

REASONS FOR RETIREMENT: The Prime Minister, Mr. King, for the last time as Prime Minister, met newspaper correspondents in Ottawa at a press conference on November 12, at which he issued the following statement:

"Over the past ten years, the problems of government, and my task in particular, have been concerned largely with the last world war, the uncertainties of the year preceding the war, and the problems which war has left in its wake.

"In the general election of 1945, I made it clear that I would not attempt to lead the Party, or to remain at the head of the Government, through another general election. With this in mind, I felt that the Party should be given an opportunity at an appropriate time to choose as its leader a successor to myself whom I might recommend to The Governor General to succeed me in the office of Prime Minister. I was anxious that this should be done in plenty of time to enable the new Prime Minister and members of his administration to meet Parliament in regular session, and to continue to carry on the business of the country for some time before the next general election.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

"To this end, more than a year ago, I arranged with my colleagues to have a meeting of the National Liberal Federation held either late in 1947 or early this year, in order to make provision for the calling of a National Convention during the summer months. At the meeting of the Federation which was held in January, I made it clear that I would seek retirement as soon after the Convention as might be agreed upon between myself and the new leader of the Party.

"When my resignation is tendered to His Excellency, as it will be on Monday next, the arrangement will have worked out as contemplated. My resignation will be the last of a series of steps so planned as to bring about the transition in the leadership of the Liberal Party, and in the Prime Ministership of our country, in the manner which it was hoped would occasion least embarrassment either to Parliament or to the country, and which accordingly would best serve the public interest. My resignation, coming as it does at this time, is therefore not to be associated with any circumstances, either personal or political, which may have occurred within the past year.

"I am not retiring because of ill health, but because I feel that in so far as my task relates to the administration of public affairs, it is now fulfilled.

"It is true that my recent indisposition is a consequence of strain over many years and due particularly to a series of pressures during the past year, but this condition is temporary, and will, I believe, disappear with necessary rest.

"In retiring from the office of Prime Minister which I have held in all for over twenty-one years, my thoughts naturally are much of

the colleagues with whom I have been associated in that period of time, and of members of Parliament who have given me such loyal support; of the members of the public service without whose help the work of government could not be carried on; and of the National Liberal Federation and other Associations that have had to do with the work of organization of the Liberal Party. Above all, I have much in mind the people of Canada who, over so many years have given me so many expressions of their confidence.

"When I retire, it will be without regret at being relieved of the responsibilities of office; but with a glad and grateful heart for the proud position which Canada enjoys in the eyes of the world today; for having had the privilege of participating in the affairs of our country over so long a period of time; and for the promise of renewed health and strength which I feel may come with the wider measure of personal freedom to be thereafter enjoyed.

"I am particularly happy that the leadership of the Government is about to be entrusted to Mr. St. Laurent and to the colleagues who will surround him at the Council Table."

FEDERAL DISTRICT COMMISSION: The Prime Minister, Mr. King, on November 12, announced the appointment of the following persons to be members of the Federal District Commission:

Professor J. Henri Blanchard, Instructor, Prince of Wales College, Charlottetown, P.E.I.

Harvey W. Doane, Esq., Managing Director of the Standard Paving Company, Halifax, N.S.

Dr. A. Foster Baird, Dean of Forestry and Engineering, and formerly Acting President of the University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, N.B.

Gaston Amyot, Esq., Architect, Quebec, P.Q.
Bernard K. Sandwell, Esq., Editor of "Saturday Night", Toronto, Ont.

Cecil Earle Joslyn, Esq., Assistant General Manager, Rupert's Land Trading Co., Winnipeg, Man.

John W. Sanderson, Esq., businessman, Prince Albert, Sask.

Mrs. Cora T. Casselman, former member of Parliament for Edmonton East, Edmonton, Alberta.

William Herbert Warren, Esq., Parks Commissioner, Victoria, B.C.

The present appointments have been made under a recent amendment to the Federal District Commission Act which provides for the enlargement of the Commission so as to include in addition to present members one person resident in each of the provinces of Canada. Members of the Federal District Commission are appointed for a period not exceeding five years. They serve without remuneration.

CANADIANS IN CHINA: The Department of External Affairs announced November 13 that the Canadian Embassy in Nanking has warned Canadians that they should consider the desirability of leaving North and Central China, unless they have compelling reasons to remain. This warning is intended to anticipate any difficulties which may arise in the event of the spread of hostilities southward. It does not at present apply to the large number of Canadians resident in West and South China.

On November 1, all British subjects including Canadian citizens, were advised by the British Consuls General in Peiping and Tientsin to leave North China while transportation facilities were available, unless they had urgent reasons for staying. The Canadian Embassy in Nanking associated itself with the issue of this advice to Canadian citizens in North China.

The Canadian Ambassador to China, who has been in close consultation with his British and United States colleagues, has now extended similar advice to Canadians in the Shanghai-Nanking area. The following is the text of a letter circulated by the Canadian Vice-Consul in Shanghai to all Canadians within his district:

"To all Canadian nationals residing in the provinces of Kiangsu and Anhwei:

"Economic unrest, coupled with an increasingly acute shortage of food supplies and fuel, makes it appear that Canadians remaining in Shanghai and its environs during the forthcoming winter may be subjected to undue hardship. The uncertain military situation in North China also makes it appear possible that hostilities may spread further south, with the result that normal transportation facilities from Shanghai may be disrupted.

"It is suggested, therefore, that, unless you have compelling reasons to remain, you consider the desirability of evacuation while normal transportation facilities remain available. Expectant mothers, women with small children, and elderly persons, are especially advised to leave the Shanghai area before winter sets in."

BIRTH OF THE PRINCE: His Excellency the Governor General, Viscount Alexander, upon receipt of the news that a Prince had been born to Her Royal Highness, Princess Elizabeth, on Sunday, November 14, sent the following message to the Princess:

"On this happy day as we learn of the birth of a son to Your Royal Highness I send you on behalf of the People of Canada our most heartfelt congratulations together with our loyal and devoted good wishes."

The Prime Minister, Mr. King, sent the following message on behalf of the Government:

"Members of the Government of Canada join with me in extending to Your Royal Highness our cordial felicitations on the birth of a

son to Your Royal Highness. We also send our good wishes for the health and happiness of the infant Prince."

The Prime Minister also sent personal messages to Their Royal Highnesses the Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh, and to Their Majesties the King and Queen.

NAVAL APPOINTMENT: Acting Lieutenant Commander (P) William E. Widdows, R.C.N., of Winnipeg, has been appointed Staff Officer (Air) to the Naval Member of the Canadian Joint Staff in Washington, D.C., it was announced November 13 by Naval Headquarters.

Lieutenant Commander (P) F.W.H. Bradley, R.C.N., formerly commanding officer of the 18th Carrier Air Group, has relieved Lieutenant Commander Widdows as Staff Officer (Organization) to the Director of Naval Aviation at Naval Headquarters in Ottawa.

Joining the Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm as a Midshipman in 1939, Lieutenant Commander Widdows transferred to the R.C.N. in January, 1946. While serving with the British fleet he held appointments in the aircraft carriers, H.M.S. "Hermes" and "Illustrious." Following his transfer he was commanding officer of No. 1 Training Air Group, at Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. He was promoted to the acting rank of Lieutenant Commander in August, 1947, and appointed to Headquarters in June, 1948.

MR. WARDROPE'S RE-APPOINTMENT: Re-appointment of William Hugh Masson Wardrope for a further term, as Assistant Chief Commissioner of the Board of Transport Commissioners was announced November 10 by the Honourable Lionel Chevrier, Minister of Transport. Mr. Wardrope was appointed to his present post on November 8, 1938.

MR. ST. LAURENT IS PRIME MINISTER: At 3:55 p.m. on November 15, His Excellency the Governor General accepted the resignation of the retiring Prime Minister, Mr. King. Mr. St. Laurent was thereupon sworn in as President of the Privy Council, and became Prime Minister.

Two new Cabinet Ministers were sworn in a few moments later. They are Hon. Stuart Garson, former Premier of Manitoba, who became Minister of Justice in Mr. St. Laurent's Cabinet, and Hon. Robert H. Winters, member of the House of Commons for the Nova Scotia riding of Queens-Lunenburg, who became Minister of Reconstruction and Supply. There were no other cabinet changes.

Mr. St. Laurent held a press conference shortly after being sworn in to his new office. He was reported as stating that Mr. Winters' big job would be housing, and that he would also take over the Canadian Government Travel Bureau and become Chairman of the National Film Board.