

On November 6, 1941, Mr. King stated in the House: "We have felt that it was important to have a representative of Canada in Newfoundland. As hon. members know, Newfoundland is now occupying a most prominent place in international affairs, from the point of view of military strategy, and also as respects relations between the British Government, the Canadian Government and the United States Government with Newfoundland and with each other as respects developments taking place there. We felt that if we could persuade Mr. Burchell, who has been our High Commissioner in Australia, to accept the position of commissioner to Newfoundland, we would have, with his knowledge of conditions in the maritime provinces and in Newfoundland, an exceptionally well-qualified representative for the post. Mr. Burchell, realizing the importance the government attached to its representation in Newfoundland, accepted the position and at the present time is serving there as High Commissioner for Canada."

Mr. Charles J. Burchell, K.C., was appointed to his new position on July 31, 1941, and arrived in St. John's on September 11. He was accompanied by Mr. H.A. Dyde, Secretary of the Defence Council of Canada, and Mr. A.J. Pick, Third Secretary. A year later an Acting Trade Commissioner was attached to the High Commissioner's staff because of the greatly increased volume of trade between the two countries. (By the end of the War Canadian exports were almost five times the pre-war total, while imports from Newfoundland were eight times what they had been.)