

## CANADA ELECTED TO U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL

**"NEW AND GRAVE RESPONSIBILITIES":** With votes to spare, a special plenary session of the United Nations General Assembly, held at Flushing Meadows N.Y., Sept. 30 elected Canada a member of the Security Council. Canada and Argentine, each receiving 41 votes, were chosen on the first ballot, to replace Australia and Brazil. The two-thirds majority rule required a candidate to get 38 votes to win.

In a statement issued in Ottawa, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Louis St. Laurent, said:

Canada's election to the Security Council of the United Nations confronts the Government and people of Canada with new and grave responsibilities. During the years 1948 and 1949, the Government will be faced, as never before, with the necessity of making decisions on the major questions affecting the peace and security of the world. Many of these questions will arise from situations having their origins far from our shores. At first glance these might not appear to affect directly the interests of the Canadian people. In so far, however, as these far away events are factors in world security, they are of first importance to the future of this country.

During our tenure of office on the Council we shall be obliged to play our part in trying to settle international disputes many of which are complicated by differences between the Great Powers. One has only to read the front page of any newspaper to-day to realize the magnitude of the job to which we are about to put our hands.

Canada will be one of the eleven states on which will rest the main responsibility for overcoming the obstacles on the road to a just and lasting peace. We shall have to stand up and be counted before the eyes of a hopeful world.

A year ago the Canadian Government made known to its fellow Members of the United Nations the cardinal principle which it considered should determine the actions of a member of the Security Council. We maintained that each member should exercise its rights and responsibilities not in its own special national interests, but for the good of the United Nations as a whole, and the peoples of the world the United Nations represents. The States which yesterday elected Canada on a first ballot knew that this was our conception of the duty of a member of the most important executive organ of the United Nations. To the utmost of our ability and in full consciousness of the weaknesses of the machinery with which we will have to deal, Canada undertakes to live up to this principle and to try to justify this trust.

Under the terms of the Charter, the Security Council is organized so as to be able to function continuously. Each member is, therefore, to be represented at all times at the headquarters of the United Nations. This will in-

volve the appointment by the Canadian Government of a permanent representative living in New York. The experience of other non-permanent members of the Council has shown that our representative will need the assistance of at least six experienced officers of the Department of External Affairs, together with an adequate clerical staff. At the same time, shall have to strengthen the Division of my Department which deals with the problems of the United Nations. Reports from Canadian diplomatic missions abroad will become increasingly important and will have to be widened in scope to give us up-to-date information on which to base considered and independent judgments. All this will be an added burden on a Department of Government which is already carrying a heavy load.

It is now more important than ever that the people of Canada understand the serious obligations and responsibilities which this country accepted when it signed the Charter of the United Nations. Our election to the Security Council brings us face to face with the heaviest of these responsibilities.

### UKRAINIAN CHARGES REPUDIATED

**REFUGEE WORKERS FREE TO LEAVE:** L. Rene Beaudoin Liberal M.P. for Vaudreuil-Soulanges, speaking in the United Nations Third Committee, Sept. 29, warmly denied Ukrainian charges that displaced persons were being recruited from European camps for "slave labour" in Canadian forests.

In the same committee Sept. 27, S.P. Demchenko, Ukrainian delegate charged that Canada, the United States, Britain and Belgium were going among displaced persons and making them sign contracts for slave labour at low wages.

Mr. Beaudoin proceeded: "Some reference has been made in these discussions to the movement of labourers to Canada. In this connection, I should like to make clear beyond all possibility of contradiction that no person has come to Canada except of his own free will. There is no means by which we can compel refugees to accept our hospitality, and we have no desire to have any men or women come to our shores except of their own choice. Moreover, we are fully aware of the shortage of labour which exists in Eastern European countries. We have not and shall not take any steps to discourage the repatriation to their places of origin of all persons who are willing to accept repatriation. If there are Ukrainians or other workers in displaced persons camps who will return freely to the fields and forests of Eastern Europe, we earnestly hope that they will do so. Countries of origin are welcome to every refugee who will accept repatriation willingly, provided neither force nor guile are used to influence individual decisions.

"I can go further, and say that as far as

Canada is concerned, residents of my country, either refugees or otherwise, are, under the laws of Canada, at perfect liberty to leave Canada tomorrow and to go and live in the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic for instance, or in any other part of the world. Indeed, within the past two years, representatives in Canada of U.S.S.R. and of Yugoslavian interests have gone about freely on Canadian soil and gathered together groups of people of European origin whom they have led back to the U.S.S.R. or Yugoslavia. Not only have these persons been free to go, they have also been allowed to carry with them the resources, money, and machinery, which they had accumulated on Canadian territory.

"There has been some talk here, Mr. Chairman, of slavery in the forests of Canada. Will my Ukrainian colleague tell me that I could go freely into the Ukraine and ask people to emigrate to Canada; and even if I were permitted to organize such a migration, would the persons whom I persuaded to migrate be permitted to bring with them to my country whatever possessions they may have managed to accumulate in the Ukraine? Until my Ukrainian colleague can give me such assurances, he has little right to come here and talk of slavery in Canada. No refugee, of Ukrainian origin or otherwise, is enslaved in the forests of my country and anyone who doubts this fact is at liberty to go there and see for himself. I invite my Ukrainian colleague to do so and until he has made his observations, we should hear less in this committee of slavery.

### CONDITIONS OPEN TO EXAMINATION

"There has been some talk also about refugees being exploited in the labour market of Canada. Mr. Chairman, the labour conditions in my country are open to examination at any time. As far as refugees are concerned, they have been assured the right to work in Canada at prevailing rates of wages and under existing labour regulations. Those regulations are established in a free labour market in which free labour unions have the right to organize. In return for the assurance of employment, the refugees have in some cases entered into agreements to do work which has been offered them for stated periods of a short duration. It is nothing new in history for men to enter into agreements to undertake specified work in return for certain remuneration. Such agreements are a matter of everyday practice. They have the force only which the law gives to any contract amongst citizens. They do not impose a form of servitude nor do they establish inferior working conditions. I am sure that my Ukrainian colleague will not wish me to enter here upon a comparison, in terms of purchasing power or in terms of freedom of movement, of the conditions of labour of refugees in Canada and in other countries. I would, however, be quite happy to have such a comparison made.

"It is a sad reflection, however, that the fortunes of these unhappy peoples should be-

come the occasion for controversy in the United Nations. We regard them as genuine refugees, cast adrift by the flood of war which has overtaken their homelands, torn from their moorings, without hope except as new homes can be found for them. We are not anxious to complicate the social and economic pattern of our own community by introducing more persons than we can take care of, but within our means we are endeavouring to respond to appeals which have been made on behalf of these refugees."

**AVOIDING FALSE ECONOMIES:** In the U.N. Budgetary Committee, Sept. 26, Senator Norman Lambert, a member of the Canadian delegation, said that Canada would be concerned to reduce as much as possible the cost of maintaining the organization of the United Nations organization. But in the search for reduced costs, Senator Lambert continued, let us do everything possible to avoid misleading principles and false economies. He added: We are simply deluding ourselves if, on the one hand, increasing responsibilities are laid on the Secretary-General, giving him new mandates, calling upon him to make new enquiries, directing him to set up new agencies, and at the same time we reduce the funds which we place at his disposal. The resources of the Secretariat must be related to its responsibilities and the responsibilities related to its resources or we shall never get ourselves upon a sound footing. We must avoid apparent savings in the expenditures of the United Nations which in reality may increase the burden upon our national treasuries of membership in the United Nations. It is a false economy to operate without adequate staff in a branch of the Secretariat if, as a result of such a small economy, the life of the Assembly is prolonged by several days. Every day that we remain in session at this Assembly represents a collective cost of many thousands of dollars to our national treasuries. Mr. Cordier is reported in the press this morning as saying that two weeks of the Assembly's last session spent in argument over procedure, cost half a million dollars. The added factor of absence from home duty must also be considered. In short, therefore, we seek a budget which will maintain essential services on an economical and efficient basis, and we shall then expect the careful use of the funds which we provide.

**POPULATION 12½ MILLION:** Canada's population now exceeds 12½ million. At June 1 this year it reached 12,582,000 as compared with 12,307,000 on June 1 last year, according to the annual estimate by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The gain of 275,000 over the 1946 estimate was the largest numerical increase for a year since Confederation. Rise in the population since the last Dominion-wide census was taken in 1941 was 1,075,000 or more than nine per cent.