

## CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES.

may be authorized by by-law passed by the voters of the district. Under the Municipal Co-operative Hail Insurance Act (chapter 18) not less than twenty municipalities may combine to form a Hail Insurance District, which shall be under the direction of the Hail Insurance Board of Alberta, consisting of three members. The Board will assess the municipalities for taxation to pay the Board's expenses and claims for damage to crops by hail. A municipality may withdraw from the district after the expiration of five years.

**British Columbia.**—By the Constitution Act Amendment Act (chapter 14) the membership of the Legislative Assembly is increased from 42 to 47, and a redistribution is made. The Agricultural Act (chapter 2), creates a commission with power to issue securities and to make loans for acquiring and improving land and for other agricultural purposes. Provisions are made respecting the formation of associations (without share capital) for agricultural purposes and of Women's Institutes, also of associations and companies (with share capital) for dealing in farm produce, requisites, etc. A Board of Horticulture is created to regulate the prevention of disease in orchards, gardens, etc. By the Noxious Weeds Act (chapter 66) owners and occupiers of land are required to burn or effectively destroy noxious weeds between April 1 and November 1, in order to prevent the ripening and scattering of seeds. Inspectors are to be appointed under the Act, which applies to municipalities and railways.

**Canadian Expeditionary Forces.**—The initial steps taken by Canada upon the outbreak of the war in 1914 are described in the Year Book for 1914 (pp. 676-678). The first division of troops, consisting of over 33,000 officers and men, who landed in England on October 16, 1914, received further training on Salisbury Plain during the fall and winter of 1914-15 under conditions which were particularly trying owing to excessively wet weather. On February 15, 1915, the division began to arrive in France. Proceeding to Flanders they speedily proved themselves to be capable and efficient soldiers, whether as infantry in the trenches or as artillerymen serving excellent guns. During the spring and summer they were engaged in four principal fights, viz., Neuve Chapelle (March 10), Ypres (April 22), Festubert (May 9), and Givenchy (June 15). In his despatches relating to the second battle of Ypres, which began on April 22, when contrary to international conventions and the rules of civilized warfare, the Germans began the use of poisonous and asphyxiating gases, Sir John French wrote as follows: "In spite of the danger to which they were exposed, the Canadians held their ground with a magnificent display of tenacity and courage; and it is not too much to say that the bearing and conduct of these splendid troops averted a disaster which might have been attended with the most serious consequences." The second division of Canadian troops began to land in England on March 6, and in November a third division was offered to and accepted by the Imperial authorities. At the end of the year 1915, the number of Canadian troops recruited for service overseas reached 212,690 out of an authorized total of 250,000. In a New Year's message to the Canadian people, issued on December 31, 1915, the Prime Minister (Sir Robert Borden) stated that from January 1, 1916,