

by our diplomats may affect one or two Canadian businesses or only individual Canadians. There may be some here who will remember that, a few years ago, timely diplomatic intervention prevented the exclusion of certain important Canadian corporations from carrying on business in a certain Latin American country. I recall a case not long ago in which one of our offices abroad engaged in a long series of interviews and correspondence with the officials of a foreign Government in order to obtain the release from gaol of a single Canadian citizen. This poor fellow had fallen foul of that country's laws. It was a pathetic case; he had served most of his time in a penitentiary and had contracted a fatal disease. But, being a foreign national, he was not eligible for parole in the normal course. Our Embassy in that country was able, at length, to obtain the man's release and permit him to be brought home to die - as a result again of negotiations.

Then our offices abroad have the duty of keeping other governments informed of Canadian interests and opinions on a wide range of subjects. Why? So that, if another Government is contemplating legislation or other action which might affect Canadians, for example, changes in some tax laws or import restrictions, or in some regulation concerning border crossing, this Government would proceed only in full knowledge that they were helping or hindering their trade and relations with us.

Our offices abroad are also expected to provide information about Canada to the peoples of the countries in which they are located. This we try to accomplish not by elaborate propaganda, nor by costly publicity. The facts about Canada and Canadian life, in printed or spoken word, in pictures or in films, these are made available to those who will use them. The means are modest but the results of our public information work abroad are, I believe, important in practical terms of our external relations. In some of our larger posts like London, Washington, and Paris, special information officers are employed; these devote their full time to public information work.

The whole range of Consular work constitutes another large element in the daily activities of the Department in Canada and in other countries. It is here perhaps that many of you may have run across us. You want a passport for travel abroad or you wish to enquire about a visa to permit you to enter a foreign country; or you want to arrange representation for Canadian interests in a foreign land; or for the repatriation of the crew of a vessel that has been paid off in a distant port. Perhaps you want to find out why a friend of yours has been taken off the "Queen Mary" and is being held at Ellis Island. The protection of the interests of individual Canadians abroad is the job of our Consular Division.

Finally, Canadian diplomats are required to represent Canada abroad on all sorts of occasions. Some of these occasions are fun but most are not. Some are formal, some are exceedingly informal. These occasions vary all the way from the coronation of a monarch or inauguration of a President to the simplest of gatherings - a "Canada Day" or a "United Nations' Day" at a Kiwanis Club in Connecticut or a High School in Illinois, or perhaps a hockey match in Prague. From a national point of view many of such occasions have some importance, some have little, or perhaps even none. But whatever the occasion may be, if Canada is to be represented, the Department and its branch offices must be ready with a suitable body. Some of these affairs are no doubt entertaining for the officer involved, but I can assure you many are not. There is one side of diplomatic life which people outside very often do not appreciate. That is the extent

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