

accredited Jean Desy, at present Canadian Ambassador in Brazil, as the first Minister to Belgium. It was also decided to have him serve simultaneously as Canadian Minister to the Netherlands. Mr. Desy presented his credentials to King Leopold of Belgium in January, 1939, and to Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands the next month. The Netherlands Minister to Canada established the Legation in Ottawa in October, 1939. An interesting development in intra-imperial relations was the appointment to Canada of an Accredited Representative by the Union of South Africa. For this position the South African Government selected D. de Waal Meyer, who had previously served in Canada as a trade commissioner.

Canada Declares War.—In September, 1939, the Canadian Government issued a separate declaration of war on Germany from that of the United Kingdom as befitted its advancement in nationhood in the quarter century between wars. The day after this declaration (September 10) it was announced that the Government would send High Commissioners to Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Ireland. Such appointments were designed to develop closer co-operation between the members of the Commonwealth. This development proved of particular value when the War spread into the Pacific area after Pearl Harbor. The Commonwealth Governments reciprocated.

Canada and the United States.—With the United States, the number of contacts and special arrangements rapidly increased. The formation of a Permanent Joint Board on Defence in August, 1940, the rapid emergence of some half dozen joint committees for the co-ordination of the war effort of the two countries, and the despatch to Washington of representatives from various Government Departments greatly increased the work of the Canadian Legation in Washington and expanded its personnel. Among its new officers appeared attachés from the Armed Services and a financial attaché. A further innovation in Canadian-United States relations arising from the War was the establishment of a Canadian Consulate-General in New York in May, 1943.

This was not the first consular office to be opened by Canada. The occupation of Denmark in April, 1940, posed the question of the future disposition of its territorial possession, Greenland. From Greenland came Canada's important supply of cryolite which was used in the production of aluminum. Greenland was also a key area for obtaining reports on weather conditions and has proved of great importance in furthering transatlantic air navigation. For these reasons Canada and the United States acted on parallel lines of policy in sending consuls to that country in the summer of 1940. The appointment of a High Commissioner to Newfoundland in July, 1941, was likewise a recognition of the importance of Newfoundland for the defence of Canada. In August, 1941, also for defence reasons, it was decided to establish a Consulate on the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon which was maintained for three years.

Latin-American Exchanges.—The opening of Canadian Missions in Latin America was not only based on the development of intra-American trade and the increasing sense of hemispheric solidarity, but also on the fact, as the Prime Minister told the House of Commons in February, 1941, that "South American problems will become increasingly our problems as the situation comes to be changed for better or for worse . . . and the Government feels that we owe it to the people of our country to be able to get first-hand knowledge of the changing situation in South America".