INHERITANCE TAX IN CANADA.

Dominion Collects No Tax, but the Provinces Do—Prominent Lawyer's Notes on the Subject.

A prominent Canadian lawyer has prepared for the Boston News Bureau the following notes on the inheritance tax in Canada:

"There is very little known about the inheritance tax law of Canada. Our provinces are quarreling with one another and are endeavoring in every way they can to get all the money out of any rich heir that they can.

"Our corporations may be organized either under the laws of the Dominion or under the laws of the different Provinces. The Provinces have the power to incorporate companies, and these companies have power to do business anywhere they wish. Apparently there is no difference as far as succession duties go whether the companies are incorporated under the laws of a Province or under the laws of the Dominion.

Might Raise Important Question.

"The Dominion Government collects no tax, but the Provinces do. If the registry of the company is located in a Province (I am speaking specifically of the Province of Quebec and the Province of New Brunswick), the local law does not allow transfers of stock without the payment of succession duties to the Province. The fact that the companies are incorporated by the Dominion Government apparently makes no difference. This might raise an important constitutional question as to whether or not the Provinces have power to tax such transfers, but the courts have held that the Provinces have the power to impose a license fee on a company incorporated by the Dominion doing business within the separate Provinces, so on the same principle, it would seem that the taxation would be held constitutional.

"An American estate owning stock of Canadian Pacific, which is incorporated by the Dominion Government, would have to pay succession duties to the Province of Quebec where there is a registry office; that is, if the stock was on the Quebec registry. Canadian Pacific also has a registry in London, and if the stock was on the London registry, this, of course, would not apply.

Would Pay Tax Twice.

"A resident of Montreal who owns shares or bonds of an American railroad would pay an inheritance tax to the Province of Quebec in addition to what he might have to pay in the States.

"There is an important case (Lovitt vs. The King) which is to be argued next July before the Privy Council. In that case a resident of Nova Scotia had money on deposit at the branch of the Bank of British North America in St. John, New Brunswick, which had issued a deposit receipt not restricted, however, to payment by that specific branch, and the bank had also branches in Nova Scotia. The question came up as to whether there would be a liability for a succession duty to New Brunswick as well as Nova Scotia. The New Brunswick court held that New Brunswick could collect succession duties, the Supreme Court of Canada, with two judges dissenting, held it could not. The New Brunswick case is reported as The King vs. Lovitt, 37 N.B.B. 558, and the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada is reported as 43 S.C.R. 106."

Rates and Exemptions.

The following schedule of rates and exemptions is taken from the report of the Inheritance Law Committee at the International Tax Conference, 1910:—

	Direct Inheritance		Collateral Inherit.	
Province	Rate	Exemption	Rate	Exemption
Alberta	1½- 5	$25,000	5 -10	$5,000
British Columbia ...	1½- 5	25,000	5 -10	.....
Manitoba	1 -10	4,000-25,000	1 -10	2,000-7,000
New Brunswick ...	1¼- 5	50,000	5 -10	*5,000-10,000
Nova Scotia	2½- 5	25,000	5 -10	5,000
Ontario	1 -10	50,000	1 -10	10,000
Prince Edward Is...	1½- 2½	10,000	2½- 7½x	3,000
Quebec	1 - 8	5,000	5 -15	.....
Saskatchewan	1½- 5	25,000	5 -10	5,000

*To persons residing out of the Province the rate is doubled.

xTo persons residing out of the British Empire an additional 5%.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF ALBERTA.

A charter to form an association has been granted to the Chartered Accountants of Alberta. At the first meeting, held in Calgary recently, Mr. Percy Blythe, C.A., of Edmonton, was appointed president; Mr. A. H. Edwards, C.A., Calgary, and Mr. W. D. Wing, C.A., Lethbridge, vice-presidents, with Mr. J. B. Watson, C.A., as secretary-treasurer. It is the intention of the Institute to hold periodical examinations for parties seeking entrance to the association.

GRAIN YIELDS IN ONTARIO.

Accurate and carefully compiled statistics of agricultural production are of value not only for the immediate use of farmers, merchants, bankers, economists and statisticians, but also because they constitute a kind of national bookkeeping, by which when available for a sufficiently long course of years it is possible to ascertain whether and to what extent the national agriculture has progressed or, it may be, retrograded. Continuous annual agricultural statistics for the province of Ontario have been collected by the Ontario Bureau of Industries since 1882, and the records may therefore be trusted to indicate any changes which improved cultivation may have brought about during practically a generation.

Taking ten-year periods with the object of eliminating the effects of seasonal variation, the following statement shows the average annual yields per acre of fall and spring wheat, barley and oats in the province of Ontario for each of the ten-year periods 1882-1891, 1892-1901, and the nine years 1902-1910, according to the agricultural statistics of the Ontario Bureau of Industries:

Crop	1882-1891 bush. per acre	1892-1901 bush. per acre	1902-1910 bush. per acre
Fall wheat	20.00	20.04	23.73
Spring wheat	15.76	15.17	17.96
Barley	26.03	26.26	30.79
Oats	35.12	34.57	37.09

It will be noted that there is but a slight difference between the first and second of these decennia, but the third period compared with the first shows that the average annual yield per acre of fall wheat in Ontario has increased by 3¾ bushels, spring wheat by over two bushels and barley by 4¾ bushels, while the yield of oats has increased by two bushels compared with the first ten years and by 2½ bushels compared with the second ten years. Expressed in terms of value, calculated upon the area and at the prices of 1910, these extra yields, as between the first and the third periods, represent for wheat $2,551,535, for barley $1,763,870 and for oats $2,355,840, or a total value of $6,671,245, due to the increased yield per acre in only one of the nine provinces of Canada.

While allowance may be made for causes other than improved skill in cultivation, such for instance in some cases as a decreased total area involving withdrawal from a particular crop of inferior land, it is reasonable to infer that improved methods of cultivation, including the use of better seed, have been the main factor in bringing about the results above described.

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT'S ESTIMATES.

The main estimates for the fiscal year ending October 31st, 1912, have been tabled in the Ontario Legislature. They call for an expenditure of $8,090,911.66, which does not include the increases in salaries and other expenditures which will be contained in the supplementary estimates to be introduced at the 1912 session. Of the amount to be spent during the next financial year, $7,332,411.66 is for current expenditure; $625,500 is on capital account and $133,000 is for other purposes. Hon. Mr. Matheson explained that more than half a million dollars would be spent out of capital account for the Parliament Buildings, Government House, the new Central Prison farm and the Provincial Museum. Otherwise, the amounts have been figured out on the same basis as this year.

For current expenditure the following amounts have been placed in the estimates:—civil government, $685,784; legislation, $284,450; administration of justice, $730,191.66; education, $1,836,858; public institutions maintenance, $1,272,657; agricultural, $647,701; colonization and immigration, $100,200; hospitals and charities, $373,000; maintenance and repairs of government and departmental buildings, $131,850; public buildings repairs, $82,900; charges on Crown lands, $610,550; refunds account, $66,000; miscellaneous expenditure, $510,270. From capital account $555,300 will be spent and on public works $70,200. Colonization and mining roads call for an expenditure of $133,000.

A branch of the Bank of Toronto has been opened at Milton, Ont.

Eastern Townships Bank has opened a branch at Victoria, B.C., under the management of Mr. R. W. H. King.

Mr. H. C. Wright, Orangeville branch of the Sterling Bank, has been appointed accountant at Uxbridge, Ont.

Mr. Campbell Sweeny, manager of the Bank of Montreal in Vancouver, has returned from a three months' trip to Europe.