

While complete figures for tax-exempt properties are not available for each province, it will be noted from the information given that these have assumed relatively high proportions. It will also be noted that most provinces have shown consistent increases in taxable assessed valuations which may be attributed in large part to the stimulus to business and industry in general, arising from the War. Saskatchewan, however, shows a major reduction in total valuations which is the result of a province-wide plan of re-assessment of rural municipalities by the Department of Municipal Affairs being "the first occasion in Canada where an assessment system of such extensive proportions has ever been undertaken".\* This report further states:—

"The present method of assessment recognizes municipal boundaries only so far as municipal organization makes this necessary, as assessed values are based upon a province-wide system with one controlling agency and therein lies the only possibility of maintaining an equitable assessment within each municipality or as between different municipalities whether closely adjacent or far removed from one another."

The effect of this plan, which was commenced in 1939, is illustrated with the following comparative figures:—

<i>Item</i>	<i>Taxable Assessed Valuations of Rural Municipalities</i>	
	1939	1942
Land.....	\$831,651,124	\$680,012,665
Improvements.....	13,772,168	14,396,125
Business.....	5,789,700	6,783,769
Totals.....	<u>\$851,212,992</u>	<u>\$701,192,559</u>

By May 1, 1943, 172 rural municipalities had been re-assessed with resulting reductions in assessed valuations totalling \$154,357,000.

### Subsection 3.—Municipal Taxation

**Municipal Taxation**—Table 34 shows, by provinces, the taxes levied by municipalities in comparison with collections in 1940, 1941 and 1942, and the total taxes outstanding at the end of those years. While these figures are as nearly comparable as may be obtained from existing published reports, they nevertheless reflect some inconsistencies due particularly to interprovincial variations in the division of responsibility for tax administration between municipalities and school authorities. In some instances school taxes are included in the municipal levies while in others they are not. In Prince Edward Island only 2 out of the 8 incorporated municipalities have their own individual school districts and levy and collect the school taxes. In Nova Scotia and New Brunswick only the cities, towns and villages levy and collect the school taxes. Hence the figures shown for these provinces are, generally speaking, exclusive of rural school taxes particulars of which are not available from published reports. In Nova Scotia for 1942, however, under a program for establishing "larger school units" some municipalities now levy and collect the school taxes for and on behalf of the rural school boards situated therein. A similar program has since been inaugurated in New Brunswick, so that more complete figures should be available progressively in the future as the larger school units are gradually established. The figures for Alberta are also incomplete as some municipalities levy and collect the taxes for and on behalf of local school authorities while others do not. Also, school and hospital taxes are considered as "trust" taxes and excluded from village and town levies in some instances. As a result, the tax levies for Alberta are somewhat understated in comparison with other

\* Annual report of the Department of Municipal Affairs of the Province of Saskatchewan for the fiscal year ended Apr. 30, 1941.