

The consular service is not a diplomatic service. It is a commercial service, and I think it will be found that the Prime Minister of the day would have more trouble in dealing with the subject matter of this clause than with everything else covered by the Bill. . . I think the wise course would be to strike out Clause 6 and leave the consular business with the Minister of Trade and Commerce with whom, I think, it would more properly rest.

Mr. Dandurand took the opposite position:

We have been making history pretty fast in Canada the last ten years, and I do not suppose the Right Hon. Mr. Joseph Chamberlain would take the same stand today as he attempted to take some few years ago in the House of Commons in England, when he seemed to doubt that the government had taken upon itself to correspond with the German Consul, Mr. Boppe, over German matters. It seems to me, therefore, we may as well recognize that there are consuls-general here who can approach our government on diverse matters pertaining to the affairs of Canada.

Senator Lougheed endorsed this view:

It seems to me that any approach which the foreign consular service would make to the Government of Canada would be on behalf of the nation they represent, and must necessarily be through the highest channels of our Government. True, the matters may be referred to other departments which may be more strictly concerned in them, but the channel through which they would come, I venture to say, would be the Prime Minister of Canada.

Mr. Dandurand, confirming the views expressed in 1909, concluded the discussion by saying:

I may inform my hon. friend that the consuls-general were very happy when this Department was created a few years ago because for the first time they were informed of the channel through which they could reach the government. Up to that moment, they never knew to what minister they should address their communications.⁽¹⁾

It would seem, nevertheless, that the "consular" clauses (section 6) of the Acts of 1909 and 1912, had

(1) Senate Debates, 1911-12. Feb. 1, 1912. pp.126-7.