

death. The process of organization, it is true, was still necessarily improvised, and was largely on an ad hoc basis, in those formative years; but a pattern began to take shape.

Representation Abroad

The Department's widening role and functions ran parallel with, and was influenced by, the extension of Canadian diplomatic representation abroad. When Dr. Skelton took office in 1925, there were commissioners in London and Paris, and an "advisory" officer established in Geneva. There were no Canadian true diplomatic posts, and no consular posts.

When Dr. Skelton's tenure was cut short in 1941, there were, besides the High Commissioner's Office in London and the Office of the Permanent Delegate in Geneva, Legations in Washington, Paris, Tokyo, Brussels, The Hague, in all the British Dominions, and, a few months later, in three major countries in South America. There were also two war-time Consulates, and consular status had been given to officers in Paris and Tokyo. This growth in representation abroad, developed during the sixteen years of Dr. Skelton's tenure, was soon to expand even more rapidly in consequence of the Second World War; and this extension was built with comparative ease on the foundations of the diplomatic service which had been developed with greater trial and tribulation, and experiment in the Skelton period.