

Town Planning Act

Under the Town Planning Act, municipalities were given control of the subdivision of farms lands within suburban areas.

During the last session of the Legislature, following a report of a special committee which met to consider the revision of the Assessment Law, a number of sweeping reforms were enacted. These may be briefly cited as follows:

Assessment Reform

In cities the exemption on income to householders was increased from \$1,400 to \$1,700; for non-householders, from \$1,200 to \$1,400.

In rural parts the exemption for householders is \$700; for non-householders \$500.

No income derived from investments below \$800 is taxable, and \$800 exemption is allowed until the income reaches \$1,500, when the entire amount is taxed.

Authority was given to municipalities by by-law to grade the assessment on houses as follows:

On an assessment not exceeding \$2,000, for 50% of the value.

On an assessment not exceeding \$2,500, for 60% of the value.

On an assessment not exceeding \$3,000, for 70% of the value.

On an assessment not exceeding \$3,500, for 80% of the value.

On an assessment not exceeding \$4,000, for 90% of the value.

Other amendments included provision to make the receipts of telephone companies from long distance service taxable, and land owned by a municipal corporation and used for the purpose of a public utility to be assessed at the average value of the surrounding land.

In the case of soldiers who have returned from active service overseas, the council of any municipality may, without the vote of the electors, exempt from taxation, except for local improvements and school purposes, for a period not exceeding ten years, any dwelling house not assessed for more than \$3,000 owned and occupied by such soldier.

In order to determine the serviceableness of the taxation of land values only, authority was given the City of Ottawa, on a vote of the electors, to eliminate on a graduated scale the entire assessment on improvements.

Millions for Cheap Homes

Prior to the conference of Provincial Premiers in Ottawa last fall, Sir William Hearst, through the Organization of Resources Committee, had an inquiry made into the housing question to ascertain the actual shortage of modern priced houses.