

\$132,078,584 in 1914 to \$214,260,791 in 1923, and a similar increase naturally took place in other provinces. The more recent growth of bonded indebtedness of all classes of municipalities is shown by provinces in Table 31, but this increase is less than the actual because the number of New Brunswick municipalities reporting was lower in 1923 than in earlier years. Such as they are, the figures show that the municipal bonded indebtedness increased during the five-year period in every province but New Brunswick.

31.—Total Bonded Indebtedness of All Classes of Municipalities, by Provinces, 1919-1923.

Provinces.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Prince Edward Island ¹	970,100	1,086,500	1,202,200	1,254,900	1,290,800
Nova Scotia.....	17,863,881	19,192,462	22,451,743	23,541,759	24,248,782
New Brunswick ²	11,128,467	10,841,466	7,578,567	10,025,633	7,974,362
Quebec.....	171,168,650	190,204,326	194,877,251	207,883,993	214,260,791
Ontario.....	243,226,877	269,727,271	317,613,283	349,276,606	376,512,002
Manitoba.....	55,562,788	57,820,588	65,463,239	68,811,040	73,908,963
Saskatchewan.....	39,585,388	34,989,751	35,040,336	52,787,655	51,709,772
Alberta.....	66,870,464	57,205,275	53,429,558	60,832,650	70,999,611
British Columbia.....	94,741,615	96,107,911	97,495,984	98,761,630	96,273,987
Total.....	701,118,230	737,175,550	795,152,161	873,175,866	917,179,070

¹ The figures are for Charlottetown, Summerside and Montague only. There was no bonded debt in the towns of Kensington, Alberton and Georgetown in the years 1919 to 1923 inclusive, while figures are not available for the incorporated town of Souris.

² New Brunswick figures are for 3 cities, 13 towns, 1 village and 15 counties in 1919 and 1920; 3 cities, 16 towns, 1 village and 13 counties in 1921; 2 cities, 9 towns and 10 counties in 1922; 1 city, 6 towns and 6 counties in 1923.

2.—Urban Municipalities.

The statistics of the rural and urban population of Canada, appearing on pages 118 to 126 of this issue of the Year Book, show that between 1901 and 1921, the urban population of Canada more than doubled, increasing from 2,014,222 to 4,352,442; further, this growth has been greater in the cities, more especially the larger cities, than in the towns and villages. The aggregation of great numbers of people into the cities within a comparatively short space of time has made it necessary for costly public services to be furnished to the newcomers. Problems of water supply, road and bridge building, police and fire protection, sanitation and sewage, transportation, education, public health and recreation have been faced and more or less satisfactorily solved, often at great expense. Some municipalities, indeed, in the period before the war, considered it expedient to provide public services for prospective, as well as for existing population, and later found that the prospects did not become actualities as rapidly as they had expected. The result of the great actual growth and the great expectations of growth was a rapid increase in municipal taxation which has made municipal public finance a very important part of the public finance of Canada, attracting a very considerable amount of attention from theoretical students of public finance, from municipal officials, from bond houses and generally from the urban ratepayer.

Investigators of municipal public finance have, however, found great difficulties in pursuing their studies on account of the incomparability of the statistics collected by Provincial Governments, or the entire absence of such statistics, for, as late as 1919, only six provinces compiled and published their municipal statistics. Accordingly, in response to suggestions from the Union of Canadian Municipalities and the Municipal Improvement League of Canada, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics