

The Foreign Diplomatic Corps in Ottawa

The period that saw the rise of a Canadian Foreign Service and diplomatic representation abroad also saw the development of a foreign diplomatic corps in Ottawa, taking the place of the former small consular corps in the Capital which formerly had so frequently performed semi-diplomatic functions. It is generally customary for diplomatic representation to be based on the principle and so far as possible on the practice of reciprocity.

Journalists in due course began to speak rather metaphorically of Ottawa's "diplomatic row" since often in other capitals Embassies and Legations tended to converge and congregate in particular districts or streets, forming a small "colony" or "diplomatic row". This was scarcely the case in Ottawa at first; although it was true that the United States set up its first Chancery quarters in the Metropolitan Building on Wellington Street, and later built its handsome new Embassy on Wellington Street beside the Rideau Club, and in the Victoria Building at 140 Wellington Street Japan opened its Legation in 1928; France did likewise; Ireland opened its High Commissioner's Office in 1939, and Brazil took premises ^{there} in 1942. These offices were as near to the Parliament Buildings and the East Block and other government departments as possible, but in the course of time most of them, except the United States Embassy and Consulate-General, moved to other districts. A new diplomatic centre grew up in certain streets in Sandy Hill, a popular residential district of former