

(E) PASSPORTS AND VISAS

1. *REVISION OF CANADIAN PASSPORT REGULATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON FEBRUARY 25, 1941*

Before the house adjourns, I should like to give certain information with respect to the revision of Canadian passport regulations, involving the closing of certain offices.

In view of the heavy falling off in applications for passports it has been decided to close the branch offices at Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal and St. Stephen, New Brunswick, which were opened in July of last year to relieve the congestion due to the avalanche of applications which suddenly descended on the Ottawa office. These branch offices will be closed on March 15. A considerable financial saving will thus be effected without inconvenience to the public.

Unless there is a further drop in applications the branch passport offices at Vancouver and Windsor will be kept open for a further period and an office opened at Moncton to replace the office at St. Stephen which was less conveniently situated to deal with applications from the various parts of the maritime provinces.

All applications for passports made after March 15 should be addressed to the Canadian passport officer, Ottawa, or if the applicant resides in the Windsor district, in British Columbia, or in the maritime provinces, to the acting passport officer at Windsor, Vancouver or Moncton.

New Canadian passport regulations will come into force on April 1, abolishing the present special passport valid for travel to the United States and making certain changes in the regular passport which will thereafter be the only passport issued.

The special passport for travel to the United States only was issued last summer when it was thought the requirement might prove to be a temporary one. As, however, there is no present prospect of a relaxation of the regulations and as under war-time conditions the strictest care must be taken in the issue of passports to avoid them being granted to improper persons, it has been considered advisable to discontinue issuing the special passport for travel to the United States. Other factors leading to the decision to discontinue the special passport were that the system of issuing two passports—a regular passport and a special passport for the United