

French Court, broke trail for all the adventurers and explorers, coureurs des bois and missionaries who travelled La Grande Rivière.

In 1934 M. Henry was appointed Minister at Copenhagen, and left Canada. His successor, Mr. Raymond Brugère presented his Letters of Credence as Minister Plenipotentiary on October 16, 1934.

He was succeeded on December 9, 1937, by Count Robert de Dampierre, and three years later, just as the Vichy Government came into office, M. René Ristelhuber presented his credentials on June 3, 1940. There was a moment when M. Ristelhuber believed that the Canadian Government was about to hand him his passports and break official relations, as the United Kingdom had done; but this alarm was misplaced. Mr. Mackenzie King preserved the connection, and explained his action to the House of Commons. Mr. Hazen said: "I should like to ask what is the present relation between the Canadian Government and the representative of the French Government in Ottawa?" Mr. Mackenzie King replied:

There has been a certain severance of relations but not a complete severance. I understand the Consuls-General of France are all at the present discharging their duties normally in the United Kingdom as they have hitherto done. As far as Canada is concerned, our position has been to permit the minister who has come to Canada from France to remain. He understands that the situation is a delicate one and that he is here with a view of assisting our government to meet questions as they arise, rather than do anything directly or indirectly which would serve to embarrass the government. The position as far as our relationship with France is concerned is well known and understood in the United Kingdom. I believe we are helping to meet the desire of the United Kingdom government in not severing diplomatic relations to the extent of asking the present minister to retire. I believe a similar attitude is being taken on the part of South Africa towards its representative from France.

Mr. Hazen interpolated: