

### Section 4.—Municipal Public Finance\*

The existence of local self-governing units has always been characteristic of democratic societies, and this has been especially true 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 8 of the 33 cities have fewer than 1,000 people, while there are no towns at all and only 19 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 that have not as yet been organized into rural municipalities) 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 but are excluded from the following table and referred to in the footnotes.

\* Revised under the direction of 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 XXVIII, Section 1, under "Finance".

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

#### 41.—Number of Municipalities in Canada, Classified by Provinces, 1940

Province	Cities	Towns	Villages	Total Urban	Rural	Total Local Municipalities	Counties	Total Incorporated Municipalities
P.E. Island.....	1	7	Nil	8	Nil	8	Nil	8
Nova Scotia.....	2	43	"	45	24 <sup>1</sup>	69	2	69
New Brunswick...	3	20	2	25	15 <sup>2</sup>	40	4	40
Quebec.....	26	108	311 <sup>5</sup>	445	1,054	1,499	76 <sup>6</sup>	1,575
Ontario.....	27	148	156	331	571 <sup>7</sup>	902	38 <sup>8</sup>	940
Manitoba.....	4	36 <sup>9</sup>	22	62	111	173	Nil	173
Saskatchewan.....	8	82	384	474	302	776	"	776 <sup>10</sup>
Alberta.....	7	53	145	205	143 <sup>11</sup>	348	"	348 <sup>12</sup>
British Columbia..	33	Nil	19	52	28 <sup>13</sup>	80	"	80
<b>Totals.....</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>1,039</b>	<b>1,647</b>	<b>2,248</b>	<b>3,895</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>4,009<sup>14</sup></b>

<sup>1</sup> Officially known as "Municipalities". <sup>2</sup> Nova Scotia has 18 counties, 12 of which each comprise one municipality and 6 are divided into two municipalities each, making the total of 24 rural municipalities. Counties as such do not represent local units of self-government. <sup>3</sup> Officially known as "Counties".

<sup>4</sup> New Brunswick has 15 counties which are incorporated municipalities and have direct powers of local self-government comprising the rural areas; they are thus classed herein as "rural". <sup>5</sup> In provincial reports these are classed as "rural". <sup>6</sup> Although being incorporated municipalities, each county is comprised of the villages and rural municipalities situated therein, which provide the necessary funds for the services falling within the scope of county administration. <sup>7</sup> Officially known as "Townships".

<sup>8</sup> Although being incorporated municipalities, each county is comprised of the towns, villages and townships situated therein, which provide the necessary funds for the services falling within the scope of county administration. Geographically, there are 43 counties, but 5 are united with other adjacent counties for purposes of administration. <sup>9</sup> Includes Flin Flon Municipal District and 5 units of self-government officially known as "Suburban Municipalities". <sup>10</sup> Excludes 84 "Local Improvement Districts".

<sup>11</sup> Officially known as "Municipal Districts". <sup>12</sup> Excludes 246 "Improvement Districts". <sup>13</sup> Officially known as "Districts". <sup>14</sup> See footnotes 10 and 12.