

2025

Subject: Opening of a Canadian Embassy and diplomatic representation in Mexico.

1042

During the first years of my stay in Mexico as Ambassador an official of the Canadian government called on me and stated he was in Mexico for the purpose of gathering some facts on the desirability of Canada opening direct diplomatic relations with Mexico, as it was doing with other countries. Canada already had an Embassy in several countries of Latin America and it was considering establishing several others. So far as he knew, the plans of the Canadian government did not contemplate the opening of an Embassy in Mexico City, but they were thinking specifically of opening one in at least two or three countries in South America, which he mentioned. I said to him that I thought this move on the part of the Canadian government in opening its own diplomatic mission in a good many of these countries of Latin America was a very good one. Canada was developing industrially so rapidly that she would be looking for new markets. Besides that, in the interest of inter-American relationships, even though Canada might not become for many years if ever a member of the Pan-American Union, it was certainly desirable that she have these direct diplomatic relations. My visitor was somewhat surprised that I should speak so definitely about this. He said that of course if these diplomatic missions were opened one of the purposes would be to endeavor to increase Canadian exports. I said that I thought this would be a good thing, for whatever increase there was in Canadian exports to, for example, Mexico, there would eventually be an increase in exports from the United States, although for the time being exports from the United States in certain specific lines in which Canada could compete would be diminished. My visitor asked if he could on returning to Ottawa say what I had just expressed. I told him that I saw no inconvenience whatever.

It was shortly after this that another official of the Canadian government called on me and made reference to the conversation/^{to}which I have just referred. He said that he^v government had found my observations of a good deal of interest and he

would, if I saw no inconvenience, like to discuss the matter with me further. His government was in the process of reaching a decision as to what new diplomatic missions it should open in Latin America. I told him that I could only repeat what I had said before, and that I hoped they would proceed with their plans towards opening these new establishments. The one point I did not understand was that they were thinking obviously of opening establishments in certain capitals to the south and were not thinking in very definite terms of doing so in Mexico City. To my mind it was far more important for them politically and economically to have a mission in Mexico City than in any other capital of Latin America. Mexico, like Canada, was a country which was developing very rapidly. The industrial development in Mexico was going ahead on a broader and sounder basis than in any other country of Latin America. Considerable progress was being made in improving agricultural methods and production. The standard of living was going higher. Canada was in much the same position so far as Mexico was concerned that we were, so far as agricultural products were concerned. Canada was still interested most in exporting agricultural products. The market for agricultural products in Mexico would decrease with the developing production in Mexico. Their opportunity lay in manufactured goods and heavy equipment. Canada was in the position of not being able to receive much in the way of Mexican exports. The things that Mexico could export at the time and probably for some time to come were produced in surplus in Canada. In this respect we in the United States were in a much better position, as we were taking the overwhelming percentage of Mexico's exports. I did not see this as any insurmountable obstacle to the increase in Canadian exports to Mexico. I reiterated that I was sure that thoughtful and forward looking persons in my country would be glad to see such an increase in Canadian exports. We might feel the impact in certain specific lines of increased Canadian exports, but in the long run it was going to be good for Mexico and Canada and the United States. One had to look at these things from really a broad and realistic point of view. This official of the Canadian government was much interested in what I had to say and said that his government was

already appreciative of what I had said before and would be appreciative of the helpful comment which I had just given him. He was very confident that a diplomatic mission would be established in Mexico City, even if it were decided not to establish one in several other cities of Latin America which had been considered. It was shortly thereafter that the Canadian Embassy in Mexico City was opened, and the good effects have been just those that could have been anticipated.