

received \$639,987.09; in 1917 these amounted to \$930,753, or an increase of \$290,765.91.

"In succession duty we have had the greatest year since these imposts were made upon the estates of persons dying and holding property in Ontario. During the past fiscal year we collected from estates the sum of \$3,228,226.38, as against, in 1916, \$2,451,794, being an increase of \$776,432.38. There were last year twenty estates which paid upwards of \$30,000 in duty; one estate paid \$602,000, and another estate \$360,000.

#### Soldiers' Estates.

"During the year we dealt with a number of estates of soldiers who died on the field of battle, or from wounds received there; altogether we remitted duty on soldiers' estates to the amount of \$112,390. The largest estate upon which remission was granted was that of the late George T. Richardson of Kingston. This estate was valued at \$407,042.18.

#### U.S. Money Markets.

Mr. McGarry said the United States money markets had been closed to Ontario since the Republic entered the war and the Province had been able to "carry on" financially as a result of the income and the balance from other years. Ontario was undoubtedly "the soundest Province, Dominion or nation engaged in the war." During the year the Province borrowed five millions. Of this two millions were borrowed at 5.00 per cent. without any commission and one million at 4.92 per cent. He did not think any other Province or country had been able to borrow at such favorable rates. In addition two millions had been borrowed at one of the banks at the end of the year at 6 per cent. An extremely acute situation developed when the United States was shut off to Ontario for borrowing. It was not a favorable time to put on a loan here. The Finance Minister at Ottawa sent for the Ontario Treasurer some weeks ago and satisfactory arrangements were made for financing Ontario so long as the war continues for what is absolutely essential. Some bonds would be placed locally in a short time at a lower rate than it would be possible to secure from the Finance Minister.

#### Expenditures Grow.

Mr. McGarry added that as the receipts had grown so also had the expenditures. Over five millions was spent on the Hydro-electric system last year, he said, including \$2,606,000 on the Niagara system; \$458,000 on the Central Ontario system; \$315,000 on the Severn system; \$183,000 on the Eugenia Falls system, and \$900,000 not classified.

From the T. & N. O. Railway the Province had received \$250,000, as against \$1,000,000 the year before, but the million in 1916 was made up partly of revenue and partly from a profit and loss account which the Commission had been building up. The T. & N. O. Railway was operating 459 miles, and the operating revenue for the year was \$2,331,905; operating expenses were \$1,881,000, and net revenue, \$516,000, not including \$66,000 revenue from other sources. Considering the turmoil of the past year, this was a proud record for the T. & N. O., said Mr. McGarry. The revenue per mile was \$7,098, as against \$6,508 in 1916, and the operating expenses were \$6,001, as against \$5,173 in 1916. The payroll of the railway had increased by \$146,000 in 1917.

#### Provincial Resources Committee.

The Provincial Treasurer paid tribute to the work of the Organization of Provincial Resources Committee, which was formed upon the suggestion of the Hon. Newton Rowell, former Opposition leader. The Resources Committee had been in charge for three years of the British Red Cross campaign here, and under its auspices Ontario had given \$4,943,078 to the British Red Cross, as against \$693,000 given by all the other Canadian Provinces put together. Sir John Hendrie, as President of the committee, had done great work.

Since the beginning of the war, said Mr. McGarry, Ontario has given \$23,485,000 in money, and \$4,000,000 in kind for Patriotic and Red Cross Funds, including \$4,943,000 to the British Red Cross, \$31,511 to the

Canadian Serbian Relief Fund, \$1,805,000 to the Canadian Red Cross, \$15,253,000 to the Canadian Patriotic Fund, \$780,000 for the purchase of machine guns, \$216,000 to the Belgians, and \$287,000 to the Secours Nationale.

#### Annual Needs in Fish.

Touching on the Government fish policy, Mr. McGarry said that the estimated quantity of fish required by the people of the Province for one year is 5,200 tons. If six cents is saved on every pound there will be an annual saving of \$520,000.

Since the levying of the war tax of one mill, three years ago, \$6,500,000 has been collected. Of this amount \$5,948,000 has already been expended on war purposes. This year the Government added to its expenditures \$1,200,000 for the Patriotic Fund and gave \$150,000 to the Orpington Hospital in England. Between three and five hundred thousand dollars was expended on comforts for the men overseas. He declared that he didn't believe the basis of levying the tax on per capita of population was proper. Outside of Toronto he had never heard any complaints that the methods of levying the tax on property was unfair. Mr. McGarry predicted that before the end of the fiscal year more than \$8,000,000 will have been expended for war purposes.

Mr. C. M. Bowman of West Bruce, the Opposition financial critic, is ill, and has been unable to attend the session. Mr. J. C. Elliott of West Middlesex therefore moved the adjournment, and will continue the debate this afternoon from the Liberal side.