

Municipal Improvements

house and I should like to ask permission to place this table on *Hansard*. It is not a lengthy table and I think that would save time, which I am sure we are all anxious to do.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Has the hon. member unanimous consent?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Agreed.

Mr. FLEMING: This is the table:

Advances made to municipalities pursuant to loans approved under the provisions of the Municipal Improvements Assistance Act, 1938

Municipalities within the province of:	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945'	Totals
	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.
Prince Edward Island.....	7,000 00								7,000 00
Nova Scotia.....		203,861 96	437,575 00						641,436 96
New Brunswick.....		342,513 80	125,000 00						467,513 80
Quebec.....			196,787 50	857,732 50	337,889 50	215,687 24	55,545 00	55,545 00	1,719,186 74
Manitoba.....		172,839 00	29,649 00	3,500 00					205,988 00
Saskatchewan.....		602,163 19	248,937 62						851,100 81
Alberta.....	76,733 50	530,670 35	278,757 00	2,094 00					888,254 85
British Columbia.....	187,500 00	1,439,576 25	381,640 40	106,041 05					2,114,757 70
Totals.....	271,233 50	3,291,624 55	1,698,346 52	969,367 55	337,889 50	215,687 24	55,545 00	55,545 00	6,895,238 86

NOTE.—No advances made during 1946.

The province of Ontario did not avail itself of the provisions of the Municipal Improvements Assistance Act, 1938

No municipality could obtain a loan under the terms of the act unless the loan was guaranteed by the province in which the municipality was situated. It will be seen that in the amending bill the provinces are again being drawn into it. Unless the province stands behind the municipality and the municipality delivers debentures to the dominion government, no advantage of the amendment can be claimed by a municipality. The province of Ontario did not avail itself of the provisions of the act and actually since 1941 only municipalities in one province, Quebec, have obtained advances under the act.

Nothing has been advanced under the act since 1945. The total amount advanced by the dominion government pursuant to the terms of the act in the nine years since it was first enacted is only \$6,895,238.

Mr. MAYHEW: I think the hon. member would like to be correct. This act has not been in operation since 1941. It has been in operation for only two years and ten months. It has not been in operation since the war, in other words since 1941, and there have been no loans granted.

Mr. FLEMING: I think the hon. member has misdirected his correction. I am referring to a return made by his department. It may be that the terms of the act were not used extensively by municipalities, but the return made by the Department of Finance shows that since 1941 the following advances were made:

1942	\$337,889.50
1943	215,687.24
1944	55,545.00
1945	55,545.00

[Mr. Fleming.]

A note on the return states that no advances were made during 1946. I repeat, that is a return made by the Minister of Finance in reply to my question. For these reasons I should like to ask the government to state its intentions with reference to this act. Is it to be allowed to become a dead letter or is there any thought of making any real survey of the purposes for which it was originally intended?

Section 10 of the act reads:

The minister shall annually prepare a report with regard to loans made under the provisions of this act during the preceding calendar year, and the report shall be laid before parliament within fifteen days, or if parliament is not then sitting, within fifteen days after the beginning of the next session.

The requirements of that section have apparently been honoured more in the breach than in the observance. It is like a great many similar sections that we encounter in statutes passed by this parliament requiring annual reports—they are simply ignored by the government. It is high time the government made a serious attempt to heed and obey the terms of this and other statutes providing for annual reports to parliament on operations under acts.

Mr. T. L. CHURCH (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, the motion before the house is the second reading of a bill to amend the Municipal Improvements Assistance Act. That act grew out of a form of assistance which was created during the depression between the two wars and it was founded on the same principles as the Municipal Assistance Act. I had a return when the minister introduced the