

destroyed the town of Fernie, 70 lives being lost, 7,000 people rendered homeless and property damaged to the value of \$5,000,000. An enormous loss of timber occurred in September from forest and bush fires which raged in the Thunder Bay district, Ontario. The dryness of the summer rendered forest fires peculiarly destructive.

The sympathy of Canada as of that of the whole world went out freely to the people of Italy on the occasion of the appalling earthquake which occurred at Messina in Sicily on December 29, and a grant of \$100,000 in aid of the suffering survivors was promptly made by the Government of the Dominion.

A parliamentary appropriation of \$15,000 was granted to assist in sending athletes to represent the Dominion of Canada at the international Olympic games held in London from July 13-25 in connection with the Franco-British Exhibition. A Scottish agricultural commission consisting of 22 representative agriculturists from Scotland traversed Canada from the Atlantic to the Pacific and back again from August 13 to October 2. Their report on Canadian agriculture and rural economy has since been published. A visit of the Sheffield Choir attracted large audiences at performances in some of the principal Canadian cities during November.

Monday, November 9, the anniversary of the birthday of H. M. the King, was appointed by proclamation of the Governor General as a day of general thanksgiving to Almighty God for the bountiful harvest and other blessings with which Canada has been favoured during the year.

To fill two vacancies caused by deaths during 1908 the Hon. Noel Chevrier of Winnipeg and the Hon. Valentine Ratz of Park Hill, Ontario, were appointed and sworn in as members of the Senate.

Four vacancies occurred in the House of Commons during 1908 before the dissolution of Parliament on September 17, and the following members were elected to fill them, viz.: Peter Douglas McLean for York Centre, Ontario, Gustave Adolphe Turcotte for Nicolet, Quebec, Charles Henry Lovell, for Stanstead, Quebec, and Murdo Young McLean for Huron South, Ontario.

The following deaths have occurred: December 5, 1907. Henry Lovell, M.P. for Stanstead, Que., aged 79. December 9, 1907. Benjamin B. Gunn, M.P. for South Huron, Ontario. February 18 1908. The Hon. G. W. Burbidge, judge of the exchequer court of Canada. March 1. A. C. Killam, chairman of the Board of Railway Commissioners. March 2. Brigadier General Beaufort H. Vidal, Inspector General of Militia. April 13. The Hon. John Lovitt. April 20. Sir Adolphe Caron, K.C.M.G., Minister of Militia, 1880-1892, Postmaster General, 1892-1896. June 13. The Earl of Derby, K.G., Governor