

General in Boston. Consequently, Mr. Delisle was instructed that in appraising the usefulness of Canadian consular representation in Portland there was no need to make allowance for any interests the U.K. might have in that area, and therefore, the usefulness of the Canadian Vice-Consulate could be decided upon solely in relation to Canadian interests.

After discussing the matter with Mr. La Fleur and reviewing the Annual Report for the Portland post, Mr. Delisle decided that there was enough business in Portland and the whole State of Maine to warrant the maintenance of the office. He also pointed out that the Portland office played a very important role in looking after Canadians requesting assistance for any difficulty of a consular nature encountered with the United States authorities. In support of this he remarked that having a consular agent on the spot saved a good deal of time, proceedings, and expenses, both to the Consulate General and to the Canadian citizens concerned.⁹⁵

In the following years, little was done to change the status of the post in Portland. In 1959, however, Mr. Archibald Day answered a query on a matter of Honorary Vice-Consuls in the U.S. posed by the Boston Consulate General, and in so doing, introduced the subject of the efficacy of the Portland post. He did so in relation to the Annual Report of Activities submitted by Mr. La Fleur in January 1959. Mr. Day stated in part:

In spite of the eloquence of Mr. La Fleur's report we are not fully convinced that present day circumstances correspond very closely with the situation some ten years ago when this office in Portland was fairly busy largely, so far as we can understand, because of the number of ships of Canadian registry called at Portland, Maine...⁹⁶

The Boston Consulate General replied that it would be inadvisable to close the Vice Consulate as the service of Mr. La Fleur was satisfactory, and his presence in Portland obviated the necessity of officers from Boston having to make visits there to perform services connected with shipping.