

## COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE

to be present), and India being represented by the Secretary of State, met in London on March 20, 1917, and held fourteen sittings lasting until May 2, 1917. During fifteen days of the period March 21 to April 27, 1917, meetings were held of the Imperial War Conference of which, besides Sir Robert Borden, Sir George Perley, Mr. Hazen and Mr. Rogers were Canadian members. After the resumption of the Parliamentary Session on April 19, 1917, and the return to Canada on May 15, 1917, of the Canadian Ministers, the Prime Minister, in the House of Commons on May 18, 1917, made a statement as to the proceedings of the meetings of these two bodies and referred particularly to development in the constitutional relations between the United Kingdom and the Overseas Dominions, which had been thus inaugurated and which involved a decision to hold yearly meetings of the Imperial Cabinet for the consideration of matters of common concern to the Empire.

**Compulsory Military Service.**—At the conclusion of his speech in Parliament on May 18, 1917, the Prime Minister announced that early proposals would be made on the part of the Government to provide, by compulsory military enlistment on a selective basis, such reinforcements as might be necessary to maintain the Canadian army in the field as one of the finest fighting units of the Empire. Accordingly on June 11, 1917, the Military Service Bill was introduced, and on July 5, 1917, a motion for its second reading was carried by 118 votes to 55, after various amendments to the motion for second reading had been put and declared lost on division. The principal amendment, moved by the Leader of the Opposition (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), was to the effect that "the further consideration of the Bill be deferred until the principle thereof has, by means of a referendum, been submitted to and approved of by the electors of Canada." This amendment was lost on a division, the yeas being 62 and the nays 111. The Bill was assented to on August 29, 1917.

**War Loans.**—In addition to the first domestic war loan of \$100,000,000, raised in November, 1915 (see Canada Year Book, 1915, page 679), a second war loan of \$100,000,000 was raised in September, 1916, in the form of bonds, at the price of 97½ p.c. maturing on October 1, 1931, and bearing interest at 5 p.c. per annum. In March, 1917, a third war loan of \$150,000,000 in the form of bonds bearing interest at 5 p.c. per annum and maturing on March 1, 1937, was issued at the price of 96 p.c. and was considerably over-subscribed. On November 12, 1917, preparations were completed for the issue of a fourth Canadian War Loan in the form of five, ten and twenty year "Victory Bonds," in denominations as low as \$50, issued at par bearing interest at 5½ p.c. and maturing on December 1, 1922, 1927 and 1937. The subscriptions closed on December 1, 1917, and according to statements issued by the Victory Loan Organization Committee the amount subscribed exceeded \$400,000,000. For all these loans the interest is payable half-yearly and is exempt from taxation.

**Food Control.**—An Order in Council of June 16, 1917, made under the provisions of the War Measures Act, 1914, provided for the appointment of a Food Controller for Canada, and on June 21, 1917, the Hon.