

# SOLDIERS' FAMILIES EXEMPT FROM WAR TAX

## Government Intends to Give Municipalities Power to Make This Exception—Purpose of the Fund—Industrial Exemptions Not Affected

Quickly following the Budget, the Government's war tax measure was introduced in the Legislature yesterday. The bill, Hon. T. W. McGarry, Provincial Treasurer, explained when moving for the first reading, was along the lines of his announcement on Tuesday. The tax was to be one mill on the dollar on all assessable property in the Province of Ontario.

"I said yesterday," said Mr. McGarry, "that this tax would bring in approximately \$1,800,000. It may bring in more, because it will depend upon the assessment each year, and will include, where it is in force, real property, business assessment and income assessment."

### Exempt Soldiers' Families.

"Because of the system which we are adopting in this bill it will be necessary, if the Government finally decides upon following the ideas which we have been considering with respect to it, that amendments will require to be made to the municipal act, and possibly the assessment act, giving to the local municipalities and counties the right to exclude from the operation of this act the immediate relatives of the soldiers who are on the field of battle fighting the enemy. (Applause.) It is not intended that they shall do any more than the sacrifices they are making already. (Hear, hear.) I mention this to the House now because you will understand it was impossible for us to assume this in the provisions of the act, as the act places upon the municipalities and the counties the necessity of making the collection, so that we will have to extend to the municipalities the right to use their discretion in excluding from its operation such persons as ought to be excluded."

Mr. Rowell wanted to know if the general terms of the bill provided for the application of the money and the raising of money.

Mr. McGarry replied that, so far as the Government had been able to

do so, the name, preamble and clauses of the bill showed the object was to raise a fund for war purposes. "We could not specify the particular uses to which it would be applied, because the Government must use its discretion to give this money according as the necessities or obligations which we ought to incur arise. The object of the bill is to repay the \$818,000 already advanced out of the funds of the Province and in future to be able to give such assistance as the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may think the circumstances require. It is not the object of the bill that we should increase the revenue of the Province other than in the way I have stated."

"That will be a matter for discussion," replied Mr. Rowell. "That was the statement made when the bill to grant \$5,000,000 for New Ontario development was introduced."

### Industrial Exemptions Not Affected.

As the new tax would be levied on the equalized rate in counties, the question of exemptions granted to industries would not be affected, for whatever the County Board of Equalization determined would be the rate would apply under the new law.

### Budget Debate Continues.

Mr. G. A. Gillespie (West Peterborough), who is President of the Eastern Ontario Dairymen's Association, in continuing the Budget debate, thought that in the era of newness the time had come when both parties should co-operate for the best interests of the Province. He regretted that the practice of intensive farming had not been more generally adopted, but pointed out that little could be accomplished by the farmer along this line unless adequate help was available.

Production of population was more important than the production of crops, said Mr. J. W. Johnson (West Hastings), in continuing the debate. Mr. Johnson spent some time in pointing out that the financial policy of the Government had sought to place the burden of taxation where it could best be borne.

### ONTARIO'S FOLLY.

Government House, that monument to Ontario's vanity and folly, or rather to the vanity and folly of the men who for her sins are put to rule over her, has already made a big addition to our debt, and the end is not yet. The expenditure to date on the site is \$147,050, for laying out the grounds \$116,132, and on buildings and furnishings \$459,902. These figures, emphasized by the taxation for which the war is blamed but is not responsible, should make the people of the Province favorable toward a return to the democratic simplicity of the Liberal regime.

The estimated cost of completing the grounds is \$35,000, and of completing the buildings \$162,364. As with all extravagance, the forecasts are probably within the mark, for when people lose their sense over wasteful vanity there is no length to which they will not go. The total estimated cost of the furnishings of this residence will be \$55,000, a total that may help toward a conception of Ontario's modern castle. It is typical of the Government in cost, in recklessness, and in irresponsible extravagance.