

In the meantime another Canadian official, Dr. W. A. Riddell, the present Canadian High Commissioner in New Zealand, had been appointed in 1925 to take charge of the Canadian Advisory Office in Geneva. It was his duty to keep the Government informed of developments in the League of Nations and the International Labour Office and to represent Canada at some of the many international conferences which met under League auspices. As a former official of the International Labour Office, Dr. Riddell was well qualified to represent Canada on the governing body of that institution, of which Canada was a permanent member as one of the eight largest industrial states. In 1938 the title of the appointee was changed to Permanent Delegate to the League of Nations in accordance with the usual practice in Geneva. The office was maintained in Geneva until the events of May, 1940, necessitated the withdrawal of Canadian representation.

At the Imperial Conference of 1926 it had been agreed that the Governor General of a Dominion should no longer act as the formal channel of communication between His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and the Dominion of which he was Governor General. By the new arrangement the Governor General became, so far as Canada was concerned, in the words of Prime Minister Mackenzie King, "in the truest and largest sense of the word the personal representative of the Sovereign" From July 1, 1927, correspondence from the United Kingdom Government or from other countries to the Canadian Government was to be addressed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. A natural consequence of this arrangement was the decision of the United Kingdom to be represented by a High Commissioner in Ottawa. The first appointee was Sir William Clark, who took up his residence in the capital in the autumn of 1928. The fact that this position is at present held by a former member of the United Kingdom Cabinet, Right Hon. Malcolm MacDonald, is an indication of how important the duties of this office have become.

The appointment of a Canadian Minister to France in 1928 was a logical development in view of the fact that almost 30 p.c. of the Canadian people were descendants of the little group of Frenchmen who had laboured to build New France overseas. The Minister designated was Hon. Phillippe Roy, who had served Canada for 17 years as Commissioner General in Paris.

At the same time the Canadian Government also stated that Canada and Japan had agreed to an exchange of ministers. This decision was based on the increasing importance of the Orient for Canadian trade and the advisability of having a Canadian diplomat available in Tokyo for discussions of the thorny problem of Japanese immigration to Canada. The Government of Japan welcomed the proposal and in fact had opened its Legation in Ottawa before the first Canadian Minister to Japan, Hon. Herbert Marler (later Sir Herbert), assumed his duties in 1929.

The rapid expansion of three years was followed by a decade of consolidation and recruitment of personnel for the Department. The leadership and wide range of interests of Dr. O. D. Skelton, a distinguished Canadian scholar who assumed the position of Under Secretary of State for External Affairs in 1925, greatly contributed to the prestige of the Department and made him, until his death in 1941, probably the most influential civil servant of his day.

Further Diplomatic Representation.—Not long before the present war, Belgium proposed an exchange of ministers and Baron Silvercruys, accordingly, arrived in Ottawa in 1937. In return the Canadian Government