

X. Consular

IN OTTAWA, the Consular Division continued to be organized into three sections: inspections; general and training; transports and visas. Abroad, the only change in establishment was the opening, in December, of a Consulate General at Manila. It is manned by officers of the Department of Trade and Commerce, thus repeating similar arrangements previously made for the manning of the posts at Lisbon, Caracas and Sao Paulo.

Consolidation of Existing Posts and Practice

The year 1949 has been mainly one of consolidation of the work done since the inception of the division in 1947. The departmental practice instituted some two years ago of attempting to ensure that officers going into the field should have the maximum amount of training possible in consular matters has been developed, and has started to bear fruit in the increased efficiency with which consular duties are performed at posts abroad. This training takes the form of study of the consular instructions, the legislation upon which they are based, and the handling of individual cases at the head office.

Instructions for the Guidance of Consular Officers Abroad, which had been previously issued in temporary form were revised in the light of experience, and issued in permanent format. This work comprises twenty-four chapters. For the first time, Canadian consular officers have an authoritative guide by which they may conduct their affairs when at posts abroad. In the course of this revision the tariff of fees charged for consular services was revised, and, in conformity with the custom of most countries, consular fee stamps were adopted for use abroad.

Co-operation with Other Departments

Co-operation in the field of consular matters between the Departments of Trade and Commerce and External Affairs may be seen in the arrangements by which eight Trade Commissioners, serving at posts abroad, were authorized to act as passport issuing officers. Consular officers of the Department of External Affairs represent the Department of Trade and Commerce at all posts where that Department is not specifically represented. During the year, also, working relations between the Departments were strengthened by the appointment of Assistant Trade Commissioners in the Consulates at Boston and Detroit; these officers were granted the status of Vice-Consul.