

## TAXATION IN CANADA



DIAGRAM NO. 8.

Combined taxes levied by Dominion, Provincial and Municipal Governments in Canada were \$55,000,000 in 1895-6, \$93,091,361 in 1904-5, \$238,036,485 in 1913-14, \$580,851,718 in 1921-22 and \$772,969,645 in 1929-30.

Per capita, the levies are as shown in the diagram; \$10.94 in 1895-6, \$15.98 in 1904-5, \$31.20 in 1913-14, \$66.10 in 1921-22 and \$77.08 in 1929-30.

Most tax bills are paid by heads of families. Adopting the census returns of 1921 of 4.62 persons as the average per family, then taxes per family of \$144.14 in 1913-14 had grown almost 2½ times to \$356.10 per family in 1929-30, or almost \$30 per month.

As with government expenditures and debts, these increases have far outrun the indices of basic industrial and financial development.

Whether or not taxes are unduly heavy at any time, or are fairly distributed, cannot however, be left to comparative statistics to decide. Taxes are the point at which the practical side of government comes home to individual citizens, and the people have constitutionally gained and preserved the right to determine, judging for themselves, how great a burden by way of levies may be imposed upon them.

Taxes are compulsory levies by a government for purposes of its revenues. Not all government income is derived from taxes. Sales or leases of the public domain, fines for infraction of laws, regulatory licenses, etc., yield revenues. Then fees, or payments for special services, such as postage for mail services and charges for water, light, power or transportation when supplied by governments, are important contributing sources.