

REPORT OF THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

The Rt. Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING, C.M.G., M.P.,
Secretary of State for External Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my annual review of matters dealt with by the department during the past year.

EUROPEAN WAR

The Peace settlement has been advanced by the ratification on July 26, 1921, of the Peace Treaty with Hungary, and of the Treaty with Roumania respecting Bessarabia on April 14, 1922. As to the Peace Treaty signed with Turkey on August 10, 1920, it has become evident that its terms will require modification and fresh negotiations for this purpose will have to be undertaken.

Germany having made default in meeting her obligations under the Treaty of Versailles, a conference of the inter-Allied Governments was held in London, as an outcome of which a protocol was signed by Great Britain, Belgium, France, Italy and Japan on May 5, 1921, modifying annex 2 to part 8 of the Treaty of Versailles so as to enable the reparation commission to adopt a new schedule of payments to be made by Germany.

CONFERENCES AT GENOA AND THE HAGUE

An Economic and Financial Conference was assembled at Genoa at the invitation of the Italian Government to consider the question of the economic reconstruction of Central and Eastern Europe. Sir Charles Gordon, G.B.E., and Professor Edouard Montpetit, K.C., LL.D., were appointed to represent Canada at the conference, which met on April 10 and terminated May 19, 1922. All the European countries, except Turkey, were represented, as was also Japan; the British delegation included representatives of Australia, South Africa and India, as well as of Canada. No very tangible results were obtained and invitations were extended to the powers represented, with the exception of Germany and Russia, to a subsequent Conference at the Hague on June 15, 1922, further to consider the question. At this latter conference Canada was represented by Professor Montpetit.

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

In an effort to promote the establishment and maintenance of a general condition of peace, the President of the United States suggested to the Principal Allied and Associated Powers participation in a conference on the subject of the limitation of armament, and the suggestion being favourably entertained issued formal invitations to those powers to such a conference to be held on November 11, 1921, at Washington. The question of limitation of armament being closely related to Pacific and far Eastern problems, it was proposed that these should also be considered; and as being interested in this aspect of the conference, Belgium, China, the Netherlands and Portugal were also invited to take part. Canada was represented at the conference by the Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Borden.