

**Dominion land surveys.** Those provisions of the previous Dominion Lands act which related to land surveys are not included in the new act of 1908 ; but this part of the subject is dealt with in a separate measure intituled the Dominion Lands Survey act, 1908, chapter 21, which regulates the qualifications and appointment of Dominion land surveyors and lays down the conditions under which the surveys of the lands of the Dominion shall be executed.

**New postal facilities.** On August 8 an important reduction was made by the Post Office Department in the rate of postage on what are commonly known as local or drop letters posted in cities and towns where there is letter carrier delivery. Up to that date these letters were subject to the rate of two cents per ounce. They can now be posted at the rate of one cent per ounce. Also a modified form of rural mail delivery has been put into operation whereby persons residing upon established mail routes can have mail boxes put up, in which the mail courier on the route will deposit mail matter and from which he will collect mail matter and carry it to the post office.

**General Elections of 1908.** The tenth Parliament of the Dominion of Canada was dissolved by proclamation of the Governor General on September 17. Elected on November 3 1904, this Parliament assembled for its first session on January 11 1905, and its fourth annual session closed on July 20 1908. Writs for the calling together of a new Parliament, returnable on December 3, were issued on September 18, and general elections of members to serve therein took place on October 26. No change of government ensued, as the elections resulted in the return of a substantial majority for the existing administration of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who has presided continuously over the eighth Ministry of Canada since his appointment as Premier and President of the Council on July 11 1896. The first session of the eleventh Parliament of Canada was opened by the Governor General with the customary formalities on January 20 1909, when the Hon. Charles Marcil was elected Speaker of the House of Commons. The Hon. James Kirkpatrick Kerr, K.C., was appointed Speaker of the Senate by Commission under the Great Seal dated January 14 1909.

**International boundary between Canada and the United States.** A treaty providing for the more complete definition and demarcation of the international boundary between Canada and the United States was signed at Washington on April 11 and ratified on May 4. The final terms of a further treaty providing for the regulation of fishery and other questions along the international boundary through the great lakes and waterways are awaiting settlement.

**Accidents and disasters.** Accidents and disasters during the year included the destruction on April 26 of the village Notre Dame de la Salette, Quebec, by a landslide, when 37 lives were lost. On June 23 a fire at Three Rivers, Quebec, caused damage to the extent of \$1,500,000. On August 2 fire in the Kootenay Valley, B.C.,