

and withdrawn. During the Second World War, however, Ontario and Quebec reopened their offices; and subsequently several of the other provinces did likewise.

In later times, the United Kingdom has recognized them on an official basis, and grants them consular privileges in customs matters and taxation. They do not have immunity from suit or legal process. The Diplomatic Immunities (Commonwealth Countries and Republic of Ireland) Act passed by the United Kingdom Parliament in 1952, enables the United Kingdom Government, by Order-in-Council, to give immunity from suit and legal process, like the immunity accorded to consular officers, to the chief representatives in the United Kingdom of any state or province of any country to which the Act applies (i.e., to the Agents-General of the Australian States and the Canadian Provinces). Apparently, however, Canada House, on instructions from Ottawa, has refrained from including Agents-General in the list it gives the Commonwealth Relations Office of officials to whom this immunity should be accorded. (1)

In 1948 the Agents-General, after approaching the High Commissioner, got their Provincial Governments to take up with Ottawa the possibility of having them given privileges similar to those accorded senior officials at Canada House. The then High Commissioner, Mr. N.A. Robertson, advised the Department that it seemed to him the only ground on which this could be arranged would be if the Agents-General were nominally attached to the

(1) Departmental Confidential Memorandum (Miss M. McKenzie) June 8, 1954.