

XII.—PRINCIPAL EVENTS OF THE YEAR 1914.

Parliamentary Legislation, 1914.—The third session of the twelfth Parliament of Canada, held at Ottawa from January 15 to June 12, 1914, resulted in the passing of 59 public general and 128 local and private acts. Representation in the House of Commons, naturalization of aliens and incorporation of loan and trust companies were amongst the more important subjects of public legislation.

Representation Act.—Under the Representation Act, 1914 (chapter 51), which takes effect after dissolution of the present Parliament, the House of Commons will consist of 234 members, a net increase of 13. In the redistribution Prince Edward Island loses one member, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick lose two members and Ontario four members, whilst the gain to western Canada is 22, viz., Manitoba five, Saskatchewan six, Alberta five and British Columbia six members. The representation in the House of Commons by provinces and districts, according to the new Act, was shown in Table 3 on pages 591-3 of the Year Book for 1913.

Imperial Naturalization.—For many years the question of the naturalization of aliens within the different self-governing Dominions of the British Empire has occupied public attention, and especially has been the subject of discussion and of resolutions at the London Imperial Conferences of 1902, 1907 and 1911. At the Imperial Conference of 1911 an agreement was arrived at in consequence of which the Imperial Parliament enacted, on August 7, 1914, the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act, 1914 (4-5 Geo. V., c. 17), wherein it is provided that the part of the Act which relates to naturalization shall have no application to the self-governing Dominions unless adopted by their respective Legislatures. The effect of the legislation enacted by the Imperial Parliament and enacted or to be enacted by the Parliaments of the Dominions is that persons naturalized in any of these Dominions or in the United Kingdom become British subjects throughout the Empire, thus abolishing the anomaly formerly existing that an alien naturalized in Canada would be a British subject in Canada, but would not possess that status outside of the Dominion. On June 12, 1914, the Dominion Parliament passed the Naturalization Act, 1914 (chapter 44), which gives effect to the Imperial legislation so far as Canada is concerned. This Act makes certain changes in the law of naturalization as previously in force in Canada, the chief being that a person born out of the realm is regarded as a British subject if his father is such either by birth or naturalization, instead of as under the previously existing law which required that his father or grandfather should be a natural-born British subject. Also the new Act requires that before naturalization can be granted in Canada to any applicant for naturalization he must have resided in Canada for not less than one year immediately preceding the application, and must have resided either in Canada or in some other part of the King's Dominions for a period of four years within the last eight years before the application. Formerly the period required was residence in Canada for three years. Other provisions of the Act relate to the effect of marriage upon the status of women, the loss of British nationality and the status of aliens. The