimates submitted by the Commissioners for the next fiscal year is \$12,422,000, of which those for the water department, which amount to \$132,756. This unusually large sum is not to be set down as an extraordinary item, but as a permanent charge required, for the sum of \$1,025,150 is charged to the account of extraordinary improvements which Congress and circumstances have made it imperative that the District should take immediate action upon. The items making up this amount are as follows: Sewers and sewage disposal system, \$1,507,000; filtration plant, \$1,508,155; water department, \$12,422,000; new bridge, \$200,000; Anacostia Bridge, \$100,000; municipal hospital, \$120,000. In the estimates for current expenditures submitted by the Commissioners, it has been assumed that the Commissioners made all practicable reductions, amounting to over a million dollars in the aggregate, leaving the amount recommended \$8,235,570 on this account.

The estimated revenue of the District of Columbia for the next fiscal year is \$955.10. Deducting from this a reasonable installment, amounting to one-fifth of the amount of the advances that will probably have to be made for the next year, the amount which is estimated at \$2,000,000, with the interest payment thereon, together with a payment of \$12,000 on account of the District's contribution to the cost of the work of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, there will remain the sum of \$1,025,150, which is the amount of the advances from the United States which the District has to pay on the 1st of July, 1904, or on the 1st of January, 1905, or on the 1st of July, 1906, or on the 1st of January, 1907, or on the 1st of July, 1908, or on the 1st of January, 1909, or on the 1st of July, 1910, or on the 1st of January, 1911, or on the 1st of July, 1912, or on the 1st of January, 1913, or on the 1st of July, 1914, or on the 1st of January, 1915, or on the 1st of July, 1916, or on the 1st of January, 1917, or on the 1st of July, 1918, or on the 1st of January, 1919, or 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on the 1st of July, 2444, or on the 1st of January, 2445, or on the 1st of July, 2446, or on the 1st of January, 2447, or on the 1st of July, 2448, or on the 1st of January, 2449, or on the 1st of July, 2450, or on the 1st of January, 2451, or on the 1st of July, 2452, or on the 1st of January, 2453, or on the 1st of July, 2454, or on the 1st of January, 2455, or on the 1st of July, 2456, or on the 1st of January, 2457, or on the 1st of July, 2458, or on the 1st of January, 2459, or on the 1st of July, 2460, or on the 1st of January, 2461, or on the 1st of July, 2462, or on the 1st of January, 2463, or on the 1st of July, 2464, or on the 1st of January, 2465, or on the 1st of July, 2466, or on the 1st of January, 2467, or on the 1st of July, 2468, or on the 1st of January, 2469, or on the 1st of July, 2470, or on the 1st of January, 2471, or on the 1st of July, 2472, or on the 1st of January, 2473, or on the 1st of July, 2474, or on the 1st of January, 2475, or on the 1st of July, 2476, or on the 1st of January, 2477, or on the 1st of July, 2478, or on the 1st of January, 2479, or on the 1st of July, 2480, or on the 1st of January, 2481, or on the 1st of July, 2482, or on the 1st of January, 2483, or on the 1st of July, 2484, or on the 1st of January, 2485, or on the 1st of July, 2486, or on the 1st of January, 2487, or on the 1st of July, 2488, or on the 1st of January, 2489, or on the 1st of July, 2490, or on the 1st of January, 2491, or on the 1st of July, 2492, or on the 1st of January, 2493, or on the 1st of July, 2494, or on the 1st of January, 2495, or on the 1st of July, 2496, or on the 1st of January, 2497, or on the 1st of July, 2498, or on the 1st of January, 2499, or on the 1st of July, 2500, or on the 1st of January, 2501, or on the 1st of July, 2502, or on the 1st of January, 2503, or on the 1st of July, 2504, or on the 1st of January, 2505, or on the 1st of July, 2506, or on the 1st of January, 2507, or on the 1st of July, 2508, or on the 1st of January, 2509, or on the 1st of July, 2510, or on the 1st of January, 2511, or on the 1st of July, 2512, or on the 1st of January, 2513, or on the 1st of July, 2514, or on the 1st of January, 2515, or on the 1st of July, 2516, or on the 1st of January, 2517, or on