

work is of the highest quality and in keeping with a national undertaking of this character. When the masonry work was discontinued on December 18, 1917, all the exterior and court walls had been completed to the main cornice or roof level, leaving the stone work of the four north ventilating towers, the front pavilions, the chimneys and the pent-houses above the roof to complete the exterior masonry. The main tower was not proceeded with in 1917, the contractor devoting his energies to getting the building under roof before the winter. Structural steel work, which was well started at the opening of 1917, has been completed, excepting minor sections such as pavilion and tower roofs, miscellaneous beams for stair landings, etc. The sloping roofs are being constructed of Flex-or-Crete, a fire-proof concrete nailing composition, while the flat roofs or decks are of terra-cotta arch tile. These sloping roofs have been completed with the exception of the Commons roof, which could not be placed on account of the early frost, while the roofs of the towers and pavilions could not be constructed until the masonry walls were finished. The terra-cotta arching of the flat roofs has been set, and the placing of the copper and tar and gravel roof covering will be proceeded with as weather conditions permit. The setting of the terra-cotta arches for the floors of the building was commenced on September 25, 1917, and approximately 80 per cent of this work has been completed. The excavation for the foundations of the central heating plant is well advanced, and the concrete foundations for the north wall of this building have been placed. Labour conditions have been generally satisfactory, the average daily force on this work for the year 1917 being 495 men. During 1917, there were fourteen meetings of the Joint Parliamentary Committee and fifteen meetings of the Board on the Reconstruction Work; there were also meetings of the Speakers, Senators and Chairmen of the House Committees to discuss the general works of this building and the arrangement of accommodation. The expenditure on the work to March 31, 1918, amounted to \$2,774,873.

Canada and the Great War.—On March 21, 1918, the Germans launched their final great offensive on the western front, and during these critical days the people of Canada shared fully the anxieties of the mother country, of the Overseas Dominions and of the allied peoples as to the outcome of the gigantic struggle. On July 18, 1918, Marshal Foch, who had been appointed Generalissimo of the Allied Forces on March 30, was able, with the assistance of large bodies of troops poured across the Atlantic by the United States with unprecedented celerity, to resume the offensive. His masterly dispositions, combined with the skill of his generals and the undaunted valour of the allied soldiers, resulted in victory after victory and eventually in the complete subjugation of the foe. In these operations, the Canadian troops had a glorious share. Amongst the engagements in which they took a specially distinguished part in 1918 were the battle of Amiens (August 6-10), the capture of Monchy-le-Preux (August 26-28), the breaking of the Drocourt-Quéant line (September 2-4), the crossing of the Canal du Nord and the capture of Bourslon Wood (September 27-29), the capture of Cambrai (October