

However, during the American Civil War, U.S. authorities wanted more reliable certification from people living in Canada. In 1862, the Governor-General, Viscount Monck, introduced a centralized system for issuing passports, which meant that for the next 50 years, a Canadian passport was really a "Letter of Request" signed by the Governor General.

In the first few years after Confederation, it is difficult to trace the history of Canadian passports because so few were issued. The financial statements of the Secretary of State in 1878 record an annual passport revenue of \$50. Since passports cost \$1, we know 50 must have been issued. Over the next few years, annual receipts varied between \$35 and \$50.

In these early years passports were issued as single-sheet certificates and stamped with the official seal. In 1915, Canada switched to the British form of passport, a ten-section single sheet folder printed in English only.

A series of international passport conferences (1920, 1926 and 1947) resulted in a number of changes to the Canadian passport. The 1920 conference recommended that all countries adopt a booklet-type passport which Canada began issuing in 1921. Another recommendation of 1920 that all passports were to be written in at least two languages, one of which was to be French, led to the first bilingual Canadian passport in 1926. The 1920 conference also recommended that passports be valid for at least two years and preferably for five. It is interesting that, since 1919, Canadian peacetime passports were already valid for five years, with a possible five-year extension.

The year 1930 saw a change in Canadian passport regulations, reflecting Canada's growth to nation status. And abroad, Canadian travellers needing passport services were