# Johnny's tax battles

City of Sandon records at BC Archives GR-0304, Box 10, File 26 (I believe):

July 5, 1910: Johnny protests assessment on grounds of overvaluation of properties owned by following:
JM Harris
Harris & Kelly
Kelly and Barger
Loudon mineral claim
Sandon Water Works and Lighting
Harris and Burns (Block 5, Part Lots 1-2)
Mrs. A. Eagan

City council replied that the assessments would stand.

1912 he filed the same appeals plus another for Harris & Sproat

July 2, 1915 agreement re: redemption of property between JMH and City of Sandon. Whereas JMH indebted to City of Sandon for arrears in taxes, tax sale costs, interest and other charges following tax sale of July 2, 1914 and including taxes for the year 1914 in the sum of $6,034 of which $3,063 is owed on improved property, "some of which is in a very advanced state of decay" and $2,971 on unimproved property, vacant lots, and since it was JMH's intention to redeem only some of the best of his improved property to the amount of $1,800 unless deal could be made to redeem the whole amount for "considerably less" than the sum of $6,034 and whereas refusing to make a deal the city would lose amount above $1,800 but revenue that would be produced on taxes of those properties if they reverted to the city, and whereas properties over $1,800 not saleable and no value to the city, therefore made a deal with JMH allowing him to redeem all his property for $3,200.

D.A. McClelland: "I have considered this course to be in the best interests of the city under the existing circumstances as it is quite apparent that the properties covered by the extra payment of $1,400 over and above the proposed redemptions could not be sold for nearly this amount at the present time if put on the market." Consulted with MLA Wm. Hunter and ex-mayor Gomm before concluding agreement. They agreed best course under the circumstances "although recognizing the fact that it was somewhat of an injustice to the ratepayers who have paid their taxes during the past years. This being the second time in the history of the city that a settlement has been obtained for a large amount of arrears of taxes in a similar manner, I would recommend to all future councils that a tax sale be held every third year as provided for by the Municipal Act, which would prevent the amount of arrears becoming so large that any question could arise as to whether or not it was more than the property was actually worth, and would also abolish the opportunity for persons so inclined to take advantage of the city in the manner referred to.”