

Appointment of Japanese Language Officer in Japan*

The opening of a Canadian Legation in Tokyo in 1929 was accompanied by the problem of translator and interpreter service. Several Japanese clerks were engaged (one, Mr. Kimura, was a Canadian citizen and graduate of Toronto University (B.A., B.D.)), but they did not fully meet the requirements.

As early as February, 1930, Mr. Marler made an appeal to the Department for a Japanese language officer. Besides enclosing a memorandum prepared by Mr. Kirkwood, he pointed out that:

The conditions under which a diplomatic mission works in the Far East are quite different from those in any other country in which Canada has a Legation; and the need of a properly trained and competent linguist on the staff of the Legation in Japan cannot be too greatly emphasized. The need will be greater when Canadian relations with the Far East have become closer and more intimate; and as it will take at least three years for a Language Student to become qualified as a Diplomatic Language Officer or Japanese Secretary of the Legation, an early provision for a certain future need is most strongly advocated.

Dr. Skelton replied on October 22, stating that the question had been given consideration but no satisfactory solution had yet been found. In November, Mr. Marler sent another memorandum on the subject, and again on January 27, 1932.

In the latter letter he suggested the possibility of Mr. George S. Patterson, "an officer of the International Y.M.C.A. who had been stationed in Japan as an adviser to the Japanese Association since about 1912. He

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