

PEARSON HEADS WORLD BANK COMMISSION

The former Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Lester B. Pearson, recently accepted the invitation of the President of the World Bank, Robert S. McNamara, to head an international commission to examine past and future world development.

In announcing the appointment "with very great pleasure", Mr. McNamara said he had been concerned for some time with two problems: aid and development strategy for the next three decades and the role of the Bank in this strategy. "We have begun to see the way ahead for the Bank in the immediate future - a sharp increase in loans for development - but the broad strategy for the future is not clear," he said. "It is to that Mr. Pearson's commission will turn its attention." "I feel confident," Mr. McNamara declared, "that a man of his long political experience will recognize that this is one of the gravest problems facing the leaders of the richer nations, and that concerted action by them all in partnership with the

developing countries is essential."

Mr. McNamara recalled that his predecessor, George D. Woods, had proposed last year, in a speech in Stockholm, that "the dozen or more leading world experts in the field of development be invited to meet together, study the consequences of 20 years of development assistance, assess the results, clarify the errors and propose the policies which will work better in the future".

This commission is a direct result of that initiative.

In accepting the leadership of the commission, Mr. Pearson said he appreciated the importance of a complete survey leading, he hoped, to practical and constructive recommendations. The report should be completed before the end of 1969. "It is a privilege to take part in such a challenging and important task," he declared.

CANADIAN COINS MINTED IN U.S.

Mr. E.J. Benson, Minister of Finance, recently announced that, to relieve the present shortage of 10-cent coins in Canada, arrangements had been made with the United States Mint to produce 75 million new Canadian 10-cent coins.

Mr. Benson said that the Royal Canadian Mint was working at full capacity on the production of the new nickel coins. Temporary arrangements with the U.S. Mint would enable the present demands of the Canadian public to be met much more quickly.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST WAR

Mr. J.E. Dubé, Minister of Veterans Affairs, announced recently that the Government of Canada would commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Armistice of the First World War with ceremonies in Ottawa and in Europe during November.

The planning of these events, which will conclude the series of ceremonies recognizing the fiftieth anniversaries of historic battles fought during the First World War, has already begun under the direction of the Department of Veterans Affairs. The Department is planning the ceremonies through an inter-departmental committee which includes representatives of the Departments of External Affairs, National Defence and of the Privy Council.

It is proposed that a delegation of Canadian survivors visit the Canadian battlefield memorials in Belgium and France. The Canadian delegation will include about 100 survivors of the battalions and corps which fought in France and Belgium as part of the Canadian Corps. It will also include survivors of the naval and air forces and representative survivors of the Senate, House of Commons, the major veterans

associations and some winners of the Victoria Cross.

Canada has 13 battlefield memorials in France and Belgium commemorating the exploits of Canadian and Newfoundland troops in the First World War, including the majestic Vimy Memorial. The Menin Gate Memorial, in Ypres, Belgium, commemorates 7,000 Canadians who were "missing" in the fighting in Belgium.

Selection of veterans to go to Europe in November, and of an equal number who will participate in the Ottawa events, will be made by the colonels-commandant and commanding officers of the present-day units and corps that perpetuate those which fought with the Canadian Corps in the First World War. The officers concerned have already been alerted and the instructions are being sent to them by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

TORONTO HOUSING LOANS

Approval of \$5.2 million in two federal loans to the Metropolitan Toronto Housing Company Limited for the construction of low-rental housing projects in Metropolitan Toronto was announced recently by Mr. Paul Hellyer, Minister responsible to Parliament for Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

These loans, provided under the National Housing Act, will help construct 580 housing-units for older people. The terms of the loans are 50 years with interest at 6 7/8 per cent.

A loan of \$3.2 million will assist in the construction of a 340-unit project consisting of 74 hostel, 198 bachelor and 68 one-bedroom units in the City of Toronto; and a loan of \$2 million will assist in the construction of 240 units consisting of 216 bachelor and 24 one-bedroom units in the Borough of North York.