

PROVINCIAL WAR TAX ENDS: ONTARIO'S SURPLUS \$1,809,719.66

Supplementary Estimates for Current Year Total \$3,370,285.27, an In- crease of \$1,448,498.46— Hon. T. W. McGarry Pre- sents Budget

There were two outstanding features in the Budget address of Hon. T. W. McGarry in the Legislature yesterday. His announcement that the one-mill Provincial war tax would be discontinued forthwith will be everywhere received with gratification, as it will mean a welcome reduction in the tax rate to every municipality in the Province. Likewise the announcement of Mr. McGarry that last year the surplus in the Treasury was the largest in the history of Ontario, being \$1,809,719.66, will be welcomed.

The galleries were crowded when the Provincial Treasurer rose to give an account of his stewardship for the last year. He spoke for one hour and thirty-five minutes, his address being a comprehensive one. The ordinary revenue for the year ending October 31 was \$19,270,123.71, and the ordinary expenditures \$17,460,404. The liquid assets were \$71,000,000, and the total debt \$75,000,000, the net being \$4,000,000.

Will Build T. & N. O. Branch.

Another announcement Mr. McGarry made, which will be of particular interest to the people of Northern Ontario, was that a branch of the T. & N. O. was to be built to Kirkland Lake, and that a truck road was to be constructed into the Gowanda District. The Provincial Treasurer took a fling at the U. F. O. members of the House and their supporters, who had been flaunting the total debt of the Province during the election campaign without mentioning the assets to offset it. He referred to them as going through the ridings with bulging eyes and with bated breath telling about the immense liabilities the Province was under.

Italian Hero a Guest.

A distinguished guest who was welcomed at the opening of the sitting was Major-General Emilio Guglielmotti, the Italian veteran soldier, who is visiting in the city. He was welcomed by the Prime Minister, Sir William Hearst. In reply Gen. Guglielmotti said that Italy was proud to fight with the allies, and she knew that with King George on the Throne justice would be given to all. The General was given a whole-hearted reception by the members when he was escorted into the chamber.

Mr. McGarry, when he rose to speak, in view of the presence on the floor of the House of the Italian General, eulogized the splendid work of the forces of that ally. He also referred to the members of the House overseas, and deprecated the man who, "carefully esconced at home in his chair, criticized the men on the battlefields who had given their lives," and suggested that a fitting memorial would be erected in the chamber to perpetuate those members of the Legislature who had served in the war. Mr. McGarry also made reference to the reorganization of the Cabinet, the appointment of Hon. George S. Henry as Minister of Agriculture, and the appointment of Hon. Dr. Cody as Minister of Education. He also paid tribute to the late Sir Wilfrid Laurier. While differing with the late Liberal Chief-tain on questions of public policy,

he "respected him as a noble type of gentleman." "No matter," he said, "what our political affiliations, I feel sure that we must all come to the conclusion that Canada will miss his figure and that Canada will have lost much in her public life by reason of his demise."

A few years ago, said Mr. McGarry in beginning his address in explanation of his stewardship during the last year, half an hour would have been sufficient for the Provincial Treasurer to tell of the work of the department. The Province had so grown, however, the methods of administration had been so improved, and so many new things had been launched out upon that it would take many hours to give a detailed statement of the Provincial affairs.

Total Revenue \$19,270,123.71.

"In twelve months ending October 31, 1918, the Province of Ontario received in actual cash from ordinary revenue \$19,270,123.71, as compared with \$18,269,000 in 1917, an increase of \$1,526,000. The ordinary expenses in 1918 were \$17,460,404.05, compared with \$16,500,000 in 1917. Last year, deducting the ordinary expenditure from the ordinary receipts, there was left \$1,809,719.66, the largest surplus in the history of the Province. Last year it was \$1,750,000. Although the money markets were not of the best, and the demands upon the Government during the year were many, the year closed with the greatest cash balance known, of \$5,195,244."

Sir William Hearst has been Prime Minister now for four years, and he proceeded to show how the finances of the Province had improved during that period. In 1915 the ordinary revenue was \$12,900,000, the net expenditure \$12,700,000, and the surplus \$271,000; in 1916 the ordinary revenue was \$13,800,000, the ordinary expenditure \$12,700,000, and the surplus \$1,135,000; in 1917 the ordinary revenue was \$18,269,000, the ordinary expenditure \$16,500,000, and the surplus \$1,751,000. The last year the surplus was \$1,809,719.

"In other words, during Sir William Hearst's administration we have in those four years of the war, with the demands increasing month by month, had a total surplus of \$4,937,000. During these four years the average surplus was \$1,241,000. I question if the surpluses we have had during the last four years are not greater than in any twenty years prior to that."

The increase, he said, was not because of severe legislation or of any attempt to endanger the happiness of the public, but by legislation and taxation whereby the wealthier people, the people who were reaping the benefits from the carrying on of the affairs of the country, and the people who violated the laws of the country were made to pay.

Forests and Mines Receipts.

The receipts from forests and mines had been increased from \$2,700,000 in 1904 to \$3,579,000 last year, and the succession duties had been increased from \$450,000 in 1904 to \$3,157,000 last year. He explained that the latter amount had been greatly increased during the last three years, whereby the Province could appoint a Commission to ascertain the correct value of estates. As a result the returns from two estates were increased last year by \$125,000.

The amusement tax for the year had netted \$531,000. The receipts from the Motor Vehicles branch had grown from \$1,200 in 1904 to \$1,214,093 last year. From the Department of Game and Fisheries they had increased from \$47,000 in 1904 to \$493,000 last year. The Provincial war tax for the last year totaled \$2,054,212.78. Mr. McGarry explained that this surplus did not include any receipts from war tax, because not only had all the money