

affairs? Ambassadors, Ministers Plenipotentiary, High Commissioners, Counsellors, Consuls General, First, Second and Third Secretaries, what do these fellows do for the living provided them from the public Treasury? What is this business of diplomacy? That, indeed, are we getting for our diplomatic dollar?

The term "diplomacy" is a curious one. In the course of years, centuries I suppose, it has come to mean something rather fancy and, at the same time, something almost sinister. To some it conjures up a sparkling round of luxurious and exotic social occasions; for others it still implies circumstances of mystery, even melodrama, secret treaties, secret papers, the whole Oppenheim paraphernalia, an atmosphere of elaborate costumes and exaggerated manners, perhaps a faint air of decadence.

The fact is, of course, that diplomacy is merely the conduct of affairs, the carrying on of business, between nations. "International affairs" nowadays takes in almost every imaginable subject from potatoes to peace. Distances have been rolled up by modern transport. Geography has become indivisible. For better or for worse, all nations have become neighbours, good or bad. The world has become a very small and a very busy, worried place. What is more, governments all over the world, whatever their political and economic theories, are now doing themselves many of the things which, in the old days, used to be left to individuals and to private concerns. Finally, the position of Canada among the nations has grown, grown enormously these past dozen years and more. And that growth has brought with it new and heavier responsibilities.

Of course, departments other than External Affairs have contacts with outside countries. The Department of Trade and Commerce encourages and facilitates the growth of Canada's external trade through some forty-five offices in thirty-eight countries. I feel sure that the Canadian Trade Commissioner Service is well known to many of you. It is a well-established and efficient Service with which we in External Affairs are happy to work in the closest co-operation. Agriculture, Immigration, Labour, other departments as well have representatives in a number of countries for their own special purposes. But the general responsibility for Canada's day-to-day business with other nations is that of the Department of External Affairs. It is the Minister of External Affairs who has to answer to the Government, as the Government must answer to Parliament, for the conduct of Canada's relations with all "external" Governments, Commonwealth as well as foreign. It is the officers of External Affairs, the diplomats, who have this general responsibility under the Minister. For this reason we have, as well, the duty of co-ordinating the work of all other Canadian agencies who have business in other lands.

Perhaps the best way for me to give you a more precise understanding of what makes up Canadian diplomacy is to give a few illustrations of what our External Affairs officers - our diplomats - do, in the East Block in Ottawa and in our "branch offices" abroad.

Broadly, our work is of two kinds. The first of these may be called, simply and accurately, reporting. We have to report to our Minister and to the Government on conditions and events abroad. Second, we have to carry out the Government's decisions and do what we can to advance Canadian policies in Canada's relations with other countries.

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