

### **Funds for Charities**

The Charities Accounting Act requires trustees of an estate where bequests have been left to charities, the selection of which has been left to the executor or trustee, to give a proper accounting so that it may be determined that no funds have been misapplied.

### **Use of Water Power**

Legislation for the control and economical use of water powers to meet a situation which was accentuated by the shortage of fuel and the increased demand for power for war manufacturing was passed in 1916. This law was enlarged in 1917 to provide for the appointment of a commission of judges to investigate any violations of franchises.

### **Loans to Farmers**

By legislation passed in 1918 municipal councils may make loans to farmers for buildings and improvements in much the same manner as money may be advanced for tile drainage on farms.

### **Public Service**

The public service of the Province has been placed on a merit basis by the appointment of a Civil Service Commissioner.

### **Reduce Fire Losses**

A vigorous effort has been made by the Department of the Fire Marshal to lessen the large annual fire loss in the Province. The fire waste in Ontario for 1918 amounted to \$15,673,240, divided among 9,740 fires, an average of one every hour of the day or night. Most of these fires were caused by carelessness; practically two out of every three fires occur in homes. Through the efforts of the Fire Marshal there has been a reduction of 20 per cent. in the number of fires for the first five months of 1919, and a reduction in the amount of loss by 46 per cent. The work of this Department is two-fold, educational and investigational. Its aim is to secure both co-operation and prevention, and already significant results have been obtained.

### **County Judges**

During the session of 1919 an Act was passed reducing the number of County Judges. The plan limits the number to one judge for each county, except in the larger cities, and is to be brought about by transferring the present judges to fill vacancies as they occur. It abolishes the fee system, and names a flat amount to be paid annually by the Province. When the scheme is in full operation the annual saving will be \$100,000.