

Revenue—

Fines paid to Provincial Government by City prosecutors under the Motor Vehicle Act, Liquor Act, although the cost of enforcing the law is borne by the city	10,136
License fees, pool rooms, theatres, etc., approximately	4,000
Contributions by city towards Mothers' Pensions	25,000
Total ascertained	\$411,453
Loss in revenue by City of Edmonton, due to exemption of Government Property from taxation:	
Assessed value of Government Buildings \$2,091,040, with mill rate of 39.90 mills	83,432
Assessed value of University \$2,981,400, with mill rate of 39.90 mills	118,957
	\$202,389
Amount contributed by Provincial Government towards the cost of education and hospital services compared with \$1,300,000, contributed by the City of Edmonton:	
Hospitals	\$39,478.50
Education	80,000.00
	\$199,478.50

The Dominion and Provincial Governments in order to increase their revenue to meet increasing expenditures have encoached upon the sources of revenue of the municipalities so that the latter instead of being able to broaden their basis of taxation to meet increasing expenditures have had same considerably curtailed. The Dominion and Provincial Governments should not because of their greater legislative powers adopt an unreasonable attitude towards the smaller unit of government as the municipality; which after all is responsible for the most effective work in looking after the welfare of the people, namely Education, Health, Police and Fire Protection, Recreation, etc. If they do then progress will be retarded and such an attitude will be detrimental to the best interests of the Dominion and the Province.

The Automobile Tax—It is presumed that the whole of the revenue derived by the Provincial Government from this tax is expended upon the maintenance and upkeep of trunk roads throughout the Province. This of course is a very essential and desirable expenditure but the finances of urban municipalities are such that they cannot afford to contribute the whole of this tax for this purpose and claim that at least fifty per cent of same should be used for the maintenance of roads within their own districts. In the case of the City of Edmonton over \$3,000,000 have been expended on pavements and unless a large sum of money is immediately expended in putting same into a proper state of repair, it will soon have to expend a considerable sum of money upon re-construction and a great part of the original capital will be wasted. If the Government insists upon its present policy and if it will not heed the urgent appeal of the municipalities then it will soon have to assume a very much graver responsibility in preventing their default.

Amusement Tax—It is claimed that the municipality is entitled to all the revenue from this tax.

The municipality has to assume all the cost of fire and police protection, the wear and tear on its streets due to heavy traffic to and from the place of amusement, the extra policing necessary to control traffic, etc. The Provincial Government by taking all the revenue from this tax is depriving the municipality of considerable cash revenue and a way of broadening the basis of taxation by the most desirable indirect tax. In the Province of Quebec the municipalities impose and are allowed to take all the revenue from this tax. In the last session of the Legislature of the Province of Saskatchewan power was given to the municipalities to impose an Amusement Tax.

The Widows Pension Tax—At present the urban municipalities have to contribute fifty per cent of the pensions granted under the Mothers Pension Act. In the case of the City of Edmonton this tax amounted to \$25,000 in 1921. This expenditure is undoubtedly either a Provincial or Dominion obligation as in a great many cases upon the death of the husband the widow and family move from the rural to the urban centres and the municipality, after twelve months residence, has to assume the widows pension for the remainder of her life if she does not again marry. The Province of Saskatchewan recognized the reasonableness of the request of the municipalities in this regard and assumed the whole cost Mothers Pensions.

Exemption of Provincial Government Property from Taxation—It has been already pointed out that the City of Edmonton contains Provincial property in the Provincial Government Buildings and the Provincial University valued at over \$5,000,000, which is exempt from taxation. It is possibly claimed that it is an advantage to the city to have these institutions located within its limits, but this same claim can be made by every large manufacturer and every large distribution house; and if admitted as a logical argument it is hard to imagine how a municipality can obtain its revenue to meet expenditure. The large institutions of the government mean increased expenditure on sewers, roads, police and fire protection and other municipal services, and the City of Edmonton should not be put to the double disadvantage of losing what should be legitimate municipal revenue and also provide all the advantages and services which a municipal government is expected to give.

The Dominion Government contributes \$75,000 towards the revenue of the City of Ottawa in addition to laying out and maintaining a beautiful park. The City of Regina, the capital of Saskatchewan, has been given clear title to a considerable area of government land from which it has received and will no doubt receive in the future a very large revenue. The City of Toronto receives from the Government a subsidy of \$273,500. The City of Vancouver receives from the Provincial Government of British Columbia \$253,766 towards the cost of education, and \$250,912 from the operation of the Liquor Act. The City of Halifax receives \$43,600 from the Bank and Corporations Tax, a tax which is levied and collected by the Government in this province. The City of Montreal collects over \$250,000 from the Amusement Tax.

The proposition that Government Buildings should pay taxes is not new. The British Government has for many years paid taxes on the Houses of Parliament and other government property situated in London.