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to be in', Mr. Vincent Massey stated in 1933, 'to be permanently dependent on Great Britain for these (consular) services'; he urged, when economic conditions permitted, 'the very slow gradual establishment of our own consular service where it is most needed', working in close co-operation, especially during the transitional stage, with the British service.<sup>(1)</sup> The need for a Canadian consular service was widely recognized and desired, both within the Departments of External Affairs and of Trade and Commerce. In 1938 the Prime Minister publicly intimated that such a service was desirable and under consideration, and that a beginning would soon be made in a small way in different countries. No such action was taken before the War, however, although other Dominions, such as South Africa and the Irish Free State, had long had consuls at certain points."<sup>(2)</sup>

On March 26, 1938, in answer to a question by Mr. MacNeil: "Has the government considered the desirability of extending our consular service to certain great European and Asiatic countries?" Mr. King replied:

The question of having a consular service of our own has been under consideration. We have our trade commissioners who perform in considerable detail the duties that consuls generally perform. So far as Europe is concerned I question very much whether this would be the best moment in which to institute a consular service. There are times and reasons for all things. I agree with my hon. friend that it is desirable that we should have our own consular service. I have no doubt that we shall soon begin in a small way, as we have with our legations, to have consular representation in different countries.<sup>(3)</sup>

<sup>(1)</sup> October 3, 1933. Proceedings, Canadian Club of Toronto. Vol. XXXI, 1933-4, p.136.

<sup>(2)</sup> Skilling; op.cit. pp.257-9.

<sup>(3)</sup> H. of C. Debates, May 26, 1938. III. p.3263.