

they also work under the general supervision and direction of the head of mission.

The work of a mission abroad is:

- (a) to conduct negotiations with the government to which it is accredited;
- (b) to keep the home government fully informed of political and other developments of significance in the country in which it is serving;
- (c) to watch over Canada's interests in the country;
- (d) to serve Canadians in the country;
- (e) to make information about Canada available.

A constant flow of despatches keeps the missions and the Department in Ottawa in close touch on all such matters.

Qualifications for the Service

Those entering the external service of Canada do so on a career basis under the merit system. Only British subjects who have resided at least ten years in Canada are eligible for admission.

The basic qualification for the diplomatic service is a university degree with, preferably, post-graduate study. Examinations are held annually by the Civil Service Commission and consist of three parts: a written test, a rating on the basis of education and experience and an oral examination. The written test for the position of Third Secretary or Foreign Service Officer, Grade 1, consists of essay and précis writing and papers on Canadian and international affairs. The oral examination is designed to disclose personal suitability and knowledge of modern languages.

As in other government departments veterans are given preference in all appointments.

The more senior positions of High Commissioner, Minister and Ambassador are filled by appointment. Appointees are normally "career men" who have come up through the Civil Service, but in some cases distinguished citizens are appointed directly from private life.

Since shortly after the Second World War, women have been admitted to the Canadian diplomatic service on the same basis as men. In February 1956, there were 25 women officers in the Department.

As Canada's interests multiply in the international field, the work of the Department continues to grow. To meet these increased responsibilities, the Department had in Ottawa and abroad in February 1956 a total of 341 officers and 810 clerical and stenographic personnel. In addition, missions abroad employed a total of 546 locally-engaged employees, 249 as office staff and 297 in other capacities.