

6. *Extract from report<sup>1</sup> by the Under-Secretary of State  
for External Affairs*

CONFIDENTIAL

Ottawa, July 19, 1910

. . . At present we are simply informed of the appointment of Consuls and asked whether we have any objection to the appointee. We are not furnished with the date of the Exequaturs, nor notified of changes by death, resignation or otherwise. I was promised that in future the date of the Exequatur would be supplied in each case, and also that, whenever practicable, we should be advised of changes by death, etc., though as a rule the Foreign Office does not know of them at the time, the first intimation of a vacancy being as a rule the notification of the new appointment. . . .

JOSEPH POPE

7. *Extract from speech by Prime Minister  
in the House of Commons<sup>2</sup>*

December 7, 1910

. . . The Consuls General of the different countries residing in Ottawa perform important duties. Their status at the present time, in view of our development as a nation—as I have sometimes stated—is at present undetermined and undefined. If the Consuls General were in England, or in any country which has absolute independence they would have no status whatever such as is contemplated in this motion. However, the Consuls General perform with us very important duties; duties not only of a commercial nature, but even of a semi-diplomatic nature.<sup>3</sup> Indeed, the development of Canada to its present status can hardly be defined. I have often taken the view that we are now a nation, and in fact in many respects we have the power and the duty and responsibility of a nation. But, we cannot have under present conditions diplomatic agents amongst us other than the consular agents who are entrusted by their Governments with commercial functions. But, by the force of things these Consuls General have become with us semi-diplomatic agents, and many of the Consuls have really performed in Canada diplomatic duties. The American Consul, Mr. Foster, has been acting for his Government in what is a diplomatic function, and the Consul of Italy and the Consul of Germany were charged with similar duties last year. All this has been done without authority, and is contrary to the rules that apply among civilized nations, but it became a necessity because of the development of the larger colonies of the British Empire which have

<sup>1</sup> Written following Pope's visit to London in April and May.

<sup>2</sup> Canada, *House of Commons Debates*, 1910-11, cols. 953-954.

<sup>3</sup> For illustrations see Document 780 and Chapters VI and VII, *passim*.