

MORE TAXATION IN ALBERTA.

Banks, Insurance and other Companies to be Further Muled—Levelling up to the other Provinces.

Proposed amendments to the Corporation Taxation Act of Alberta will, when enacted by the provincial legislature now sitting at the parliament buildings in Edmonton, increase taxes of banks, insurance companies and other corporations in the province to equalize with those in British Columbia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Clearer distinction is made in the bill between loan and land companies. Corporation taxes have always been lower in Alberta than in any other province in western Canada.

BANK TAXES.

The proposed amendment taxes every head office of a bank in Alberta \$1,000, and each branch \$125. Under the present act the head office paid \$400 and \$250 on branches, not exceeding four in number, and more than four and up to 10, \$100 each. There are 19 banks operating in Alberta, having a total of 216 branches in the province, and the revenue received from this source this year amounted to \$23,100. Under the proposed amendment the revenue will amount to \$50,125, an increased revenue of \$27,025.

TAXES ON INSURANCE COMPANIES.

Under the present act, insurance companies are required to pay, where the premiums of insurance are less than \$20,000, one-half of one per cent. on moneys invested in the province, amounting to \$100,000 or more. The proposed amendment requires all insurance companies to pay a tax of one-fourth of one per cent. on the gross income, where companies have invested in the province more than \$50,000, irrespective of the amount of premiums received. The total income of insurance companies in Alberta for the year ending December 31, 1912, amounted to \$626,955, and the tax received from this source will amount to \$1,567.40. The new legislation is the same as in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. In British Columbia the tax is one per cent. on the gross income.

LOAN COMPANIES' TAXATION.

Loan companies, under the new amendment, will pay a tax of one per cent., on the gross income, together with a minimum tax of \$25 when the paid-up capital of the Company is less than \$50,000 and \$50 when the paid-up capital of the Company is \$50,000 or more, but less than \$100,000; and \$100 when the paid-up capital is \$100,000 or more. The present tax is \$50 for companies having a paid-up capital of \$100,000 or less, and where the paid-up capital is over \$100,000, the tax is \$100. It is the same as prevails in British Columbia. By the new amendment the revenue will be increased.

Under the proposed amendment land companies will pay 40 cents for every \$1,000 invested in the

province, including money invested in the purchase or acquisition of lands or other real or personal property, and on money remaining unpaid at the end of the preceding calendar year on any sales of such land, together with a minimum tax of \$25 when the paid-up capital of the Company is less than \$50,000; \$50 when the paid-up capital of the Company is \$50,000 or more, but less than \$100,000 and \$100 when the paid-up capital is \$100,000 or more. The present act provides for a tax of \$50 where the unpaid purchase price of lands sold is \$50,000 or less, and where the unpaid purchase price is over this amount the tax is \$50, plus \$75 for every additional \$100,000 or fraction of paid-up capital. The tax under the proposed amendment will be much greater than under the present act. This legislation is the same as prevails in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. In British Columbia the tax is one per cent., together with a set amount on capital.

TRUST COMPANIES' TAXATION.

Trust companies now pay a minimum tax of \$100 where the paid-up capital is \$100,000 or less and \$50 on every additional \$10,000 or fraction thereof, and where the gross earnings of any trust company are \$25,000 or over such company shall pay a further sum of \$500 per annum. In addition there is provided a minimum tax of \$50 for trust companies whose authorized capital is \$100,000 or less, and \$100 where the authorized capital is over \$100,000.

The proposed tax is a minimum of \$100 where the paid-up capital of the Company is \$100,000 or less, and \$175 if the paid-up capital exceeds \$100,000, together with a tax of one per cent. on the gross income. The proposed legislation will increase the revenue from this source. It is practically the same as Manitoba and Saskatchewan. In British Columbia the tax is one per cent. on the investments of these companies.

Heretofore law, telegraph and express companies have paid office taxes. Under the proposed amendment they will be required to pay a tax of one per cent., on their gross receipts in Alberta, which will materially increase the revenue from that source.

LLOYDS HEAVILY HIT BY COLLIERY DISASTER.

The disaster in the Universal Colliery at Sebenydd, Wales, in which 343 men and boys lost their lives, will result in a heavy loss to the insurers of the owners' liability under the workmen's compensation law. It is learned, says a London cable, that no tariff company carried the risk nor was the "Coal Pool" interested. There is a rumor which, while lacking official confirmation, is believed quite true, that the Excess Insurance Company, Limited, of London, has the insurance on this risk, but it is further stated that the Excess had covered the surplus risk above five fatal claims with Lloyds and it is assumed that the Heath group is heavily hit, the loss by the disaster being estimated at £70,000 to £80,000.

The Coal Pool, which usually writes collieries, is an inter-reinsurer organization, comprising seventeen companies writing liability insurance for the purpose of covering coal mine hazards under an agreement whereby each company bears a certain proportion of the loss above a fixed amount; and it is arranged so that the companies involved on any disaster rotate as to amount, thereby relieving any one from being excessively burdened by a loss.