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CANADIAN-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP

Elsewhere in this issue there is announced the formation of a national council for Canadian-Soviet friendship. Under the chairmanship of Sir Ellsworth Flavelle, a committee is arranging details for a great meeting to be held on the evening of, June 22nd in Maple Leaf Gardens, which will celebrate the second anniversary of Russia's entry into the war. The meeting also will inaugurate the National Council for Canadian-Soviet Friendship. The guest speaker will be the Hon. Joseph E. Davies, former U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union, who has just returned from his second mission to Moscow. The Prime Minister, Right Honorable W. L. Mackenzie King, will preside at the meeting and introduce Mr. Davies.

In setting up an organization to promote understanding and friendship between the Canadian and Russian peoples, the Dominion is following Great Britain and the United States. In England, over a year ago, a national committee was formed, headed by Lord Horder. Its purpose is to spread factual information concerning Russia to the British public. It especially concentrates on establishing a working relationship between scientific and other special interest groups in Great Britain and the Soviet Union. An example of this is the Anglo-Soviet Medical Council, headed by Sir Alfred Webb-Johnson. Under its auspices there is now en route to Russia a group of distinguished medical men to study Soviet war medicine. Dr. Wilder Penfield, director of the Montreal Neurological Institute, is a member of this commission.

There is also in Great Britain the National Council for British-Soviet Unity, of which the Bishop of Chelmsford is president. It has branches throughout the country and conducts a popular form of education on Anglo-Soviet relations through lectures, films, exhibits, concerts and other such activities.

Last fall there, was set up in the United States the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship. The president is Dr. Corliss Lamont. It evolved out of the American-Soviet Congress of Friendship convened by Ambassador Davies and sponsored by leaders of the American government and all sections of the population. It carries on in the U.S. activities similar to the British.

Through these efforts a double purpose will be achieved. The Russian people and their Allies can be helped to learn to know one another better and thus build strong foundations for good-will and co-operation. The British information bureau is publishing in Kuibyshev a newspaper in the Russian language, which tells the Russian people about the British people. The study of English is becoming popular in the Soviet Union, and there are being conducted all over the country, lectures, exhibits, concerts and other activities featuring literature, music, art, films from Britain and America. Through the Canadian-Soviet Friendship Council information about Canada will be sent into Russia and this should be of mutual benefit.

The urgency for cultivating the friendship of the Soviet Union was recently discussed by the London Times in a series of editorials. It pointed out that "Britain's destiny is inextricably linked with Russia," and that future security and peace for the British Commonwealth of Nations and for the world lies in making fast the alliance with Russia. The majority of British leaders have been unanimous in the opinion that such an alliance is the only way to frustrate future German plans for world conquest.