

grew to the very large figure of \$600,000,000. Under such circumstances it is not extraordinary that the volume of foreign affairs has assumed such proportions as to make it indispensable that we should have officers, trained for the purpose, whose business shall be to deal with such questions and such questions alone." (1)

Canada, of course, was still a British colony, and so remained until 1926. While self-governing at home, it was not autonomous in its external relations. The Imperial Government in Great Britain directed, and acted for, the Dominion in all its external relations. The Colonial Office, the Foreign Office, and the British diplomatic and consular organization abroad, were the imperial agencies in London that acted for Canada.

It is true that there were growing breaches in this centralization of control. The Colonial Office, even more than the Foreign Office, showed an understanding and some sympathy for Canada's aspirations for greater autonomy, and was alive to the rising forces of nationalism. The Governor General ceased to be an old-style colonial executive Governor and became a faithful adviser to the Canadian Government and interpreter to London of the Canadian scene and mood; he realized his diminishing responsibilities face to face with responsible government. Canada, while not having its own consuls, had its own officials - emigration agents, commercial agents or "trade commissioners" (some of whom had quasi-consular functions), provincial agents-general in London, a High

(1) H. of C. Debates. March 4, 1909.