

XV.—THE ANNUAL REGISTER, 1926.

I.—DOMINION LEGISLATION, 1926.

The following is an analysis of the public Acts of the first session of the Fifteenth Parliament of Canada, begun and holden at Ottawa on January 7, 1926, and closed by *dissolution* on July 2, 1926.

During the session 17 public and 139 local and private Acts were passed; of these latter, three were railway companies' Acts, two insurance companies' Acts, two other companies' Acts, and 124 divorce Acts.

Finance and Taxation.—Four Appropriation Acts were passed during the session, cc. 1, 2, 3, and 4. Of these each of the first three granted supply of \$15,934, 291.06, or one-twelfth of the amount of each of the several items to be voted in the Estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1927, while c. 4 authorized a special grant of \$10,200,000 for loans, including a \$10,000,000 loan to the Canadian National Railway Co., and a \$200,000 loan to the Canadian Government Merchant Marine, Ltd.

By c. 11, the Governor in Council was authorized to raise by way of loan, in addition to sums authorized by previous Acts and hitherto unborrowed, sums not to exceed \$150,000,000, for paying or redeeming or otherwise retiring the whole or any portion of loans or obligations of Canada, and for public works and general purposes.

By c. 10, amending the Income War Tax Act of 1917, the exemption limit was raised from \$2,000 to \$3,000 in the case of married persons or those with dependants, and from \$1,000 to \$1,500 in the case of other persons. The rates of taxation were also reduced all along the line, those with incomes of \$5,000 or less paying only 2 p.c. instead of 4 p.c. or more of their taxable income, while the income tax of a married person without dependants was reduced from \$619.50 to \$290 on an income of \$10,000 and from \$3,024 to \$2,530 on an income of \$25,000. The rate of taxation of corporate incomes was also reduced from 10 to 9 p.c.

By c. 9, amending the Excise Act, it was provided that tobacco and cigars might be removed from an excise warehouse to a customs bonded warehouse, without payment of duty, when for delivery only as ship's stores.

Customs Tariff.—Various changes were made in the customs tariff by c. 7. Green coffee, spices, nutmegs, mace, arrowroot, also sponges, were made free under the British preferential tariff, and the preferential rate on pineapples in air-tight cans was reduced from 1½ cents to ½ cent per lb. The duties on raw sugar imported for refining were also materially reduced under all tariffs, but so as to increase the British preference. Again, the duties on automobiles were substantially reduced under all tariffs, the rate on the cheaper type of automobile imported under the general tariffs being reduced from 35 to 20 p.c., and under the British preferential tariff from 22½ to 12½ p.c. Finally, tin plate was made free under the preferential tariff and reduced from 12½ to 5 p.c. under the general tariff.

Commerce.—The West Indies Trade Agreement Act (c. 16) approved the agreement entered into July 6, 1925, by representatives of the Dominion of Canada and those of the British West Indies, Bermudas, British Guiana and British Honduras. The customs agreement deals in the main with customs duties and steamship