GHQ/SCAP Records(RG 331)
Description of contents

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF THE UNITED STATES

(1) Box no. 2144

(2) Folder title/number: (11)
System of Special Ward

(3) Date: ?

(4) Subject:

Classification	Type of record
360	c, r

(5) Item description and comment:

(6) Reproduction: Yes No

(7) Film no. Sheet no.

On the System
of
Special Ward.

Rumor has it that the Local Autonomy Investigation Commission is under consideration, as the draft of recommendation, to abolish the system of "Special Ward" as local public body and to give Tokyo-to the character of "City". We, however, are quite opposite against such an idea with following reasons as below:

1. In accordance with the content of draft, it is considered that publicly voted mayor of ward and ward-assembly are to be set up as it is, and then the administrative businesses and works are widely expanded more than that of today. In such a case as above no reason should arise for abolishing the present system of "Special Ward", but it must be said entirely insignificant.

2. System like in the draft is one and the same as the Regulation governing the Tokyo-Metropolis enforced in 1943 under the Tojyo organization, and the present system had been made as the result of thorough revision of war time organization. Therefore, such a system in draft is that which trumbles the democracy in Japan.

3. It must effect a great alteration in the police system to abolish the system of "Special Ward" and to give Tokyo-to the character of "City". That is to say, the joint police of special wards at present shall be abolished and the begining of To, Do and Prefectural police system shall be set up; so it will give other local bodies tremendous influences.

4. Any law to change the characters of metropolis and special ward is of course required the inhabitants' vote by Article 95 of the Japan Constitution, but it must be quite impossible that all inhabitants of twenty-three special wards will give their consents to such a bill of erasing the autonomy.

特別区の制度について

傳へられる所に依れば地方行政調査委員會會議では、勧告原案として地方公共團体としての特別区の制度を廃止し、東京都に市の性格を與へるよう考案中であると聞くが、之は左の理由に依つて反對である。

1 案の内容に依れば区に公選の区長を置き、区議會を置き、而も其の事務事業を從前よりも大巾に擴張せんとするようであるが、かかる場合現在の特別区の制度を廃止すべき何等の理由も生じないのみか全く無意味なものと言はねばならない。

2 案の如き制度は一九四三年東條組織下に設定された東京都制と全く同一のもので、之を改めたのが現在の制度であつて、再び民主主義を逆轉せしめるものである。

3 特別区の制度を廃して都に市の性格を與うることは、警察制度に大変革を起す。即ち現在の特別二十区連合警察を廃止して、都府縣警察制度の端緒を開くものであつて其の影響する所は大きい。

4 都及び特別区の性格を一変する法律は憲法第九五條に基き、住民投票を要する事勿論であるが二十三区民は斯る自治抹殺の暴案に賛成投票する事は不可能であらう。

1. Organization and Character of Metropolis

a. City (23 Wards) and rural district.

The Metropolis is composed of the area of ward forming a city and a rural district. But, substantially, the rural district has a population of 919,000 (15%) as compared with 5,735,000 (85%) of the ward district.

As for finance, the former has an income of only ¥ 2,135,760,000 (5%) as compared with an income of ¥ 36,745,260,000 (95%) for local tax of the latter.

Tokyo-To is composed of a great city and a rural district whose population and finance is far inferior to those of the ward district.

b. City (23 Wards)

As for the area of district, the Metropolis and the ward take share in the city administration and the former has a volume of business (90%) while the latter has only 10%.

This is a result of the fact that the Metropolis takes charge of the affairs such as traffic, water works, harbor, civil engineering, police, fire-defense, education of high schools, colleges and universities, etc. which can not be tranferred to the ward in accordance with the present laws while the ward takes charge of other district administration.

It proves that the unity of Metropolis is legally confirmed. To lift the high effeciency as a great city it would be rather ideal that no individual autonomy is given to the ward district.

2. Character of Governor of Metropolis.

As stated before, it is no doubt that the head of the Metropolis which is composed of a city (90%) and a rural district (10%) is substantially not a governor but has a character of Mayor.

3. The Method of Appointment of a Ward Mayor

a. In the rumored draft of recommendations advanced by the Local Administration Investigation Council, it is stipulated that a ward be accorded a status of an autonomous organization with a restricted authority. Even under this assumption, it is desired, from the viewpoint of the nature of Tokyo Metropolis being in substance equal to a city, that a ward mayor be appointed either by Metropolitan Governor or by Metropolitan Governor with the consent of the ward assembly in the same line as employed by Osaka and Kyoto Cities. In the event it is to be regulated that a city mayor and a wardmayor is separately elected in one municipality, it will result as is clearly revealed in the prevailing situations, in the lack of harmonious cooperation between the Metropolitan and the ward parties with an eventuality of the administrative consistency required of a very great city being broken up, thus failing the residents'

expectation of well-being and happiness.

b. As there are reportedly some circles holding that the vesting in Governor of an authority for appointment of a ward mayor may be in violation of the regulations laid down in Article 93 of the Japanese Constitution, it is of no doubt that the Constitution in its nature stipulates the structure of a state, the principle of polity, the basic policies of administration, etc., but does not cover the regulations concerning the ramified branches of administration. As Article 93 rules that "the head of a local public organization will be directly elected by the residents concerned", it aims at its applicability exclusively to the head of a public organisation of complete autonomy, such as Tokyo Metropolis, a prefecture in general, city, town and village, but not to the head of a ward which is a part of the entire Metropolitan area. Under the assumption that the head of a ward vested with a very restricted authority, an administrative set-up in function only in Tokyo Metropolis, is to be elected by public, it will be in violation of the Japanese Constitution that it is regulated that the head or a member of an Association of the Property Block, City, Town and Village, each of them a sort of a local public organization according to the existing Local Autonomy Law, will not be necessarily elected by public.

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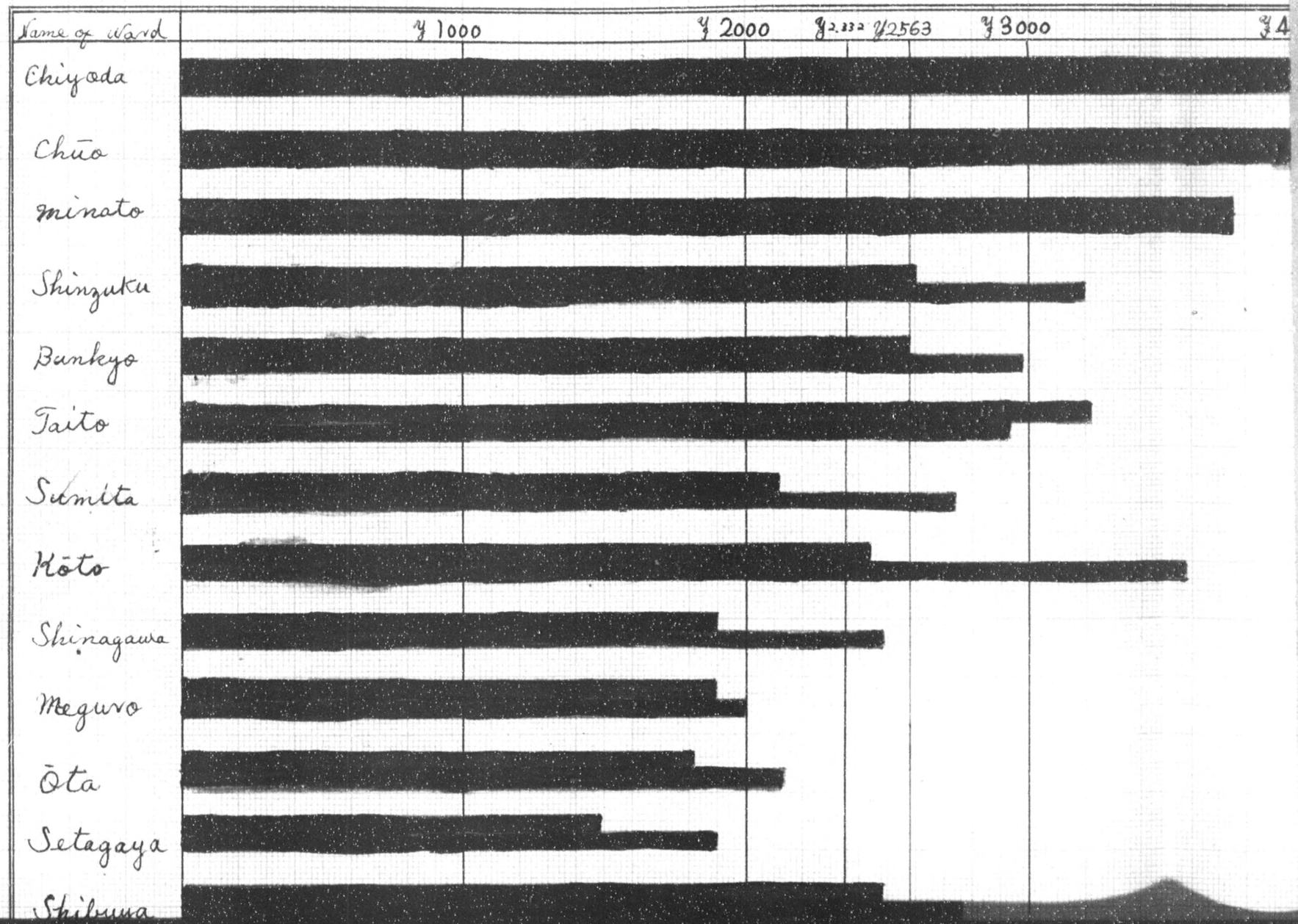
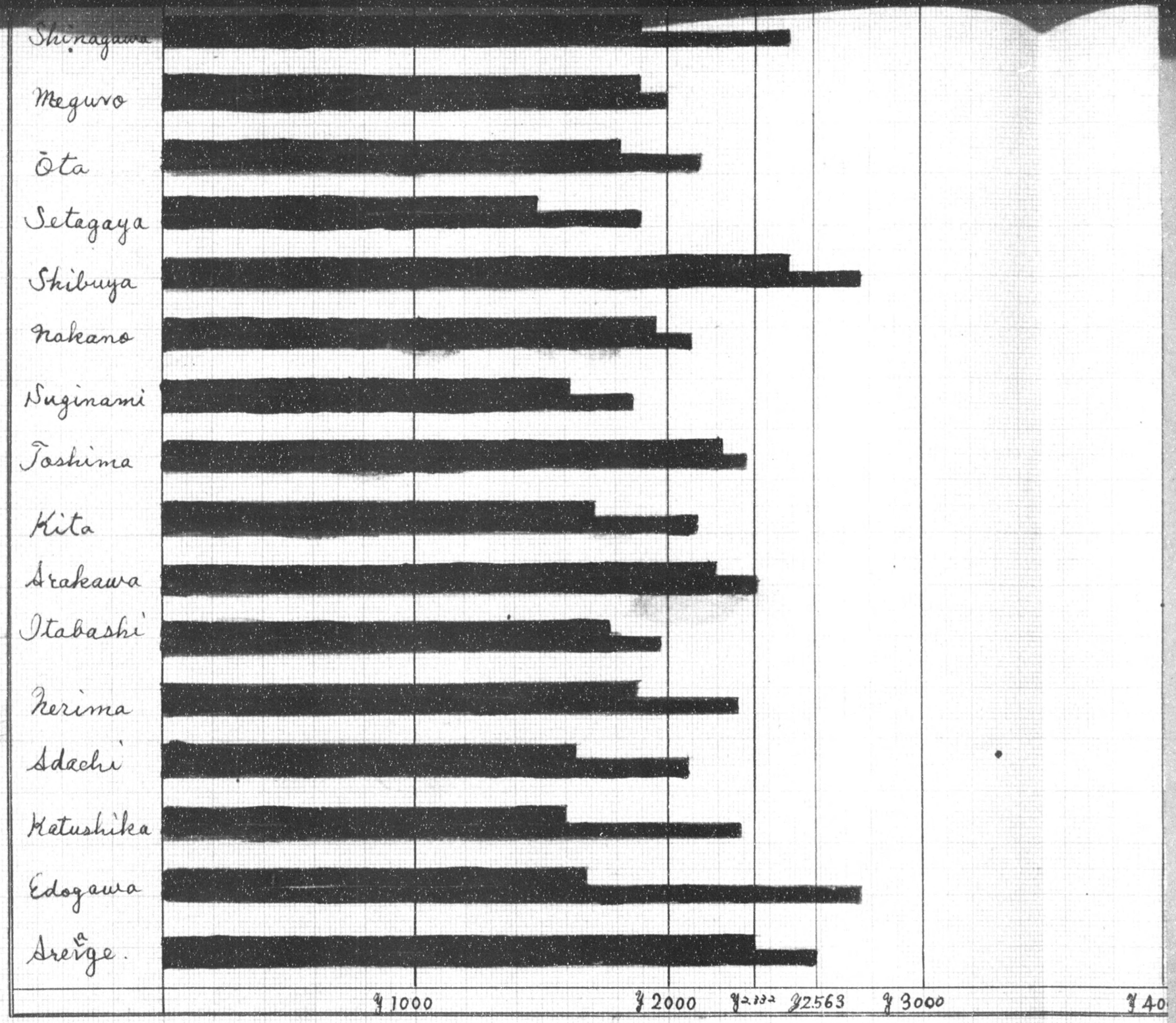
Amount of Tax Burden and required Expenses per Person
by Ward in Case Special ward be city. (on the base of 13
-fiscal year)




Shinagawa
Meguro
Ōta
Setagaya
Shibuya
Nakano
Suginami
Toshima
Kita
Arakawa
Itabashi
Nerima
Adachi
Katushika
Edogawa
Areiga.
¥1000
¥2000
¥2.132
¥2.563
¥3000
¥40

— Amount of Tax Burden per Person.

e of Budget for 1949 - — Required Expenses Per Person.

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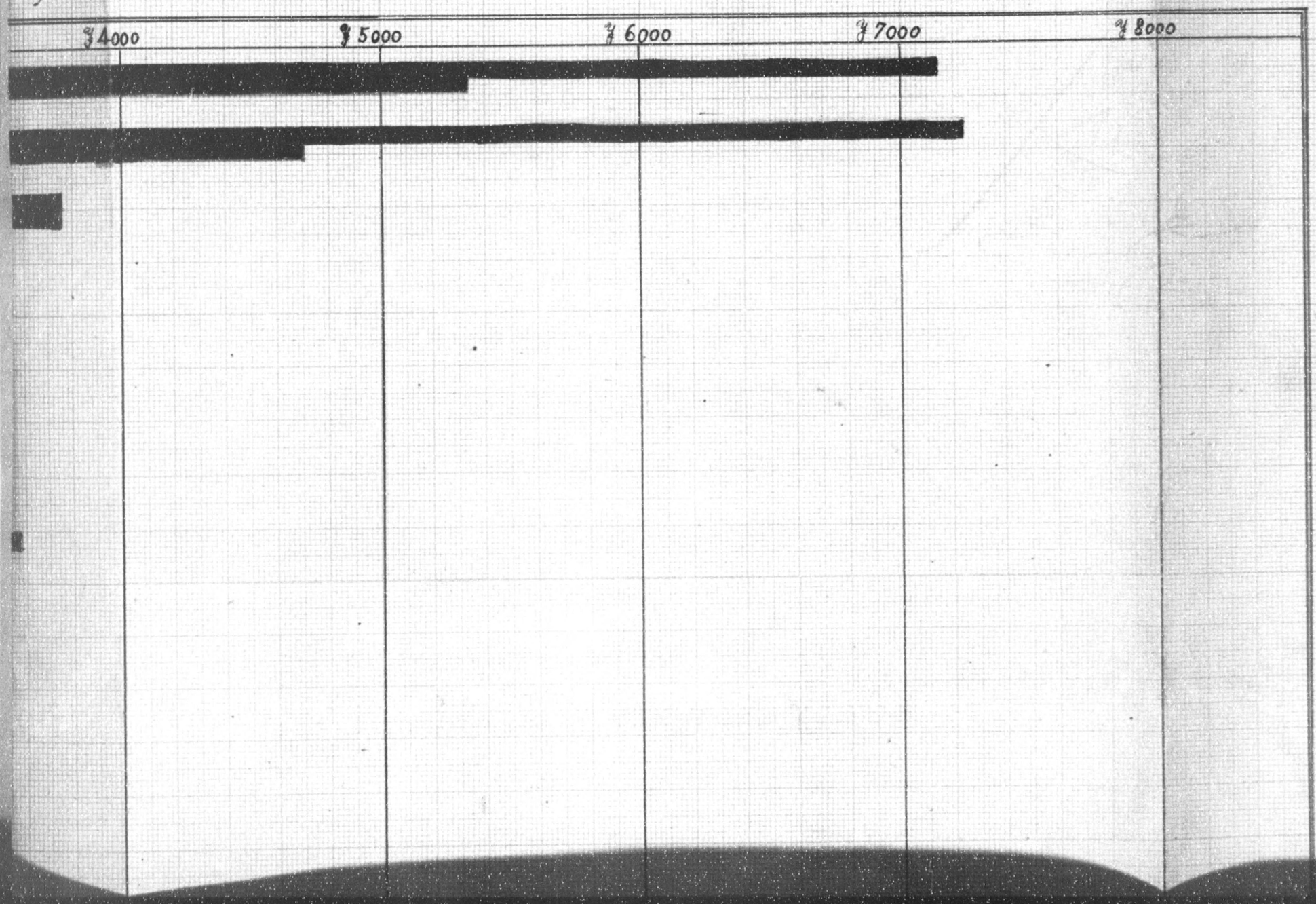

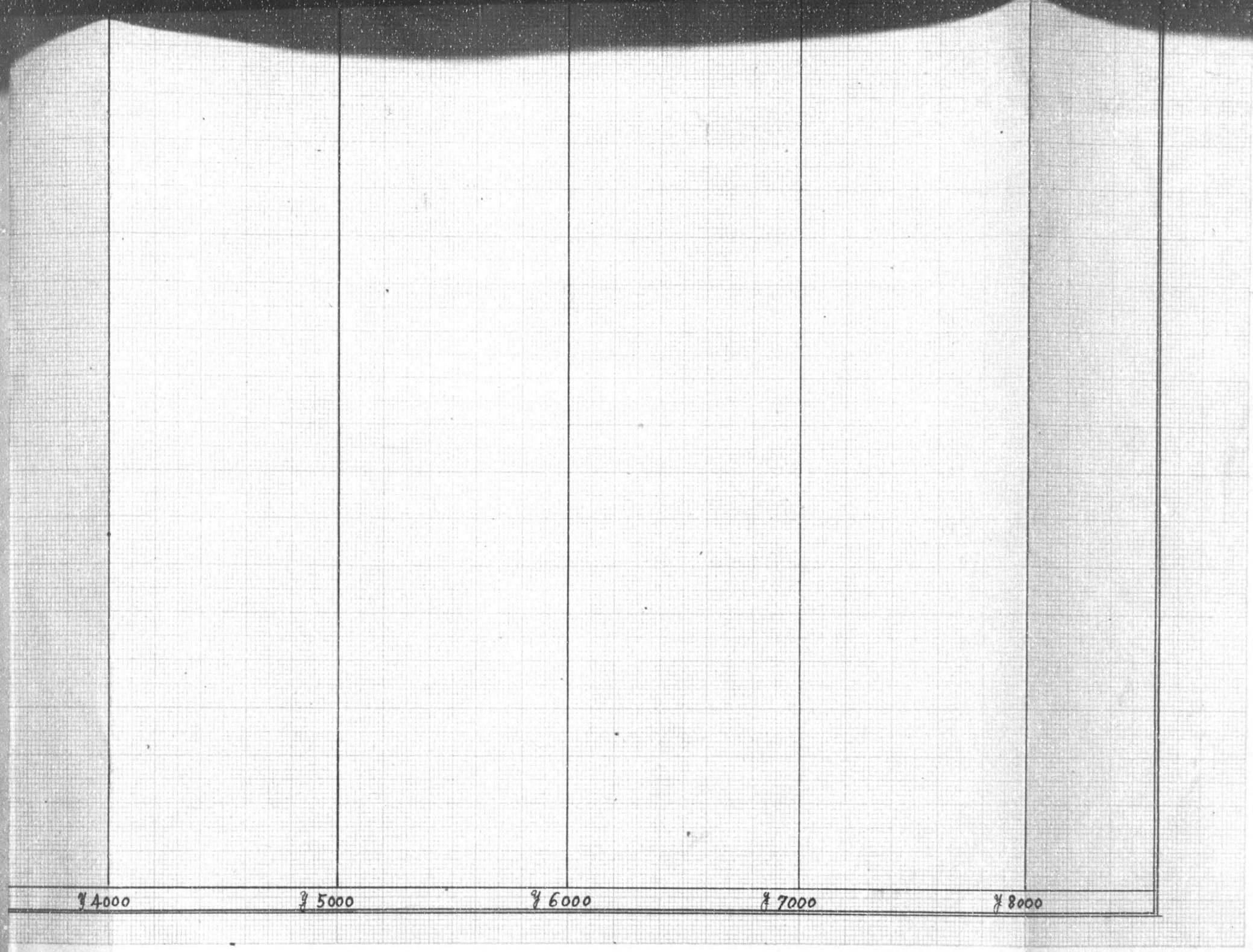
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