

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 below for the provincial fiscal years ended in 1936.

Province.	Gross Interest Paid.	Interest Received.	Net Interest Paid.	Net Interest Paid per Capita. ¹
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Prince Edward Island.....	268,367	Nil	268,367	2.92
Nova Scotia.....	3,563,430	934,959	2,628,471	4.91
New Brunswick.....	3,085,198	124,224	2,960,974	6.81
Quebec.....	6,087,053	1,041,790	5,045,263	1.63
Ontario.....	30,260,845	11,372,166	18,888,679	5.12
Manitoba.....	5,925,940	1,965,953	3,959,987	5.57
Saskatchewan.....	6,571,594	2,544,104	4,027,490	4.33
Alberta.....	6,566,932	944,785	5,622,147	7.28
British Columbia.....	8,279,605	425,620	7,853,985	10.47

¹ Estimates of population on which these figures are based are given on p. 155.

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

*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".

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