

LEGISLATION AND PRINCIPAL EVENTS OF THE YEARS 1916 AND 1917.

W. J. Hanna, K.C., of Toronto, was appointed Food Controller for Canada, without salary. In pursuance of the provisions of the Order in Council, the Food Controller has taken steps with the object of rendering available as large a quantity as possible of foods (a) for the allied armies; (b) for the civilian populations of the United Kingdom and the allied countries, and (c) for the civilian population of Canada at reasonable prices. Various Orders in Council regulating the sale and distribution of food products have been passed on the recommendation of the Food Controller, including Orders dated August 9, 24, September 18, October 11, 19, 23, November 2 and 15, 1917. Under these Orders public eating houses have been brought under regulation (August 9); the manufacture and free importation of oleomargarine is permitted, under license, as a war measure only (October 3); no grain or food substance may be used in Canada for the distillation of potable liquors (November 2); exports of food and other specified commodities are controlled (November 15); flour mills are licensed and regulated (November 15); and the Food Controller is given authority to license any or all food manufacturers and other dealers in foodstuffs and to prescribe conditions which shall govern the trade (November 15).

Fixation of Wheat Prices.—On June 11, 1917, a Board of Grain Supervisors of Canada, with offices at Winnipeg, was appointed by Order in Council under the War Measures Act, 1914, with wide powers of control over the disposition of grain, including the power to fix maximum prices at which grain may be sold. In pursuance of these powers the following prices per bushel of 60 lb. have been fixed for different grades of wheat to remain in force until August 31, 1918: from September 12, 1917, No. 1 Hard and No. 1 Manitoba Northern, \$2.21; Manitoba Northern No. 2, \$2.18; No. 3, \$2.15; Alberta Red Winter No. 1, \$2.21; No. 2, \$2.18; No. 3, \$2.15. Prices for other grades of wheat taking effect from October 1 and November 1, 1917, have also been fixed by the Board. These prices are based upon grain in store at the public terminal elevators at Fort William and Port Arthur.

Wheat Placed on the Free List.—By Order in Council of April 16, 1917, passed under the War Measures Act, 1914, wheat, wheat flour and semolina were placed on the Customs Free List from April 17, 1917, instead of being subject to the import duties previously payable. Under the provisions of the American tariff the removal of the Canadian import duties on wheat secures the entry, duty free, of Canadian wheat into the United States.

Destruction of the Houses of Parliament.—A fire which broke out in the reading room of the House of Commons at Ottawa at about 8.55 p.m. on Thursday, February 3, 1916, totally destroyed the Houses of Parliament and resulted in the loss of seven lives and in injuries to others who escaped with difficulty. Amongst those who lost their lives were Mr. Bowman Law, M.P., for Yarmouth, N.S., and Mr. J. B. R. Laplante, Assistant Clerk of the House of Commons. Mr. Martin Burrell,