

REPORT OF THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, OTTAWA

The Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT, K.C., M.P.,
Secretary of State for External Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit the customary annual review of the business of the department for the calendar year 1931.

Canada has had the honour during 1931 of welcoming the Hon. Charles Arsène Henry as Minister of France in the place of Hon. Jean Knight whose departure was noted in the previous annual report.

OFFICES ABROAD

To refer to the work of the offices outside of Canada which are under the direction of the Secretary of State for External Affairs:

London

The Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, who was appointed High Commissioner for Canada in Great Britain on the 29th November, 1930, took over his new duties on the 3rd February, 1931.

The High Commissioner represented the Government of Canada at the Preparatory Conference for the Second World Wheat Conference held in Rome on the 26th March, 1931, under the auspices of the International Institute of Agriculture. A development of the Rome Conference was a Conference of Wheat Exporting Countries held in London at the Office of the High Commissioner, on the invitation of the Canadian Government, on the 18th May to consider ways and means of international cooperation in marketing the 1931 wheat crop. The High Commissioner, who represented Canada at the Conference, presided over its deliberations and was also Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Conference at its first session on the 6th July when plans for the establishment of an International Wheat Information Service were prepared.

The High Commissioner also represented the Canadian Government at the Fifteenth Session of the International Labour Conference which was held in Geneva from the 28th May to the 18th June, 1931.

Members of the High Commissioner's staff have served from time to time on the Imperial Economic Committee, the Imperial Shipping Committee, the Empire Marketing Board, and the Imperial War Graves Commission, and have cooperated with the Imperial Institute in all matters affecting Canada.

The business transacted by the Office of the High Commissioner during the year included the administration of reparations and war debts accounts; arrangements for the interchange of naval, military and air personnel between the Canadian and Imperial Forces; the requisitioning of naval, military and air equipment and stores; the distribution of Government publications; the sale of