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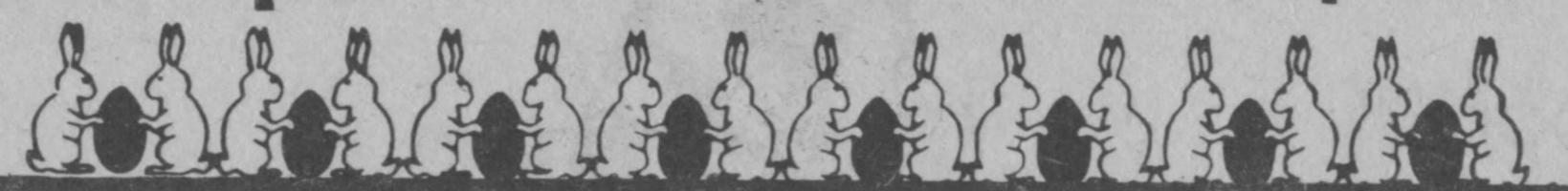
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ASSESSMENT (Continued from page 1)

"884 of the 964 Ontario Municipalities were assessing at 50 percent of market value and 868 were assessing at below 40 per cent."

These procedures were described by the Ontario committee on Taxation (the Smith Committee) as "gross under-assessment."

Authorities in the tax field have censured this practice because it makes it difficult to spot inequalities and inconsistencies, and therefore it tends to permit continued unfairness to many taxpayers. For these reasons, the Province plans to assess all properties at market value and to make frequent checks to keep assessment at market value.

"This does not affect the actual level of taxation, of course," Mr. McKeough said. "It simply attacks unfairness."

The market-value method means that the assessment will be much higher than at present, in most cases, and the mill rate will be much lower in order order to raise the same amount of money.

"The taxation in dollars on a home would not be changed. It would only be changed if the more accurate assessment method showed that that home should, in fairness, be paying more or less in relation to other taxpayers."

To illustrate the problems that made the change necessary, he quoted from his own department's studies and the report of the Ontario Committee on taxation.

In many municipalties there are inaccuracies of assessment, and inconsistencies of standards, that result in a great deal of unfairness. The Smith Committee noted that one home could be assessed at half again as much as another, in relation to its value, and therefore the owner would pay that much more than his fair share of taxes.

Further, McMcKeough soid there was proof of "discrimination against apartments, stores and industrial premises".

These common inequalities became greater when municipalities did not Continued page 8.....

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