

news of the Empire between British nations. Cheaper postal rates were advocated by the conference, as was also the exploitation of the possibilities of wireless telegraphy and telephoning as news carriers.

Prohibition Plebiscites.—During 1920 and the early months of 1921 eight of the nine provinces decided upon a permanent as distinguished from the emergency war policy with regard to the sale of alcoholic beverages. On July 10, 1920, the electors of New Brunswick voted by a majority of about two to one for total prohibition. The electors of British Columbia on October 20, 1920, voted by a large majority in favour of the enactment of legislation providing for Government control and sale in sealed packages of spirituous and malted liquors, rejecting the previous policy of prohibition. On the other hand, plebiscites held on October 25, 1920, in the three Prairie Provinces and in Nova Scotia resulted in large majorities for prohibition. This example was followed by Ontario, which, in a plebiscite held on April 18, 1921, voted for a policy of prohibition. The Provincial Government in Quebec has established a régime of Governmental control of the sale of liquor, which went into effect on May 1, 1921.

Provincial General Elections.—During the year 1920 Provincial general elections took place in four provinces. In Manitoba a general election on June 29 resulted in the return of members belonging to several groups, none of which had a clear majority. As the largest single group supported the existing Government, that Government has continued to hold office. In Nova Scotia on July 27 the existing (Liberal) Government of Premier Murray was sustained. In New Brunswick on October 9 the existing (Liberal) Government was sustained, though by a reduced majority. In British Columbia on December 1 the existing (Liberal) Government was sustained by a reduced majority. The chief characteristic of all four elections was the return of a considerable number of Farmer and Labour candidates, besides those belonging to the two historic parties.

The Economic and Financial Year.—The first months of 1920 were for Canada a period of unbounded optimism and rising prices. The average business man, after his fears of a ruinous fall in prices at the close of the war had been dispelled, gave himself up to visions of unlimited business and unbounded wealth, basing his conclusions upon the world's great need for the commodities in which he dealt, and forgetting that in order to produce business, need must be accompanied by the means to pay for what is needed. Taking a short-sighted point of view, he realized only that prices were going up, and that the larger the stock of goods which he could carry while values were advancing, the more money he could make on his turnover. Accordingly, in many cases he strained his resources and credit to the utmost in order, as he believed, to reap once again the abundant profits which had accrued to him from the continuous rise in the prices of commodities during the four or five previous years.