

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Ottawa, July 21, 1942.

No. 115

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the suggestions made by the Legation some years ago, and renewed in the Legation's Memorandum of December 4, 1941, regarding the granting of the privilege of free import after first arrival to several categories of United States officials in Canada who do not at present receive it.

After careful consideration, the Canadian Government has decided that it would be willing to grant this privilege to Consuls and Vice Consuls of career but not to any other United States officials in Canada who do not at present receive it. The Canadian Government's proposal is, of course, conditional on reciprocity. In view of the fact that Canada does not have any Consuls or Vice Consuls in the United States, and is not likely to have a large number of them for many years, it is desired that the privilege of free import after first arrival be given to Canadian Trade Commissioners and Assistant Trade Commissioners in the United States, as well as to Canadian Consuls and Vice Consuls of career, if and when any should be appointed.

The Canadian Government has also had under consideration another aspect of the Customs Regulations, namely, the right of free entry on first arrival for United States Government employees who are not expressly given that privilege by the Regulations under Tariff Item 704 e.g. clerks of the United States Legation and of Consulates, officers, and employees of the United States Customs offices, etc. In practice such persons are given free entry on first arrival by entering them as "Settlers". I understand that in the United States a similar procedure is used to grant free entry on first arrival to non-diplomatic employees of the Canadian Government.

We propose that the privilege of free entry on first arrival should be expressly extended to all employees (of United States nationality) of the United States Government sent to posts in Canada and to all employees (of Canadian nationality) of the Canadian Government sent to posts in the United States. This free entry on first arrival should cover private automobiles, but not spirituous liquors.

I should be glad to learn whether the proposals set forth above are acceptable to the United States Government. If they are, I should like to know whether your Government desires to have a formal exchange of notes suitable for publication, or whether this Note and your reply will be sufficient.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

N. A. ROBERTSON

For the Secretary of State for
External Affairs

The United States Minister to Canada,

United States Legation,

Ottawa.