

## CANADA'S NOMINEES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

The Honourable Thibaudeau Rinfret, Chief Justice of Canada, on behalf of the Canadian National Group named by the Government of Canada in September last to consider nominations to the International Court of Justice, announced recently its report to the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission of the United Nations at London, England.

John E. Read, K.C., Legal Adviser, Department of External Affairs, has been selected as the Canadian nominee for a seat on the Court. Three other candidates were nominated as follows:

Judge Manley O. Hudson, United States of America;

Dr. Jules Basdevant, France;

Dr. Jose Filadelfo de Barros E. Azevedo, Brazil.

The International Court of Justice is the successor to the Permanent Court of International Justice, which was established in 1921. It will be the judicial organ of the United Nations Organization, consisting of fifteen judges to be elected by the Security Council and General Assembly at the sessions to be held early this year.

It was provided at San Francisco that for the purpose of the election each member nation should have the right to nominate four candidates, of whom not more than two could be its own nationals. In previous practice it has not been usual for any one country to nominate more than one of its own nationals and this course has been followed in the nomination of Mr. Read. The selection of the candidates in each country is placed in the hands of a national group appointed for that purpose and generally representative of the bench and bar.

The Canadian National Group includes, in addition to the Chief Justice who acted as Chairman: Hon. Chief Justice J. C. McRuer, Toronto; C. J. Burchell, Esq., K.C., Halifax; and E. K. Williams, Esq., K.C., President of the Canadian Bar Association, Winnipeg.

Mr. Read is a native of Halifax, N.S., born on July 5th, 1888. He graduated from Dalhousie University in Arts in 1909, studied law at Columbia University and while there was appointed a Rhodes Scholar, proceeding to University College, Oxford, where he took a double first in the Honour School of Jurisprudence and the post-graduate degree of B.C.L.

Mr. Read was admitted to the Bar of Nova Scotia in 1913 and engaged in the general practice of law until 1914 when he

enlisted as a private in the Canadian infantry. He subsequently transferred to the artillery, serving in France from 1915 to 1917. He was wounded just before the battle of Vimy and was mentioned in despatches. Mr. Read was commissioned shortly after enlistment and rose to the rank of major.

Following his return to Canada he was appointed Professor of Law at Dalhousie University and in 1924 was appointed George Munro Professor of Constitutional and International Law and Dean of the Faculty of Law.

Mr. Read was a member of the Conference of Commissioners on Uniformity of Legislation in Canada and of the Canadian delegation at the Conference on the Operation of Dominion Legislation. As a member of the drafting committee, he took part in the formulation of the Statute of Westminster, which in 1931 defined Canada's current status as a member of the British Commonwealth. Mr. Read was Legal Adviser at the Imperial Conferences in 1930, 1932 and 1937.

He served as agent for the Government of Canada in the *I'm Alone* and *Trail Smelter* arbitrations and as counsel for the Government of Canada in various cases before the International Joint Commission. He was also counsel for the Canadian Government in litigation involving questions of constitutional and international law before the Supreme Court of Canada, the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council and the United States federal courts, including the Supreme Court of the United States. He served as Canadian representative at the Committee of Jurists, Washington, 1945.

Mr. Read was appointed Legal Adviser to the Department of External Affairs in 1929 and has continued in that post ever since. He also holds the post of Deputy Under Secretary of State for External Affairs with the rank of ambassador.

Judge Manley O. Hudson has been a judge of the Permanent Court of Justice at The Hague, Holland, since 1936.

Professor Basdevant, since the liberation of France, has been acting as Legal Adviser for the French Foreign Office and was the French Legal Representative both at the Committee of Jurists at Washington and at the San Francisco Conference.

Dr. Azevedo is Dean of the National Faculty of Law and Vice-Rector of the University of Brazil. He is a member of various international law societies and has represented Brazil in Semaine Internationale de Droit and Union Internationale des Avocats, Paris, and the Second Congress of Comparative Law at The Hague, 1937.