

Under-Secretary Pearson concurred with these opinions when in sending them to the Secretary, Louis St. Laurent, he noted that "...the prevailing American confusion and ignorance as to our world place and independence are deepened and the whole Commonwealth position is obscured by representation which is not in accordance with present day facts."²¹

Even after several consulates had been set up in 1952, such thinking in the Department was cause to urge the expansion of the consular system. Hector Allard of the Consular Division reported to the Under-Secretary after a tour of the United States that the Americans were very interested in Canada, and willing to be informed, but the degree of American ignorance about Canada was "astounding."²²

Both before and after the war, officials also believed, with good reason, that an expansion of a Canadian consular system in the U.S. consulates would soon be encumbered with a large amount of work to perform. The Trade Commissioner in New York reported that prior to the establishment of the Consulate-General he already was performing consular duties involving stranded Canadians, immigration, succession duty, information, and the issuance of labour permits.²³ Likewise, the Commissioner of the Los Angeles office reported in 1942 that he was called upon to perform many tasks associated more with a consulate than with a trade commission, and that the volume of consular and trade business staggered the ability of his staff to cope.²⁴ The Consul General in New York, Hugh Day Scully, reported in 1944 that he believed the opening of Canadian consulates in the United States would multiply by many times the number of inquiries formerly handled by British consulates on behalf of Canada.²⁵ Scully emphasized that the nature of the business would not be strictly consular