

5. Protection.

Consular officers uphold the rights and interests of British subjects, making representations, if need be, in the appropriate official quarters.

6. Repatriation of Distressed British Subjects.

7. Care of Property.

Consular officers have certain duties with regard to the care of the property of British subjects, especially that of deceased subjects, and the administration of estates.

8. Passports, Visas, etc.

Consular officers may in certain circumstances issue passports, visas and certificates of nationality.

9. Registers.

Consular officers keep registers of British subjects and protected persons living in their district, and of the births and deaths of such persons.

10. Marriages.

Consular officers are empowered by warrants issued under the authority of a statute and an Order in Council to perform marriages of persons both of whom are British subjects or one of whom is a British subject.

11. Taking of Evidence and Service of Documents.

Subject to the local law, consular officers may take evidence or serve documents under the authority of a court order or other instrument.

12. Administration of Oaths, etc.

British consular officers are empowered by various statutes to administer any oath to, or to take any affidavit or affirmation from, any person or persons whomsoever, and to do and perform all and every notarial acts or act which any notary public could or might be required, and is by law empowered, to do.

In the performance of these functions, British Consuls are guided by sets of well defined instructions which have taken years to develop and to adapt to changing conditions. The instructions governing the performance of marriages abroad read like a comprehensive code of regulations. No one who has occasion to glance at these regulations can fail to realize how expedient it is that we should be prepared to give our Consular officers when they are to be appointed definite and detailed instructions for their guidance as to what they can or cannot do before they assume their many responsibilities.