

Although numerous private firms have established connections in other countries that enable them to maintain a steady flow of goods in either direction, others require the assistance of government agencies in finding markets or sources of supply. Import and export controls imposed by many countries for a variety of reasons, together with foreign exchange difficulties, present problems that no single firm or even an association of manufacturers, exporters or importers can solve without assistance from government representatives. The federal Department of Trade and Commerce, the primary function of which is the promotion of external trade, makes available to business men a wide variety of services to assist them in selling their products abroad. These services are provided by the Department's head office in Ottawa, five regional offices in Canada, and a corps of trade commissioners stationed around the world.

Services available from the various branches, divisions and agencies of the Department of Trade and Commerce are described below. The work of these entities is inter-related, each operating in its own field but working closely with the others to effect the over-all objective of trade promotion.

**Trade Commissioner Service.**—The Trade Commissioner Service is the overseas arm of the Department and is actively engaged in the promotion of Canadian trade and the protection of Canada's commercial interests; 65 offices are maintained in 47 countries, of which 47 posts form part of Canadian Government diplomatic missions abroad and 18 are separate trade commissioner posts.

Every effort is made by the trade commissioners to bring Canadian exporters and prospective buyers together. On their own initiative, and in response to requests from the Department and Canadian business men, they study potential markets for specific Canadian commodities and services. Reports are provided on the demand in the country concerned, prices, competition, trade and exchange regulations, tariffs, shipping and packaging requirements, credit terms, channels of distribution, labelling regulations, etc. Inquiries from local business men for goods obtainable from Canada are forwarded to the Department in Ottawa, or directly to Canadian firms in a position to supply the products required.

The supervision of Canadian exhibits at overseas trade fairs and the provision of assistance to participating Canadian firms is an important function of many offices. Trade commissioners make local arrangements for and travel with Canadian trade missions visiting overseas markets. They also seek sources of supply for a wide variety of goods on behalf of Canadian importers.

In developing trade opportunities, Canada's trade commissioners travel extensively in their territories, visit leading industrial and commercial centres, and call on government officials, business men, trade associations and municipal authorities. They establish social contacts with commercial interests, thereby developing goodwill for Canada and Canadian products, while creating connections for Canadian exporters and facilitating the collection of trade information. They return to Canada at periodic intervals and make tours of Canadian industrial and commercial centres. Such direct contacts enable them to discuss specific problems with business men and bring into focus the Canadian commercial scene.

In countries where Canada has a diplomatic mission, the Canadian trade office is the commercial division and the trade commissioner has the rank of Minister (Commercial), Minister-Counsellor (Economic), Commercial Counsellor or Commercial Secretary. When attached to a consulate, he carries the title of Deputy Consul General (Commercial), Consul (Commercial), or Vice-Consul (Commercial), according to his rank, in addition to that of Trade Commissioner. He may also be the Consul General, in charge of the office. Where trade offices are detached and do not form part of a diplomatic mission, the trade commissioner may also be required to undertake consular, immigration and other duties as the sole representative of Canada.