



PRESS RELEASE

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

NO. 52

FOR RELEASE AT 10 P.M. E.D.T.

July 27, 1950.

The Department of External Affairs announced today the appointment of Mr. Edmond Turcotte as Consul-General in Venezuela. Mr. Douglas S. Cole, who is now Commercial Counsellor at the Canadian Embassy in Mexico, will succeed Mr. Turcotte as Consul-General in Chicago. Both Mr. Turcotte and Mr. Cole are expected to return to Ottawa before leaving for their new positions some time in September.

Edmond Turcotte

Mr. Turcotte was born at Lowell, Massachusetts, January 24, 1898, where he attended public and private schools.

He began his newspaper career at Lowell in 1919, where he worked on the Lowell Courier-Citizen, the Lowell Evening Leader and l'Etoile. In 1931 he came to Canada as Assistant to the Editor-in-Chief of Le Canada, Montreal daily morning newspaper. From 1934 to 1937 he was Editor-in-Chief of Le Canada.

In the summer of 1937, Mr. Turcotte left Canada on a study tour of France, Switzerland and Italy. On his return to Canada, he did free lance journalism and radio news commentaries in Montreal for one year. In 1939 he was secretary to the Mayor of Montreal and secretary to the Montreal Fire Commission. From December, 1939, to January, 1942, he was Deputy Director of the Board of Economic Reconstruction of the Province of Quebec (Direct Relief and Unemployment Works). From January, 1942, to April, 1942, he organized the French-language service of the Information Branch, Wartime Prices and Trade Board, after which he resumed his position as Editor-in-Chief of Le Canada.

Mr. Turcotte was a member of the National Film Board of Canada from 1939 to 1947. In this connection he went to Paris (October-November, 1944) on a mission to the French Government. In 1947, he was made a Knight of Legion of Honour by the French Government.

Mr. Turcotte was appointed the first Canadian Consul-General in Chicago on October 24, 1947.

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Mr. Cole was born in Ottawa on July 28, 1893. He attended McGill University where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1915, with two scholarships. He enlisted in the 77th Battalion CEF in the First World War, and was later seconded for duty to the Explosives Division, Imperial Munitions Board, as Assistant Chief Chemical Adviser, until the end of the war.

In 1921 he entered the Canadian Foreign Trade Service, Department of Trade and Commerce, as Assistant Trade Commissioner, and was appointed Acting Trade Commissioner to Scotland in 1922. He was appointed Trade Commissioner to the West of England, Midlands and Wales in the same year and remained on duty in the United Kingdom until 1934. He was transferred to the United States in 1934 as Trade Commissioner to New York, and was promoted to Senior Trade Commissioner to the United States in 1943. In 1944 he was appointed Acting Director of the Commercial Relations Division, Department of Trade and Commerce, and served there until 1945. He was appointed Commercial Counsellor to the Canadian Embassy, Mexico City, in August, 1945, and has continued there until the present time, having acted as Charge d'Affaires for approximately two and a half years in broken periods of time.

During the New York period Mr. Cole was presented with the Freedom of the City of New York for services as Commissioner General for Canada to the New York World's Fair. Also in New York he was President of the McGill University Graduates for many years and Honorary Commander of the Canadian Legion in New York for ten years.
