PRELUDE TO WAR 1311

According to a Canadian Press dispatch from Ottawa of September 7th the Prime Minister declared that "the Speech from the Throne made no change in the position of Canada as it has been since the proclamation under the War Measures Act was issued".

It appears, therefore, that no state of war exists between Germany and Canada. Consequently I maintain that I am entitled to the favourable assistance in the exercise of my Office and to all the Privileges, Immunities and Advantages thereunto belonging, as vouchsafed to me in the Exequatur issued to me, and not withdrawn or revoked.

I have the honour to request that the authorities be instructed to honour the signature of His Majesty the King, thereby observing at the same time established rules of international law.

I have etc.

E. WINDELS

1083.

Le sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures au sous-ministre des Mines et des Ressources Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs to Deputy Minister of Mines and Resources

Ottawa, September 8, 1939

Dear Dr. Camsell,

A few days ago you asked what effect the United States Neutrality law, when proclaimed, might be expected to have upon the export from the United States of such materials as base metals, and Mr. Christie of this Department informed you by telephone that this law in itself would have no effect upon such things since its application is confined to a list which comprises only "arms, ammunition and implements of war".

At the same time we asked our Legation in Washington to advise us, as regards raw materials including strategic base metals, what restrictions if any upon export from the United States already exist or may be contemplated on grounds of conserving United States supplies. The Legation have now replied that the only materials of this character upon which export restrictions exist are tinplate scrap and helium. They add that the State Department in Washington are not aware of any immediate proposals to place restrictions upon the export of other materials.

The Legation will keep us informed in this connection and we shall be glad to pass on to you any information received.

Yours sincerely,

O. D. SKELTON