

services, and the information work would be more productive.

(4) Prestige for Canada was a possible reason for setting up the post.

A 1955 memorandum outlining the justification for each consulate cited the amount of consular work originating from the Canadian population in Michigan and Ohio as a factor in the selection of Detroit. Chance, on the other hand, specifically noted the unimportance of Canadian work in the British consulates in both Buffalo and Detroit.⁶⁹

The 1947 report suggested that a consulate in the East Central area, specifically Cleveland, should be opened only after offices in Boston and Los Angeles. Following Chance's recommendation, the Minister, Louis St. Laurent, wrote to Paul Martin, then Minister of National Health and Welfare, to ascertain his preferences among Cleveland, Buffalo, and Detroit. Martin's reply in favour of Detroit pushed that city so much higher in the Department's priorities that an office opened there on April 1, 1948, before either the Consulate General in San Francisco or the Consulate in Boston.⁷⁰

The small amount of consular work performed at Detroit soon engineered suspicions within the Department that the selection of that city had been an error. The Head of Consular Division, Chance, told the Detroit Consul that his post was the least busy of the new offices in the United States and remarked further that

...when Detroit was selected as a site for a consulate, I had...my own personal doubts about it. However, the decision was taken at high level that Detroit was the place, against my admittedly diffident advice that it