

## CANADA AND THE EUROPEAN WAR

and loyal affection. The Royal party left Canada on October 16th, 1916. The death in England on March 14, 1917, of the Duchess of Connaught was deeply and universally regretted in Canada, where Her Royal Highness had devoted herself unsparingly to efforts in alleviation of the suffering and distress occasioned by the war.

**Appointment of New Governor General of Canada.**—The Duke of Devonshire, K.G., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., appointed on August 19, 1916, to succeed H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, landed at Halifax, N.S., on November 11, 1916, where he was immediately sworn in as Governor General and Commander in Chief of Canada. His Excellency, accompanied by Her Excellency the Duchess of Devonshire and other members of their family, then proceeded to take up residence at the Government House, Ottawa.

**Canada and the European War.**—The great war has continued to engage the chief national energies of Canada. On January 12, 1916, an Order in Council gave legal authority for an increase of the Canadian troops to 500,000 men, and earnest efforts to recruit, train and equip additional soldiers have been put forth throughout the whole of Canada. Regulations respecting national service were promulgated under the provisions of the War Measures Act, 1914, by Orders in Council of October 5, November 14 and 30, 1916. These provided for the appointment of a National Service Board for Canada with local National Service Boards and a Committee for the Public Service of Canada under a Director General of National Service. The object of the regulations was to secure the largest available military forces in the present war and to co-operate with and afford all possible information to the military authorities engaged in recruiting. An inventory of the man-power of Canada was taken by the Director General of National Service by means of cards issued to and collected from all males of military age throughout the Dominion. On November 15, 1917, the total number of recruits enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force since the beginning of the war reached 441,862 (see also page 639).

During the two years 1916 and 1917 the Canadian troops have splendidly maintained their high reputation for valour and endurance on the field of battle. On May 9, 1916, Lieut.-Gen. the Hon. Sir Julian Byng was appointed to succeed General Alderson in command of the Canadian troops at the front, and on June 19, 1917, on his promotion to command the Third Army, he was succeeded in this command by Major-Gen. Sir Arthur Currie, K.C.M.G., C.B. After the second battle of Ypres in 1915 (see Canada Year Book, 1915, page 685), the Canadian troops were occupied for some months chiefly with minor operations and raids; but they also took part in the severe fighting at St. Eloi in April, 1916, at Sanctuary Wood in June, 1916, and on the Somme in September, 1916. The year 1917 was one of special distinction for the Canadian Army Corps, which then consisted of four divisions and a considerable number of corps troops. The corps bore a brilliant part in the victory of Vimy in April, and distinguished itself in the subsequent fighting at the end of April and the beginning of May at Arleux-en-Gohelle and Fresnoy. Shifting northwards towards Lens, during June and July they did much fighting in the