

LEGISLATION AND PRINCIPAL EVENTS OF THE YEARS 1916 AND 1917.

western suburbs of that city; on August 15 they attacked and captured Hill 70, near Loos, and for some days were engaged in heavy fighting which took them close to Lens on the west and northwest. September and part of October were passed in comparative quiet, but towards the end of the latter month the corps was moved once more to the Ypres battlefield, and four attacks made in the last days of October and early in November resulted in the capture of Passchendaele and the highly important ground on which that village stands. In addition to the combatant troops, valuable services were rendered by the Canadian Forestry and Railway Corps. Canadians have also specially distinguished themselves as aviators. There were numerous awards of the Victoria Cross, the Distinguished Service Order, the Military Cross, the Distinguished Conduct Medal, and other recognitions of valour and skill; the names of the recipients of these honours have been published in the Canada Gazette. Up to October 17, 1917, the casualties amongst the Canadian forces totalled 5,125 officers and 120,431 of other ranks; they included 1,015 officers and 20,263 other ranks killed in action; 314 officers, 6,867 other ranks died of wounds; 81 officers, 1,473 other ranks died of diseases; 3,458 officers, 84,955 other ranks wounded; 120 officers, 2,566 other ranks prisoners of war; 96 officers, 3,248 other ranks presumed to have died; 41 officers, 1,059 other ranks reported missing.

An Order in Council of June 3, 1916, provided for the establishment of a Board of Pension Commissioners for Canada consisting of three members, and by Order in Council of October 22, 1917, a revised scale of pensions was authorized to take effect as from April 1, 1917 (see page 644).

On October 29, 1917, resolutions expressing the thanks of both Houses of the Imperial Parliament were voted unanimously to the naval and military forces of the Empire, and the following clauses which have special reference to the troops of the Overseas Dominions may be recorded here as applicable to Canada:

“ That the thanks of this House be accorded to the gallant troops from the Dominions Overseas, from India and from the Crown Colonies, who have travelled many thousands of miles to share with their comrades from the British Isles in the sacrifices and triumphs of the battlefield, and to take their full part in the struggle for human freedom.

“ That this House doth acknowledge with grateful admiration the valour and devotion of those who have offered their lives in the service of their country, and tenders its sympathy to their relatives and friends in the sorrows they have sustained.”

The resolutions were supported by eloquent speeches in both Houses, including those of the movers and seconders, viz., Earl Curzon and the Marquis of Crewe in the House of Lords and Mr. David Lloyd George and Mr. Herbert Asquith in the House of Commons.

Canadian Contributions for Patriotic Purposes.—At home the efforts of the Canadian people on behalf of the cause for which their troops are fighting at the front have been worthily sustained. Returns collected by the Census and Statistics Office show that up to March