

8 FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNMENTS

For a year, amid the stress of the closing stages of the war, the Commission deliberated and prepared their plans. Their recommendations and estimates were considered by the Imperial War Conference of 1918, which in June of that year passed the following resolution:*

"The Conference desires to place on record its appreciation of the labours of the Imperial War Graves Commission and is in favour of the cost of the carrying out the decisions of the Commission being borne by the respective Governments in proportion to the numbers of the graves of their dead."

THE EMPIRE'S MILLION DEAD

The immensity of the Empire's losses in the Great War is difficult for the imagination to grasp. It is simple to give statistics, and the following table shows the total number of graves, identified and unidentified, and also the number of those who have been finally recorded as missing and who have been commemorated on Memorials.

Total graves (including 180,861 unidentified)	767,978
Total identified graves	587,117
Total missing commemorated	517,773
Total death casualties	1,104,890

approved. On 13 April 1917 a resolution recommending its adoption was moved by Sir Robert Borden, Prime Minister of Canada, and on 21 May the Royal Charter was granted. H.R.H. the Prince of Wales was the first President of the Commission, Lord Derby the first Chairman and Sir Fabian Ware, who had been Director-General of Graves Registration and Enquiries, the Vice-Chairman. (A full list of Commissioners is given in Appendix A.)

* Moved by Sir Robert Borden, Prime Minister of Canada and seconded by Mr W. M. Hughes, Prime Minister of Australia.



THE CROSS OF SACRIFICE

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