

**Deutsches Generalkonsulat  
für Kanada.**

**Montreal**

Ottawa, den 20. Dezember 1937

J. Nr. 1328

Inhalt: Ausstellung von falschen  
Fakturen bei der Einfuhr von  
Grassaaten nach Deutschland

Auf den Erlass vom 29. November d.J.  
- W VIII a NA 2631 -

- 1 Anlage -

Dtsch. Konf. Montreal
Eing.: 23. DEZ 1937
Egeb. Nr. 626
..... 2inf.

In der Anlage ueberreiche ich Abschrift  
/ meines Schreibens vom heutigen Tage an das kana-  
dische Aussenamt.

Der Handelsattaché in Montreal erhaelt  
Durchschlag.

gez. Windels

An

das Auswaertige Amt

B e r l i n .

Wg  
zdk

Zahlungsbk. (spez.)



Deutsches Generalkonsulat  
für  
Kanada und Neufundland

German Consulate General  
907 Victoria Bldg.

Ottawa, December 20, 1937

Sir,

I have the honour to revert to your letter of October 5th, in particular to Paragraph 3 of the specific questions to which you draw attention, and to say that I have been instructed by my Government to inform you that this matter has been closely investigated by the Reich- and Prussian Minister for Foods and Agriculture, with the following result:

Special proof of origin of Canadian products is not provided for in the agreement. The German Supervising Offices are bound, however, to examine the origin of imported goods of their own accord in all doubtful cases. This applies in particular to those cases where the merchandise has been shipped or sent through ports of third countries or for the account of persons resident or doing business in third countries.

Examination of the origin of Canadian grass seeds is carried out in such a manner that German importers, in their applications for foreign exchange certificates, have to supply data regarding the origin of the merchandise for the correctness of which data they are responsible under penalty of the law. Importers have to attach to these applications

pro

J. E. Read, Esq.,  
Acting Under-Secretary of State  
for External Affairs,  
O t t a w a .



pro forma invoices of the Canadian suppliers and, as a rule, also the correspondence with these suppliers in as far as it refers to the intended transactions.

The Supervising Office is enabled to see from these papers whether the goods in question are of Canadian origin.

The Reichsstelle fuer Getreide, Futtermittel und sonstige landwirtschaftliche Erzeugnisse (Reich Office for Grain, Fodder and other Agricultural Products) as Supervising Office has carried out this examination in all applications hitherto filed for foreign exchange certificates for grass seed (*poa compressa*) and has established in every instance that it was a question of importation of Canadian grass seed of this kind. In their examination the Supervising Office has credited the statements made by the Canadian suppliers to the German importers regarding the origin of the seeds. In doing so the Supervising Office has, quite rightly, assumed that the statements of the foreign export firms are reliable. This attitude as regards the credibility of Canadian firms was all the more justified, as the Canadian Trade Commissioner in Germany had written to the Foreign Office in Berlin on August 30, 1937, as follows:

"As regards grass seeds two of the firms whose names you gave me are known to us as bona fide dealers. These are A. E. McKenzie & Co. of Brandon, Manitoba, who also have a branch office in Toronto, and The Canada Seed Co. Ltd. of Toronto. The third one, however, Belt & Co. of Toronto is unknown. They are not listed in our very complete directory or city address book."

Although, therefore, the third one of the three firms mentioned, namely Belt & Co. of Toronto, was unknown to the Canadian Trade Commissioner, it nevertheless does not appear from his letter that it was exactly this firm which had collaborated with certain firms in the United States in making out false invoices.

It



It is impossible for German authorities to determine whether Canadian export firms and, if so which firms, make wrong statements regarding the origin of poa compressa grass seed. If the Canadian Government entertains the suspicion that one or the other exporter in Canada attempts to act in contravention of the German-Canadian Payments Agreement, it rests solely in the power of the Canadian Government to remedy this state of affairs.

It appears, therefore, to be impossible to take further measures aiming at preventing Canadian firms from attempting to export seeds of other than Canadian origin to Germany, beyond the measures taken heretofore. The Supervising Office already goes beyond the requirements of the Payments Agreement in assuring itself of the origin of the merchandise in the manner described above. Neither the Supervising Office nor any other German authority is in a position to exercise a more far-reaching control.

The Supervising Office I must therefore continue to issue foreign exchange certificates for grass-seed (poa compressa) from Canada whenever by the means hitherto employed it obtains the assurance that the goods in question are of Canadian origin.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(sgd. E. Windels)

(E. Windels)  
Envoy Extraordinary and Minister  
Plenipotentiary