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and death) of Loring C. Christie (1939-1941) a permanent Department officer, followed by L.B. Pearson, (1944-46), H.H. Wrong, (1946-53)^{*}, N.A. Robertson, (1957-58), - all permanent Civil Servants and External Affairs officers. Although all of these were appointed under the continuing Liberal administrations of Mr. King and Mr. St. Laurent, it seems to have been retained by Mr. Diefenbaker, the Conservative leader since 1957.

The substitution, in these years, of career diplomats or Foreign Service Officers for political appointees was of course due largely to the fact that in the comparatively brief diplomatic history of the Department, the "career" officers were now "coming of age" and had matured to the capacities of seniority as Ambassadors, High Commissioners and other Heads of Mission, as had been foreseen from the earliest days. They were qualified diplomats for the senior diplomatic posts of London and Washington, as well as in the majority of other Canadian posts abroad.⁽¹⁾

Mr. Bennett said in 1938:

The idea of permanency, the idea of promotion, the idea that men who enter the service in a junior capacity may one day find themselves occupying positions of great authority and importance, I think should be encouraged by every means possible. I say that very frankly. I say it having endeavoured to practice it. I know how earnestly

* A.D.P. Heeney was appointed USSEA by Order-in-Council, from outside the Department proper, but afterwards was appointed Ambassador to NATO and to Washington.

(1) See Skilling: op. cit. pp.267-70.