

Defence matters and problems arising from the dislocation of the peacetime economy have necessitated visits of the High Commissioner, the Acting Trade Commissioner and a number of officials of the Commission of Government to Canada and of Canadian officials to Newfoundland.

CANADIAN REPRESENTATION IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Canadian Legation, United States

During 1942 the duties of the Legation were greatly increased, and their nature materially altered, as the United States was no longer a friendly neutral but an active ally whose war effort was intimately related to that of Canada. Consequently, in order to develop the closest possible liaison with the United States Government, a number of the Canadian Government Departments assigned officials to Washington, where they acted in co-operation with the Legation, though maintaining direct contacts with the corresponding United States Departments.

A Canadian Joint Staff, functioning in close relationship with the Service Attachés was established in the Legation Annex. Before the organization of the Washington Office of the Wartime Information Board in September, the press and public relations work of the Legation were centred in the same building.

During the year, the Pacific War Council, at the meetings of which the Minister represented Canada, was set up. The Legation was active in connection with the work of the Joint Defence Board, the Joint Economic Committee and other combined agencies for the conduct of the war.

Following the entry of the United States into the war, the protection of Canadian nationals and interests in enemy countries was transferred to Switzerland and action was taken to synchronize, wherever possible, the policy and practice of the United States and Canada, particularly with respect to the application of Prisoners of War Conventions, the relief of prisoners of war and interned nationals, repatriation of nationals in enemy countries and Red Cross matters.

Many, and in some cases very complicated, questions pertaining to economic warfare, censorship, taxation, communications, immigration, extradition, passports and selective service occupied a great deal of the time of the Legation staff.

Administrative duties greatly increased, the number of telegrams, for example, having expanded more than six-fold over the number for the previous year.

The various treaties and agreements concluded during 1942 between Canada and the United States are listed in another section of this report.

The following changes in personnel took place on January 9th: Mr. A. F. W. Plumptre assumed his duties as Financial Attaché and Washington representative of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board. On April 6th, Mr. S. V. Allen took up the post of Assistant Commercial Attaché. On June 1st, Mr. John McCarthy was appointed Attaché. Upon the recall to Ottawa of Mr. Hume Wrong to assume the position of Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L. B. Pearson, on June 11th, took over the duties of Minister-Counsellor.

Following the transfer in December of Mr. Ronald Macdonnell to the newly established Canadian Legation in the U.S.S.R., Mr. M. H. Wershof was transferred to Washington.