

## EVENTS OF THE YEAR

The third session of the tenth Parliament of the Dominion of Canada, which was opened on November 22, 1906, and closed by prorogation on April 27, 1907, resulted in the enactment of 142 separate measures, including 54 public general acts and 88 local and private acts. Of the former the large majority were in amendment of existing statutes. Other legislation was original in character, and the measures of chief public interest were those relating to the prevention and settlement of strikes and lockouts, the inspection of meats and canned foods, the provision of public warehouses for cold storage, the inspection and exportation of electricity, the granting of bounties for the manufacture of iron and steel in Canada, the creation of a Department of Mines and the sanctioning of a commercial treaty between Canada and Japan. Parliament reassembled for its fourth session on November 28, 1907.

Allegations and disclosures which were made two years ago as to methods employed in the Chicago meat packing warehouses caused considerable apprehension amongst consumers of canned foods throughout the world and led to an immediate diminution in the demand for their supply. Although there was no reason to believe that serious malpractices existed on the part of Canadian food packers and exporters, Parliament deemed it advisable to bring the slaughtering and canning establishments in Canada under strict government inspection, with a view to provide absolute safeguards for the sound and wholesome condition of meats and canned articles of food which are exported largely to European countries.

The Meat and Canned Foods Act, ch. 27, passed under these circumstances, provides for the official inspection of all animals intended for slaughter, and of all carcasses and portions or products thereof packed in cans or similar receptacles and intended for export. This inspection applies during the whole course of preparation and packing, and carcasses or products are subject to re-inspection in order to ascertain whether subsequently to the first inspection they have undergone decomposition or deterioration, or have been tampered with or adulterated by the use of preservatives or otherwise.

The act lays down as an absolute principle that all animals, carcasses, fish, fruit and vegetables, prepared for export, shall be sound, wholesome and fit for food. All articles prepared for food and packed in cans or similar receptacles must be marked on the packages with (a) the name and address of the packer and (b) a true and correct description of the contents of the package; but the Governor in Council may exempt