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**NEW PASSPORT LAW
LIKELY AT OTTAWA**

**Reciprocal Treatment for
Americans Is Intimated by
Premier King**

By F. C. MEARS.

(Gazette Resident Correspondent.)

Ottawa, June 7.—Prime Minister King encouraged Parliament and people today to expect "something in the nature of reciprocity regarding the passport and visa requirements" announced last night by the State Department at Washington and concerning which representations are being exchanged between the two Governments.

"Our Government has made representations to the Government of the United States on this subject," said the Prime Minister, "and we shall be continuing to take up with in the next day or two the different questions that are likely to arise out of this new order. I cannot at the moment indicate just what is in the mind of the Government, but I would say to my honorable friend (Mr. Hanson) that he need not be surprised if we do have something in the nature of reciprocity regarding these requirements."

With only 23 days before the new bars go up at the border, the Government is faced with a real problem in getting the machinery to issue sufficient passports functioning in time. A small passport office in Ottawa has been able up until now to look after the requirements of the whole country and since the war started business has been so slack that the staff has been sharply reduced.

Now passports will be required in numbers they never have been before. The only consolation about the new order is that it means new money for the Treasury as every passport brings in \$5 which is nearly all clear profit.

The rush to get passports is already starting. The procedure is simple. A form must be obtained from Ottawa and returned along with two passport photographs, and a birth certificate if the applicant is not a Canadian. Once the passport is obtained a visa from the nearest United States consul must be obtained. This is not expected to cost anything.

A passport is good for five years and can be renewed for five years. The passport gives your age, weight, height, nationality, sex, color of hair and eyes and any scars or birthmarks that are noticeable.

Railway, bus and steamship offices will help as much as they can in getting passports for the army of Canadians who continue to visit the States. They will provide forms to save the applicant writing to Ottawa and will provide advice on how to fill them out. Completed forms must be certified by some person such as a lawyer, doctor, banker or clergymen who knows the applicant personally.

As long as Canada does not charge Americans for a visa, there will be no charge made by the United States to Canadians but other British subjects will have to pay \$2 for a visa. There are 20 United States consulates in Canada to look after this end and the staff at the consulates may have to be increased to look after the rush.

While the passport rule will undoubtedly cut down the number of casual visits to the United States, it is not thought likely to discourage longer visits. Before the war some 25,000 Canadians annually obtained passports. This number will now be many times increased.

It is considered certain that some form of a continuing visa will be arranged for these Canadians who have to cross the border frequently. Mr. King gave his assurance today to Mr. Hanson that the case of New Brunswickers who have to pass through the United States to reach Montreal would receive special attention. There are dozens of local situations where imposition of the present rules without some modification would impose tremendous hardships and these, it is expected, will gradually be straightened out.