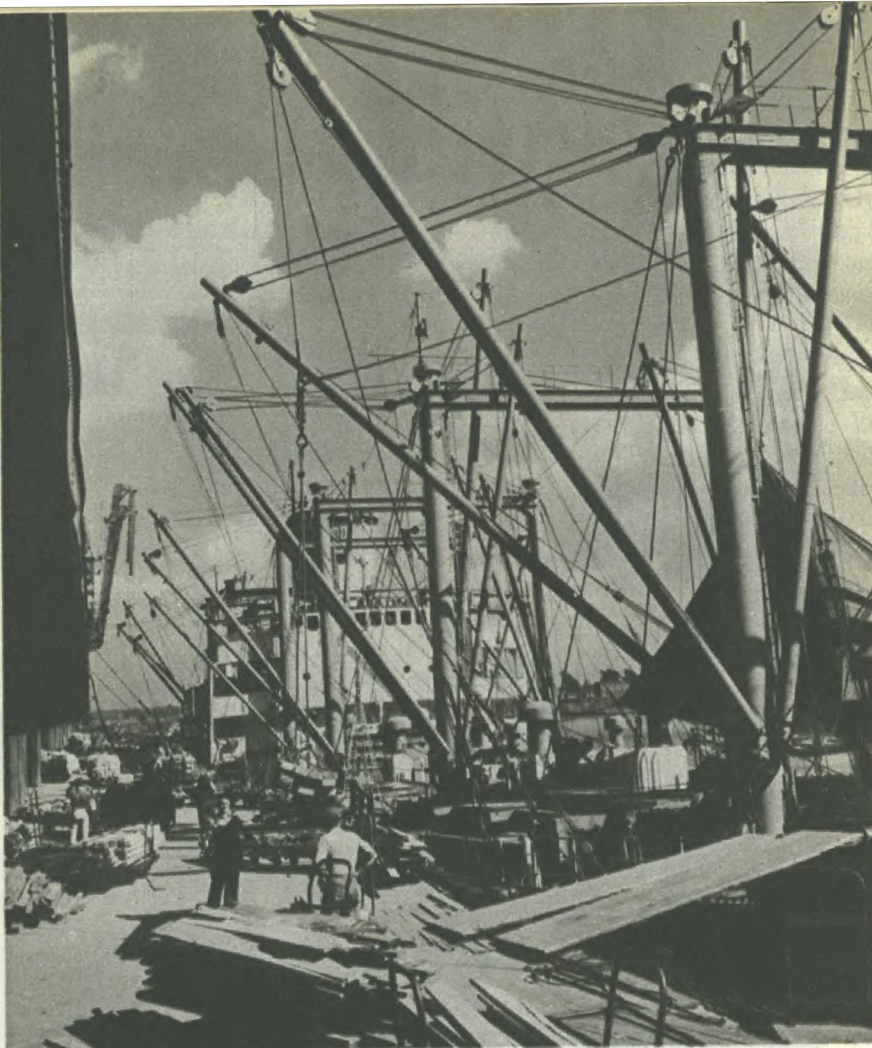




Loading cargo in Montreal harbour.

Canada's Foreign Service

Canada's foreign service has three functions: diplomatic, trade, and informational.

Up to the First World War Canada's negotiations with foreign powers were conducted by the British Foreign Office with Canadian officials occasionally taking part in them. From 1880 onwards a Canadian High Commissioner in London acted as a resident spokesman for Canada in dealings with the British Government; and from 1892 onwards a Canadian Commissioner in France supplemented the work of the British officials. Neither, however, had diplomatic status. In addition, Canada was represented abroad in the later years of the 19th century by trade commissioners and immigration officials, who served individual departments of the Canadian Government and were likewise without diplomatic status.

In 1909 the Canadian government established a Department of External Affairs which gradually took over the whole conduct of Canada's diplomatic relations with other countries. The first Canadian legation was opened in Washington in 1927 after the Imperial Conference of 1926, in which Canada's right to separate representation was defined. Canadian ministers were appointed to Paris in 1928; to Tokyo in 1929; and to Belgium and the Netherlands jointly in 1939.

The Second World War brought a rapid expansion of the diplomatic service. Canada now has twenty-nine diplomatic missions, twelve consular offices, and four special missions: the Permanent Delegation to the United Nations and to the Atomic Energy Commission; Permanent Representation at the European Office of the United Nations in Geneva; the mission in the German Federal Republic; and the Liaison Mission in Japan. The diplomatic missions consist of fourteen Embassies, eight Legations and seven High Commissioners' Offices. The total number of posts abroad is, therefore, forty-five; this figure does not include representation in Luxembourg, Finland, and Iceland, where Canadian Ministers to nearby countries are accredited, but no offices are maintained. (Fifty-four countries have representation in Canada.) The staff of the Department of External Affairs has expanded to approximately six times its prewar complement and now includes about 250 officers and a thousand other staff at home and abroad.

The Foreign Trade Service of the Department of Trade and Commerce has greatly expanded since its formation in 1895. Government Trade Commissioners and assistants, operating at 45 posts in 38 countries, work in close co-operation with Canada's diplomatic and consular officials. In many parts of the world, the trade officials have diplomatic or consular rank, while in some countries the Trade Commissioner is the only official representative of Canada. The Trade Commissioner Service is now part of the larger Foreign Trade Service, which provides information and assistance for importers as well as exporters, for foreign buyers as well as for foreign sellers.

The Department of External Affairs assists the flow of current and background information about Canada to other countries. To assist diplomatic, consular and trade officers abroad in meeting the needs of the press and public, weekly and monthly bulletins and other special publications are compiled and distributed. Photographs and graphic materials are supplied for press, display and educational use. The Department also has a reference service to deal with enquiries of a general nature from abroad, and is responsible for certain aspects of educational and cultural relations with other countries.