

Other departments and agencies with which the consular work of the Department is most closely connected are those of Immigration, Citizenship, Transport and the Maritime Commission. For example, during the shipping strike which occurred during the summer, Consular officers abroad interviewed striking seamen on many occasions and in many ports in efforts to ensure that they understood fully their legal position and to secure, if possible, the working of the ships.

Passports, Visas and Certificates of Identity

During the fiscal year which ended on March 31, 1949, the Department issued 67,258 passports and renewed 16,316. The revenue from fees was \$328,815. The Department continues to issue three types of passports—regular, official and diplomatic. Regular passports are available to all Canadian citizens. The issuance of official and diplomatic passports is restricted to certain classes by Order of His Excellency, the Governor-in-Council.

Passport files which had formerly been held by the Government of Newfoundland were transferred to Ottawa on the entry of Newfoundland into Confederation and now constitute a part of the records of the Department of External Affairs. Arrangements were effected to replace valid Newfoundland passports with valid Canadian passports.

There are now 51 Canadian offices abroad where Canadian passport services are available, and it is necessary to call upon United Kingdom Consulates with regard to passports for Canadians only in remote regions and on occasions of urgency. Nevertheless, United Kingdom consular officers continue to perform many other services for Canadians in those countries where there is no distinctively Canadian diplomatic or consular representation.

In pursuit of its efforts to make easier the travel of Canadians abroad, the Department has negotiated visa agreements with Sweden, Denmark, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. As a result of these agreements, Canadian citizens may visit the countries named for pleasure or for business without the necessity of obtaining visas. Nationals of the countries mentioned may be granted multi-entry visas, free of charge, and valid for a period of 12 months from their date of issue. The same visa facilities are extended to Swiss nationals, following a unilateral abolition of Swiss visas for Canadian citizens. Negotiations continue with a number of other countries.

Canadian Certificates of Identity are issued to individuals resident in Canada who are unable to obtain valid national passports. During the fiscal year ending March 31, 1949, only 101 such Certificates were issued. Following that date, however, there was an increase in the issuance of these documents.