

Mr. Burchell arrived in the half-built capital, Canberra, early in 1940, and immediately secured provisional quarters for both residence and offices. It was necessary for this Office to keep in close touch with the longer-established Canadian Government Trade Commissioners in the larger commercial and seaport cities of Sydney and Melbourne.

In 1941 Mr. Burchell was next appointed to Newfoundland, and left Australia for Canada on July 24th. During his absence and pending the arrival of his successor, E.B. Rogers, Third Secretary in Canberra, was in charge of the office.

"Mr. Burchell's appointment to Newfoundland", said Mr. King on November 6, 1941, "has left a vacancy in the position of High Commissioner for Canada in Australia. With the situation what it is in the Orient, and having regard to the many and highly important matters related to the Pacific which require most careful consideration at this time, we have felt that it was important that the best possible appointment should be made. The government believed that no person possessing a wide knowledge of eastern problems as related to Canada and other parts of the Commonwealth, and also exceptional experience in military affairs, could be found who was as well qualified to fill this position as Maj.Gen. Victor W. Odlum, at present general officer commanding the second Canadian division overseas. I am happy to be able to announce that General Odlum has agreed to accept the appointment and that the appointment has been made. I need hardly say that General Odlum accepted this position with reluctance and only on the assurance that in the opinion of