

was ... "quite insignificant and it may well be that the services performed are more than worth the expenditure involved."⁹¹

When the Honorary Vice Consul became Attorney General for the State of Maine in 1951 and wanted to resign, the question of closing this post arose. Departmental opinion on the need for such an honorary office diverged. For example, Leslie Chance urged the Under-Secretary to accept Lafleur's resignation and close the Portland office since many places much more important than Portland wanted honorary offices.⁹² On the other hand, Mr. Beaulieu, the Boston Vice-Consul, investigated and discovered that information, shipping, and assistance for Canadians in distress justified keeping the office open. K.P. Kirkwood of Consular Division recommended that Lafleur be asked to retain his position providing he could serve concurrently as Attorney-General and Honorary Vice-Consul.⁹³

At this time much consideration was being directed to enquiries to be made of the United Kingdom authorities in determining whether the closing of the Honorary Vice-Consulate in Portland would cause them any particular inconvenience. In addition, the question of whether or not the existence of the post should be extended beyond a six month to a one year period was to be considered in the light of the reply from the U.K. authorities as it was believed that the views of U.K. officials in Boston would be of value in formulating a policy for the post at Portland.⁹⁴

Mr. J.L. Delisle met with Mr. Cyril Toy, the United Kingdom Consul in Boston, and asked him if he was in a position to give an idea of the amount of work British interests in the State of Maine represented for the Canadian consular agent in Portland. Mr. Roy claimed that United Kingdom interests in the area were negligible, and any assistance required by British subjects, or whatever, were always handled by the U.K. Consulate