

Canada's Evidence Ready In Japanese Atrocities

Justice E. S. McDougall to Sit on International Tribunal Trying Lesser Criminals

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Ottawa, April 13—National Defense Headquarters has collected evidence of Japanese atrocities and crimes against members of the Canadian armed forces and Canadian citizens in Hong Kong and Japan, and it will be placed before military courts convened by the British and the United States authorities in the Far East.

A Canadian judge, Mr. Justice E. Stuart McDougall, of the Court of King's Bench, Quebec, has been nominated by this Government to sit on the international tribunal being convened by Gen. Douglas MacArthur to try the major war criminals of Japan, and a group of Canadian officers is proceeding to Hong Kong and Tokio to assist in the prosecution of the lesser Japanese war criminals against whom evidence is now available.

An announcement on the part which Canadians will have in these trials was made by Prime Minister Mackenzie King in the House of Commons on Friday, following a question by E. D. Fulton, MP, of Kamloops.

SERVE WITH TRIBUNAL

Mr. King explained that the Japanese major war criminals are to be tried by an international tribunal on which each state signatory to the Japanese surrender will have a representative. Justice McDougall is this country's nominee and Brig. H. C. Nolan, CBE, MC, of the Judge Advocate General's office at Defense Headquarters, will act as associate prosecutor before this tribunal. These two have been in Tokio since February.

There will be no Canadian military

courts for the trial of the lesser Japanese criminals, for the reason that under existing arrangements military courts may only be convened by states now in occupation of areas formerly dominated by Japan. As Canada has no occupation forces in the Far East, this country is not to establish military courts there.

However, a group of four Canadian officers, with Col. J. O. Orr in charge, are now en route to the east, with authority to request the United Kingdom and United States military authorities to convene military courts under their respective war crimes regulations for the trial of persons within their jurisdictions against whom a Canadian officer believes a prima facie case of a war crime committed on a Canadian has been established. These officers may assist in the prosecution of the criminals if the British or American courts approve.

HAS EVIDENCE

In announcing that the National Defense Department has evidence of war crimes against Canadians, Mr. King informed the House that lists and descriptions of "wanted" persons have been transmitted to the appropriate British and U.S. authorities, with the request that they be apprehended and held in custody, when apprehended.

Mr. King announced that Colonel Thomas Moss, MC, KC, of the Judge Advocate-General's Department, is proceeding to Tokio at the request of United States authorities that a Canadian be sent, and he will be available to sit as a judge on any joint military court convened there. It is possible that a judicial officer may be sent to Hong Kong for a similar purpose.

During the war, in an effort to increase munitions production, an order in council was passed limiting statutory holidays to New Year's Day, Good Friday, Dominion Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas. Secretary of State Mar- in announced that the order in council has now been revoked and in addition to the above days, Easter Monday and Victoria Day, May 24, are again statutory holidays. A definite decision with regard to holidays other than those enumerated will soon be announced. Veterans Minister Ian MacKenzie is conferring with veterans' organizations respecting making Nov. 11 known as Remembrance Day, a holiday.

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