

which is working out these plans, and we have an official of the Department who is at present visiting the British consulates in the United States to see how they operate and what proportion of their work is Canadian work. He will report on the whole situation when he comes back next month. . . . It is contemplated that the work done for Canada in the United States has been so well done and so willingly done over many years by the British consuls - it may be that the time has come when we should take over that work ourselves. The fact that the head of our Consular Division is in the United States now surveying the situation is an indication that the government are contemplating such a change. I think myself - it is only a personal view - that it is inappropriate for our department to ask the United Kingdom government through their consuls in the United States to do Canadian work. However, they have always done that work efficiently and willingly and I am hopeful that when we have consular offices in United States cities where there is no United Kingdom consul that we may be able to reciprocate and help them.* (1)

Mr. Pearson went on to explain that in certain capitals, the Trade Commissioners there were given consular status, pending the appointment of full-time regular Consuls. The Canadian Trade

* This was the case, for example, with the Canadian Honorary Vice-Consulate in Portland, Maine.

(1) Minutes of Select Standing Committee on External Affairs. May 27, 1947, p.204.