

Canadian Ambassador in Washington, protested that Canadian representation in Portland was unjustified, and led to the embarrassing anomaly of maintaining an office in a secondary city before opening others in more important centres.¹¹

The Department, however, bowed to the exigency "...in view of the necessity of not leaving the active Canadian shipping interests at Portland unattended to..." and sent an officer to Portland.¹² The Under-Secretary had already suggested to Mr. Pearson that one possible solution which would satisfy both the oil companies and the Department would be the appointment of an honorary consul. The wisdom of this suggestion was confirmed by the report of the temporary consul in Portland who advised his superieors that there was not sufficient business in that city to justify a permanent Canadian officer. He recommended that the best and least costly method of maintaining the requisite representative would be to appoint a local citizen as an honorary vice-consul. The Department agreed and A.A. LaFleur, Attorney-at-Law, was appointed Honorary Vice Consul for Canada at Portland on March 24, 1947.¹³

Needless to say the haphazard and unplanned nature of the growth of Canadian representation in the United States was satisfactory to few officers of the Canadian Government, particularly those from the Department of External Affairs. Further, Canadian officials believed that the continued representation of Canada in the United States by British diplomats was unsound. The first reason for their conclusion was founded on the logic that it was both needless and undesirable to place an unjustifiable burden of Canadian work on the United Kingdom Consular officers.¹⁴ Canada was rich enough to take care of her citizens,