

East Kildonan May Join City Early Next Year

Legislation to amalgamate East Kildonan with Winnipeg may be enacted at the next sitting of the provincial legislature in early 1950, a civic official stated Wednesday.

He emphasized that negotiations between the two municipalities had not yet begun and that a special civic committee probing the matter may report against amalgamation.

Other Suburbs

Amalgamation of other suburbs, besides East Kildonan, will probably be discussed by the special aldermanic committee, which met for the first time Wednesday afternoon, a civic official stated.

None of the other municipalities has made any move to indicate they might wish to amalgamate with the city.

Fort Garry and St. James officials have intimated to the Free Press they are not interested in amalgamation, at least for the present.

No Referendum

Mayor Garnet Coulter said Wednesday the city's legal department has advised him that no referendum would be necessary for amalgamation with East Kildonan.

However, if the city decided in favor of amalgamation, he would not rule out the possibility of a referendum being held to determine the views of citizens.

Winnipeg would gain vacant property in East Kildonan which might eventually be worth a huge sum of money, one official pointed out.

However, he added, the property was not serviced with sewer or water and the city still had large tracts of similar land in the northwest and south-east corners of the city proper.

The city would definitely lose financially from the short-range viewpoint, but might gain in the long-run, he declared.

The big difference between the two municipalities was in school facilities, he said. Winnipeggers now pay double—\$183 to \$91—the amount per capita that East Kildonan residents do for running of their schools.

Cost of providing the additional police and fire protection necessary for East Kildonan would add only a "negligible" amount to the city's expenses, he thought.