

The first Canadian Legation in Europe was opened at Paris in 1928. This was to be expected since almost 30 p.c. of the Canadian people were descendants of the little group of French settlers who had struggled to build up New France in the Western Hemisphere. The first appointee was the Hon. Philippe Roy who had served at Paris during the previous seventeen years as Commissioner General. The first Canadian diplomatic Legation in Asia was established at Tokyo in 1929 with the Hon. Herbert Marler as the first Minister. Exchange of Missions with Japan was based on the expectation of rapidly increasing trade with the Orient, on the role of Japan as the major power in the Far East, and on the advisability of having a diplomat available in the Japanese capital for discussions, when necessary, of immigration matters.

At the close of the 1920's, Canada was gradually securing recognition abroad of its expanding international status. Election to the League of Nations Council in 1927, the first occasion on which the Assembly had chosen a British Dominion to serve on that body, and an individual invitation from the United States to sign the Pact of Paris in 1928, were indications that the world was beginning to appreciate the implications of the evolution of the British Commonwealth of Nations. At London, it was becoming apparent that the possibility of maintaining a single imperial foreign policy, as had been claimed by Lloyd George in 1921, was disappearing, and the most that could be hoped for was the preservation of a harmony of opinion on major questions of foreign policy. At Ottawa, the Department of External Affairs was slowly expanding its personnel and broadening its influence in government circles under the leadership of Dr. O. D. Skelton, a distinguished scholar who left Queen's University to become Under Secretary of State for External Affairs in 1925.

The depression years of the 1930's were a factor in retarding the expansion of the Department of External Affairs and prevented the creation of more Missions, except in Belgium and the Netherlands which had initiated proposals for an exchange. In 1937 Baron Silvercrus established Belgium's Legation at Ottawa, but it was not until 1939 that Mr. Jean Désy was accredited as Canada's Minister to both of the Low Countries. During that period, as the shadow of war fell across Asia, Africa and Europe in turn, the Canadian Government made clear at Geneva its rejection of automatic advance commitments to economic or military sanctions against an aggressor, but privately at Berlin (1937) and publicly Prime Minister King declared that "If there was a war of aggression nothing in the world would keep the Canadian people from being at the side of Britain" Similarly, in 1938, President Roosevelt pledged American support if domination of Canadian soil were threatened by an overseas empire and the two countries began to concert their defence arrangements. In 1939, only after Parliamentary approval had been received did the Government of Canada forward to London, for the King's signature, a separate declaration of war upon Germany from that previously made by the United Kingdom. The action of the United States Government in not applying the neutrality legislation to Canada until this step had been taken was a significant recognition of Canada's advance in status.

The war years gave Canada greater stature in international affairs. The substantial contribution which the country was able to make to the Allied cause in both its military and economic aspects and the relative decline in strength of many European countries made it necessary for her to assume new and greater responsibilities. At the close of the War, Canada ranked third among the Allies in naval strength and fourth in air power. Alone among the Allies, Canada had not required Lend-Lease Aid from the United States but had contributed almost