

linguist, was assigned to China, partly because of the large element of Japanese military forces in the country. Arthur Menzies, (China-born), Ralph Collins, (China-born), and J.J. McCardle, who entered the Service after the war, were orientalists with knowledge of Japanese and some Chinese.

#### Parliamentary Interest

Apparently the greatest amount of parliamentary interest in the language question, however, was directed toward the Latin-American countries where Legations or Embassies had been opened during the war. Spanish was not a difficult idiom to learn, especially for those who were French-speaking Canadians. Portuguese was also fairly readily acquired by the new staff appointed to Brazil.

Prime Minister King stated in the House in 1943 that: "The Civil Service Commission has held only one examination for appointments to the post of Third Secretary in the Department of External Affairs in the last three years. That examination, held in 1941, was arranged particularly to fill the definite need arising from our increased contacts with Latin America. It was specifically designed for candidates with a knowledge of Spanish or Portuguese. There were 134 applicants for permission to write; thirty actually wrote, and of these five qualified and were appointed to the external affairs service." (1)

On the same occasion, Mr. King, replying to further questions, especially concerning knowledge of Latin-American idioms, replied: "I have just been reminded that

(1) H. of C. Debates, July 12, 1943, p.4666.