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Governor General. In the revised Letters Patent the only new powers specifically conferred relate to the appointment of consular officers and the issuance of Exequaturs). On the other hand, it will henceforward be possible, as and when considered desirable, for the Governor General to exercise any of His Majesty's powers and authorities in respect of Canada without the necessity of a Submission being made to Buckingham Palace.

(b) The new Letters Patent revoke both the existing Letters Patent and the Royal Instructions of 1931. Such of the Instructions as it was considered desirable to retain have been incorporated in the new Letters Patent, which will issue under the Great Seal of Canada.

(c) Under the new Letters Patent, the Governor General must, before departing from Canada, obtain leave for so doing from His Majesty through the Prime Minister of Canada. Formerly, there existed the alternative (in theory) of obtaining leave directly from His Majesty under the Sign Manual and Signet.

(d) Provision is made whereby the new Letters Patent and the new Commission of Appointment will come into effect on a day to be fixed by Proclamation published in the Canada Gazette. It will thus be possible to fix an appropriate date, following the arrival of Viscount Alexander on Canadian soil, as the day upon which the new Letters Patent and Commission will come into effect.

4. It is not felt that the revised documents are revolutionary or startling in nature. They will, however, serve to bring the law abreast of the present constitutional position and practice. In this respect, the present proposals are in line with the new Citizenship Bill and other developments in the direction of Canadian autonomy.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That the Prime Minister recommend to His Majesty the issuance of new Letters Patent, and of a new Commission of Appointment, along the lines of the enclosed drafts, before Viscount Alexander takes up his duties as Governor General in April, 1946.

Secretary of State for  
External Affairs.

Department of External Affairs,  
Ottawa, March 11, 1946.