



# AIRMAIL BULLETIN

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**Missing Polish Treasures Cause Press Sensation:** The story of the missing Polish art treasures has been dominating Canadian newspaper headlines for two days and apparently the crux of the matter lies in the hostility between the present Polish government and supporters of the former government which took wartime refuge in London. Prime Minister Mackenzie King told a press conference that the Canadian government was not involved in the controversy as the treasures were kept in Canada in private custody. The Toronto Daily Star published a dispatch from Quebec crediting to a high official of the Roman Catholic Church with a statement that "the whole of the Polish treasure is definitely safe, but at the present moment it is lost to the present government of Poland." This story said that "at the time the treasures were deposited, an article of the agreement was that they should be returned to the government which gave them to the Church for safe-keeping."

In Montreal, a Pole who said he could not give his identity because he feared reprisals against his relatives in Poland, said the missing tapestries and other valuables were "sacred treasures cared for by and presented to the Church centuries ago" and they now were in "safe hands."

Meanwhile, the "man with a tumor behind his ear," Jose Polkowski, who had been identified by the present Polish Minister to Canada, Dr. Alfred Fiderkiewicz, as the one who allegedly obtained some of the treasures from a convent, said that Minister's explanation of how the trunks left the convent was "just not true." He added that "this is nothing but politics."

The Minister agreed that "politics is behind all this," and named the former Minister, Dr. Wacław Babinski, Polkowski and Adam Zurowski, former first secretary in the Polish Legation, as being behind the disappearance.

So far the Polish Legation has not requested the Canadian government for assistance in gaining possession of the various missing articles.

**Prime Minister Comments on Diplomatic Appointments:** Prime Minister Mackenzie King, commenting on the appointment of C. Fraser Elliott, Deputy Revenue Minister for Taxation, as Canadian ambassador to Chile, said he would like "all in the public service to note that they have the opportunity in the future of being abroad after distinguished service, whatever department may be concerned."

"Members of the public service who have distinguished themselves in any department, not merely those attached to either the Prime Minister's Office and the External Affairs Department, may look forward to the possibility of being named to diplomatic posts representing Canada abroad," he said.

"The government considers diplomatic appointments as amongst the most important it has to make from time to time and the government is seeking to secure the most experienced and best qualified men...Members of the public service have almost a priority on such appointments."

Mr. King also said the government considers "ambassadorial and High Commissioner appointments are of equal importance." He observed that the term "high commissioner" would be the subject of further consideration and some other designation might be decided upon such as "representative."

**Nightingale Acquitted:** The fourth of the latest series of espionage trials has ended with acquittal of Matt S. Nightingale, former Squadron Leader in the R.C.A.F. who worked in the land communication lines section. An Ontario Supreme Court jury deliberated for four hours before acquitting Nightingale of a charge of communicating confidential information to Russia. It was the third acquittal since the espionage trials began.

Next week a series of speedy trials involving the cases of Gordon Lunan, formerly on the staff of the Canadian Information Service; Durnford Smith, one-time National Research Council engineer; Prof. Israel Halperin, wartime army ballistics expert, and Dr. David Shugar, naval anti-submarine expert, opens before a Carleton County judge.

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