

TAXATION MEASURES IN MANITOBA

In view of the patriotic levy and the probability of a provincial levy of like nature sometime in the future it is deemed a matter of the greatest importance that the fullest inquiry should be made into the whole question of assessments of real property with the object of providing a uniform basis of assessment in all municipalities in the province, and to this end provision will be made later in the session for such inquiry so that a report may be presented to the next session of the legislature, so said Hon. Edward Brown, provincial treasurer, in his budget speech.

Let me say that this question of further taxation will not be decided without consulting with the people of the province as opportunity may present itself and through certain organizations which in themselves represent all classes.

It must be evident that the present revenues are not sufficient for all present requirements, to say nothing of the necessity for opportunity of a display of initiative by the government in their operations with especial reference to increase of production, and further land settlement by providing greater amounts for the department of agriculture. The government is not disposed to increase taxation in any form while the patriotic levy is in force, but in the near future means must be found to augment provincial revenues.

There are two forms of taxation which may be made use of. First, by way of indirect taxation; secondly, by direct taxation levies. There seems to be a pretty well defined sentiment in this province against indirect taxation in any form, as a direct levy is a more straightforward way of proceeding, and tends to increase the public interest in expenditure which is wholly desirable.

Hon. Edward Brown, provincial treasurer of Manitoba, advocated an income tax for provincial revenue, in a reply to a speech on the provincial budget. It was no use taxing men who could not pay, and the men who owned land to-day were the poorest of the community. An income tax would reach the men who could pay, for it would tax the money they would be known to have made.

MANITOBA'S COMING LOANS

Hon. Edward Brown, provincial treasurer, has, in his budget remarks, foreshadowed the issuance of an authorized loan for \$1,000,000 at present unissued, together with another capital loan of \$1,061,000. In addition to this there will be a temporary loan against outstanding revenue, repayable as such outstanding revenue comes into the treasury; this is for supplementing the present cash balance and providing for any unforeseen contingency.

MAY BE FEDERAL RURAL CREDITS ACT

Hon. Edward Brown, provincial treasurer of Manitoba, indicated in an interview last week, the possibility of all provincial rural credits measures becoming inoperative, through the enactment of a farm loans act by the Dominion government. "Sir Thomas White has a bill prepared," said Mr. Brown, "but the Ottawa session is now adjourned until a later date. If the federal rural credits act is passed when the Dominion House meets again, it is quite unlikely that any of the provinces would compete. Our Manitoba act, which will be passed at the present session, will not become operative in that event.

"However, we will put our farm loans act through. There is nothing whatever in the rumor that it is to be dropped. It may, however, be later rendered inoperative by a federal bill."

Hon. George Langley announced at the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Convention, that it was intended to place the hail insurance business in the hands of an elective body, taking it away from the present commission system. The scheme was approved of by the convention by a unanimous vote. The scheme of co-operative mutual hail insurance was also approved.

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