

# THE TAXPAYER



"I never knew how much red blood there is in Figures until the Council made me Chairman of the Finance Committee down at the City Hall. When a fellow realizes, as I soon did, that every dollar in the local treasury rings a bell in the taxpayer's pocket, he gets an uncanny feeling that tax money belongs to a

different tribe from any other money.

"Last winter I spent a week on the borders of the Temagami Forest Reserve in North Ontario. Two miles from the village a lumber firm were taking out pine logs for their mills in Quebec. I said to the woods superintendent one day: "This business looks like easy money; Nature does all the work and you step in and lift the crop.' And then I began telling him about the hard time I had, running a Finance Committee in a city of fifteen thousand.

"You don't know how much harder it would be," he replied, "if this forest-crop was left unharvested a few years."

"What difference would that make?"

"You are a taxpayer?" I nodded.

"And provincial administration is not paid for direct by municipalities, but by special revenues."