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THE LATE LORING CHRISTIE

PASSING OF FORMER CANADIAN MINISTER TO THE
UNITED STATES

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING
(Prime Minister): It is with deep regret that I inform the house of the death in New York, this morning, of Mr. Loring C. Christie. Hon. members may recall that, on February 17, I stated that the condition of Mr. Christie's health would necessitate a prolonged absence from his post as Canadian minister at Washington. At that time it was our earnest hope that a period of rest and relief from the duties and anxieties of his office would result in the restoration of his health. Unhappily that hope has not been realized.

In the passing of Mr. Christie, Canada has lost an exceedingly able and devoted public servant whose influence made itself felt in the shaping of national affairs and international relations during two very critical phases of our history. Mr. Christie was an adviser of the late Sir Robert Borden on questions of imperial and international relations throughout the last war, and at the peace conference at Paris in 1919. During the latter part of the conference on the limitation of armaments, which met at Washington in 1921-22, Mr. Christie acted as secretary-general of the British empire delegation.

In 1923, Mr. Christie resigned as legal adviser of the Department of External Affairs to form a business association. He returned to the public service in 1935. In the four years which preceded the outbreak of the present war, he served as counsellor in our Department of External Affairs where his extensive and intimate knowledge of constitutional and international law, his wide experience of international affairs, and his sound judgment were invaluable. In September, 1939, he was appointed Canadian minister to the United States. In that position he continued to render services of great value to Canada.

In Mr Christie's death, the diplomatic service of Canada has lost one who had contributed largely to its development, and whose premature passing will be felt as a great loss not only in Canada, but also in the United Kingdom and in the United States.