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Form of Consular Commission

In February 1943, in anticipation of this step, the Under-Secretary, Norman Robertson, notified the Governor General, the Canadian High Commissioner in London, the United Kingdom High Commissioner in Ottawa, (1) and asked the Deputy Minister of Justice for his views as to the form of Consular Commission to be issued. The question raised was whether the Commission should be signed and issued by His Majesty the King, or whether under a new procedure it might be issued in Ottawa under the Great Seal of Canada "as a matter of practical convenience". In a departmental memorandum by Laurent Beaudry, dated February 22, he said:

It is thought that it would be desirable, in view of this being the first important consular office to be established, that His Majesty should be requested to approve the establishment of the Consulate-General in New York. It is assumed that His Majesty would not want to be directly concerned with the establishment of consulates or vice-consulates, or even with additional consulates-general within a country such as the United States of America, in which he would have already approved the establishment of a consulate-general. It might be a convenient practice; therefore, for the Government to inform the Governor General in such matters, in the same way in which the United Kingdom would inform His Majesty with regard to the extension of the British consular service.

It is proposed that all appointments of Consuls General and Consuls should be made by commission passed under the Great Seal of Canada, in the name of His Majesty the King, signed by the Governor General, with the counter-signatures of the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Secretary of State of Canada.

(1) File 796-B-40C.