

Interest Payments and Receipts of the Provinces.—The current burden of a debt in the case of a continuing organization is represented by interest payments, which may be offset in whole or in part by interest received on loans either to provincially-owned public utilities or to corporations or individual citizens. In a country where provincial public policy varies widely with regard to public ownership, it appears desirable to include a statement showing, for each province, the gross interest payments, the interest receipts and the net interest payments. This information is given for the provincial fiscal years ended in 1933 below:—

Province.	Gross Interest Paid.	Interest Received.	Net Interest Paid.	Net Interest Paid per Capita.
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Prince Edward Island.....	207,367	-	207,367	2.33
Nova Scotia.....	3,060,054	920,676	2,139,378	4.10
New Brunswick.....	2,613,834	-	2,613,834	6.22
Quebec.....	4,638,575	927,751	3,710,824	1.25
Ontario.....	27,520,666	12,903,342	14,617,324	4.15
Manitoba.....	5,660,135	2,202,037	3,458,098	9.58
Saskatchewan.....	5,748,620	2,285,096	3,463,524	3.64
Alberta.....	6,043,497	1,729,073	4,314,424	5.70
British Columbia.....	7,054,044	219,840	6,834,204	9.60
Totals.....	62,546,792	21,187,815	41,358,977	3.88

Section 3.—Municipal Public Finance.*

The existence of local self-governing units has always been characteristic of democratic societies, and nowhere more so than in Canada. The struggle for responsible government was naturally accompanied by an agitation for local self-government in the cities and towns of Canada and, after responsible government had been conceded, a complete system of municipalities was established throughout the old Province of Canada by the Municipal Act of 1849.† Under the division of powers made by the British North America Act between the Dominion and the Provincial Governments, legislation regarding municipal government, being a local matter, was naturally assigned to the provinces, which differ considerably with regard to their types of municipal organization. Thus in Prince Edward Island the only incorporated municipalities are the city of Charlottetown and seven incorporated towns. In British Columbia seven of the 33 cities have fewer than 1,000 people, while there are no towns at all and only 17 villages; again, in the same province the rural districts are mainly administered from the provincial capital, there being only 28 rural municipalities. Finally, in Saskatchewan and Alberta there exist local improvement districts, areas which have not as yet been organized into rural municipalities, and where the taxes are levied, collected and expended by the Provincial Governments. Such districts, however, may be regarded as on the way to becoming self-governing rural municipalities and their statistics are therefore included in Table 33, which gives statistics of the numbers and types of municipalities in 1932.

*Revised by Col. J. R. Munro, Chief of the Finance Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This Branch issues statements on "Financial Statistics of Urban Municipalities of 10,000 Population and Over", on "Bonded Indebtedness of Municipalities" and on "Assessment Valuations of Municipalities". For a list of publications see Chapter XXIX, Section 1, under "Finance", (p. 1155).

†For a brief outline of the rise of the municipal system of Ontario, see 1922-23 Year Book, p. 108.