

To the Honorable

Mr. J. BLANCHET

Registrar of the Province of Quebec.

SIR,

I have the honor to submit the following compilation of statistics prepared under the provisions of the Municipal Code.

These statistics like those of last year, are incomplete. Several secretary treasurers of the local municipalities have omitted to send in the returns which they are obliged to make and not one of the secretary treasurers of counties has complied with the provisions of articles 168 and 168a of the Municipal Code. The returns sent in by the secretary-treasurers of local municipalities are in a great measure incorrect and they had to be examined and corrected in order to make them correspond with the true state of affairs and make them correctly represent the position of the Municipal Corporations, while keeping in view the fact that the secretary-treasurers of county municipalities and a certain number of those of local municipalities did not send in any returns

The absence of these returns from secretary-treasurers of counties affects the information supplied in the tables, only in so far as regards the cost of municipal administration or the expenses of the corporations. The figure given under this heading is \$670,337. But, in order to get the exact figure of municipal expenditure, it would be necessary to add to this sum the amount of expenses incurred and paid by county municipalities, that is to say over \$100,000.

A portion of this sum represents the interest on the debts contracted by county municipalities, in aiding the construction of railways or other similar undertakings so that the cost of municipal administration, properly speaking, does not exceed \$700,000 which makes about seventy five cents per head for our rural population,