

General, on the assumption apparently that such report, though formally approved in the form of a Minute of Council, was not in the nature of advice but of information only, the Governor General acting in making the recognition merely as the agent of the Imperial Government.

Such a view however finds no countenance in a recent memorandum (20th July, 1912) issued by the Foreign Office dealing with the matter of consular appointments which speaks of such temporary recognition as made "by the local Government", and the imposing of a share of the responsibility for advice in these matters upon the Dominion Governments is quite in accordance with the existing tendency to expand the sphere of those Governments. In this view of the case it would better accord with constitutional usage that the Canadian government's recognition should be conveyed through His Royal Highness' responsible Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Order-in-Council might be amended to make provision for this.

The conclusion of this brief survey shows that from early times there were foreign consuls appointed to and recognized by Canada; that for pragmatic reasons, though unofficially, they performed diplomatic functions and were gradually treated in Canada as diplomatic agents of their governments, in negotiations but not in treaty-signing, and that after 1909 their activities came under the jurisdiction of the Department of External Affairs, both in questions of form and protocol, and in matters of substance. This development gave one more task to the new Department of External Affairs over which Sir Joseph Pope presided as Under-Secretary.