

(TIP). Science and technology agreements with other countries and organizations were signed to assist Canadian companies to participate in major research and technology projects, most notably in the space sector. A Japan Science and Technology Fund was established to encourage small-scale joint-research and researcher exchanges between the two countries. A number of science and technology counsellors were also appointed, again to provide required specialized expertise.

The Trade Policy Dimension

Trade policy and trade development have remained two solitudes throughout much of the history of the Trade Commissioner Service. In the early years, Canadian trade policy was largely Imperial trade policy. In the limited negotiations that occurred, the Departments of Finance and Customs were the lead departments in the negotiation of trade agreements, with the Department of Trade and Commerce providing a supporting role.

Trade commissioners thus became involved in addressing trade policy issues on an ad hoc rather than systematic basis, not reflecting any particular government or departmental policy. It depended more on the "location of a post, the aptitudes and contacts of the trade commissioner in that post, the department's opinion of his judgement and capability, and the need for quick communications with a foreign government."⁸ Political interest in furthering Imperial ties lay behind negotiations for an agreement with the West Indies and Australia⁹, while more commercial motives underlay the negotiations (and trade commissioner involvement) with France and Czechoslovakia.

A Commercial Secretary is an adviser to the head of Legation and his primary concern should be with matters of policy ... A Trade Commissioner is for the actual promotion of trade by practical methods... [The] functions of a Commercial Secretary and a Trade Commissioner are so divergent that any attempt at supervision or control of the latter by the former is not workable in practise. As a theory, it is splendid.

Frederick Hudd, Trade Commissioner, 1930

Tensions naturally developed over this trade policy role, within and outside Trade and Commerce. While it was natural for trade commissioners to address market access issues in local markets, broader more general reporting on trade negotiations was discouraged.¹⁰ This reflected the belief that a trade commissioner was to provide direct and immediate service to the business community; other tasks would invariably detract from this objective.

A more independent and active Canadian trade policy gradually emerged in the years following the 1931 Statute of Westminster Conference that accorded Canada the power to