

lands contiguous to railways and suitable for soldier settlement were very few, and a comprehensive land policy, which provides for the acquisition by voluntary or compulsory purchase of unoccupied lands for resale at cost on specially favourable terms to settlers, was therefore adopted. Pending the enactment by Parliament of proposed legislation in this connection, an Order in Council was passed on February 11, 1919, granting the Board power to purchase lands and resell them to settlers on twenty-five year terms of payment, with interest at five per cent. A settler may purchase land from the Board up to \$5,000, and is required to pay cash or one-tenth of the purchase price down. The settler may also receive assistance up to \$2,000 for stock and equipment and up to \$1,000 for permanent improvements. The Board consists of a chairman and two commissioners, one of whom acts as secretary.

Department of Public Information.—This Department was established in its present form on September 12, 1918, when an Associate Director was appointed in addition to the Director of Public Information who was appointed on November 9, 1917. The Department, which was charged with the duty of disseminating throughout Canada the fullest possible information relating to the war, and especially the operations of the Canadian forces, has also rendered assistance to Government Departments and other organizations dealing with problems connected with the war and the work of reconstruction. Public addresses, motion pictures and the publication of books and pamphlets have been among the agencies employed. The Canadian Official Record issued weekly in Canada since October 1, 1918, and the Canadian Daily Record, for circulation amongst the Canadian troops overseas, are published by the Department.

Epidemic of Spanish Influenza.—During the months of September, October and November, the Dominion was visited by a severe epidemic of Spanish Influenza, which had already exacted a heavy toll of life in European and other countries. For several weeks from the first week of October, churches and theatres were everywhere closed and all public meetings were abandoned. These and other precautions appear to have had some effect in mitigating the effects of the plague, but not before a distressingly large number of fatalities, especially amongst the younger members of the community, had occurred from the disease and its attendant complications.

Obituary.—1917: Feb. 7. The Hon. J. Leitch, Judge of the Supreme Court of Ontario. Oct. 12. The Hon. Sir Wallace Graham, Chief Justice of Nova Scotia. Dec. 3. Oliver J. Wilcox, M.P. for North Essex. Dec. 10. The Hon. Sir Mackenzie Bowell, K.C.M.G., Premier of Canada, 1894-96 (aged 93). 1918: Jan. 1. William Wilfrid Campbell. Jan. 4. The Hon. Andrew Broder, M.P. for Dundas County, Ontario, 1896-1917. Jan. 22. The Hon. F. O. Dugas, Judge of the Superior Court of Quebec. Jan. 28. Lieut.-Col. John McCrae, M.D. Jan. 30. P. M. Coté, I.S.O., K.C., Chief of the Remission Branch, Department of Justice. Feb. 2. Uriah Wilson, M.P. for Lennox County, Ontario, 1896-1911. Feb. 14. At Government House, Ottawa, the Right Hon. Sir Cecil A. Spring-Rice,