

France

In reciprocity of the Canadian decision to raise its agency in Paris to the diplomatic character of a Legation, the French Government agreed to open a mission in Ottawa in supplementation of its Consulate General in Montreal.

The first French Minister Plenipotentiary to be appointed was M. Jean Knight, who presented his credentials to the Governor General on November 16, 1928, less than a month after Mr. Philippe Roy had presented his new letters to the French President in Paris. Monsieur Knight's staff included a Secretary, M. Henri Coursier, a Secretary-Archivist, and a Commercial Attaché. There was no French Consul in Ottawa.

In 1930 M. Knight left Canada, consequent on his appointment to a high position in the French Foreign Ministry, and M. Coursier acted as Chargé d'Affaires.

In 1931 M. Charles Arsène Henry was appointed Minister and took up his duties in Ottawa.

During his incumbency, the new French Embassy was built and completed in 1933 at 42 Sussex Street on the cliff overlooking the Ottawa River, beside the Rideau River. This imposing modernistic building, designed by a French architect and exquisitely furnished, was the first specially built diplomatic mission in Ottawa, and has never ceased to impress Ottawans and visitors by its splendid location, its beautiful grounds and lawns, and its spectacular interior design and decoration. It overlooks the river where Champlain, in the service of the