

REPORT OF THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, OTTAWA

The Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING, M.P.,
Secretary of State for External Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit the customary Annual Report of the activities of the Department for the calendar year 1941. It is with the most profound regret that I must record the death on January 28, 1941, of Dr. O. D. Skelton, Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs from 1925 to 1941. The loss of Dr. Skelton has been felt not only in the Department which he did so much to create, but throughout Canada and the community of nations. The Department also lost the services of two of its most able and trusted representatives, Mr. John Hall Kelly, Canadian High Commissioner to Ireland, who passed away in Dublin on March 9, 1941, and Mr. Loring C. Christie, Canadian Minister to the United States, whose death, following a severe illness, took place in New York on April 8, 1941.

During the past year, the constant increase in the burden of work has necessitated a reorganization of the Department on the basis of a growing measure of Divisional responsibility. At the present time the work of the Department is carried on through the following main Divisions: Diplomatic and Commercial Division under Mr. Laurent Beaudry, the Legal Division under Mr. J. E. Read, the British Commonwealth and European Division under Mr. L. B. Pearson, and the American and Far Eastern Division under Mr. H. L. Keenleyside. On June 24, 1941, Mr. L. B. Pearson and Mr. H. L. Keenleyside were named Assistant Under-Secretaries of State for External Affairs.

OFFICES ABROAD

The following is a short review of the work of the offices abroad which are under the direction of the Secretary of State for External Affairs:—

Office of the High Commissioner for Canada, United Kingdom

During the year 1941 the activities of Canada House continued to expand as a result of war-time conditions. As in 1940, the work of the Office was conducted under exceptional circumstances owing to enemy air raids over London, although the cessation of daylight raids eased the strain on the daily routine of the Office. Canada House has again this year been fortunate enough to escape a direct hit, but the London Offices of the Department of Munitions and Supply in St. James's Square were seriously damaged, although the members of the staff managed to continue their work in part of the building, despite conditions of great difficulty.

The Office was in continuous contact with the Department of External Affairs and with the various Departments of the United Kingdom Government concerning many aspects of the joint war effort. The closest co-operation was maintained with Canadian Military Headquarters, Royal Canadian Air Force Headquarters, Royal Canadian Naval Headquarters and with the London Office of the Department of Munitions and Supply. A most important field of