

PRINCIPAL EVENTS OF THE YEAR 1915.

military pay, and provides that time of absence on active service is not to be deducted in calculating a member's sessional allowance. The Soldiers' Voting Act (chapter 11), which was assented to on April 15, provides for the exercise of the electoral franchise by every soldier, aged 21 years and over, of the Canadian troops in the event of a general election in Canada during their absence on active service. Chapter 22, amending the Yukon Placer Mining Act, preserves the right of holders of mining claims who are on active service, and Chapter 5 authorizes an extension of the time in which licenses may be applied for by insurance companies, whose power to do so might expire before the end of the next session of Parliament.

Acts relating to Agriculture.—An Act to amend the Bank Act (chapter 1) allows banks to lend money to the owner, tenant or occupier of land for the purchase of seed grain, upon the security of the crop to be grown from such seed grain. Chapter 20 empowers the Governor-General-in-Council to distribute during 1915 seed grain, fodder, etc., among farmers in Saskatchewan and Alberta, and confirms agreements relating to such distribution made between the Minister of the Interior and the Governments of Saskatchewan and Alberta. An Act to amend the Canada Grain Act (chapter 10) makes the certificate of weighing at a terminal elevator final, and makes the inspector's certificate of grade prima facie evidence in case of litigation. The Act also extends the powers of the Board of Grain Commissioners in investigating and dealing with questions of shortage in delivery.

Amendments of Election Law.—Chapter 13 amends the Dominion Controverted Elections Act with a view to simplifying procedure and expediting trial in cases under the Act. An Act to amend the Dominion Elections Act (chapter 14) requires every employer to give every voter in his employ an additional hour, other than the noon hour, for voting on a polling day. It applies to all employees except those engaged in running trains. The Act also puts Saskatchewan and Alberta on the same footing as the other provinces in respect of the procedure on the death of a candidate between nomination and polling. By Chapter 19, various changes are made in the schedules of the Representation Act, 1914, relating to the boundaries of electoral districts.

Railway Acts.—An Act to amend the Government Railways Act (chapter 16) empowers the Minister of Railways to purchase under certain conditions, railways in Quebec and the Maritime provinces, which can be operated more usefully as part of the Government Railways. It also confirms purchase agreements made with the International Railway of New Brunswick and the New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island Railway. By an Act to amend the National Transcontinental Railway Act (chapter 18) the Minister of Railways is authorized to lease or acquire the Lake Superior branch of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway.

Miscellaneous.—Chapter 4 confirms issues of Dominion notes to the amount of \$26,000,000, of which \$10,000,000 were for the Canadian Northern Railway, \$6,000,000 were for the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway and \$10,000,000 were for the general purposes of the Dominion. An Act to amend the Judges Act (chapter 6) provides