



INFORMATION MUNICIPALITY STELLENBOSCH.

- NOVEMBER, 1956 -

1. VOTER'S ROLL FOR THE YEAR 1957.

A general election of Councillors will take place next year and, in terms of Section 17 of the Cape Municipal Ordinance 1951, a complete new Voter's Roll will have to be prepared and not merely a supplementary roll as was the case during the past two years.

The object of the Council will again be to prepare as complete and perfect a roll as possible, but it must be pointed out that in terms of Section 19 of the Ordinance, the onus of securing enrolment as a voter, actually rests on the individual. It has previously been made known what the most important qualifications of voters are.

The co-operation of all is sought and it would be appreciated very much if those that are entitled to be enrolled would make sure whether their names appear on the existing roll and if those who definitely know that their names are not on the roll, and who would want their names to be registered, would communicate with the Town Clerk as soon as possible so that the necessary enquiries can be made and further action can be taken.

2. INDIVIDUAL HOUSING LOANS.

I.M.S. is glad indeed to be able to record that since it drew attention to the possibilities of raising these individual housing loans, in its issue of July, 1955, a considerable number of applications have been received. No fewer than 2//.....

22 loans have been granted and naturally the corresponding number of houses have been built or is in the course of construction, or about to be built.

The attention of readers is also drawn to the fact that the Council has requested the National Housing Commission to send it model plans of houses which are considered to be suitable for those who would like to make use of the individual housing loans. These plans are gladly placed at the disposal of interested persons and there is no objection to their being used.

### 3. SIDEWALKS.

The maintenance required to keep the sidewalks in the Municipality in a reasonably good condition, has been a subject of much concern and thought in the past, and the costs have been very heavy.

The results achieved by the old method of sending out gangs of workmen, were not satisfactory. The use of spades on the sidewalks was bound to disturb the surfaces and the remedy could only be temporary as the grass was bound to grow very soon again.

To treat all the sidewalks once costs from £500 to £900, and if this is to be done three times a year the costs are anything up to £2000 or £3000.

At present, the Council is investigating the possibility of controlling the growth of grass and weeds on the sidewalks by means of cutting it down with a special machine, and it is hoped that this will prove satisfactory, and at any rate, be a great improvement.

It has been resolved at the most recent meeting of the Council, that the public be informed through I.M.S.

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as has been frequently suggested by owners of properties, the Council would welcome it if they planted grass on the sidewalks in front of their properties. It was felt at the same time, however, that the public should be warned of the disadvantages or dangers of planting Kukuyu grass.

Planting of grass would bring the need to do a certain amount of watering and there the Council feels that the granting of a higher minimum of water, which means in actual fact that the charge for water is reduced, may make it more attractive for those interested to do the necessary watering.

4. PROPERTIES WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY EXEMPTED FROM THE PAYMENT OF OWNER'S RATES.

The following reflects the position regarding exempted properties as at the end of the year 1955:-

Lands, Housing Schemes and other buildings	-	£941,950
Union Government and S.A. Railways	-	£195,265
Provincial Administration (including Educational Trustees)	-	£322,580
Divisional Council of Stellenbosch	-	£ 31,430
Stellenbosch University	-	£1,537,620
Churches and Mission Schools	-	£263,225
Cape Technical College	-	£ 58,575
Bloemhof Trust	-	£ 49,860
Miscellaneous	-	£126,790
		<u>£ 3,527,295</u>

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5. BUILDING STATISTICS.

The following extract from the report of the Housing Superintendent to the meeting of the Public Health, Housing and Native Administration Committee, which took place on the 13th November, 1956, shows how Stellenbosch compares with a number of othertowns over the years 1951 - 1956, always taken from the 1st July to 30th June of the two years mentioned together:

"	<u>1951/52</u>	<u>1952/53</u>	<u>1953/54</u>	<u>1954/55</u>	<u>1955/56</u>
Paarl	430,164	863,685	658,965	848,551	972,280
Worcester	501,184	571,203	591,285	421,342	640,904
Stellenbosch	294,845	188,950	400,640	573,939	709,205
Wellington	68,043	110,638	69,591	66,475	35,217
Grahamstown	144,702	78,710	249,118	237,416	171,017
Queenstown	160,608	201,488	338,953	493,485	488,116,,

From 1st June, 1955 to 3rd July, 1956, an analysis of the amount of £709,000 for the past year reveals that £269,650 represents non-rateable properties, and was made up as follows:-

University buildings	-	£184,950
Government Buildings	-	£ 57,700
Van der Stel Utility Company	-	£ 26,000
Rhenish School	-	£ 1,000

20th November, 1956.

/MJ