

Soon after his arrival in Washington, Christie, already divorced from his first wife\* (née Marie Armstrong, sister of Harold Armstrong who became Mr. Meighen's Private Secretary for a brief period), and about a year after her death, married on March 23, 1940, Miss Marian Trumbull, who had been acting as his Social Secretary at the Legation in Washington.

#### Illness

In May, 1940, Christie fell ill with hepatitis.\*\* Later came more serious afflictions. Within a year of his appointment, on May 22, he underwent a major gall-bladder operation at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, which left him in a weakened condition. Then on November 28, just after his marriage, he was stricken with thrombosis of a coronary artery and was taken to the Rockefeller Institute Hospital in New York. For a time he showed signs of recuperation; but remained in hospital convalescing through to February, when he planned to return to the Legation at Washington. However, he suffered a set-back, and remained.

During the period of his fatal illness,

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\* By his first wife, Christie had a son Paul, who in 1940 was a student at the University of Toronto. Sir Robert Borden was his godfather.

\*\* Speaking in the House of Commons on August 6, 1940, the sharp-tongued and sometimes sarcastic Mr. Pouliot said: "I was in Washington early in May and called at the Canadian Legation where I was told that the Minister was suffering from jaundice, probably because he had been too close to the Japanese or Chinese Embassy!" (H. of C. Debates, August 6, 1940, p.2533).