

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS



Goodbye to all that

Canada's position in the British Empire after Confederation was essentially that of a self-governing colony. However its external affairs continued to be directed and controlled by Britain, a situation which did not rest too happily with the Canadian Government. In 1866, U.S. consular agents were stationed in Canada—a year before Confederation. Yet in 1867 Canadian diplomatic contacts with the United States were still handled through the British embassy in Washington.

Sir John A. Macdonald sat as a member of the British commission which met with U.S. authorities in 1871 to draw up the Treaty of Washington. A fishery commission, created by the Treaty, met at Halifax and awarded compensation to Canada in settlement of a fish-

two Canadian colleagues, Louis Jetté, Lieutenant Governor of Quebec, and A.B. Aylesworth, Minister of Justice, to settle the boundary in favour of the United States, an act regarded as a sell-out by the Canadians.

November 7, 1903: "In Canadian eyes, the surrender of Canada's rights has been absolute; it is not even a pretence at a compromise." Francis H. Turnock

In 1909, when the International Joint Commission was formed, its six permanent members consisted of three Americans and three Canadians — no British.

In the same year, Parliament authorized the establishment of a "Department of External Affairs" to handle Canada's relations with other governments within the British Empire and

Us in the U.S.A.

The ambassador is the highest-ranking representative of his government in the country to which he is assigned. Because of the complexity and variety of Canada-U.S. relations, both governments attach a very high priority to the sensitive and careful management of these affairs. Our present ambassador, Peter Towe, took up office in Washington in 1977. Because of the size and diversity of the United States and the extent of Canada's interests there, Canada maintains eight consulates general in major U.S. cities and seven smaller consulates in other areas, including Puerto Rico.

Several provinces also maintain official missions in various cities. British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and Nova Scotia maintain separate delegations for the purposes of business and tourism development, and travel promotion.

Canada's missions are the eyes and ears — and often the voice — of the government abroad. They have the responsibility of protecting and promoting Canada's interests, conducting negotiations and conclusions of treaties and other international agreements, and implementing foreign policy decisions. They observe and report on political or other developments that can affect Canada/U.S. relations, assist Canadian companies in their business dealings, and advise and protect Canadian citizens. Officers of other departments of the Canadian Government — commercial, immigration, environment, military, or others — may be attached to the mission, working under the general supervision and direction of the ambassador.

Telling tales...

In the making and executing of foreign policy, there is a constant need for accurate knowledge of public opinion on both sides of the border. The development of mass communications has made this so. Today it is no longer enough for an ambassador to explain his country's views to officials of the country to which he is accredited. It is often necessary to inform or seek to influence the general public, or special sections of it. This involves extensive contact with U.S. news and information media, and exchange visits with key "opinion-formers". Also, through a comprehensive public affairs program, Canada works to broaden knowledge and understanding of Canadian life.

...in school

Another means used to develop awareness of Canadian history, politics, culture, is through support and expansion of Canadian studies programs in academic institutions and productive exchanges between students and professors. Major budgetary support has been provided to 20 American universities interested in Canadian studies, mainly by funding conferences, speakers and seminars — as well as to 250 other

institutions offering Canadian courses.

Examples include the Canada/U.S. Law Institute, jointly established by Case Western Reserve University School of Law and the University of Western Ontario's Faculty of Law, to instruct students in the legal systems of both countries; a bicentennial salute to the U.S.A. in the form of a \$50,000 grant to Johns Hopkins University's Center of Canadian Studies.

The Association for Canadian Studies in the U.S.A. has over 500 members in 42 states and publishes a highly regarded journal, *The American Review of Canadian Studies*.

"I used to think that Canadian policy-makers had to be more enlightened. I thought, you know, what an upright little country. Now I understand that its foreign-policy decisions are often as silly as U.S. decisions, but I've got a better respect for the country." Student, SAIS Canadian studies program.

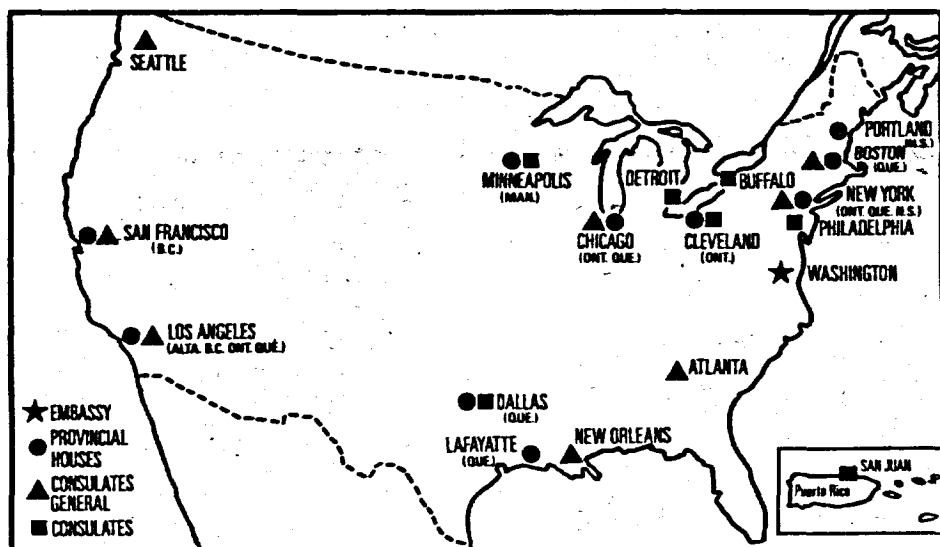
...and through the arts

The Canadian embassy and consulates undertake cultural activities such as concerts, films, lectures, poetry readings and art exhibitions. Also the Government sponsors a wide variety of performing groups and art displays. As part of Canada's cultural salute to the U.S. bicentennial, the Government donated an "inukshuk", an Inuit stone figure, to the World Sculpture Garden in Philadelphia, and a print collection "Canadian Landscapes" toured the U.S. In the book department, Canada sends French and English titles to universities and public libraries covering Canadian politics, economics, sociology, arts and literature.

Our man in Washington



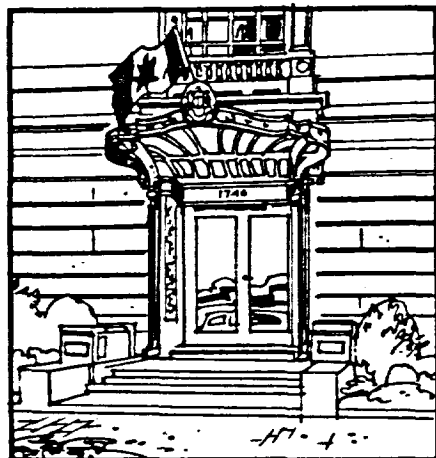
Peter Milburn Towe, who was born in London, Ontario, joined the Department of External Affairs in 1947. He is no stranger to Washington where he served twice before — once in 1949 and again from 1967 to 1972 when he was Minister Economic. He has also served in Bonn, in Paris at the Canadian



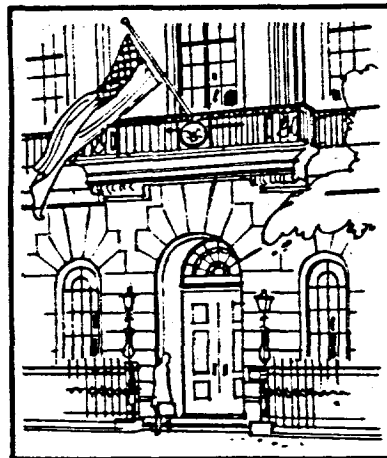
ing rights claim against the U.S.A. This Treaty marked a new stage in imperial relations as, for the first time, a Canadian leader was included in negotiations with a foreign government.

During Sir Wilfrid Laurier's tenure as prime minister, Canada's relations with both Britain and the U.S.A. became more clearly defined and the country moved towards control of its own foreign affairs. The Alaska boundary dispute gave impetus to this will for autonomy. In 1903, Lord Alverstone, Lord Chief Justice of Great Britain, voted with three U.S. commissioners against his

foreign states. Yet Canada did not achieve full autonomy until the Imperial Conference in 1926 which declared Canada to be "equal" in status with Britain, fully responsible for its own foreign policy-making. The following year, in 1927, Canada opened its first legation in Washington, D.C. This bureau was elevated to embassy status in 1943 and Leighton McCarthy was named ambassador. In the same year, the U.S. mission in Ottawa was made an embassy with Ray Atherton as ambassador.



Canadian Embassy - Washington



U.S. Embassy - Ottawa