

Prime Ministers - Macdonald, Laurier, Borden and King, and other government dignitaries. Gradually, also, the beautiful Rockcliffe Park residential district along the Ottawa River attracted a number of foreign diplomats at least for their official residences.

There had, of course, been a number of foreign Consulates General or Consulates in Ottawa for a considerable period, before the Diplomatic Era. Reference to these has been made in a chapter in Part I of this survey. In 1925 there were six foreign Consulates General (Argentina, Belgium, China, Italy, Japan, and U.S.A.) in Ottawa. On routine matters, the Consuls did business with the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, Sir Joseph Pope, and afterwards Dr. O.D. Skelton. But on more political matters they had direct access to the Prime Minister; they consulted Sir Wilfrid Laurier and he consulted them, and also Sir Robert Borden in his dual capacity of Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, and likewise Mr. Mackenzie King. In April, 1927, when Mr. King was asking Parliament to approve a position of a secretarial chief of the Prime Minister's Office, or executive assistant in the nature of a deputy minister, he told the House how, among his multifarious duties, he had to meet and consult with foreign consuls general in Ottawa, and also would soon have as visitors and consultants the anticipated United States Minister, the United Kingdom High Commissioner, and Ministers of France and Japan who would shortly be appointed reciprocally. By 1940, after the War commenced, this foreign diplomatic corps in Ottawa rapidly increased, and additionally included diplomatic