

in conjunction with the consulate and so avail himself of the help and advice which could be so fully and effectively provided. In those foreign countries where Canada has already established commercial agencies, great help and assistance could be afforded if the privilege of advising and consulting with the consular agents were allowed. By degree and in time, it might so turn out that the British Consular service should become truly imperial and have as members and attachés for commercial purposes representatives of the Overseas Dominions as an organised part of the same.

The Minister states that he looks no further at the present time than for the initial utilization of the services and experience of so widely distributed and efficient a world system along the lines of sympathetic and co-operative action which would tend to broaden and stimulate Canadian commerce, whilst proving no detriment to British interests, and he is the more encouraged to submit these suggestions by the fact that as far back as 1902, Lord Lansdowne, then Foreign Secretary, expressed his entire willingness that the British Consular staff would furnish information and statistics when desired to do so by the Colonies.

The Committee, concurring in the report of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, advise that the Minister of Trade and Commerce be authorized to confer personally with the Home authorities with the view of ensuring such co-operation and mutual work as may be consistent with the interests of both countries.

The Committee also advise that His Royal Highness may be pleased to forward the above observations to the Right Honourable the Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies for his consideration.

All which is respectfully submitted for approval.

17. *Le Gouverneur général au secrétaire aux Colonies*

DESPATCH 284

Ottawa, May 14, 1912

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit, herewith, for your consideration, copies of an Approved Minute of the Privy Council for Canada¹ regarding the possibility of establishing more intimate and helpful relations between the British Consular System and Canada in respect of Canada's trade and commerce with Foreign Countries.

You will observe that the Minister of Trade and Commerce has been authorized to confer personally with the Home Authorities with the view of securing such co-operation and mutual work as may be consistent with the interests of both countries. As you are aware, Mr. Foster is proceeding to England shortly in connection with the Royal Commission appointed to investigate the natural resources of the Empire.

I have etc.

ARTHUR

¹ Document n° 16.