

18. *Colonial Secretary to Governor General*DESPATCH 536
Sir,

Downing Street, August 3, 1912

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Royal Highness's despatch No. 284 of the 14th May, relative to the desire of your Ministers that more intimate relations should be established between the British Consular system and Canada in respect of Canada's trade and commerce with foreign countries.

The questions involved have been discussed with Mr. Foster, Minister of Trade and Commerce, during his visit to this country, and I now enclose for your Ministers' information a copy of a memorandum setting forth the views of His Majesty's Government on the subject. A copy of the memorandum has been sent to Mr. Foster.

I have etc.

L. HARCOURT

[ENCLOSURE]

Memorandum

Foreign Office, July 24, 1912

1. The Department of Trade and Commerce of Canada will be furnished with any reasonable number of copies of all Trade Reports from the Far East and from any other district which they may specify as soon as they are published.

2. Any Canadian firms will be at liberty to apply direct to any of His Majesty's Consuls for information as to possibilities of sale of Canadian products, the methods under which business is conducted and the best means of getting into touch with markets. They will receive all possible assistance in this matter, subject to the condition laid down in the Report of the Canadian Minister of Trade and Commerce that the Consuls are primarily commissioned to serve the trade of the United Kingdom. The Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce will be supplied from time to time with lists of His Majesty's Consular representatives in the Far East and in other districts in which they are interested.

3. The Department of Trade and Commerce will prepare a statement of Canada's commercial and industrial resources and developments giving a list of principal industries and sources of supply and indicating the questions upon which Canadian merchants and manufacturers desire information. This document which will be revised from time to time will be communicated to His Majesty's Consuls from the Foreign Office with instructions to pay particular attention to the questions referred to. The Commercial Attachés will be instructed to report from time to time regarding them, and such reports will be forwarded from London to the Department of Trade and Commerce without delay.