

authorizes any municipality to establish and carry on a telephone business as a public utility. Under the provisions of the Mothers Pensions Act of Saskatchewan (chapter 68), the Lieutenant Governor in Council may provide for the support or partial support of a widow, and for the support of her child or children, and may order a municipality to pay a sum not exceeding \$3 per week for each child. Chapter 11 of the British Columbia statutes authorizes the payment, till the end of the year 1923, of bounties on pig-iron at the rate of \$3 per ton of iron from ore mined in the province and \$1.50 per ton of iron from ore mined outside the province. Chapter 20 empowers the Lieutenant Governor in Council to establish Juvenile Courts under the Juvenile Delinquents Act. Chapter 69 makes provision for the proportionate allotment of Crown lands, on application, to purchasers who have not made payment in full.

**Uniform Legislation.**—In several provinces statutory authority was given for the appointment of members of the provincial bar as commissioners for the promotion of uniformity of provincial legislation. The provincial commissioners, together with representatives of the Canadian Bar Association, are to form a national conference of provincial commissioners to examine legislation, especially provincial and commercial legislation. Acts for this purpose were passed in Prince Edward Island (chapter 3), New Brunswick (chapter 5) and British Columbia (chapter 92).

#### PRINCIPAL EVENTS OF THE YEAR 1918.

**Disastrous Explosion at Halifax.**—On the morning of December 6, 1917, a collision between a Belgian relief ship, the "Imo", and a French vessel, the "Mont Blanc", laden with powerful explosives, caused the explosion of the latter with disastrous results to the city of Halifax and the town of Darmouth, Nova Scotia. The disaster was probably the worst of its kind in the history of the Dominion, and one of the worst ever known upon the American continent. A large part of Halifax, especially the northern part, was totally destroyed. It is estimated that in addition to those killed by the explosion 25,000 persons were rendered homeless and destitute and that the money loss was about \$20,000,000. The number of deaths was estimated at about 1,500. Heavy snow-storms on the days following the explosion caused great suffering amongst numbers whose houses had been destroyed. Relief from all parts of Canada and from the United States was promptly sent to Halifax, and relief funds were raised everywhere. The contributions included public appropriations by the United States of \$5,000,000, by the United Kingdom of £1,000,000 and by Canada of \$5,000,000.

**Reconstruction of the Parliament Buildings at Ottawa.**—The circumstances under which the Houses of Parliament were destroyed by fire on February 3, 1916, were described on pages 694 and 695 of the Year Book of 1916-17. During the year 1918, the progress made with the reconstruction of the buildings has been exceptionally rapid, whilst at the same time it is claimed that the