

THE GLOBAL TRADERS CANADA'S FIRST PROFESSIONAL TRADE COMMISSIONER

“In order to make our venture in establishing the Australian line a success, it is absolutely necessary to have a resident agent at Sydney ... I know of no man in Canada so well fitted for this position as Larke.... He is an enthusiast on the extension of Canadian trade ... has a happy aptitude for public speaking and could do much good in addressing Boards of Trade and other bodies.”

Sir Mackenzie Bowell, Canada's Minister of Trade and Commerce, 1892 to 1894.

With this strong endorsement, the first trade commissioner set off in early December 1894 bound for Australia. John Short Larke was headquartered in Sydney but initially his territory covered the whole of Australia and New Zealand as well.



J. S. LARKE

His arrival was heralded in the Sydney newspapers. In an interview with the *Sydney Telegraph* in 1895 he said: "My mission, if you like to call it such, is simply to promote trade between Canada and Australia.... We desire to promote a through trade, a direct trade."

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