

Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey. Agreements are also in effect with Iran, the U.S.S.R. and Yugoslavia, which allow Canadians to receive visas free of charge, and with Venezuela at a reduced fee. Visas are not required of Canadians visiting the United States, Commonwealth countries (other than Ghana) and Ireland, the French overseas departments and St. Pierre and Miquelon, and certain African and Central and South American countries.

Two administrative measures of some importance came into effect in 1968 in connection with non-immigrant entry into Canada. By Order-in-Council dated May 22, 1968, the non-immigrant visa fee of \$2.00 was abolished so that no fee is now charged for issuance of non-immigrant visas for entry into Canada. The second change which deserves mention is that during the year 1968 all nationals of Western Hemisphere countries, regardless of their point of departure for Canada, became admissible without visas for a period not exceeding three months.

Passport Division

Provision of passport services for citizens residing in Canada and in countries abroad is co-ordinated by the Passport Division. The division also issues certificates of identity to stateless persons who are unable for valid reasons to obtain travel documents from their country of origin.

In 1968 there was a substantial increase in the demand for passport services, amounting to 28.04 per cent over the previous year. During the peak travel season and immediately preceding the mail strike, the weekly volume at times registered an increase of as much as 51.15 per cent over the corresponding week of the previous year.

During the year, the Passport Division issued 284,442 passports and renewed 57,761 documents for a total of 342,203 services.

When the mail strike occurred, the Passport Division opened emergency passport offices in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver in order to deal with situations in which applicants were unable to delay travel plans or an urgent valid need to travel abroad had arisen. The offices continued in operation for approximately four weeks.

Stateless persons received 1,383 certificates of identity and 863 were renewed in the 12-month period.

Gross revenue received from fees reached \$1,524,375 during the year.