

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP IN ONTARIO

The city of Chatham, Ont., owns and operates a municipal electric light and power plant. It was started in 1915. At that time the rate charged by the private concerns was 8 cents per kilowatt.

Upon taking over the plant the rates were reduced at once to about one-half what they were under private ownership. Since then there have been numerous reductions as shown by the following table:

Reduction of Rates		Average Rate per K. W. H.
Year		
1915	Under private ownership.....	8c
1916	Under public ownership	3.35c
1917	" " "	2.27
1918	" " "	1.97
1919	" " "	1.92

And Makes Profit Besides

And besides reducing rates so notably this municipal enterprise makes a substantial profit besides. True, the first year showed a small deficit. That is quite natural. Such plants usually do have a deficit at the beginning. But after the plant was well established it showed a surplus over all charges including depreciation every year as follows:

Year	Surplus
1915 (partial public ownership only)	\$721.00 deficit
1916	601.66 surplus
1917	119.81 "
1918	1,316.65 "
1919	4,469.04 "
1920	12,000.00 "

EXCESSIVE TAXATION MAKES DISHONEST TAXPAYERS

An English Judge states: "I am perfectly aware that taxation in England has reached a point that is making it difficult for a large number to remain honest. It is a great disadvantage if a law becomes so strict ordinary people cannot be expected to observe it, and it is certain that if the people continue to be taxed as they are now, weak people and those not of very high character in regard to their country's welfare will be tempted to rob their country."—Canadian Finance.

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CAPITAL (PAID UP)...\$22,000,000
REST.....\$22,000,000
UNDIVIDED PROFITS. \$1,510,646
TOTAL ASSETS\$517,403,162

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