

particular usefulness in this respect for years to come. If Canadian consulates are to be created in various places, according to the requirements as they may appear essential, whether or to what extent the Government should draw on some of these experienced men in the field of trade to assist in creating a nucleus of a consular service to meet the immediate or future necessities is a matter for further examination as far as the present Government is concerned.

The practical necessities to be considered in working out any sound plan for a consular service are conditional upon the analysis which should be made of the range of duties of consular officers abroad. When one speaks of consuls as constituting probably the most ancient system of representation in foreign lands, this is meant to connote the great variety of functions which this institution has been called upon to perform through centuries of experience, and the particular technique of its own which has emerged from such a long and active practice of the institution throughout the world.

In this connection, it will be useful to refer to the duties of British consular officers whose good offices on behalf of Canadian interests abroad cannot be overestimated. In this respect one cannot speak too highly of the experience, ability and devotion to duty of these men stationed in all parts of the world, whose services are invaluable to the United Kingdom and the British Commonwealth of Nations and to whom Canada owes so much for all that they have done and continue to do at the request of her authorities.

The duties of British consular officers are as follows:

1. Trade and Commerce.

British consular officers perform many of the functions performed in the Canadian Government service by trade commissioners and commercial attachés.

2. Assistance to the Royal Navy.

3. Assistance to the Merchant Marine.

Consular officers have a general duty to assist masters of merchant vessels, in addition to extensive duties under the Merchant Shipping Acts. They also keep registers of British shipping, and report on British and foreign merchant shipping entering and clearing from the ports of their district.

4. Reports.

Consular officers report on occurrence of certain diseases, imposition of quarantine restrictions, outbreak of cattle diseases (in certain countries), violations of anti-slavery treaties, conditions approaching slavery, etc.