



Bureau of Municipal Research
137 Wellington Street West
Toronto

RADIOGRAM No. 1

This is the
Toronto Bureau of Municipal Research
speaking on

"The Universal Ingredient"

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WHEN one drinks a cup of tea, *it is there.*
When one buys a suit of clothes, *it is there.*
When one buys or rents a house, *it is there.* When
one gets a doctor's bill, *it is there.* When one's
estate gets the undertaking bill, *it is there.* When-
ever one buys an article or a service, *it is there.*
It may not be tasted, felt or seen at any of these
times, but *it is there.*
What is there?—The Universal Ingredient, Taxation.

When one drinks a cup of tea he consumes in
so doing at least five kinds of taxes. The peculiar
taste of some kinds of tea is not, however, due to
this fact, for taxes are tasteless, colourless and odor-
less, although this last may not be claimed for
all the expenditures which cause taxes.

First there are the Dominion Customs, the Sales
Tax, the Special Excise Tax on imports and possibly
the Dominion Income Tax on corporations. Then
there is the Provincial Corporation Tax. Then
there are the Municipal Real Estate Tax and Busi-
ness Tax. All these, when paid, are paid directly
or indirectly by the house which sells the tea, and
in the selling price passes on the taxes to the
ultimate consumer, who pays all taxes which can
be passed on, and most can.

When one buys a suit of clothes he also pays
taxes. When one rents a house, store, office or
factory he pays real estate taxes in his rent
cheques. The owner collects the taxes in
twelve instalments and may pay in three. Those
who pay their doctors' bills pay their share of
the doctors' taxes as well as the share of those
clients who don't pay their bills. In fact this is
true of grocers' bills, butchers' bills, tailors' bills
and all other bills. Those who pay pay not only
for themselves but for those who don't pay.
*The only persons who do not pay any taxes are those
who do not pay any bills.* Taxes, therefore, form a
part of the cost of living, and anyone who is not
interested in taxation is either not interested in
living, doesn't know he is alive, has so much
money he doesn't know what to do with it, or
thinks he isn't paying taxes. Perhaps what he
doesn't know won't hurt him, *but why be uncon-
scious?*

B.M.R. signing off—Please tune in on the next
programme.