

had their appointments confirmed after passing entry examinations. The latter had come second in the Dominion in an examination held earlier in the year for Third Division Clerkships.

By 1925, Agnes McCloskey was recognized by the Chief Clerk as a "most capable, clever and energetic clerk...," who "has four clerks assisting her in her work". She subsequently rose to the position of Departmental Accountant and was unofficially known as the "Lady Deputy". When the Canadian Consulate General was opened in New York during the Second World War, she was appointed a Vice-Consul, the first Canadian woman to serve abroad in that capacity with the Department of External Affairs. In her time, she was one of the very few senior women in the Federal Government service.

A 1943 issue of *Saturday Night* carried an article about Miss McCloskey. "As Accountant of the Department," wrote Carolyn Cox, "she arranged the financial matters covering each newly-opened office, from the purchase of buildings to setting-up of staff, furnishing of offices and residences, regulation of expense accounts. Still, everybody remained 'family', and Agnes, guardian angel for them all, sent cheques to children left in Canadian schools by parents on foreign service, rented suddenly-abandoned apartments anywhere from Russia to New Zealand, always had an amazing assortment of house-keys, private letters, powers of attorney, and other personal oddments stowed away in the drawers of her desk, finding time to execute bits of family business for our representatives in far-away places. She was, in a word, an institution in the East Block. She is also what you call 'a chip off the old block'. There is a right and a wrong way of doing things and Agnes believes in things being done right. Many a youngster, newly expanding his wings in Canada's foreign service, has had them summarily clipped by the lady who both sat on the Personnel Board that selected him for the Department and decided where he should go, and then handled his expense account."

Staff expansion in the Department of External Affairs during the 1920s and 1930s was relatively modest, but it did allow for the entry of Lester Bowles Pearson in 1928, the appointment of a new Under-Secretary, Dr. O. D. Skelton, in 1925 and the arrival from Queen's University a year earlier of Marjorie McKenzie as a Stenographer Grade 3. Holder of a bachelor of arts degree and a master of arts in French and German, she was typical of many women who entered the Department at

the start of the Second World War, accepting appointments as clerks and stenographers but, in fact, doing the work of officers. They came from universities, from other government departments and agencies and from home. Restrictions on the employment of married women were relaxed during the war.

As hostilities drew to a close, new missions were opened and plans were made to re-open some that had been closed because of the war. Recruiting from, rather than for, the military was taking place in Canada and abroad, and new faces were seen in the East Block corridors. Many of the women who joined in the mid- and late 1940s came from the Navy, the Army and the Air Force, took a few weeks or months of training in Ottawa and then set off for other strange and little-known capitals. Many of them had left good jobs to join the military services, but they delayed returning to them until they had tried External Affairs. Most of them entered as clerks and stenographers, as had their precursors - eager to serve their country in peace as those in war. At the same time, a few came into the Department after service abroad with other allied governments, especially the British. Recruits were drawn from the private sector as well - the war had shaken up their world, too.

In 1947, women were allowed for the first time to write the competitive Foreign Service Officer examination. Qualifications on the ground of sex were at last put aside. In 1945, an issue of *Saturday Night* carried another article by Mrs. Cox, this time on Miss McKenzie: "Back in 1930, as a *tour de force*, she wrote the departmental examination for Third Secretary, just to see what she could do, though knowing no woman was eligible for appointment and equally certain she herself could never either manage or endure the social requirements. She wrote a brilliant paper." Miss McKenzie "passed" officially in 1947. Listed with her in the first edition of the External Affairs biographical register in 1949 were nine other female officers, some of whom had joined as clerks, wartime assistants, etc.: Dorothy Burwash, Frances Carlisle, Mary Dench, Jean Horwood, Agnes Ireland, Elizabeth MacCallum, Katherine Macdonnell, Marion Macpherson and Margaret Meagher. The majority had become Foreign Service Officers.

Diplomatic missions were opened in Egypt, Israel and Lebanon in 1954 and, in October of that year, Elizabeth MacCallum became Counsellor and Chargé d'affaires a.i. in Beirut. She was born in Turkey, and her knowledge of Near Eastern affairs was

*Postwar expansion led to increase in recruiting*