

IX.—PRINCIPAL EVENTS OF THE YEAR.

Parliamentary Legislation, 1911-12.—The first session of the twelfth Parliament of Canada opened on November 15, 1911, and closed on April 1, 1912. It resulted in the passing of 170 Acts of Parliament of which 113 were local and private. Of the remaining 57 public general Acts those of chief importance related to the extension of provincial boundaries, the sale of grain and the granting of aid to agriculture. Government Bills relating to highways and providing for the creation of a tariff commission passed the House of Commons, but were rejected by the Senate.

Extension of Boundaries.—The boundaries of the provinces of Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec were extended by chapters 32 (Manitoba), 40 (Ontario) and 45 (Quebec). Particulars of the extensions thus effected are given on pages 1 and 2 of this Volume. The Manitoba Act (chapter 32) contains new financial provisions (sections 4 and 5) governing the annual payments to be made by the Government of Canada to the Government of Manitoba in respect of interest, public lands, swamp lands, public buildings, etc. The Quebec Act (chapter 45) provides by section 2 (a) and (b) that the population of the territory added by the Act shall be excluded in ascertaining the population of the province for the purposes of any readjustment of representation of the other provinces consequent upon any census, that in any future census the population of the new territory shall be distinguished from the province as heretofore constituted and that the representation of the new territory in the House of Commons shall be determined according to the rules enacted by section 51 of the British North America Act, 1867, regulating the representation of provinces other than Quebec. All three Acts came into force on May 15, 1912, by proclamations of the Governor in Council, dated May 10, 1912.

The Canada Grain Act.—This Act (chapter 27) replaces previous legislation consisting of the Manitoba Grain Act, R.S. 1906, c. 83, and Part II of the Inspection and Sale Act, R.S. 1906, c. 85, respecting grain and amendments thereto. It provides for the appointment by Order in Council of a Board of three Commissioners who are charged with the management and control of the grain trade for the whole of Canada. The Governor in Council may authorize the Minister of Trade and Commerce to construct, acquire, lease or expropriate any terminal elevator, if Parliament has granted the money for the purpose; and the Board will be charged with the management and operation thereof. All terminal elevators are made subject to license from the Board, who have power to recommend the revocation of licenses upon proof of violation of law or regulations. It is further provided that the Board shall supervise the inspection, weighing, storage and transportation of grain and take over the duties of the official previously known as the Warehouse