

By far the greatest part of the expansion has occurred since the outbreak of war in 1939. Over half of it has taken place within the last three years. Basically, the cause is the increased international importance of Canada. This has brought to the Canadian Government the necessity - not always a welcome one - of reaching decisions of policy on a whole new range of international problems, and therefore of developing its own means of securing the information and advice on which informed decisions must be based.

Expansion of representation abroad is far from being a purely Canadian phenomenon. Every country in the world, except the former enemy countries, has enormously increased its staffs abroad and the size of its foreign office at home. The monthly list published by the State Department of the members of diplomatic missions in Washington is now a substantial little volume of nearly 200 pages. When I first went there in 1927, it was about one-third that size. I doubt that the Canadian increase in representatives abroad since 1939 is proportionately larger than that of the United Kingdom, the United States, or many other countries. The increase, however, is beginning to taper off. I am afraid that a very large number of the many students at Toronto and at other Canadian Universities who have shown their desire to join the External Affairs Service are doomed to disappointment.

I wish, however, to talk this evening particularly about my own job and about the Canadian Embassy in Washington. I am the seventh Ambassador or Minister to head that mission; and on this occasion I may be permitted to note that, of the seven, four are graduates of the University of Toronto, and two of them of University College; two of my predecessors have been for many years Governors of the University; and the second in command in Washington now holding the rank of Minister at the Embassy, is also a graduate of University College. Of course, the founder of the Canadian foreign service, who presided over the Department of External Affairs for nearly twenty years between 1921 and last September, the Prime Minister of Canada, is himself an eminent graduate of University College.

I do not suggest that this preponderance of Toronto graduates arises from the superior merits of the training which they received, still less that it is caused by any deliberate preference. Indeed, in view of the aspersions often cast on Toronto from Halifax to Vancouver, one might almost assume that Toronto graduates would be under a special handicap in the service of the federal government. Throughout the External Service as a whole graduates of Toronto have no more than their fair share of appointments. It is, however, a fact, although a fortuitous one, that there have always been close personal connections between the Canadian mission in Washington and this University.

When I first went to Washington, there were serving at the then Legation five officers, with a total staff amounting to a dozen or so. There are today at the Embassy some twenty-two officers and the staff of all grades comes to about eighty. The great expansion has come only since 1941. Indeed, during the war the total number of Canadians serving in some official capacity in Washington must at its peak have amounted to nearly a thousand. There were then large separate offices maintained there by the Department of Munitions and Supply and the Department of National Defence, as well as several small departmental offices charged with special duties and not incorporated in the Embassy. There is still a substantial Canadian Joint Staff Mission, but all the other departmental offices have been closed, except for a few people engaged in winding up business, and their residual functions have been taken over by the Canadian Embassy.

In the Embassy itself there are now incorporated members of the Department of Trade and Commerce, the Department of Finance, and the National Research Council, as well as Military, Naval and Air Attaches from the armed forces. Like other countries, we have found it necessary to develop the practice of sending specialists abroad to look after particular interests.