

# REPORT OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

To the Right Honourable

Sir ROBERT BORDEN, G.C.M.G.,

Secretary of State for External Affairs,  
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit the usual report on the more important matters which have come before the department during the annual period beginning with April, 1917.

## EUROPEAN WAR.

As for the past four years, the European war is still the most fruitful source of questions entailing correspondence with outside authorities, though a number of these have not reached a stage where extended reference is practicable or useful. New combatants continue to be drawn within its widening circle; in July, Siam, and in August, China declared war with Germany and Austria-Hungary, Greece in the latter month making a similar declaration against these powers, and also against Bulgaria and Turkey, while on the 7th December, the President of the United States approved a joint resolution of Congress declaring the existence of a state of war between that country and Austria-Hungary.

## CANADIAN WAR MISSION.

To provide for the necessity of frequent and prompt communication and negotiation between the Canadian and United States Governments in the numerous and important matters affecting Canada's participation in the war, it was found necessary in the early part of February, 1918, to establish a Canadian War Mission at Washington, the Chairman of which was empowered to represent the Cabinet and the heads of the various Departments in respect of negotiations relating to purely Canadian affairs with the heads of the Departments of the United States Government and other United States officials, and with the other British or Allied Missions operating in the United States in connection with the war. Of this Mission, Mr. Lloyd Harris was appointed Chairman.

## MILITARY SERVICE CONVENTION WITH THE UNITED STATES.

With the object of ensuring that Canadian-British subjects in the United States and United States citizens in Canada of military age should be obliged to return to their respective countries or otherwise become subject to the laws relating to military service in force in the country where they remained, a Military Service Convention was negotiated with the United States and duly signed at Washington on the 3rd June, 1918.