

am sure my hon. friend and other hon. members will see should be most carefully considered.

The government have had the benefit of an exchange of views with the governments of the United Kingdom and of the United States. We have had here in consultation with the war committee of the cabinet Mr. Dupuy, who has been and is at the present time charge d'affaires of our legation to France, and Mr. McCarthy, the Canadian minister at Washington, who has had the benefit of sharing in discussions at Washington bearing on the matter. Considering all points of view very carefully the government have thought it inadvisable at the present time to make any immediate change.

There are reasons in addition to those that I have given to the house in this way that are all-important, but which it would be inadvisable to disclose. But I have given a reason, which I think hon. members will realize is one of very great significance, particularly where it is most desirable to sustain in every way possible the morale of the French people, as distinguished from any mark of approval of a particular government.

In saying what I have said I should like to emphasize with respect to the present government at Vichy that no one in this country so far as I am aware has other than the strongest of feelings against the present administration in France.

(b) French Consulates and Consular Agents in Canada,  
Statement by Prime Minister, May 20, 1942.

On the orders of the day.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister):

Mr. Speaker, yesterday I made a statement to the house with respect to diplomatic relations between Canada and France. At that time I made no reference to the position of French consulates and consular agencies in Canada. As hon. members are aware, there are four consulates in Canada, one at Vancouver, one at Winnipeg, one at Montreal, and there is a consular office at Quebec. The consul himself was removed from the Quebec consulate a few days ago, but the office itself is not as yet closed.

There are consular agencies of France in Halifax, Toronto, Edmonton and Vancouver. I should like to say however that the normal commercial and shipping functions of the French consulate and consular agencies have been in abeyance for some time. Their residual duties have been much diminished in volume and importance by the course of the war. The consulates themselves are, as a consequence, rendering very little in the way of service, and their presence has become a focus of suspicions and misunderstandings.