

the Department, in the eyes of Parliament, remained relatively obscure, as a mere functional bureau of administration, but not a power-house or dynamo.

There was one exception. A greater parliamentary interest was recurrently displayed in the matter of independent Canadian diplomatic representation abroad, from 1926 onwards. This may have been due to three factors. First, Embassies and Legations, Ambassadors and Ministers Plenipotentiary and Extraordinary, had always possessed a certain interest in the eyes of the general public; history, memoirs and fiction had given this field of public activity an intriguing lustre, glamour and interest, which the ordinary Civil Service at home never possessed. Secondly, Canada's entrance into this new field necessarily involved ever-increasing expenditure, on what often superficially seemed like luxury or trappings of traditional aristocratic diplomacy; and Parliament, jealously guarding the public purse-strings, scrutinized carefully and critically the value of the expenditures called for. Mr. Bennett, for example, had to persuade first himself, and then Parliament, that Legations had a financial justification on account of the commercial benefits they attained. Mr. King was reluctant to over-expand the Canadian diplomatic representation because of the economy-minded parliamentary critics