



SOURCE:
 Location:
 Date:
 Author:
 Title:
 National Defense

FINLAND
 No. 2
 Stockholm, 4th October, 1925

Sir,
 I have the honor to report that my reception as first Canadian Minister in Finland was most cordial and friendly. As I reported to you by telegram on a visit from Helsinki, I proceeded by train to the President on September 24th at 11 o'clock in the morning.

2. A brief description of this first visit to Finland would perhaps be in order. Mrs. Stone and I, accompanied by Miss Shirley of this Legation, arrived in Helsinki on the morning of the 24th of September. We were met on the dock by Mr. Tuomi, the Chief of Protocol of the Finnish Foreign Office, his assistant Mr. Linnalahti, and the United Kingdom Charge d'Affaires had intended meeting us, but all of the arrangements which various people had kindly made for our arrival were somewhat upset by the fact that our ship reached port two hours before it was expected. On arrival we proceeded to the Hotel Esplanad which was our headquarters during our stay.

3. On Friday morning the 23rd of September I was received by Mr. Carl Enckell, the Foreign Minister, Mr. Enckell as well as the other members of the Government and Government officials whom I had the pleasure of meeting, understood the circumstances which made it difficult, if not impossible, for us to establish an permanent legation with a Minister of a Charge d'Affaires resident in Helsinki at the present time. I made it a point to explain that it was certainly not from any lack of desire on our part, but that it was purely and simply a matter of not having enough people. I made this point strongly in a press conference which I held in the course of my visit and I am glad to say that it was widely published in the papers of Finland that the Canadian Foreign Service had expanded in the course of ten years from 1915 to 1925 from five missions abroad to thirty-three missions abroad, which was given, as I expressed it, as the only reason why we were not in a position at the moment to open a permanent office in Helsinki.

4. I found the Finnish people generally a little touchy and unreasonably so on this point. There are some four Ministers or Charge d'Affaires in Stockholm accredited at the same time to Finland and three or four in London accredited at the same time to Finland. Unfortunately, the visits of these representatives to their home country have been few and far between and while, as I said above, all Cabinet Ministers are accredited with whom I talked understood why we could not open a permanent office in Helsinki, they at the same time expressed the hope that the Canadian Minister, having presented his Credentials, would not, as so many others have done, fling up with his baggage into the mist of Stockholm or the snows of Moscow and not be seen again. I assured our Finnish friends that in our case this would not be so and I gave this assurance in the confident feeling that I could get on better than maintain with Finland as close contacts as the limited staff of this Legation will allow.

The Honorable,
 The Secretary of State for External Affairs,
 OTTAWA, Canada.



AUG 11 1926
 696/
 Ottawa, 10th August, 1925.

Dear Sir,
 No. 505. In reply to your letter of the 7th instant to Mr. F.M. Baker, I desire to say that the King's Exequatur empowering you to act as Finnish Consul at Montreal received His Majesty's signature on the 1st June, 1925. Nothing more is necessary for you to assume your office and exercise the functions appertaining thereto.

Yours very truly,
Joseph Pope
 Under-Secretary of State
 for External Affairs.

The Consul of Finland,
 516-518 St. Catherine Street West,
 Montreal.